David Bartholomae, the Charles Crow Chair in English, has been named the 2013 Pennsylvania Professor of the Year. The U.S. Professors of the Year Awards recognize faculty members nationwide who have excelled at teaching and positively influencing the lives and careers of students. Sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, the program is the only national one to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring.

Bartholomae has played a major role in the development of the University’s composition program, which is nationally regarded. He was among the first scholars in the country to promote the value of writing in the undergraduate curriculum. He argued that students not only needed to develop writing skills in introductory composition courses, but in courses in their fields of study. Under his direction, the writing in the disciplines program was established in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences to support faculty in all academic departments with teaching writing-intensive courses in their subjects.

“As a teacher of undergraduates, my goal is to prepare students to engage meaningfully with the forms of knowledge we value as academics and as intellectuals. This means challenging students with texts they are not yet prepared to read and intellectual work that is beyond their immediate grasp,” Bartholomae said. “I would also say it has been my job to prepare the academy, professors in and out of English, to value the writing of young adults and to respond to it with the same care and attention we give to any serious written work.”

Bartholomae teaches in all of Pitt’s undergraduate English programs. In the literature program, he teaches courses in nonfiction writing and journalism, and in the composition program he regularly instructs a section of Pitt’s standard first-year composition seminar. He has been a member of Pitt’s Department of English since 1975. Prior to becoming the Charles Crow Chair in 2009, he served as department chair, 1993-2009, as well as director of the composition program, 1980-89. He also served as a center associate for the Learning Research and Development Center, 1979-89.

Bartholomae’s awards include the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award, the Association of Departments of English Andrew March Award and the Mina Shaughnessy Award from the Modern Language Association of America, the Exemplar Award from the Conference on College Composition and Communication, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Ohio Wesleyan University and the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Educational Press Association of America.

He was president of the Association of Departments of English, 2003-06; a member of the executive council of the Modern Language Association of America, 1997-2002, and chair of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, 1985-89.

Bartholomae is the author of three books, including “Writing on the Margins: Essays on Composition and Teaching.” He also is the co-author of several books, including the textbook series “Ways of Reading.”

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Letters

Restore grad programs & faculty control, Pitt AAUP urges

To the editor:

Regions to share more courses via interactive TV

Pitt’s regional campuses are expanding their use of interactive television (ITV) in a pilot project that will give students on the Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown and Titusville campuses access to courses not offered on their home campuses.

Pitt’s new Video Learning Initiative (VLI) aims to make better use of regional faculty resources while expanding the selection of courses available to students on the four regional campuses, saidAssociate Provost William Shields, who is coordinating the provost’s office initiative in conjunction with the regional campuses and the Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education (CIDDE).

Seven courses will be offered during the spring term: Islam and Social Justice; Islam and Cancer; Biology from Pitt-Bradford; Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice and Stage Management from Pitt-Johnstown; Globalization, Anthropology of Religion and Intro to Theatre from Pitt-Greensburg.

The selected courses — all electives — were chosen to broaden opportunities for students on the regional campuses as well as to multiply enrollment in courses that might otherwise attract a small number of students on a single campus. “We tried to find courses particular to a specific campus,” Shields said.

The courses will be taught in real-time using technology-equipped classrooms. “It will be like one course offered in four different classrooms,” Shields said.

The VLI classrooms are designed to ensure that students across the campuses have a similar classroom experience whether or not they are in the same room as their instructor.

Michael Arend of CIDDE said that students will be able to see their classmates on the other campuses and sound-activated cameras will facilitate conversation by focusing automatically on students when they speak. Instructors are free to move around the classroom because the camera can track them automatically. “We encourage them to be more mobile,” Arend said.

Arend said classroom cameras and displays are arranged to let students on the remote sites see and hear as if the instructor is in front of them. Even the classroom dimensions and furnishings are consistent to enhance the impression of a single classroom as opposed to a “main” site with satellite locations.

Technical staff will be on hand at first to help faculty members, but the goal is to move away from needing an operator in the room. Faculty opinions vary on that. Arend said: “I’m a bit more comfortable without a technician at hand, others prefer not to have an outsider ‘hovering’ in the classroom.”

CIDDE instructional development staff are helping faculty members prepare to teach VLI courses. CIDDE teaching and learning consultant Erin Kleinman is meeting with all seven faculty members who will teach VLI courses in the spring term to tackle issues ranging from camera anxiety to course design.

While the VLI project gives students access to a wider range of courses and provides faculty with a more diverse population of students, teaching at a distance presents challenges.

“It requires aggressive assessment of your course,” Kleinman said: “Is this something that can still be done in this technology space?”

She went over course syllabs with faculty to adjust classroom activities and assignments and ensure they would both translate to an interactive environment and meet the desired learning outcomes.

For instance, students in the globalization course create supply-and-demand graphs in class. The assignment is an important component of the economics course, so document cameras in the virtual classroom will be used so students can “show” their work to the instructor, Kleinman said.

Facilitating student interaction across classrooms is among the main challenges, in part because students can feel “silenced” if they’re not in the same room as their instructor, she said.

While lecture-based courses are easy to broadcast, discussion-based courses — like most being offered through VLI — require some adjustments. Cameras can be arranged to give the appearance of a circular classroom arrangement. And, knowing student names is even more important in order to promote good conversation in a triple-classroom setting, she said, adding that it’s helpful if students use name cards to aid the connection.

Faculty were also asked to accommodate the automated cameras that focus on each speaker. Class sizes can also be more structured than the energetic free-for-all conversations that many faculty are accustomed to, said Shields.

Building a classroom community is important and research on interactive discussion boards can help.

Kleinman said CourseWeb’s live discussion feature would work if some students don’t have their own laptops, so she encourages faculty to facilitate discussion outside of class via CourseWeb, then carry that conversation into the classroom.

Early enrollment in the VLI courses has been good and if the initiative is successful, it may be continued in the summer term and beyond and could someday expand to include the Pittsburgh campus, Shields said.

Decisions on VLI’s future would be made mid-term, he said.

“We want to be sure this kind of project works. It makes sense only if the faculty have a reason to be excited about it,” he said.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Senior administrators informed of faculty concern about future of 3 grad programs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said. “As an individual faculty member I wanted to express my concern for all of the agony this has caused so many people over such a long period of time. While I’m sure there are many people trying to do the right thing, I do not envy the provost or the final decision as she reviews the votes of the University Council on Graduate Study and all the various reports that have come up,” he said.

In other business:

• The University Senate anti-discriminatory policies committee has been renamed the equity, inclusion and anti-discrimination advocacy committee (EIADAC).

In a unanimous vote, Senate Council on Nov. 6 approved the change, following similar action by Faculty Assembly Oct. 29. Committee co-chair Claire Claude Maunder reiterated the reasoning that he presented in greater detail at Faculty Assembly. “Over the course of last spring our committee spent a lot of time discussing the nature of the committee and the mission of the committee. We really felt that the more positive language of the affirmative strategies said what we were attempting to take was not well reflected in the initial title of the committee.”

“We feel that the new title is a nice balance between positivity and the awareness of standing against discrimination. We feel that this name better reflects the mission of the committee.”

• In response to a question raised at Faculty Assembly by representative Seth Weinberg

on the size limits for faculty email accounts, Spring reported that faculty email quotas can be increased easily.

Spring said Jena Walton, chief information officer, responded to the inquiry conveyed by Irene Frieze, Senate vice president. Walton stated that University users receive a series of messages when their email account is approaching its quota. At that point, email can be deleted or additional quota space can be requested through the Computing Services and Systems Development (CSSD) help desk.

“Quotas can be increased rather easily,” Spring said. “I urge everyone to be aware of these notices when the change is obvious, to reduce storage and to make that possible, but for faculty who are reluctant to delete anything, or staff, a call to the help desk makes it pretty easy to get more.”

He said his own recent request for more email space “took under 50 seconds” via a call to the help desk.

In addition, plans are in the works to enable self-service quota increases through introduction of an upgrade that is expected to be completed in February, Spring reported.

Walton told the University Times that the change will enable users to increase email quota from their account, using any computer or mobile device.

• Senate Council’s next meeting is set for 3 p.m. Dec. 4 in 2700 POW Hall.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
T he University Honors College (UHC) will get its first assistant dean on Jan. 1, when Kimberly K. Barlow, a professor in international policy studies and associate professor and chair of the Department of Communication in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, moves into this half-time position. The new appointment will see Mitchell aiming to increase the number of honors courses throughout Pitt as well as focusing on the Brackenridge research program and on developing a proposal for a new certificate program in research and scholarship.

UHC Dean Edward M. Stricker isn’t certain why Dean G. Alan Stewart, who founded the college in 1987, never instituted the position. “But I could use an assistant,” Stricker says, particularly in his push to bring honors courses to more disciplines, which has been a major emphasis of Provost Michael J. Drebler for the last two and a half years heading the university.

Mitchell was the top choice, he says, because “the honors college is for undergraduate students. I looked across campus at the best people involved in undergraduate issues on campus. He’s famous for dealing with very bright students. He wants to be able to tell prospective Pitt students that “when they come to Pitt, doors will open to access world-class faculty members directly. “Our size and our talented faculty position us strategically in what we do, allowing us to pursue research opportunities… that our competitors can’t match,” he adds.

In 1993, Mitchell’s successor as director of the Humanities Research Center, Mitchell was the top choice, he says. Already, the communication department is instituting an honors reception section for a large introductory lecture course, Rhetorical Process. Mitchell also has designed a new department course: Undergraduate Research Honors Proseminar. He said he had to work closely with students from the natural and social sciences and engineering with faculty members to design this course, which will help the UHC institute new honors courses at the introductory level — another Bessow priority, he says.

Another aid to Mitchell’s efforts is the David and Tina Bellet Teaching Excellence Award, and that he coached an intercollegiate debate at Pitt for 21 years before becoming department chair in 2012. A Pitt faculty member since 1991, Mitchell also was deputy director of the Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security and Studies and associate director of the Humanities Center.

He says he is pleased that his new appointment will enable him to increase opportunities for research-based undergraduate education and “to expand experiential learning and structured co-curricular courses” — all emblems of Provost Michael J. Drebler’s strategic plan. He wants to be able to tell prospective Pitt students that “when they come to Pitt, doors will open to access world-class faculty members directly. “Our size and our talented faculty position us strategically in what we do, allowing us to pursue research opportunities… that our competitors can’t match,” he adds.

Mitchell’s successor as communication chair, a current department faculty member, will be selected and is awaiting approval by the Dietrich school dean. — Martin Levine

For full professors who had been full professors in FY95, 89 percent exceeded CPl, 74 percent exceeded CPI, 68 percent exceeded merit/market and equity, and 45 percent exceeded the salary pool average.

Their modal FY10 salary was 120 percent of FY95 salary; average FY10 salary was 169 percent of FY95.
Entrepreneurial efforts combined into new Innovation Institute here

The University is aligning the entrepreneurial efforts of the Office of Technology Management (OTM), the Office of Enterprise Development (OED) and the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence (IEE) in a new University-wide Innovation Institute. The institute (www.innovationinstitute.pitt.edu) will support innovation through education, collaboration, commercialization and communication.

In a Nov. 14 statement announcing the Innovation Institute, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson said: “Innovation is essential for propelling the University to become an even stronger leader in education, research and regional development. 

"Forming this comprehensive institute will allow previously separate units to integrate their resources and avoid duplication of services. The Innovation Institute’s establishment is part of a broader effort to cultivate an environment that empowers faculty, students and staff to reach greater heights in their innovative research and entrepreneurial activities," said Marc S. Malandro, associate vice chancellor for technology management and commercialization and director of OTM and OED, the institute’s interim director.

"The Office of Technology Management and the Office of Enterprise Development will continue to work with faculty, staff and students to facilitate the commercialization of new technologies and the formation of new companies originating at the university," Malandro stated in a prepared release. "The Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence will continue to support and educate business leaders in the regional entrepreneurial community. It is clear there are strong synergies between the groups and, working together, we will be able to maximize our impact."

Malandro told the University Times that he and Ann Dugan, IEE founder and executive director, have discussed closer collaborations over the years — from aligning mentor networks and cross-utilizing students to strengthening support for Pitt innovators. "We really do have a common mission in terms of the regional economic development focus," he said.

"It’s always been the ad-hoc being in touch," but the ideas for a more formal structure coalesced over the past 12-18 months, he said.

Dugan’s plan to step down from her post at IEE early next year (see Nov. 7 University Times) was among the catalysts for the institute’s formation. "It was an opportune time to say, ‘Let’s formally put it together,’” Malandro said. "From an administrative standpoint, I know there is synergy to be gained between the groups."

A short-term goal is to find Dugan’s successor at IEE before searching for a permanent director for the Innovation Institute, he said.

Malandro said the three groups together employ about 40 people. Much of OTM and OED’s work is focused within the University while IEE’s is external. “There’s not a whole lot of duplication of effort. I don’t necessarily see consolidation from a staff consolidation standpoint. I see consolidation of mission,” he said.

"At this point and for the foreseeable future, it’s going to be three separate groups working together under a common mission. We’re going to spend some time talking to our advisory boards, talking to our internal constituents, external partners, and figure out strategically where we should be three to five years from now," he said.

The provost’s leadership in the initiative sends a message, Malandro said: “We see University-industry partnership as very important. We see the ability to translate our research results as very important.”

Likewise, “I think she sees the impact it can have on education. She sees the impact in the other places but also understands that innovation and entrepreneurship should pervade all schools on campus, all departments on campus,” he said.

Among the institute’s roles will be to facilitate curriculum development in ways that will eliminate the need to duplicate coursework. "I see much more of us connecting schools together," Malandro said.

Likewise, “There’s plenty of opportunity to expand experiential learning,” he said, noting that IEE, OED and OTM together utilize more than 40 student interns each term.

As a University-wide entity, the institute could create a repository that would broaden the reach of the many lectures on innovation and entrepreneurship that are presented here. “Once they’re given, they’re done,” Malandro said. "What if you just went around and recorded every one and archived them in such a way that they were accessible on campus and off? It seems to me that’s something very simple, but something very, very powerful. It would take someone in an overarching unit to be able to think about doing that, to be able to host that.”

Malandro also envisions new workshops and courses for innovators, including one that would bring together CEOs and faculty who are first-timers in the startup process to share what it’s like to start a tech-based business.

Conversely, he’d like to host a workshop to educate business people who are interested in partnering with the University on the nuts and bolts of what they might encounter. “For instance, if you want to work with a university, we’re always going to want to publish. These are the things you can forget.”

Fostering interaction among disciplines in existing programs has proven beneficial. As an example, OTM/OED’s “From Benchtop to Bedside” commercialization course for scientists and clinicians has benefited from the inclusion of business and law students. “So now you have the faculty member interacting with a business student and a law student — different vocabularies coming together. Our role is to facilitate continued on page 9
Pitt center gets new director, office space

By Kimberly K. Barlow

The decade-old Center for Urban Education in the School of Education now has a new director and a new head in the PFS Building under the direction of Dr. Kimberly K. Barlow.

The center is in the early stages of developing projects in several other areas: creating teacher development institutes, offer- ing professional development for urban middle-school and high-school students, and fostering a connection between hip-hop culture and teaching in specific disciplines.

The center already holds events such as the Nov. 15 lecture on “Topography of a K-12 Urban School District,” with Kofi Comotey of Western Carolina University. Milner has just signed on for a second three-year term as editor of the journal Urban Education.

Pittsburgh’s urban school district, he says, “is an absolutely ideal place for studying and advancing the learning opportunities and life chances of students.” The district is smaller than many other urban districts, has a relatively higher per capita budget and is surrounded by an active philanthropic community as well as local groups dedicated to aiding the schools’ futures, from the Hill District Education Council-As Schools.

“It is manageable to a degree that we can really affect the community and students,” he says. “I have a clear vision and mission for what I would like the center to become,” Milner concludes, “but I am using this year to learn and be responsive to people here in the University and in the community.”

“I’m trying to be a listener, be a learner and be a leader in this learning. I think our children’s lives depend on it. We don’t get any urban education right, I think we’re going to find ourselves as a community and as a nation regretting the learning for eternity.”

—Marty Lence

Faculty elected for UCIS search

Four faculty members have been elected to serve on the search committee for a new director of the University Center for Interna- tional Studies.

Elected from a slate of eight nominees were: Nancy Condee of Slavic and film studies, Scott Morgenstern of political science, Josephine Olson of business, and Andrew J. Strathern of anthropology.

UCIS director Lawrence Feick, a faculty member in business administration, recently announced he would step down from the UCIS position and as a member of the Council of Deans, effective Aug. 1, 2014.

Feick will continue on the Katz Graduate School of Business fac- ulty and will remain involved in projects underway in Europe, Brazil and China.

Feick helped transform Pitt’s study-abroad offerings by expanding programs developed by Pitt faculty, which now enroll more than 70 percent of Pitt students studying abroad.

He also oversaw an almost 20 percent increase in the number of Pitt students participating in study-abroad programs, and 2012’s 120 credit hours offered in UCIS’s international and area studies certificates has increased nearly 40 percent.

The University Times press time on Wednesday, the Office of the Provost had not released the names of other search committee appointees.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S. It accounts for approximately 438,000 deaths — one out of every five — each year. Even though 70 percent of adult smokers say they would like to quit, use of tobacco products is increasing in the U.S. for the first time in almost 40 years.

The University of Pittsburgh wants to support you in your efforts to stop using tobacco. Today, in honor of the Great American Smokeout (November 21), consider taking advantage of the FREE resources available to help you quit tobacco for good!

**UPMC MyHealth Ready to Quit™ Tobacco Cessation Program**

A UPMC Health Plan lifestyle health coach will guide you through a structured program to help you quit and stay tobacco free. Call 1-800-807-0751 to find out more about these Ready to Quit options:

- Individual health coaching by phone
- Health coach assistance through an online program
- Health coach assistance through a self-guided workbook program

**Attention Panther Advocate Members:** Earn up to $275 in health incentives for completing a MyHealth Ready to Quit program!

Research shows that using tobacco cessation medication can significantly improve your odds of quitting tobacco use. The University of Pittsburgh medical plans have continually covered copayments for tobacco cessation medications. Effective now, as a result of the Affordable Care Act, most over-the-counter and generic tobacco cessation medicines are available at $0 copayment — that means there is no cost to you. Specific brand-name drugs like Chantix, Nicotrol Inhaler, and Nicotrol Nasal Spray remain subject to the brand-name copayment. You can earn a reimbursement for your brand-name drug copayments if you complete a MyHealth Ready to Quit program including follow-up. Call a UPMC Health Plan health coach at 1-800-807-0751 to enroll today.

**LifeSolutions**

LifeSolutions can give you the extra support you need while you make healthy lifestyle changes and connect you to resources that can help you.

- Call 1-866-647-3432 to schedule an appointment with a LifeSolutions counselor. Day and evening appointments are available. Services are free and confidential.
- To find out more about smoking cessation resources available through LifeSolutions:
  - Go to www.hr.pitt.edu/lifesolutions
  - Click on the blue LifeSolutions hyperlink under Overview
  - Under Quick Links on the right side of the page, click on Health and Wellness

When used in combination with tobacco cessation medication, health coaching increases the odds of quitting six times over trying to quit on your own!
Newest campus panthers take shape at Falk

Falk School unveiled a new carving of two panthers on Nov. 19, created from the remains of a pin oak that once stood three stories high on school grounds. Sculptor Luke Sassani (in cap) created a panther descending a tree from a four-foot trunk section and a seated panther from a six-foot section, then carved the stump into boulders, reconnecting them to create a single work of art.

The tree, planted in 1943, had stood in the backyard of a house next to Falk, says director Wendell R. McConnaha, a School of Education faculty member (standing next to Sassani). When Falk built its addition on the property, it left the tree standing, but dead limbs forced it to be cut down recently.

McConnaha credits Kathy Trent, head of the Facilities Management ground crew, with the idea for the campus's latest panther creation.
Staff Association Council membership grows to 68

The Staff Association Council (SAC) has gained 22 new members since its last monthly gathering, and 21 of them helped fill tables from one end of the William Pitt Union Ballroom to the other at the group’s Nov. 13 meeting. Some of the new members have been Pitt staffers for as many as 26 years.

The new members are Peter Adams, plastic surgery; Valerie Ashby, geriatrics; Camille Burgess, College of Business Administration; Lucy Caféo, biomedical informatics; Margaret Clements-Dawson, Magee-Womens Research Institute and Foundation; Tricia Connell, institutional advancement; Karen Dietsch, computer science; Angela Ellis, CS; Anita Gallagher, University Center for International Studies/nationality rooms; Christine Jackson, occupational therapy; Michele Kovaly, Computing Services and Systems Development; Janet Littrell, Swanson School of Engineering; Christopher March, financial information systems; Mandy Peskie, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences; Pamela Rikstad, Office of the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs/Swanson school; Rebecca Roadman, Office of Graduate Studies/Dietrich school; Lori Schmotzer, School of Pharmacy; Megan Soloetz, School of Social Work; Clayton Steup, physician scientist training program/School of Medicine; Michele Tichannen, Pitt Program Council; Jonna Valance, Office of General Counsel, and Michael Wahl, Office of the Dean/School of Dental Medicine.

SAC now has 68 members. Regular full-time or part-time staff members who are not in their initial provisional period or under performance improvement plan or equivalent performance or disciplinary plan or status may become members by filling out an application available on the SAC website. “Can’t say we don’t represent all areas of the University,” remarked President Rich Colwell. He said it’s the largest membership he has seen in his 26 years on SAC.

He credited the external relations committee and its chair Andy Stephany, for recruiting the new members, as well as SAC’s increased use of digital communications.

“This is the first time in years, besides even, that every officer’s chair and vice chair position is filled,” added Executive Vice President Monica Costlow. That now includes committee vice chairs Fiona Seels, external relations; Pamela Rikstad, health, safety, IT and transportation; Hillary Koller, operations, and Adriana Maguina-Ugarte, staff relations.

Operations committee head Tammeka Banks said SACsent letters to 15 members concerning attendance. One member, resigned in response, one requested leave for medical reasons, two pledged to attend more often, and the remaining 11 did not respond.

In other news:
• Colwell was not able to address alleged discrepancies in the distribution of staff raises — a charge he made at the last meeting — because he said not enough staff members had responded to his call for information about the actions of individual schools and departments throughout the University. Colwell reiterated his request for reports.
• SAC also set the date for the 2014 Pitt Kennywood Day: Sunday, July 20. It will be a session on retirement benefits.
• SAC’s brown bag series returned today, Nov. 21, with a session on retirement benefits. The first one of the current series, held at noon in the William Pitt Union Ballroom, was fully booked with 150 people.
• The series continues at the same time and location on Dec. 3, with speakers from human resources presenting information on Pitt’s educational benefit.
• Monica Louagio, vice president of finance, said the SAC Endowed Book Fund, which gives textbook funds to staffers’ children attending Pitt, had received 22 applications.

SAC is hoping to make five awards at the chancellor’s annual staff recognition ceremony and reception on Dec. 5.
• SAC also is collecting socks, hats, scarves and gloves for the community and governmental relations winter clothing drive. Donations should be made at SAC’s next general meeting, Dec. 11, at noon in 102 Benedum Hall.

—Marty Levine

A HOLIDAY REMINDER FROM THE OFFICE OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

All faculty, staff and students are reminded to turn off computers, radios, copiers, printers, scanners, automatic coffee machines, lights & other items in their area before leaving for the holiday. Please take a moment to shut these items off. This will help reduce University utility costs and lessen the potential for physical damage to this equipment.

Facilities Management thanks you for your consideration & wishes you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Try a Research Experience in the Health Sciences!

2014 Health Sciences Undergraduate Summer Research Opportunities Fair
Wednesday, December 4, 2013
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
William Pitt Student Union

Come and meet faculty and program directors who can assist you with finding a summer research experience and explore careers in the health sciences. This is a free event, open to undergraduate students interested in learning more about summer research opportunities and graduate/professional programs.
Sponsored by: Office of Science Education Outreach, Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

For additional information, contact ShihNay Baker (smb185@pitt.edu)
NIH funds study of trauma-induced hemorrhaging

Stephen Winskiwsky, a faculty member in epidemiology, senior associate dean and co-director of the Epidemiology Data Center in the Graduate School of Public Health, will coordinate a new multicenter, multidisciplinary effort to study the deadly bleeding syndrome coagulopathy, which occurs without warning in some trauma patients.

The research is supported by a five-year, $23.8 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant. Led by a University of Vermont researcher, the Trans-Agency Consortium for Trauma-Induced Coagulopathy (TACTIC) study is a cooperative effort funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) that establishes a collaboration between NIH and the Department of Defense.

Said Winskiwsky: “Multiple, parallel research projects will each explore a different side of coagulopathic syndromes in an effort to discover why they occur and, ultimately, to develop ways to treat and prevent them. Those projects will produce a massive amount of data, something we at Pitt Public Health are well-equipped to collect, analyze and organize into useful information.”

Trauma is the major cause of death in people younger than 34 and the third-leading cause of mortality in the United States, with uncontrollable hemorrhage responsible for half of preventable deaths, according to NIH. Each year, nearly 30 million traumatic injuries in the U.S. result in 170,000 deaths.

Little is known about the biological phenomena that lead to coagulopathy. When a person sustains a traumatic injury, some, regardless of proper treatment, suddenly suffer from uncontrollable bleeding and die. It is believed that the shock the trauma induces a “storm” of coagulation and inflammatory phenomena that prevent the blood from clotting.

Today, there are no analyti-
cal tools that allow emergency department staff to conclude that coagulopathy is occurring in trauma victims and no resources to guide an effective therapeutic approach.

A study co-leader at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation will look at the role played by DNA and histones that escape from cells in initiating the inflammatory and coagula-
tion abnormalities that occur in trauma patients.

Other institutions involved in the research are Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mayo Clinic, Scripps Research Institu-
ture, University of California-San Francisco, University of Illinois, University of Pennsylvania, Uni-
vity of Colorado and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Grant targets childhood cancer

Linda M. McAllister-Lucàs, Department of Pediatrics faculty member in the School of Medicine and chief and fellowship program director of the Division of Pediat-
ric Hematology and Oncology, has been awarded a one-year, $56,000 grant from the St. Baldrick’s Foun-
dation, which supports childhood cancer research.

Said McAllister-Lucas: “This grant will allow our program to per-
form Phase I clinical trials aimed at identifying new and improved treatment options for childhood cancer.”

More than 60 percent of childhood cancer patients receive treatment as part of clinical trials.

Skin cancer research raises $12 million

A grant to the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) melanoma and skin cancer program, led by John Kirkwood, has been renewed through the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) competitive specialized program of research excellence (SPORE). The grant is for more than $12 million.

The award is the fourth grant awarded to UPCI through SPORE, the three previous grants at UPCI supported research on lung, liver and ovarian cancers.

The latest SPORE grant will fund the UPCI team’s next five years of work. The expansion of one prior project:

**Biomarkers of the prion- inflammatory response and ele-
ments of immune suppression.**

The goal of this project is to find biomarkers of disease progression at diagnosis or early in the disease that may predict the benefit of treatment with the drugs iludil-
ubam or interferon-α (IFNα) for each individual, as well as to assess the risk of melanoma recurrence and death. This effort continues earlier research that revealed biomarker patterns associated with pro-inflammatory immune responses and with immunosup-
pression in both tumor tissue and circulating blood.

**Multiple antigen-engi-
neered dendritic cell immuniza-
tion and IFN-α-2b boost for vac-
cine immunotherapy of metastatic melanoma.**

This project will test whether vaccine, a drug that inhibits a signaling protein called BRAF, can enhance the survival of mice in a model of melanoma.

**A microencapsulated vaccine program for immunotherapy of melanoma and cutaneous T cell lymphoma.**

Kirkwood’s melanoma research team first received SPORE fund-
ing five years ago and the grant has supported the last five projects have focused on immune approaches to treatment of melanoma and other skin can-
cers. The incidence of melanoma continues to rise dramatically.

There has not been effective therapy to improve overall survival for the majority of patients with inoperable metastatic disease, although progress in the molecu-
lar therapy and immunotherapy of melanoma now has improved prospects for patients with mela-
noma considerably.

Said Kirkwood: “We want to improve our understanding of the molecular and immuno-
logic mechanisms underlying melanoma progression and to validate prognostic and predic-
tive biomarkers that will lead to the personalized treatment of melanoma and other skin cancers.

Our research is unique because we have integrated an approach that includes experts in melanoma from medical oncology, derma-
tology, surgery, immunology, biostatistics, bioinformatics and biomarker discovery.”

About 76,000 cases of mela-
noma are diagnosed every year in the United States and about 9,400 people die annually from the disease, according to the NCI. Kirkwood said the work being done through the SPORE grants already is making a difference.

There have been several new therapies for melanoma approved since 2013, including drugs that target agents approved in the 30 years prior.

Public health research presented

Pitt researchers presented findings at the recent annual meeting of the American Public Health Association.

Study of HIV transmission rate challenges beliefs

The number of HIV-positive men who have sex with both men and women likely is no higher than the number of HIV-positive heterosexual men, according to a U.S.-based analysis by public health researchers. The finding challenges a popular assumption that bisexual men pose to their female partners. But, at least in the U.S., the data supporting the extent of HIV transmission among men in the U.S. is limited.

The analysis also estimates that there are approximately 1.2 mil-
lon bisexual men in the U.S. of whom 120,000 are HIV-positive.

That estimate aligns with CDC estimates for HIV infection in male heterosexual and intrave-
enous drug users.

Friedman, who has conducted HIV prevention and research for more than 15 years, believes that while bisexual behaving men may have a lower risk profile than homosexual or bisexual behaving men, their HIV burden still warrants the development and implementation of targeted inter-
ventions.

The HIV infection risk that bisexual men pose to their female partners has likely been overstated,” said Friedman. “However, the data does mean that HIV-prevention campaigns targeting bisexual men and their male and female partners aren’t needed. HIV does exist in the bisexual community, and national, bisexual-specific data collection, research and HIV prevention and care delivery are necessary to ameliorate this population’s high HIV burden.”

Additional Pitt collaborators on this research were Chongyi Wei, Mary Lou Klem, Anthony Silvestre, Nina Markovic and Ron Stall.

Attitudes toward bisexual men

Men who identify themselves as homosexual are three times more likely to categorize bisexu-
ality as “so damaging to moral orientation,” an attitude that can encourage negative attitudes and outcomes in people who identify as bisexual, said Friedman, director of Project Silk, an HIV prevention initiative.

“Bisexual men and women face prejudice, stigma and discrimina-
tion from both heterosexual and homosexual people,” he said.
“This can cause feelings of isola-
tion and marginalization, which 
prone to depression and many other neg-
itive health outcomes, is very useful to 
people trying to fight stigma and 
marginalization. For example, 
this information can guide social 
marketing interventions and 
out-
reach to reduce that stigma, and 
rm patients. The researchers gathered highly 
standardized assessments and 
formations arising from University 
thesis. The researchers had separate return.

In a newly expanded University 
atory, molecular pathologists 
using a machine the size of 
puter to sequence 
ages for patients suffering from 
late-stage 
ld, colon, breast and 
other common cancers. The team, 
under the direction of Yuri Nikif-
vorov, vice chair of the Depart-
ment of Pathology and director of the Division of Molecular and Genomic Pathology, offers testing for UPMC patients with 
ery cancer type and stage when there 
is clinical necessity.

Said Nikiforov: “The genetic 
ations that lead to the dysfunc-
tion of cancer-related genes are 
portant diagnostic, prognostic and 
predictive biologic markers. The 
newest technologies known as 
next-generation sequencing allow 
us to sequence numerous cancer 
genes at the same time, giving us 
valuable information about cancer 
mutations that can be targeted by 
new drugs, allowing for the use of 
personalized cancer therapies.”

The program uses the Per-
sonalized Cancer Mutation Panel 
(PCM) developed at Pitt that 
ldentify 2,800 mutations in 50 
key cancer genes.

**Benefits from bariatric surgery found**

For millions of Americans 
gruggling with obesity and con-
sidering surgical procedures to 
achieve weight loss and allevi-
ate obesity-related health complica-
tions, a new study confirms the 
health benefits attributed to 
bariatric surgery.

Pitt researchers from medi-
cine and public health, with 
several other clinical centers 
throughout the country, found 
that most severely obese patients 
who underwent gastric bypass or 
laparoscopic adjustable gastric 
banding surgical procedures 
experienced substantial weight 
loss three years after surgery, 
ith many of the change occurring in 
the first year.

The study findings, published online in the Journal of the American Medical Association, also found variability in both 
weight change and improvements in obesity-related complications, 
cluding diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol.

Gastric bypass and laparo-
scopic adjustable gastric banding 
re common bariatric surgical procedures that aid in weight 
loss by intestinal bypass, stomach 
rection and possibly gut hor-
mones change.

Led by Anita Courcoulas, a 
surgery faculty member, research-
ers used detailed data from the 
Longitudinal Assessment of Bariatric Surgery (LABS) Consor-
tium, a multicenter observational 
study encompassing 10 
hospitals in six geographically 
diverse clinical centers and a 
data coordinating center, which 
asses the safety and efficacy of 
bariatric surgical procedures 
formed in the United States. The 
searchers gathered highly 
standardized assessments and 
measures from adult study partici-
ants undergoing bariatric surgery 
cedures and followed them 
over the course of three years.

At baseline, study participants 
r age in age from 18 to 78 years, 
percent were women, and the 
median body mass index was 45.9. 
participated chose to 
undergo gastric bypass surgery, 
and 601 underwent laparoscopic 
gastric banding.

In the three-year follow-
up after bariatric surgery, the 

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**Compounded Rx to prevent preterm birth not a risk**

A study published online in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology by researchers from the schools of 
medicines and pharmacy reports that 
17-hydroxyprogesterone cap-
shots (17-OHPC), a medication 
that reduces the rate of preterm 
hich-sex women, did not 
raise any safety concerns when 
the medication was prepared and 
dispensed by independent 
compounding pharmacies throughout 
the United States.

The medication has been 
roved to prevent preterm birth in 
women with a clinical history of 
early delivery. Until recently, this
researchers observed substantial weight loss for both procedures, with most of the change occurring during the first year. Participants who underwent gastric bypass surgery or laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding experienced median weight loss of nearly 32 percent and 16 percent, respectively.

Additionally, of the gastric bypass surgical participants who had specific obesity-related health problems prior to surgery, 67 percent experienced partial remission from diabetes and 38 percent remission from hyper tension. High cholesterol resolved in 61 percent of the participants who underwent bypass surgery. For those who underwent laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding, 28 percent and 17 percent experienced partial remission from diabetes and remission from hypertension respectively, and high cholesterol was resolved in 27 percent of participants.

Said Courcoulas: "Bariatric surgery is not a ‘one size fits all’ approach to weight loss. Our study findings are the result of data collected from a multicenter patient population, and emphasize the heterogeneous nature of weight change and health outcomes for both types of bariatric surgery that we reported. A longer-term follow-up of this carefully studied cohort will determine the durability of these improvements over time and identify the factors associated with the variability in effect."

The research was funded by the National Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), Columbia University Medical Center, University of Washington, Neuropsychiatric Research Institute, UPMC and Oregon Health and Science University.

Courcoulas’s team included Pitt faculty Steven H. Belle, Nicholas Christian, Melissa V. Kalarich and Wendy C. King. Also contributing were researchers from Columbia University, University of Washington, University of North Dakota, NIDDK, Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center, East Carolina University, Weill Cornell Medical College, Virginia Mason Medical Center and Oregon Health and Science University.

Sexual health better after surgery for weight loss In another study using LABS data, researchers measuring the changes in sexual function and hormone levels in women following bariatric surgery have found that, on average, women reported significant improvements in sexual function, desire and satisfaction. They also had significant improvements in sex hormone levels. In addition to improved sexual function, the women reported significantly better quality of life, as well as body image and depression symptoms.

The study team included researchers from the University of Pennsylvania, University of North Dakota, UPMC and the New England Research Institutes. The ancillary study was funded by the NIDDK.

Researchers explore remote environmental monitoring Pitt and Indiana University hope to improve the ability of researchers to collect greater amounts of field data through the development of large-scale wire- less sensor networks (WSN). The researchers at both universities were awarded a parallel grant of $465,582 in total, with $232,474 to Pittsburgh through NSF Division of Computer and Network Systems. The team’s research focuses on advances in WSNs and the opportunities they enable for large-scale environment monitoring applications.

Principal investigator is Xu Liang, civil and environmental engineering faculty in the Swanson School of Engineering. Liang’s research focuses on the laws that govern water, energy and how these cycles affect the health of the environment.

The research is fundamentally important because an extension of the battery lifetime for large-scale WSNs would allow for the extended lifetime for field monitoring, which in turn would allow for the efficient and effective collection of valuable field data at unprecedented high densities for long durations. The research is focused specifically on ecohydrology, an interdisciplinary area that studies the interaction between water and ecosystems.

Said Liang: “In the end we want to improve our understanding of how some of the ecohydrological processes behave across large spatial scales. The ultimate goal is to substantially reduce the probability of large-scale WSN deployments for scientific, national security and military purposes. This would significantly extend their lifetimes and have them help us find solutions addressing challenging ecohydrological problems.”

The project investigates the environmentally sustainable deployment of a large, outdoor WSN using a test bed at the Audubon Society’s BirdLife Partnership’s Beaver Brook Nature Reserve, located a few minutes from Pitt. The research team uses the test bed to study innovative compressed data collection in WSN under wireless link dynamics through an integrated theoretical and empirical approach. The test bed also allows the team to investigate the heterogeneity of hydrological processes within the ecosystem. The WSN allows for collection of valuable ecohydrological data at a finer resolution, which is much better than what satellite data has provided in the past. This data helps to explore certain fundamental ecohydrological laws.

By using this particular test bed, the researchers are also able to develop a novel and rigorous framework of topology tomography for real-world WSNs operated in noisy communication environments. The developed framework can be essential not only for routing improvement, topology control, hot spot elimination and anomaly detection in practice, but also for the emerging compressed sensing-based data collection in wireless systems.

In addition, the project creates a graduate student seed fund, Middle grants, which will take a lead in the hands-on participation in this research project, as well as conduct their own creative projects based on the WSN test bed in Liang’s classes.

Polymers that snap like a Venus fly trap may be possible Micro-vehicles and other devices that can move or switch simply by shining light on them could be possible. The underlying mechanism that allows the Venus fly trap to capture prey is slow. But because its internal structure is coupled to use elastic instability, a snapping action occurs, and this rapid motion is achieved through a simple feedback loop. Using this principle, scientists use light to trigger a Venus fly trap. Researchers at the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, which was established in 1964, offers opportunities for clinical experience and in-depth research. This program of the Center for Bioethics and Health Law at the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences allows students to combine study in ethical theory, philosophy and history of medicine, as well as current medical, public health, law and public and social sciences.

Home for the Holidays

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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 108 Bellefield Hall.

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

**PEOPLE OF THE TIMES**

The University Center for International Studies has announced the appointment of two new center directors: Scott Morganstern as director of the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) and Nieva Constanta as director of the Asian Studies Center, both effective Jan. 1.

Morganstern has served on several CLAS committees and was the primary investigator on a U.S. State Department grant for a political party development program. Earlier in his career, he was a Peace Corps volunteer in Western Samoa, where he added Samoan to his language fluency.

Constanța has been a Pitt faculty member since 1993. She is a faculty member in anthropology with geographic specialization in Hong Kong, China, the Philippines and Indonesia. Her research focuses on cross-border marriages, Internet neoblasphemy, electoral politics, systemic and legislative issues in Latin America.

He replaces Kathleen Musante, who is stepping down after holding the directorship for 12 years.

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**Scott Morganstern**

Scott Morganstern is a faculty member in political science here since 2005. His research focuses on international institutions, electoral politics, systemic and legislative issues in Latin America. He replaces Kathleen Musante, who is stepping down after holding the directorship for 12 years.

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**Nieva Constanta**

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

biodiversity and the problems faced by its indigenous people. She also spearheaded the development of Panoramas, a web-based academic resource available to scholars of Latin America and the Caribbean worldwide.

Musante has conducted research on food security and gender inequality in rural communities throughout Latin America and the United States over the past 40 years, working with a broad range of international agencies and foundations.

Stephanie Harriman McGrath, faculty member in the School of Pharmacy, has won this year’s Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award from the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association. McGrath is active in the community pharmacy curriculum. She also serves as a primary preceptor for Pitt’s community pharmacy residency program and as a preceptor for both the introductory pharmacy practice experience and the advanced pharmacy practice experience.

She also coordinates the Silver-Scripts experience, which allows first-year pharmacy students to care for real patients at local senior centers. She is a 2007 Pitt graduate and completed a community practice residency. After residency, McGrath accepted a dual dispensing and clinical position where she could teach pharmacy students and residents how to care for patients. In 2009, McGrath became a certified American Pharmacists Association immunization practitioner.

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Liz Lyon will begin an 18-month stint in January as a visiting professor at the School of Information Sciences. Her primary appointment will be in the library and information science program. Lyon is associate director of the Digital Curation Centre and director of UKOLN at the University of Bath in the United Kingdom.

Pitt-Bradford has a new transfer agreement with Pennsylvania Highlands Community College to make it easier for those students to complete their bachelor’s degree at UPB.

Under the agreement, Pitt-Bradford will accept 60 credits from Penn Highlands, which has five campuses in south central Pennsylvania.

Students can look up the transferability of their credits via an online database, which they can use in order to maximize the move to one of Pitt-Bradford’s 37 bachelor degree programs.

For more information, call the Office of Admissions at 800/872-1787 or go to www.upb.pitt.edu/transfer.aspx.

NATIONAL PARKS: Siegfried’s New Role

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Lecture

“The Inflationary Cosmology: Is Our Universe Part of a Multiverse?”

4:30 P.M., TUESDAY, DEC. 3, 2013

RASHID AUDITORIUM

GATES AND MILLMAN CENTERS

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Mellon College of Science

Speaker Bio:
Alan H. Guth is the Victor F. Weisskopf Professor of Physics and a Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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Pitt-Bradford makes new transfer pact

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Thursday 21

Molecular Biophysics/Structural Biology Seminar
“The Minimalist Architecture of Viral Channels & Their Therapeutic Implications,” James Chou, Harvard; 6014 BST, 11 am

ELCE Videoconference
“France as a Global Leader” (in French), 4127 Posvar, noon (www.wisc.pitt.edu/elce)

UCSR Seminar
“The Promise & Power of Open Data,” Mark Heald, O’Hara Student Ctr., noon

SAC Seminar
“The Retiree Benefits,” John Kozar, human resources, WPU Ballrm., noon (www.sac.pitt.edu)

Psychiatry Lecture
“Baud Ganglia Circuits With the Cerebral Cortex, Cerebellum & … Thinking Outside the Loop,” Peter Strick, WPIC aud., noon

Sunday 24

Episcopal Service
Heinz Chapel, 11 am (Sundays: http://pittepiscopalchapelny.wordpress.com/)

Concert
“Tablaphi”a, Bellefield aud., 2 pm (412/380-1025)

Monday 25

Nursing Poster Presentation
Victoria 1st fl. lobby, 1-3 pm (mscherb@pitt.edu)

Friday 22

ULS Audubon Day
“Birds of America” prints on display, 563 Hillman, 9 am-4:45 pm (8-8999)

Senate Computer Usability Committee Mtg.
717 CL, 10 am

Emerging Legends Concert
African Music & Dance Club, Cup & Chaucer, gr. fl., noon

Human Genetics/Psychiatry Seminar
John Vincent, U of Toronto, noon

Physical Therapy Clinical Rounds
4060 Forbes T., noon

Tuesday 26

Basic & Translational Research Seminar
“Targeting Radiation-Resistant NSCLC Cells: The Role of Molecular Chaperone HS90,” Vera Levina, Hillman Cancer Ctr. conf., noon (rclay@upmc.edu)

MRR Seminar
“The Rise & Fall of the Jilted Beta Cell,” Raghu Mirmira, IN U; Rangos aud., noon (linda.chetre@chp.edu)

Academic Career Development Lecture
“Managing Your Mentor: Best Practices for Mentees,” Angus Thomson; S100 Starzl BST, 3-5 pm

Thursday 28

University closed through Nov. 29 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Friday 29

Football
Vs. Miami, Heinz Field, 3:30 pm

Physical Therapy Clinical Rounds
4060 Forbes T., noon

Saturday 30

Men’s Basketball
Vs. Duquesne, CONSOL Energy Ctr., Downtown, 1 pm

Holiday Concert
Heinz Chapel Choir, Heinz Chapel, 8 pm

December

Sunday 1

Women’s Basketball
Vs. Buffalo, Petersen, 2 pm

Monopoly Challenge Match
Heinz Chapel Choir, Heinz Chapel, 3 pm

Monday 2

Classes resume.

CIDDE Workshop
“Developing Your Course to Engage Students,” 815 Alumni, 5 pm

Tuesday 3

CRSP Lecture
“A Multiperspectival Perspective on Neighborhoods & Racial Inequality,” Patrick Sharkey, NYU, 2017 CL, noon (4-6304)

Sr. VC’s Lecture
“Neural Plasticity & Neural Diversity,” Fred Gage, Salk Inst. of Biological Studies, Scaife lect. rm. 6, noon

Pharmacology & Chemical Biology Seminar
“The Flip-Side of Protein & Lipid Trafficking,” Todd Graham, Vanderbilt, 1195 RST, 1-3 pm (mcmclain@pitt.edu)

Wednesday 4

Health Sciences Undergraduates Summer Research Opportunities Fair
WPU, 11 am-2 pm (smh185@pitt.edu)

Holiday Open House
University Store on Fifth, Pitt Shop & Maggie & Stella’s, 11 am-5 pm

Pathology Seminar
“Securing the Future of Pathology,” Richard Friedberg, 1184 Scaife, noon

Academic Career Development Lecture
“Business Consulting,” Michael Forlenza & Jon Kowalski; S100 Starzl RST, noon

HSLS Workshop
“Pathway Analysis Tools 1,” Assumat Chattopadhyay, Falk Library, 1-3 pm (ansuman@pitt.edu)

Women’s Basketball Hoopla Reception
Petersen Campus View Club, 5:30 pm (RSVP by Nov. 27: ucs@pitt.edu)

Women’s Basketball
Vs. James Madison; Petersen, 7 pm

Concert
Symphony Orchestra; Bellefield aud., 8 pm

More than two dozen original prints from John James Audubon’s “Birds of America” will be on display Nov. 22 as the University Library System hosts its annual Audubon Day, 9 am-4:45 pm, in 263 Hillman Library.

Pictured is Audubon’s “American Flamingo.”

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