Trustees approve senior administrator raises of 3%-4.9%

Pitt trustees awarded Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg a 3 percent raise and set salaries for seven other University officers for the current fiscal year.

In a Dec. 3 teleconference meeting, the Board of Trustees compensation committee set Nordenberg’s salary at $597,500, up $17,500 from his FY13 salary of $580,000.

In commenting on the chancellor’s salary increase, board chair Stephen R. Tritch said, “Mark Nordenberg now is moving through his 19th and final year as chancellor of the University. He has led Pitt through an extended period of remarkable progress and now is one of the most senior, and most successful, university leaders in America. Throughout his service, Chancellor Nordenberg’s compensation has lagged behind the compensation received by many of his peers. The existence of that gap is not reflective of any reluctance on the part of the compensation committee to raise his compensation. Instead, it is the product of his own resistance to any salary increases beyond those of a modest size. This year, he has again requested that his increase be lower than the lowest of the percentage increases awarded to any other officer.”

The University’s FY14 budget incorporates a 2.5 percent salary pool increase, distributed 1.5 percent for salary maintenance for employees whose work has been assessed as satisfactory and 1 percent for merit, market and equity adjustments at the unit level. (See Aug. 29 University Times.)

Although the salary pool increase is announced as a part of the University’s operating budget, the compensation committee typically defers its decisions on officers’ salaries until early December.

Tritch noted that the delay enables the committee to gather more accurate contextual information on other Pitt employees’ increases and to consider measures of institutional progress before setting officers’ salaries.

Officers’ salaries

Nordenberg, who will step down from the chancellor post Aug. 1, commended the leadership team as part of his final opportunity to recommend their pay increases.

“As you all know, I have enormous respect for all of the people of Pitt and am deeply grateful for the contributions that have been made by so many — faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends — to the University’s progress. But this is a process that focuses on the officers and because this will be my last chance to publicly comment on them — at least in this setting — I want to take just a few minutes to do just that,” the chancellor told the committee.

“...This is an extraordinary group in terms of the individual talents and commitment to Pitt that is regularly demonstrated. We’re very fortunate to have the members of this group leading the important parts of the University’s operations,” Nordenberg said.

“It also is an extraordinary group in terms of their demonstrated willingness and ability to function as a team — something that never should be taken for granted. They have come to the University from diverse backgrounds. Once here, most of them have stayed for a very long time...”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Pitt aims to improve research support

peeding completion of contracts and improving communication with faculty are among the top priorities in improving support for research, Vice Provost for Research Mark Redfern told Faculty Assembly in a recent report.

Changes in the Office of Research are high on the list of operational improvements he is focusing on this year and improving the amount of time it takes to complete contracts is “No. 1 on the list,” Redfern said in a Nov. 26 presentation on the University’s research agenda.

The University also aims to streamline the process for material transfer agreements, confidentiality agreements and non-disclosure agreements. New enterprise software that would allow online submissions is being evaluated and could be in place within months, he said.

University Senate President Michael Spring invited Redfern and faculty members Mara Horwitz, the Senate appointee to the University’s conflict of interest (COI) committee, and Kacey Marra, Senate appointee to the University Research Council (URC), to discuss with Faculty Assembly their work on research-related policies as the Senate deliberates whether it should establish a standing committee to address research-related concerns. (See Oct. 10 University Times.)

The COI committee, chaired by Jerome L. Rosenberg, reports to Randy Juhl, vice chancellor for research conduct and compliance.

URC advises Redfern and the provost on policies pertaining to the conduct of research, scholarship and creative activities.

Pitt, unlike many other universities, separates research compliance (which is overseen by Juhl) from Redfern’s office. “Compliance is important and complicated,” Redfern said, noting that many of his colleagues at other research universities juggle both. “Their bandwidth gets soaked up with day-to-day compliance issues,” he said, adding that he favors the University’s model because it allows him to focus on improving research while Juhl concentrates on compliance.

Marra, who has served on URC for approximately a year, said the committee’s work is comprehensive, addressing all areas of research. “We feel that the University Research Council is an entity that is set to address all of the research issues on campus,” Marra said, adding that a liaison to Faculty Assembly could be appointed to convey issues and concerns.

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Horwitz, a faculty member in medicine and a clinical researcher at Pitt, said she joined the COI committee about five years ago, having become familiar with it through a colleague’s experience in working through a conflict.

Much of the COI committee’s work involves engineering or medicine, she said. “The most common thing is where investigators have an interest in what is being studied. We need to determine whether the investigator can be the principal investigator or whether they need to be removed as principal investigator and have somebody else do the studies. In addition, we approve entrepreneurial oversight licenses, contracts, sublicenses … making sure faculty are staying within appropriate limits.”

While the committee last year updated Pitt’s COI policy at the provost’s request, Horwitz said most COI meetings are centered on individual cases. “I’m not sure that those sort of nitty-gritty details would be of interest to the Senate,” she said, acknowledging that communication to the Senate would be appropriate in the case of major policy changes or issues of broad interest.

She said she’d like to see Marra about the existing committees’ effectiveness. “I think at the moment the...” CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

More money from Ponzi scheme released

A new $2.8 million in the University endowment funds that lost in a Ponzi scheme is being returned to the University.

A federal judge in New York on Nov. 19 approved a receiver’s request cost to investors $50 million in recovered funds that had been invested in funds operated by Paul Greenwood. The University expects to receive its share in the next few weeks, according to Pitt spokesman Paul Greenwood.

Greenwood and Walsh, who operated Westbridge Capital Manage- ment, WG Trading Investors and other related firms, were charged in 2009 with operating a $1.3 billion scheme that misap- propriated money from Pitt and other institutional clients. Green- wood pleaded guilty to securities fraud and related charges in July 2010 and is awaiting sentencing. Walsh has pleaded not guilty.

According to the U.S. Securi- ties and Exchange Commission (SEC), Greenwood and Walsh “essentially treated their clients’ investments as their personal piggy bank to purchase multi- million dollar homes, a horse farm, a private jet, a private yacht and rare collectibles such as Steiff teddy bears.

With the wrongdoings and the fraud complaints by the SEC and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the assets of the funds and their entities were frozen.

The court-appointed receiver, California-based Robb Evans & Associates, has been liquidating recovered assets. The recently approved distribution will bring the total amount returned to invest- ors $44.4 million in 2011 ($12 per share). The University received 94.3 percent of its net principal investments, court documents stated.

Ken Service, Pitt’s vice chan- cellor for University communica- tions, said that Pitt’s distribution from the receiverhip estate total approximately $49.4 million. The receiver continues to liquid- ate assets, and there may be additional future distributions,” Service told the University Times.

The University received $1.3 million in 2011 ($3.60 per share). The University reported $3.60 per share.

Ransomware: Phishing just got personal

When you receive an email like this:

To: [email]
From: [email]

we're going to encrypt your files, your photos, your documents — and you find that your machine is

Then if you get hit by ransom-ware, you won’t need to decrypt your files because you can simply replace the encrypted files with a new copy that the hacker will accept.

When you get suspicious emails, delete them.

If you’re unsure about a mes- sage, please contact the technol- ogy help desk at 412/624-HELP (4357).

The latest ransomware, which can infect Windows, Mac OS and most popular Linux distributions, has a different twist. It’s not a virus — it’s a method to do this automatically.

• Download and install Syman- tec Endpoint Protection.

CSESD makes Symantec avail- able at no cost to all faculty, staff and students through the software download service at my.pitt.edu.

When installed and kept current with updates, this software will provide a layer of protection if you inadvertently click on the wrong thing, whether that’s a link to a malicious website or an infected attachment.

Don’t panic — it’s likely that not all of this falls and you find that your machine is infected, don’t despair — and don’t pay a ransom.

If your department has an IT administrator or CSESD contract-ee, they may be able to help you recover your files.

In addition, CSESD can help you understand the latest technology help desk, who are available on call every hour of every day, can always help you with the CSESD in the University Store on Fifth.

Chris Keslar is a research and development analyst for CSESD.

The newspaper is available electronically at: www.utimes.pitt.edu.
Elise Boyas

On TEACHING

“I want to talk about dividends,” says Elise Boyas, an assistant professor of business administration, to the 50 or so students who have shown up for her last lecture before Thanksgiving. Some are surprised that the exercise on stockholders’ equity she has passed out to these students may not constitute the most riveting educational experience they have ever had — and that the subject of accounting may even scare some of them.

But among the 395 undergraduates she is instructing this semester in three sections of this core course, Introduction to Financial Accounting, as well as the graduate students she often educates, her teaching methods are prized — literally. Boyas is the first professor to win three College of Business Administration teaching awards in a single year. She has earned the CBA Teacher of the Year, Best Teaching in the Accounting Major and Best Teaching in a Core Course (large enrollment category) awards, as well as the Part-time MBA Student Choice Award for Outstanding Teacher.

She speaks steadily and deliberately in class, enunciating carefully in her slight New York accent. When she isn’t using her stylus to write on the tablet in the console of her lectern — projecting financial examples on twin screens above her and recording them, along with her voice, for student access online — her hands move to bracket one point, then emphasize another.

She sometimes brings in cookies to show what happens when a company pays dividends in its own stock, rather than cash, crumbling them into smaller and smaller pieces to demonstrate how one makes more money from these additional shares — at least not initially. Today she tells the class about her father, who owned Bell Telephone stock when the company switched to issuing stock dividends. “He was amazingly happy to think that he was getting more shares of stock. I remember sitting down with him and drawing a pie chart: ‘Dad, you have not gained anything.’”

But when Bell began paying cash dividends again, at the same per-share rate as they had years before, her father finally did make a profit — something that happens most often with smaller companies, she reports to the class. As students complete the exercise at their tables with her prompting, Boyas’s explanations are clear enough that someone stepping into the course for the first time, with her prompting, Boyas’s explanations are clear enough that someone stepping into the course for the first time, with

... In a small class you can call them out, tell them to put in-class texting. “I don’t know how to control the texting... I’m going to treat them with respect.”

Her teaching awards, she speculates, came about “maybe because they feel they can talk to me... because I have children their age, so I can really relate to them. I will say things in class and they will look at me and think, ‘God, she’s a real person!’”

Boyas also guesses that her teaching has drawn praise from students because they feel they can talk to a female professor about more than accounting. They come to her for help with their resumes and finding a job after graduation, she says.

Overall, her students “are really refreshing,” she says. “They have a decent work ethic, probably more than other places.” She notes that Pitt business grads have the highest CPA test passing rates in the state and are also one of PricewaterhouseCoopers’s top hiring sources, both locally and nationally.

“My role here is not only to teach them the subject but to get them to be a better learner.”

--Elise Boyas

DECEMBER 5, 2013
**Racial Inequalities**

**Consider the effects of neighborhoods on multiple generations, researcher urges**

Patrick T. Sharkey

...Effects of poverty multiply over the long-term, "We’re missing a lot of important history here. We’re missing the legacy of growing up in a disadvantaged environment," said Patrick T. Sharkey in his Dec. 1 lecture, "A Multigenerational Perspective on Neighborhoods and Racial Inequality," hosted by the Center for Race and Social Policy.

"When we focus on neighborhood poverty and the effects of growing up in a poor neighborhood, we focus on where families live right now. We focus on the conditions surrounding families right now, ignoring the history of where families have lived and the institutions with which families have had contact over long periods of time," said Sharkey, a sociologist, author of the 2013 book, "Stuck in Place: Urban Neighborhoods and the Fate of Poor Families," that’s existed for at least two generations, "In the early 1970s, 8 or 9 percent of African Americans were in the poorest fifth of U.S. income distribution. Today, only 5 percent of African American families are in the top fifth in income distribution, with about 9 percent in the top quintile in 2010. This figure actually understates the amount of progress that’s been made," he said, noting that the statistics — taken from the current U.S. census population survey — fail to account for "the explosion of incarceration and the institutionalized population" who are not included in the census.

In addition, an influx of new black immigrants, "who have done better than those African Americans who have been here over long periods of time," artificially boost the statistics, he said.

In making his argument for the multigenerational aspect of racial inequality, Sharkey said an examination of upward or downward mobility is telling. Over the past two generations, for children who grew up with the opportunities gained through the civil rights era, about 35 percent of black children have grown up and moved into a higher position in the income distribution than their parents, compared to about 41 percent of whites. Also, statistics from 2006 that compare "the racial mobility gap" — race-based income differences among children raised in middle-class families — show that, on average, white children raised in middle-class families stood to gain about $47,000 in adjusted dol-

Sharkey’s research on two cohorts of children — one from 1955-70 and the other cohort raised 30 years later — finds racial inequality in neighborhoods has not diminished over time.

Some 62 percent of African American children in the earlier cohort grew up in neighborhoods with at least 20 percent poverty, compared with about 4 percent of the white children. Thirty years later, these gaps persist: 60 percent of African American children lived in 1985-2000 live in neighborhoods with less than 20 percent poverty compared to 6 percent of white children.

"This is not a function of income," he stressed. "If you condition on income, if you run these same figures within income levels, the racial gaps barely change. This is a story of race and neighborhood inequality, not a story of income inequality."

Neighborhood disadvantages are difficult to overcome, he said, for a number of reasons, including that advantage or disadvantage a family experiences in one generation inherently transfers to the next, meaning that a family that started out in neighborhoods that were at half of the national average, it would take five generations before a family member could expect to live in a neighborhood that’s within 10 percent of the national average.

"This means that for families that are now living in very poor neighborhoods, we can expect them to continue to live in very poor neighborhoods for a century," Sharkey said. "Neighborhood disadvantages fade away, but they fade away extremely slowly, much more slowly than economic disadvantages.""
Redfern elaborated on other operational improvements and strategies on the administration’s agenda.

• **Office of Research**
  
  A new website is up and running as part of the Office of Research’s goal to improve communication with faculty. In addition, metrics are being established to measure the office’s performance both in terms of improvements over time and in determining how performance and volume change in real time to help guide improvements, Redfern said.

• **Export control**
  
  Redfern noted that the partnership between Pitt engineering and Schuan University in China (see April 4 University Times) brings up many export control issues.

  The University aims to implement an export control plan that includes increased information for faculty and assistance with foreign travel and with visiting faculty processes. “We’re trying to make it easy for the faculty, not trying to make it difficult for the faculty,” he said.

  He said efforts also are under way to better coordinate internal business processes among the University’s business units.

• **Faculty support**
  
  Redfern said the University is seeking ways to improve support for faculty research. “How can we help faculty — particularly young faculty — with attaining competitive grants, putting in proposals, getting pilot data?” he said. “This is an area where the URC is particularly being helpful in coming up with ideas and actually implementing some of those ideas.”

  A small-grants program and field trips in which young faculty visit federal agencies in Washington, D.C., have been helpful, he said. Other ideas under consideration include adding grant-writing workshops and grant review processes, or possibly establishing a grants development office on the lower campus, similar to one already in place at the School of Medicine.

• **Limited submissions**
  
  Redfern said limited submission proposal requests — in which Pitt can submit only one, or a small number of proposals — are becoming more common. “That means we have to have a process inside the University to very appropriately and unbiasedly vet those.”

  Conversely, the University needs to develop proactive processes to identify upcoming limited-submission opportunities and determine which groups at Pitt are best suited to pursue them, Redfern said.

• **Sustainability**
  
  An initiative is underway to support a campus-wide effort in sustainability that would integrate research and education with facilities, making the campus a testing ground for sustainability research, Redfern said. Engineering faculty member Eric Beckman, co-director of Pitt’s Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation, is leading a committee that aims to present a plan to the provost by the end of the spring term.

• **Energy research**
  
  The University aims to expand its energy research to take advantage of opportunities including fundamental energy research, health-related energy research, water-related energy research, and integration of fossil fuel energy with renewable energy sources, Redfern said. Pitt also seeks to develop corporate energy research opportunities and stronger ties with the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

• **Corporate relations**
  
  Redfern said he is advocating for the development of a comprehensive corporate-relations plan that goes beyond partnering in research to encompass such opportunities as education (for a corporate partner’s employees as well as for students), internships and co-op positions, job placement for Pitt students, and donations of equipment.

• **Exploring new initiatives**
  
  Among the “next horizons” Pitt may wish to focus on are advanced manufacturing such as 3-D printing; big data, including personalized medicine; advanced computation, and shale gas and water research, Redfern said.

  The URC also is looking at ways to expand and support undergraduate research and multidisciplinary research opportunities, he said.

Spokesperson Spring commended Redfern’s comprehensive presentation and proposed that the Senate continue to invite regular reports on research-related issues from Senate appointees and key University administrators.

Spring reiterated that he not pushing for a new Senate standing committee, only to ensure that research — which is a much larger part of Pitt’s operation now than it had been decades ago when the University Senate was established — receives faculty input.

In other business:

• Spring has asked the Senate bylaws committee to review several bylaws matters related to Senate standing committees, including when elections occur and how Senate liaisons are appointed. The committee also has been asked to research the history of the Senate’s standing committees to determine whether the current 15 standing committees have been in existence since the Senate was established or whether there have been changes over the years.

  “That will help to inform whether or not we want to examine the nature of our focus on the standing committees,” Spring said.

• Spring reported that he had communicated to Provost Patricia E. Beeson Faculty Assembly’s concerns about Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences proposals to suspend graduate programs in classics and German and terminate graduate religious studies programs (see Nov. 7 University Times). He said a petition begun by English professor Marianne Novy to express faculty members’ concerns (see Oct. 24 University Times letter) was submitted to the provost with 109 faculty members’ signatures.

He said the provost has not made a decision about the fate of the programs.

• Faculty members Patricia Weiss and Kent Harries have been appointed to represent the Senate on a new University working group on sustainability.

• Laura Fonzi has been appointed as interim head of the Senate admissions and student aid committee.

• The Senate plenary session has been set for March 19. The tentative topic is the University in the digital age.

• Faculty Assembly’s next meeting is set for 3 p.m. Jan. 21 in 2700 Packer Hall.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
Last Opportunity to Submit Flexible Spending Account Claims

December 31 is the last day to file claims against your Fiscal Year 2013 spending account (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013). This deadline applies for health care, dependent care, parking, and mass transit accounts. The claims must have been incurred between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. The only exception to this involves health care related claims that were incurred through September 15, 2013. The Benefits Department, in compliance with Internal Revenue Code, is not permitted to grant extensions for Plan Year 2013 expenses submitted after December 31, 2013. This provision has long been known as “use it or lose it.”

You can view your claims history, submit claims online and obtain claim forms by accessing your MyFlex Advantage account online. Remember, you have single sign-on access through my.pitt.edu. Follow these steps:
1. Select UPMC Health Plan from the Resources Tab.
2. Follow the links to the UPMC Health Plan web site.
3. Select Spending Accounts on the UPMC site.

Any questions regarding your flexible spending account(s) should be referred to UPMC Health Plan at 1-800-499-6885.

Winter Recess

During the winter recess, the Office of Human Resources Department, including the Benefits Department, will remain open with limited staffing and hours to serve you. Please contact us during the open hours if any issues arise that require immediate attention.

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UPMC Health Plan Member Services will remain open most days through the winter recess. Their hours are as follows:

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UPMC Health Plan Department Closing Dates

Office hours: 8 am - 4 pm EST

Thursday December 26 Normal Schedule
Tuesday December 24 Holiday - Closed
Wednesday December 25 Holiday - Closed
Thursday December 26 9 am - 2 pm
Friday December 27 9 am - 2 pm
Monday December 30 9 am - 2 pm
Tuesday December 31 9 am - 2 pm
Wednesday January 1 Holiday - Closed
Thursday January 2 Normal Schedule

You can expect the other carriers will be closed on December 25 and January 1. Most will have limited hours or will be closed on December 24 and December 31.

It’s That Time of Year for New Year’s Resolutions

Listed below are a few of the most common resolutions that we make but more often than not fail to keep. Forbes magazine lists these and the alternative actions we can take to make progress toward those goals. Help is available through the University’s resources at UPMC Health Plan. You can reach out to a health coach who can provide a wealth of programs and other resources to help you. You can reach them at: 1-800-807-0751.

Good luck and Happy New Year!

Go on a Diet

Some weight loss experts will tell you flat out, diets don’t work. For many people, unfortunately this is very true. For other people, particularly those whose eating habits are super unhealthy in the first place or who find it easier to evade control over what they eat, they aren’t a bad option. But typically diets only work for a while – usually for as long as you stick to the carefully regulated plan. And studies show, after a while, most people get tired of following such a strict regimen and go back to eating pretty much what they ate before. Sadly, diets actually make many people gain weight, which a recent study published in The New England Journal of Medicine attributed to the boomerang action of hormones that control appetite and fat metabolism.

What Does Work:

Make small changes in your eating habits. Here are a few small changes that pack a big calorie punch. Giving up that daily soda habit: 150 calories saved a day.
Switch from your daily bakery muffin (400-600 calories) to a bowl of oatmeal at your desk (150 calories): 250 – 450 calories saved a day.
Swap your latte (180 calories) for a cup of house java with half and half (80 calories): 100 calories saved.
Better yet, switch from half and half (3 tablespoons = 80 calories) to nonfat milk (3 tablespoons = 15 calories) and save an extra 65 calories per cup.
Total for making all three changes: as many as 765 calories a day. And that’s without eating any more veggies!

Stop Smoking

Well, it’s not that you can’t stop smoking. You can, and you should. Sooner, rather than later. But if you’re waiting for that perfect day when you’ll just be able to stop because you promised yourself you would (likely after a few too many New Year’s Eve toasts), it’s not going to happen.

What Does Work:

Stanford University Internist Kelly Traver, MD, is the author of “The Program: The Brain-Smart Approach to the Healthiest You.” Traver has written an entire book about how to use current neurological understanding to make healthy lifestyle changes and can tell you exactly why you should quit and how to quit and stay quit. (There’s even a website and iPhone app based on “The Program” to help you get started.)

Get More Exercise

(Related Resolution: Join a Gym)

The problem with this one is, it’s too vague. In other words, it’s too easy to make a stab at, and then let yourself slide because it’s cold outside, or it’s too dark when you get home, or your muscles hurt, or the gym’s too crowded and the equipment smells sweaty.

What Does Work:

To make a significant lifestyle change and make it stick, you need to replace an old habit (being a couch potato or workaholic) with a new one. You also need to make it pleasant, or at least not too unpleasant. A few ways to do this are to start a new sport, one you actually like, or join forces with a workout buddy you like and want to spend time with.

 Lose 20 Pounds

Like quitting smoking, it’s not that you shouldn’t lose weight. If your body mass index is over 25, you qualify as overweight and you want to tip the scales downwards. But the typical promise, “I’m going to lose 20 pounds by June so I can wear a bathing suit,” is not going to be kept. Just ask anyone who made this resolution last year.

What Does Work:

Don’t attach a number to your goal. That’s not to say you shouldn’t watch the scale. While this used to be controversial (and is an absolute no no for anyone who’s struggled with an eating disorder), recent studies suggest that regular weight checks are important for keeping any weight loss program on track.

What really works:

Calories in < calories out. Cut out 500 calories a day (see above for ideas) and up your exercise to burn an extra 250 calories a day.
Keep it, in month, in month and out, and you’re on track for significant weight loss you can sustain for the rest of your life.

Important Vendor Contact Information

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

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

Dental
United Concordia 1-877-215-3616 • www.uccl.com

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

Retirement/Savings
TIAA-CREF 1-800-682-9139 • www.tiaa-cref.org/pitt
Vanguard 1-800-523-1188 • www.vanguard.com

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

Lifesolutions
1-866-647-3432
www.hr.pitt.edu/worklife-balance/health-wellness/lifesolutions

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

Faculty Records
412-624-4232
University to honor long-term staff

**60 years**
Office of General Counsel
Rosenberg, Jerome L.

**50+ years**
Swanson School of Engineering
Victor, Berry F. — 54
Graduate School of Public Health
White, Mary E. — 54
School of Medicine
Division Administration
Ellis, Ethel M. — 53

**40+ years**
Secretory of the Board of Trustees
Rooborough, Mary Lou — 42
Student Affairs
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Disease database spans 125 years

Graduate School of Public Health researchers have collected and digitized all weekly surveillance reports for reportable diseases in the United States going back more than 125 years.

The project’s goal is to aid scientists and public health officials in the eradication of deadly and devastating diseases. The free electronic version of the database also is searchable by the public at www.tycho.pitt.edu.

Said lead author Willem G. van Panhuys, epidemiology faculty member: “Using this database, we estimate that more than 100 million cases of serious childhood contagious diseases have been prevented, thanks to the introduction of vaccines. But we also are able to see a resurgence of some of these diseases in the past several decades as people forget how devastating they can be and start refusing vaccines.”

Despite the availability of a pertussis vaccine since the 1920s, the largest pertussis epidemic in the U.S. since 1959 occurred last year. Measles, mumps and rubella outbreaks also have reoccurred since the early 1980s.

The digitized database, dubbed Project Tycho for 16th-century Danish nobleman Tycho Brahe, whose meticulous astronomical observations enabled Johannes Kepler to derive the laws of planetary motion, is the senior author Donald S. Burke, dean and UPMC-Jonas Salk Chair of Global Health. “We hope that our Project Tycho disease database will help spur new, lifesaving research on patterns of epidemic infectious disease and the effects of vaccines. Open access to disease surveillance records should be standard practice, and we are working to establish this as the norm worldwide.”

The researchers selected eight vaccine-preventable contagious diseases for a more detailed analysis: smallpox, polio, measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, diphtheria and pertussis. By overlying the reported outbreaks with the year of vaccine licensure, the researchers are able to give clear, visual representation of the effect that vaccines have in controlling communicable diseases.

The researchers obtained all weekly notifiable disease surveillance tables published between 1888 and 2013 — approximately 6,500 tables — in various historical reports, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. These tables are available only in paper format or as PDF scans in online repositories that could not be read by computers and had to be hand-entered.

With an estimated 200 million keystrokes, the data — including death counts, reporting locations, time periods and diseases — were digitized. A total of 56 diseases, ranging from acute and epidemic to chronic and endemic, were reported continuously. In the near future, the Project Tycho database also will be available on the healthdata.gov website.

Also contributing were current and former members of the public health school: John Grefenstette, Nian Shong Chok, Anne Cross, Heather Eng, Buck Lee and Shawn Brown.

Other collaborators were Vladimir Zadorozhnyy of the School of Information Sciences and a faculty member from John Hopkins University.

The research was published in the New England Journal of Medicine and supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Breast cancers targeted

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and UPMC CancerCenter, Adrian V. Lee, director of the Women’s Cancer Research Center (WCRC), a collaboration between UPJC and Magee-Womens Research Institute, and Steffi Oesterreich, director of the WCRC, each have received $240,000 from the foundation. The laboratory will use the funds to continue studying the role of epigenetic changes in breast cancer development and therapy.

Said Davidson: “We know that breast cancer results from an accumulation of genetic and epigenetic changes in the cancer cell. Because epigenetic changes alter gene activity but do not change the genes themselves, they potentially could be reversed. We are evaluating ways to modify these changes as a new way to treat breast cancer.”

The goal of Lee’s laboratory is to improve the prediction of breast cancer prognosis and response to treatments.

Lee said: “We’ve known for some time that there are different types of breast cancers. Now we are trying to understand how differences within the breast cancer tumor operate. One tumor can have an area of aggressive disease and an area of benign disease. We need to determine the importance of the aggressive disease. Understanding the differences within breast cancer tumors will help us refine personalized treatment approaches for breast cancer patients.”

Oesterreich has received an award from BCRF supporting her research on invasive lobular carcinomas (ILC), which represent 30,000 cases of breast cancer each year.

Said Oesterreich: “Currently, patients with this type of breast cancer receive the same type of treatment as patients with other subtypes of the disease, but some patients with ILC don’t respond as well to endocrine therapy. We hope improved understanding of the disease will lead to better, targeted treatment for patients.”

Doctor parent interaction could improve teens’ health

A study reported by researchers at a Pitt-based Cancer Institute and the School of Medicine suggests that parents could lead to better health outcomes for their adolescent children. A School of Medicine study reports in Patient Education and Counseling.

Between June and November 2009, the research team of lead author Aletha Akers, faculty member of the Department of Epidemiology, administered an anonymous, self-reported questionnaire to 178 parents investigating their adolescent children on visits to general outpatient pediatric clinics to determine the main health issues concerning their adolescents.

The study relied on the parent’s or guardian’s ability to recall their conversations with their child’s health care provider on a range of preventive health topics including nutrition, dental health, physical activity, sexual activity and substance abuse. According to Akers, most parents could recall discussing at least one adolescent preventive health topic with their adolescent’s health care provider. They were much more likely to recall discussing general prevention topics like nutrition and dental health as opposed to more sensitive topics like sexual activity and substance abuse.

Said Akers: “Adolescence is a relatively healthy period of life, and most adolescent morbidity comes from participating in high-risk behavior. Most preventive health conversations between parents and providers take place during early childhood, but such communication is arguably even more important among adolescent youth, when adolescents’ health choices could directly influence health outcomes. “Healthy, these results are the first step toward improving communication between families and care providers and parents and guardians,” Akers added. “By building on tools we already have in place, we can improve conversations about high-risk health behaviors, including incorporating screening and counseling practices into acute care visits or visits for school physicals, since many adolescents miss their annual well-child check-ups. The use of electronic medical records can remind care providers of essential health issues that need to be discussed with adolescents and their parents.”

This study was funded by NIH and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Pittsburgh is especially healthy

Pittsburgh residents are significantly more civically healthy than average Americans and other Pennsylvanians, according to the Pittsburgh Civic Health Index, a newly released index developed by Pitt and Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) collaborators for the National Conference on Citizenship. Civic health, a measure of community participation in civic actions such as voting and interacting with and trusting neighbors, has been shown to be major contributor to a community’s ability to resolve problems during economic downturns.

Report co-founder Richard Miller, director of Pitt’s Center for Metropolitan Studies and faculty member at CMU, said: “Pittsburgh residents are civically healthy.”

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 Winter Recess.

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and international affairs in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA). The Pittsburgh Civic Health Index features a demographic profile of Pittsburgh and presents charts and data on measures of civic engagement such asvolunteerism and participation in decision-making among neighbors, and residents’ reports on their overall quality of life.

The researchers drew data from previous surveys and from the Current Population Survey, sponsored jointly by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The index shows that the Pittsburgh region exceeds both the Pennsylvania and national averages in levels of political involvement, with Pittsburgh residents more likely to attend public meetings and voice concerns. Pittsburghers also are significantly more likely to have contacted a public official. 36.8 percent more likely than average Americans and 37.4 percent more likely than other Pennsylvanians. Pittsburgh residents also interact with community organizations, 21 percent and are 37.3 percent more likely to trust their neighbors than other Americans.

The report outlines recommendations for the city to strengthen its ties in three areas: overall civic health, each neighborhood’s capacity to engage in public life, and the connections between municipalities within the region:

• Make Pittsburgh a center of deliberative democracy. Create opportunities for issue-oriented, small-group discussions that will be leveraged by stakeholder involvement and outcomes that can guide policy. For example, include citizen deliberation as part of the regulatory requirements for public comment or engage in new initiatives, such as participatory budget planning.

• Shift Pittsburgh’s approach to city planning and neighborhood development from top-down to bottom-up by creating an environment in which residents can produce and share their ideas and participate more dynamically.

• Facilitate communication and action among municipalities. The Pittsburgh region’s complicated local government system appeals to residents and seeks to give them access to civic engagement, so instead of replacing it with a less-fragmented system, the report recommends improving integrations with the city and region. An example of this would be expanding the scope, funding and capacity of Councils of Governments — associations of local governments representing the region that are uniquely positioned to translate urban issues to the suburbs and vice versa.

• Make “Pittsburgh and the surrounding region have already taken steps that work toward the goals of these recommendations. One initiative that is cultivating a greater sense of the urban core that expands beyond city borders is the Congress of Neighboring Communities. CONNeCT has successfully brought the City of Pittsburgh and the 36 municipalities that surround it together to collaborate on common issues that cross borders, establishing a cohesive voice for the urban core of our region. Through CONNeCT, these communities have developed a greater understanding of the issues that unite them, have built trust and are able to tackle regional challenges collectively.”

The Pittsburgh Civic Health Index was funded by the Pittsburgh Foundation.

Teen solitary drinking predicts alcohol use

Most teenagers who drink alcohol do so with their friends in social settings, but a new study led by Kasey Creswell, who completed the research while a Pitt psychology doctoral student but now is a faculty member at CMU, reveals that a significant number of adolescents consume alcohol while they are alone.

The researchers found that, compared to their peers who drink only in social settings, teens who drink alone have more alcohol problems, are heavier drinkers and are more likely to drink in response to negative emotions. Solitary teenage drinkers also are more likely to develop alcohol use disorders in early adulthood.

Creswell: “We’re realizing that kids who drink alone tend to do so because they’re feeling lonely, are in a bad mood or had an argument with a friend. They seem to be using alcohol to self-medicate as a way to cope with negative emotions and, importantly, this pattern of drinking places them at high risk to escalate their alcohol use and develop alcohol problems in adulthood.”

For the study, the researchers first surveyed 709 adolescents ages 12-18 at the Pittsburgh Adolescent Alcohol Research Center (PAARC), asking them to report on their alcohol use in the past year. Adolescents represented youth from clinical treatment programs and the community. When the participants turned 25, they again were asked about their alcohol use and assessed for alcohol problems in adulthood.

The results showed that 38.8 percent of teens in the sample reported drinking alone. This behavior was linked to unpleasant emotions, and solitary drinkers were one-and-a-half times more likely to develop alcohol dependence at age 25.

Said co-author Tammy Chung, faculty member in psychiatry and epidemiology in the School of Medicine: “Because adolescent solitary drinking is an early warning sign for alcohol use disorder in young adulthood, and solitary drinking tends to occur in response to negative emotions, youth who report solitary drinking might benefit from interventions that teach more adaptive strategies for coping with negative emotions.”

Funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and National Institute on Mental Health, the study will be published in Clinical Psychologi- cal Science.

Homeless but working: How to encourage savings?

New research by GSPIA faculty member Sera Linardi offers a possible insight into helping the homeless improve their future prospects.

The research examines the saving behavior of the working homeless, surmise that better understanding this population may provide clues to the problem of chronic homelessness and also provide insights into how the very poor reintegrate into the economic mainstream.

Linardi and an Arizona State University colleague worked with residents at an Arizona homeless shelter who were best complying with community rules and honoring responsibilities. The shelter provided food, toiletries and transportation expenses on the conditions that residents would find jobs and save a portion of their income each month. Resident participants in the study had jobs and were close to obtaining permanent housing.

Linardi and her colleague categorized 121 residents into baseline and competition groups. The baseline group engaged in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
Two Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences faculty members have been named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS): James Bogen, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, and Jeffrey L. Brodsky, Avi Noah Chair in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Bogen is being recognized for his distinguished research in philosophy of science, including analysis of the epistemology of experimentation, mechanistic explanation, neuroimaging and the Hodgkin-Huxley model of action potential. His main interests have centered on questions about how scientific concepts come to know things. He investigates the nature and interpretation of scientific evidence and how such evidence is used to develop and evaluate theories. Specific examples include studying the use of modern functional imaging techniques in neuroscience and studying 19th-century neuroscientist Hughlings Jackson’s observation of episodic seizures to investigate the functional organization of the brain. Bogen has also worked on questions about causality and causal explanation, particularly in connection with the ways in which explanations in neurosciences argue against philosopher David Hume’s traditional idea that to explain a phenomenon is to derive a description of it from natural laws and descriptions of background and initial conditions.

Brodsky is being recognized for his distinguished research discoveries on the cell biology, biochemistry and genetics of the fundamental mechanisms underlying cellular protein quality control in health and disease. His research is devoted to understanding how proteins in the secretory pathway are subject to protein quality control and how molecular chaperones and components of the ubiquitin-proteasome machinery mediate this event. His work has contributed to the discovery of the ER (endo-plasmic reticulum) associated degradation pathway, which is associated with nearly 70 human diseases, and ongoing studies have been going towards deciphering the mechanisms underlying this pathway using biochemical and genetic attacks in both yeast and mammalian models. AAAS is the world’s largest multidisciplinary professional association of scientists and publisher of the journal Science as well as Science Translational Medicine and Science Signaling.

New faculty appointees to Board of Trustees committees include:
• Budget committee: Chandralekha Singh, physics and astronomy professor in the School of Arts and Sciences.
• Health sciences committee: John R. Reed Jr., medicine.
• Property and facilities committee: Patricia Weiss, Health Sciences Library System.

The advising team of Jane Wallace and Katherine Wolfe, lecturers in economics, has won the 2014 Ampco-Pittsburgh Prize for involving their students in research. They will split the award’s cash prize of $4,000.

In addition to each teaching two courses, Wallace and Wolfe share the advising duties for 450 majors, and 200 minors. Their letter of nomination notes that they are readily accessible, holding office hours four hours a day, making appointments on the fifth day and replying promptly to email and voice mail questions (approximately 8,700 emails last year alone). In addition to their advising, Wallace and Wolfe create a data warehouse on the department’s students that helps them to understand patterns and trends and to make sure they take appropriate steps to meet students’ goals. The authors concluded that focusing on savings might be counterproductive and that increased total savings in the end, then it’s useful. If, on the other hand, it means that Andy washed the dishes, that then’s not good.

Previously, in other environments, Schreck and his colleagues have felt that they could not get ahead of others in terms of their finances, “in Thackeray Hall. One of our important projects was providing the information for the course descriptions. Back then, every- thing was pretty much done by hand and I was having trouble with a Mac computer and put in a call to Andy for help. He arrived to my office and said, ‘Here’s how we fix Mac computers’ and held up a little wooden hammer that he had ‘Mac’d’ at some point. Andy eased the tension and soon had the computer fixed.”

Andrew Philip Schreck...
Thinking about RETIREMENT? SAC workshop outlines some things to consider

Pitt staff are very interested in their benefits, especially in retirement options, if a packed William Pitt Union Ballroom Nov. 21 is any indication.

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Human Resources John Kozar and Ayndee Jimenez, supervisor of Employee Retirement benefits, gave a presentation on retirement benefits as part of a new season of Staff Association Council brown-bag seminars.

The Office of Human Resources (OHR) held a workshop called a seminar for faculty and staff concerning retirement benefits, said Kozar. Employees who wish to visit the HR retirement website: www.hr.pitt.edu/retirees.

"Do what you can to save as much as you can," Kozar told the capacity crowd of 150 registrants. "It certainly can dictate your lifestyle."

Today, he noted, 90 percent of faculty and staff have some form of defined contribution benefit plan, contributing 3-8 percent of their salary to the defined plan of their choice while they work. Until an employee has worked 1,000 hours (or 6 months) of service, the first two years and becomes vested, the University only matches those contributions at 100 percent, or dollar for dollar. After that, the University matches the contribution at 150 percent, or $1.50 for every $1 placed in savings. In other words, if you are putting away 8 percent of your salary, the University contributes an equal amount to 12 percent of your salary.

There is also an accelerated savings option for employees ages 52-65 who are fully vested and contributing at least 8 percent of their salary to the plan initially (and contribution rate can be lowered later). Under the accelerated plan, the University increases its match from 12 percent to 14.5 percent for up to 10 years or age 65, whichever happens first. Pitt’s match stops altogether when this milestone is reached, although you may continue to contribute to the savings plan yourself.

Kozar urged those thinking of, or planning for, retirement to seek free online retirement counseling with representatives of TIAA-CREF or Vanguard, the organizations with which Pitt has a retirement savings plan.

“They can help you with projections and when to retire to maintain a certain lifestyle,” Kozar said, including the possibility of creating annuities that will pay out guaranteed cash each year for the rest of your life.

"If your hire date was prior to July 1, 2004, you must be 62 to retire from the University. If you were hired prior to July 1, 2004, there is an additional requirement: You must have contributed a minimum of 8 years to Pitt to be eligible to retire."

If you have your Pitt's health insurance plan and take the DDB credits upon retirement, however, enrolling later in a retiree health insurance plan will give you monthly premiums equal to the full cost of the insurance: both the retiree's normal share and the University's share.

DDB credits accumulate, month to month and year to year, even if you are covered at the beginning of retirement plus the years under your spouse's or partner's benefits, and will amass until your death. But they cannot be used for dental, vision or other insurance costs, such as the Medicare Part B premium—just for paying the cost of maintaining coverage in Pitt's retiree health insurance plans.

If you are taking advantage of Pitt's retiree health insurance, and the costs of medical insurance premiums exceed your retirement credit, you must pay the difference out of pocket. But that won't likely be the case: "They are keeping up with the cost of health care," Jimenez said.

Probably 80 percent of our retirees don't pay a penny out of pocket toward premiums," Kozar noted.

And, he added, if you are covered under the Panther Gold program as active employee, "you probably won't notice much of a difference" in benefits under the UMPC for Life IMO, which is selected by 90 percent of those who retire at 65 or older for their health insurance. It will cost only $260 a month in 2014, which will increase to $320 a month next year.

"It's really a flat dollar rate," Kozar said. "But Pitt even offers dental and vision insurance to retiring employees. One type of program is pretty popular," he said, with about 75 percent of active employees and about 50 percent of active employees opting for dental insurance. Dental insurance from United Concordia will cost retirees $11.56 a month individually in 2014, and it covers preventive and diagnostic care at 100 percent reimbursement. Vision insurance from Davis Vision is currently a choice for employees' Fashion Excellence vision coverage, at a cost of $6.98 a month.

It is rare for a private employer like Pitt to offer health coverage to retirees, Kozar noted. "It's really a flat dollar rate," Kozar said. "But Pitt even offers dental and vision insurance to retiring employees. One type of program is pretty popular," he said, with about 75 percent of active employees and about 50 percent of active employees opting for dental insurance. Dental insurance from United Concordia will cost retirees $11.56 a month individually in 2014, and it covers preventive and diagnostic care at 100 percent reimbursement. Vision insurance from Davis Vision is currently a choice for employees' Fashion Excellence vision coverage, at a cost of $6.98 a month.

Retirees also are eligible for up to $15,000 in life insurance, at the current rate of service, up to 10 years.

"That's guaranteed coverage if you're moving it," Kozar said, "so no new exams will be required. What I hear from insurance carriers is that a living — or a bad term — that's coverage that keeps on being reduced."

Optional Pitt life insurance may be continued as well — as long as you already have the coverage before retirement. "Probably the most critical thing is, as you become older, it's harder to obtain life insurance coverage," he said.

If you already had long-term care coverage as an active employee, you may continue this coverage upon retirement by paying for premiums directly to the insurance carrier, Unum, since payroll deductions have, of course, stopped. "You're paying for a benefit you may never use, or you may not need for 30 years," Kozar cautioned, but added that long-term care facilities can cost $3,000 a month and up, "and the government does not pay for long-term care.

Not all retirees are choosing to be covered by Pitt's retiree medical plans, noted Jimenez.

"A lot of our retirees are getting full-time jobs and picking up benefits there," she said, or gaining coverage under their spouse or partner's insurance.

If you're within a decade of retiring, concluded Kozar, or if you're actively contemplating retirement, he recommended speaking with someone in his office "to make sure you're on the right track toward retirement. We can certainly talk to you in person, by phone — whatever you’d like."

--Marty Levine

DECEMBER 5, 2013

A grant of $4,000 will be awarded to stimulate use of the extensive and notable Thornburgh Archive at the University of Pittsburgh.

Goals of the grant:
• To incorporate Thornburgh Archive materials in a new or existing course.
• To encourage students to evaluate and use significant primary source material.

Proposals should reflect these goals.

The Thornburgh Archive, held in the University's Archival Services Center, is a rich source of information relevant to government and public policy.

The archive covers Thornburgh's 25 year public service career as Governor of Pennsylvania, Attorney General of the U.S., and Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and includes myriad other historical and current topics of note.

Governor Thornburgh welcomes participating in classroom discussions upon arrangement.

The deadline to apply is March 18, 2014.

Please visit the archive website at www.library.pitt.edu/thornburgh and feel free to contact the collection curator, Nancy Watson, at nwatson@pitt.edu for more information.

To submit your proposal and learn more about the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy visit: www.thorntongorum.pitt.edu.

University of Pittsburgh
Thursday 5

EUCE/ESC Conf. (Alhamistan: A Regional Way Forward), UCL; 8:30 am-4:30 pm (also Dec. 6, 8:30 am-noon; register: beh118@pitt.edu)

Molecular Biophysics/Structural Biology Seminar Michael Palladino; 6014 BST, 11 am

CIDDE Workshop “Cheating & Plagiarism,” IJZ Aloumi; 11 am (cidde@pitt.edu)

Neuroscience Lecture “Developmental Changes in the Neuronal & Glial Connection at Nanoscale Resolution,” George Sparou, WVU; 1495 BST, noon (www.neuroscience.pitt.edu)

EOH Seminar “Understanding the Role of IFNγ in an Infant Mouse Model of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV),” Kerry Empey; 540 Bragg Side Pr., noon (beegle8@pitt.edu)

CTSI Lectures “Navigating Myriad Ethical Issues in Drug Abuse Research,” Ralph Tarter; 7019 Forbes Two, 12:30 pm; “Working Toward Solutions in IRR Protocol Design,” Shannon Valenti; 4127 Scaife, 11:30 am

Chancellor’s Staff Recognition Ceremony/Reception WPU Assembly Rm. & Ballr., 7 pm

Friday 6

• Last day for fall term under-grad day classes.

• Deadline for continuing students to register for spring term without a penalty.


UCSR Seminar “Negotiating With the Growth Machine: Community Benefits Agreements & Value-Added Growth,” Colleen Caim; 3343 Forbes Ave., noon

Physical Therapy Clinical Rounds 4060 Forbes Two, noon

Bradford Campus Lecture Roland Martin, organ; Wick Chapel, UPB, noon

Anthropology Lecture “The Ambivalence of Secular Ritual & the Circumstances of Life in a Nursing Home,” Philip Kuo; 3106 Posvar, 3 pm (www.anthropology.pitt.edu)

Classic Lecture “Essence & Modality in Aristote-los,” Marko Malikic, U of Chi-cago; 2441CLC, 1-3 pm (www-e4-84498)

Men’s Basketball V. Loyola Marymount; Peterson, 7 pm

Holiday Concert Heinz Chapel Choir; Heinz Chapel, 8 pm

Saturday 7 • Reading day.

• CGS, Saturday, grad & eve-ning classes continue to meet through Dec. 14; final exams for those classes should be held during the last scheduled class meeting.

World Music Festival Bellevue auditorium, noon-3 pm

Memorial Tribute For Ronald Herberman, found- ing director of UCI and UPMC Cancer Ctr., who died June 2; Herberman Conf. Ctr. 2nd fl. 4-6 pm

Holiday Concert Men’s Glee Club; 1st Baptist Church of Pgh., 119 N. Bellefl-ied, 7 pm

Holiday Concert Women’s Choral Ensemble; Heinz Chapel, 8:15 pm

Sunday 8 Episcopal Service Heinz Chapel, 11 am (Sunday: pittpeoplesuchaplaincy. wordpless.com/)

Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House Nationality Rooms & Commons Rm. CL, noon-4 pm

Bradford Campus Concert Winter Prelude, Southern Tier Symphony; Bromley Theater, UPB, 1 pm

Holiday Concert Heinz Chapel Choir; Heinz Chapel, 1 pm

Monday 9 • Final exams for undergrad day classes through Dec. 14.

Hepatology Research & Pathology Conf. “Liver Research,” Kaufmann 9th fl. conf. rm., 7-30 am (p2@ pitt.edu)

Infectious Diseases Journal Courses G.4; “Tuberculosis: Novel Therapies,” Masood, U of Chicago; 12:30 pm

Chemistry Seminar “Embedding Quantum Chem-istry in Quantum Chemistry,” Fred Manby, U of Bristol; 4 pm

Biological Sciences Seminar “Bridging Genes to the Environ-ment in the Evolution of Phenotypic Plasticity,” Benjamin Blackman, U of VA; 1:45 pm (www.biology.pitt.edu)

Tuesday 10 Basic & Translational Research Seminar “Photodynamic Therapy: A-Side of Biophotonics Bridging Sci-ence, Technology & Medicine,” Yashar Hana, Harvard; Hills-Then Cancer Ctr. conf. rm. D, noon (toy@tjhpcc.edu)

Global Health Film “Hotel Rwanda”; 109 Parran, noon-2 pm

ARMR Seminar “Insulin Resistance & Diabetic Dysplasia in Type 2 Diabe-tes,” Henry Dong, Rangos udn., noon (linda.cherok@chp.edu)


Pathology Seminar “Predicting Immunotherapeutic Benefit Through Simultaneous Investigations of the Circulation & the Tumor Microenvironment Based on the Common Systems Biology,” Ahmad Tarhimi, Her-berman Conf. Ctr. 29th fl. and, 8 am (nullert@upmc.edu)

Afghanistan: A Regional Way Africa,” Amy Weislogel, WVU; 26, South Triassic Karoo Basin, South Africa,” Amy Weislogel, WVU; 11 Thaw, 3-45 pm

July 24-Aug. 28 July 10-24 July 3 July 10

The University Times events calendar includes Pitt-sponsored events as well as non-Pitt events held on a Pitt campus. Information submitted for the calendar should identify the type of event, such as lecture or concert, and the program’s specific title, sponsor, location and time. The name and phone number of a contact person should be included. Information should be sent by email to: utcal@pitt.edu, by FAX to 412/648-4579, or by campus mail to: 308 Bellefield Hall. We cannot guarantee publication of events received after the deadline.

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Wednesday 11

Hematology/Oncology Grand Rounds “Predicting Immunotherapeutic Benefit Through Simultaneous Investigations of the Circulation & the Tumor Microenvironment Based on the Common Systems Biology,” Ahmad Tarhimi, Her-berman Conf. Ctr. 29th fl. and, 8 am (nullert@upmc.edu)

Office of Academic Career Development Seminar “Developing Competitive Grant Applications,” Bruce Freeman & Peter Stetler; 5:30, 8:30-10:30 am (register: www.ouc.health.pitt.edu)

Osher Lifelong Learning Inst. Open House 4th fl., 10 am-noon (4-7308)

Pathology Seminar “Genetic Analysis of Mito-chondria Quality Control,” Leo Pallack, U of WA; 1024 Scaife, noon

SAC Mtg., 102 Brown, noon Medicine Lecture “Origins of Fetalhility Specifikity in an Olfactory Circuit,” Elizabeth Hong, Harvard; 1:45 BST, noon (ab119@pitt.edu)


Chemistry Seminar “Antisymmetry & Molecular Dissociation in Coupled-Cluster Theory,” Fred Manby, U of Bris-tol; 101 Chevron, 4 pm

GI Grand Rounds “Pancreas & Biliary”, 1140 Scaife, 5 pm (joe@pitt.edu)

IEE Winter Social J. Verno Studio, 3010 June St., South Side, 6-9 pm (register: http://register.towercare.com/ pitt-se)

Thursday 12

CTSI Workshop “Making the Most of a Mentoring Relationship: Mente Responsi-bilites,” Melissa McNeal; 7059 Forbes Tw, 11 am

HSLS Workshop “Painless Pubs,” Jill Foust; Falk Library clasrm. 1, noon (jef2@pitt.edu)

TVP Mtg. “Developing Competitive Grant Applications,” Bruce Freeman & Peter Stetler; 5:30, 8:30-10:30 am (register: www. ouc.health.pitt.edu)

Friday 13

HSLS Workshop “EndNote Basics,” Pat Weiss, Falk Library clasrm. 2, 10:30 am-12:30 pm (peo@pitt.edu)

SAC Mtg., 102 Brown, noon Medicine Lecture “Embedding Quantum Chem-istry in Quantum Chemistry,” Fred Manby, U of Bristol; 4 pm

Global Health Film “Hotel Rwanda”; 109 Parran, noon-2 pm

ARMR Seminar “Insulin Resistance & Diabetic Dysplasia in Type 2 Diabe-tes,” Henry Dong, Rangos udn., noon (linda.cherok@chp.edu)


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**Psychiatry Lecture**

“Inspection, Conception & Postpartum Psychopathology: A Lifespan Approach to the Process of Dying,” Alison Hipwell; WPIG and, noon

**Medicine Lecture**


**Saturday 14**

• Fall term ends; official date for degrees awarded in fall term.

Men’s Basketball
Vs. Youngstown St.; Petersen, noon

Sunday 15

• Residence halls close.

• Winter recess for students through Jan. 5.

Women’s Basketball
Vs. Old Dominion; Petersen, 2 pm

**Monday 16**

**Hepatology Research & Pathology Lecture**

“Native Liver Pathology,” Steven Ghoshal; OH St.; 1104 Scaife, 3-5 pm (registrar: www.oacd.health.pitt.edu)

**Women’s Basketball**
Vs. Stoneman; Dec. 6, 1128 CL, 9 am

**Tuesday 24**

**Women’s Basketball**
Vs. Cal-Poly; Petersen, 4 pm

**Saturday 21**

**All winter offices & buildings reopen.**

Women’s Basketball
Vs. FL St.; Petersen, 7 pm

**Friday 20**

**GI Research Rounds**

“Geneticists of Pancreatologists,” David Whitcomb; Prebys conf. rm. M2, noon (jsg@pitt.edu)

**Women’s Basketball**
Vs. Duquense; Petersen, 6 pm

**Sunday 29**

**Medicine/Molecular Pharmacology**

“Self Antigen in MUC1 Transplant: Importance of Parenting,” Alison Hipwell; A&S/Communication, 402 Bridgeside Pt. 2, 9 am

**Monday 31**

**Women’s Basketball**
Vs. Albany; Petersen, 1 pm

**January**

**Thursday 2**

**All university offices & buildings reopen.**

Women’s Basketball
Vs. FL St.; Petersen, 7 pm

**Friday 3**

**Residence halls reopen.**

**Monday 6**

**Spring term enrollment period ends for all students.**

**Spring term classes begin.**

Men’s Basketball
Vs. l. of MD; Petersen, 7 pm

**Wednesday 8**

**Pathology Seminar**

“miRNA-122: Nature’s Double-Edged Sword,” Kalpana Ghoshal, OH St.; 1104 Scaife, noon

**Through Jan. 24**

**Acero Law Library Gallery**

Library exhibit of the work of the Digital imagers Group, which is made up of local photographers and students working with digital media.

The gallery is located on the lower level of the new library. Library hours are Mon-Thady, 7:30 am-10 pm; Wed-Sat, 7:30 am-8 pm; Saturday 10 am-6 pm, and Sunday noon-8 pm.
In 2013, did you:

- Write a book?
- Edit a journal?
- Produce a play, CD or film?
- Exhibit art?
- Publish a musical composition?

Tell us about it!

Important guidelines:
- Furnish information on peer-reviewed books, journals, CDs, electronic publications, art exhibitions, films, plays or musical compositions written, edited or produced during 2013 only.
- Books must have a 2013 copyright.
- No journal articles, short stories, poems, book chapters or self-published works can be accepted.
- Submission deadline is Jan. 31.
- All fields of the submission form must be completed.
- Complete a separate electronic form for each submission.
- Questions? Contact 412/624-4644 or delraso@pitt.edu

Fast and easy submission form on the University Times website:

www.utimes.pitt.edu

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Jan. 31