Chancellor unveils strategic planning framework draft

Chancellor Patrick A. Gallagher unveiled a first draft of a new strategic planning framework that is focused on financial stability, operational effectiveness, technology and diversity, and announced a trio of town hall meetings to solicit comments from the University community.

"We must always be looking at ways in which we can more effectively and efficiently carry out our core mission to make the world better through knowledge," Gallagher said in his Feb. 28 report to the Board of Trustees. "That is the reason we are engaged in developing a framework that will enable us to create a strategic plan to guide us in the years ahead.

During the full term, administrators obtained input in meetings with representatives from University constituent groups including the Board of Trustees, Council of Deans, senior leadership, students, faculty and staff, Gallagher said.

"We reached out to cross multiple layers and units of the University from the administration business units to regional campuses, schools and centers to ask how we might evaluate our mission statement, set strategic priorities, then discuss how the various University units could support the plan going forward," the chancellor said.

Drivers

In addition to the themes of financial stability, operational effectiveness, technology and diversity, the administration has identified a set of "cross-cutting drivers" that Gallagher described as "those key opportunities or challenges that we will need to address if we are to go forward successfully and advance our priorities.

Values and aspirations

"We have also identified our core values: A set of guiding principles that emphasize respect for each other under the Pitt tradition of excellence but also characterize our aspirations for our collective culture of inclusion, integrity and impact," Gallagher said.

"Feedback from the University community will be solicited at town hall meetings on March 18 and 28, and at a March 19 University Senate plenary session.

Details on the strategic planning framework are posted at www.pitt.edu/impact.

Governor proposes almost 11% hike in Pitt appropriation

Pennsylvania’s new governor is proposing an increase of nearly 11 percent in Pitt’s appropriation for fiscal year 2016.

As part of Gov. Tom Wolf’s proposed $29.9 billion general fund budget, Pitt would see an increase of almost $4.92 million over the current $36.29 million state appropriation, for a total of $41.21 million.

"Our state is never going to get stronger as long as we make our schools weaker," Wolf told a joint session of state legislators in Jan. 3 budget message that was focused on three key themes: schools that teach; jobs that pay; and government that works.

Wolf’s plan calls for reversing K-12 public school funding cuts that had been made during Gov. Tom Corbett’s administration. The plan is not going to stop at simply reversing the cuts that have already taken place. While it can’t, because the way things were before is not good enough," the governor said.

This budget increases our investment in public schools at every grade level. It also recognizes that our responsibility to provide a great education does not begin at kindergarten nor does it end with high school...

"That’s why we are increasing funding to community colleges by $15 million. And that is why we are restoring 50 percent of the cuts to our State System of Higher Education. But those improvements come with a string attached. In return for these increases, today I am calling on our institutions of higher education to freeze tuition, and I expect them to answer that call," Wolf said.

The governor’s executive budget document clarifies the governor’s call for tuition freezes, stating in part: "The budget calls on the community colleges and State System universities to freeze tuition for the next academic year, but does not mention Pitt and its fellow state-related schools.

Wolf's budget proposal includes a $15.1 million (7 percent) increase in funding for community colleges and $4.3 million (11 percent) increase for the State System of Higher Education, as well as a combined $80.9 million increase in support for Pitt and its fellow state-related universities, Penn State, Temple and Lincoln, as part of a plan to restore the Coabett administration’s higher education cuts over the next two years.

Pitt’s share under Wolf’s proposal for FY16 includes $148.91 million in general support and $2.3 million in rural education outreach.

Ken Service, vice chancellor for communications, commented: "We appreciate Gov. Wolf’s recognition of the value of the University of Pittsburgh to the commonwealth and we look forward to working with him as a partner in fostering economic growth and prosperity for all Pennsylvanians. We take cost control very seriously at the University of Pittsburgh and we work hard to control and reduce costs on all five of our campuses while maintaining the expected quality of all aspects of our operations. That will continue to be the case as we serve the commonwealth by providing the highest quality educational opportunities to its citizens.

The governor’s plan holds that the statewide line item for academic medical center funding, part of the state’s human services budget, at $17.43 million.

Pitt, in its annual state fund request last fall, sought a


2 officers named senior vice chancellors

Kathy W. Humphrey, senior vice chancellor for finance and chief of staff, has been elected an officer of University System of Georgia (USG) offices, Chief Financial Officer Arthur G. Raniouc and General Counsel Patrick J. Richoux have been named senior vice chancellors at the Feb. 23 Board of Trustees meeting.

Raniouc’s new title is senior vice chancellor and chief financial officer, replacing retiring senior vice chancellors and chief legal officers.

Chancellor Patrick A. Gallahger said the changes are meant “to consistently use the term senior vice chancellors to identify that layer of the University management with broad leadership responsibilities for the University, including supervising evening over other vice chancellors and associate vice chancellor positions.”

“We wish to make this change we will be clearly identifying, both for the University community and for external stakeholders, that these senior officer roles are of the University,” Gallagher said.

In an email sent to vice provost and dean of students, took

on her new role in the chancellor’s office.

Her position includes working on internal and external relations, serving as a liaison to USG offices, chief financial officer, and general counsel.

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Nts, better course info recommendations okayed

The University Senate has approved a set of recommendations on full-time non-tenure-stream (NTS) faculty and on improving course information available to students to register for classes. The Senate Council on Feb. 18 approved a report by the ad hoc committee on a non-tenure-stream (NTS) faculty concerns and a resolution by the ad hoc committee on policies committee (EPC), both of which were approved Feb. 10 by Faculty Assembly. (See Feb. 19 University Times.)

NTS faculty recommendations

Standing Vice President Emerit Inez Frieze, chair of the ad hoc committee, commented on the report that was a year and a half in the making. “The administration has been working for quite a while on these issues. We see ourselves as working very closely with them, supplementing maybe some of the things they have done,” she said.

The committee found that about 60 percent of full-time Pitt faculty are non-tenure stream. “This is a very large group of our faculty and it’s a group that many of our institutional policies have not really fully recognized. And that’s some of the things we’re trying to bring forward in our resolutions,” said Frieze.

“We do see Pitt as a model. Certainly we’re doing things much better at Pitt than many of the other institutions here in Pittsburgh,” Frieze said.

“The committee’s total was how we think that there are things that probably need to be brought to the attention of the University community more, and maybe tweaking some of the things that we’re doing.”

The ad hoc committee’s recommendations call for each unit to have a faculty or staff champion for NTS faculty; that there be clearly defined mechanisms, or career tracks, by which NTS faculty can advance; that annual reviews include clear and specific duties for NTS faculty; that incentive structures be in place.

The committee also recommended a review of whether some policies on NTS faculty, which now vary widely among units, ought to be decided at a university level. “We see ourselves as working very closely with them, supplementing maybe some of the things they have done,” she said.

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The full report is posted under the documents tab on the NTS ad hoc committee page at www.univenite.pitt.edu.

Chancellor Patrick Gallagher commended the committee’s work, commenting: “I was very pleased to see that the committee endorses what I believe has been a very strong track record of actions, proactive efforts by the schools, by the campuses, to better define and recognize the important work of this critical part of our faculty.

“I think we really are a model for other institutions and we should be proud of that. And I think this report is a positive step in adding some additional ways in which we can strengthen what it is a good story.”

Improving course information

EPC chair Zuzsa Horvath commented on the committee’s resolution that recommends providing improved, meaningful course information to students: “It was important to recognize the problem that this information is not always up to date and sufficient for students to make a decision about registration,” she said. “We are asking Provost (Patricia E.) Benson to work with individual units to address this problem.

She added: “We also would also like to acknowledge the challenges that may arise in the implementation... Our committee would like to offer any support to the provost that would be helpful for the implementation.”

Several key themes have emerged from input by groups including Pitt’s trustees, senior leadership, the Council of Deans, planning and budgeting committee, the University Senate, Staff Association Council, students and others, the chancellor said.

Among them: The value proposition for higher education and maximizing that value; the impact of technology on universities, and the University’s culture, “whether that’s diversity and creativity or whether that’s the agility and risk-averse/risk-acceptance of the University,” Gallagher said.

He thanked David De Jong, vice provost for Academic Planning and Resources Management, for spearheading the process; the chancellor said that from now until the summer, the administration will be focusing on developing “signature initiatives to highlight some of these issues and generate some momentum.”

“We should move into the next phase I would ask your continued participation and thoughtfulness that have been so important to us so far.”

Several community input sessions on the new strategic planning framework have been set, including a Senate plenary session scheduled for 1-3 p.m. March 19 in the Alumni Hall Connolly Ballroom.

Spring said: “The plenary will be a dialogue with the chancellor and other members of the senior staff and the faculty and staff of the University on the state of the University and its future.

“We hope to have a freewheeling dialogue,” he said, inviting members of the University community to attend and participate.”

Kimberly K. Barlow
Chancellor’s awards: Staff

Brian Root, assistant director of housing and residence life at Pitt-Greensburg, was recognized for his service to the Kiwanis Club, Habitat for Humanity, the Juvenile Research Foundation, Walk for a Cure and United Way. A 2004 UPG graduate, Root received the Greensburg campus 2014 President’s Distinguished Service Award for Staff.

University service

Receiving the Chancellor’s Award for Staff for Excellence in Service to the University are Barbara J. Early and Philippa K. Carter.

The honor is the highest award for staff in recognition of outstanding contributions to the University. Recipients are among those whose performance consistently exceeds standards and expectations set for their position and whose commitment and performance has made a significant impact on the University.

Sharen Radzavich, an administrative assistant in the Division of Communication and the Arts at Pitt-Bradford, was honored for her service to Alpha Omega service fraternity, the Take Your Daughter to Work committee, the Women’s History Month committee, the Women of Promise committee, Opportunity Days, Empty Dorms and Baskets, Friendship Table and the American Association of University Women.

Brian early, clinical research coordinator in the Department of Critical Care Medicine’s Multidisciplinary Acute Care Research Organization, Chancellor Patrick Gallagher commented: “You created a program which enlightens undergraduate students to screen and enroll IRB members — led to a request to present the program at the annual meeting of the Association for Clinical Research Professionals, disseminating the improvements nationally.”

Tami Hadlett, a pre-press technician in the Office of University Communications, was honored for service to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, the American Cancer Society, Animal Protectors of Allegheny County and the National Aviary.

In his award letter to Philippa Carter, manager of diversity initiatives in the Office of Arts and Sciences, Gallagher noted: “One committee member’s observation probably best sums up the reason for your selection: She is like the Swiss Army knife: She does it all, and everyone goes to her for help.” Your expertise—borne of many years in many roles in the University—to everyone regardless of whether it is in the scope of your official duties. You have also made invaluable contributions in your current position as manager of diversity initiatives to spearhead and grow your role. You are also credited as a driving force behind the success of the Hot Metal Bridge program.”

The two-semester program in the Dietrich School is a post-baccalaureate fellowship aimed at mentoring recent graduates who want to make graduate training.

The staff awardees were recognized Feb. 28 at the honors convocation and will be guests of honor at Chancellor’s residence in May.

Nominees for the annual staff awards must be full-time University employees for a minimum of five years; in good standing, with no adverse employment actions within the past 12 months. Past recipients are not eligible to be nominated again.

An awards committee appointed by the chancellor selects the winners. Voting members are the Staff Association Council president (or designee); a member from the prior year’s committee; a prior year’s award recipient; a regional campus representative; an office of Human Resources representative; up to four at-large members chosen by the research community and the University; and a chairperson chosen by the chancellor. In addition, an associate vice chancellor for Human Resources serves as a non-voting member.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Chancellor’s awards: Faculty

A dozen Pitt faculty members are recipients of the 2015 chancellor’s awards for research, teaching and service.

Receiving the 2015 Chancellor’s Distinguished Public Service Award are: John M. Wallace Jr., professor in the School of Social Work, and Evan Waxman, associate professor in the Department of Ophthalmology in the School of Medicine.

Each awardee receives a $2,000 cash prize and a $3,000 grant in support of his public service.

Receiving the 2015 Chancellor’s Distinguished Research Award in the senior scholar category are: Jane Cauley, professor in the Department of Epidemiology in the Graduate School of Public Health; Kenneth F. Schaffhausen, distinguished professor in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, and Rocky S. Tuan, distinguished professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the School of Medicine. In the junior scholar category, winners are: Marlene Cohen, assistant professor in the Department of Neuroscience in the Dietrich school; Kirk Erikson, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology in the Dietrich school.

The award consists of a $2,000 cash prize and a $3,000 grant in support of the awardee’s research.

Receiving the 2015 Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award are: Gretchen H. Bender, senior lecturer in the Department of History of Art and Architecture in the Dietrich school; Giselle G. Hamad, associate professor in the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Sciences; Joseph J. McCarthy, professor in the Department of Chemistry in the Swanson School of Engineering; Melissa S. McGinney, associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics in the School of Pharmacy, and William C. Pamerleau, associate professor in the Division of Humanities at Pitt-Greensburg.

The prize consists of a $2,000 cash prize and a $3,000 grant in support of the awardee’s teaching.

Public service awards

The Chancellor’s Distinguished Public Service Awards recognize substantial, continuing public and community service contributions. The awards are open to any full-time faculty member who has served at the University for at least three years.

“This award underscores our high institutional priority to utilize the expertise of the University to address social problems in ways that are consistent with the University’s teaching and research functions. Your individual efforts stand as an inspiring example of contributions that far exceed the traditional duties expected of a faculty member,” Gallagher wrote to the winners.

John M. Wallace Jr.

Gallagher cited Wallace’s prior honors including his appointment to the University’s Philip Hallen Distinguished Chair in Community Health and Social Justice and the National Urban Affairs Association’s Marilyn J. Gimel Activist Scholar Award, and his work with Operation Better Block in Homewood, the Youth Futures Commission and as senior pastor of the Bible Center Church.

“However, it is your work on the Homewood Children’s Village (HCV) that I find to be particularly praiseworthy,” Gallagher wrote, citing Wallace’s work in gathering a team that replicated the ideology and practices used in the Harlem Children’s Zone.

“HCV provides full-service community schools, coordination, transportation and harm-reduction specialists to mitigate the impact of violence on educational success, and a litany of evidence-based initiatives to encourage educational success,” Gallagher wrote. “As the HCV board president, you continue to work tirelessly to reweave the fabric of the Homewood neighborhood.”

Evan Waxman

Gallagher made note of Waxman’s impact on the service mission of the ophthalmology department and of the University, and awards including the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology’s Humanitarian Service Award, the regional Jefferson Award for Public Service and the School of Medicine’s Humanism Honor Society.

“However, it is your work with the Guerrilla Eye Service (GES) that I find to be most praiseworthy,” Gallagher wrote. “As founder and director of the GES, you deliver eye care to the

—John Wallace

—Evan Waxman
indigent population in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas. The GES provides a model for improved access to care for building in communities of need by bringing a vital service to areas where it is not readily available, as well as providing an exceptional learning experience for students in the rewards and challenges of practice in underserved environments for residents and students.”

Research awards
The Chancellor’s Distin-
guished Research Award is open to any tenured or tenure-stream, full-time faculty member who has served at least three years at Pitt. Up to five awardees are chosen in junior and senior scholar cat-
egories.

Senior scholars are faculty members who have achieved prominence in their field and have compiled a substantial and continuing record of outstanding research and scholarly activity.

Jane Cauley
The chancellor commended Cauley’s research on topics rel-
-”cientific communities whose work you seek to understand. You are a philosopher who is sought after by the biomedical and psychiatric communities to work with them and advise them.”

Rocky Tuan
The chancellor cited Tuan’s extensive record of more than 500 publications and more than 35,000 citations, as well as honors includ-
ing the Marshall Unit Award for Excellence and the Tissot Regeneration Research.

“Equally impressive is your tenure at the NIH (National Institutes of Health) heralded the initiation of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine research and education within the NIH Intramural Research Program,” Gallagher wrote, adding that the committee noted Tuan’s appoint-

Marlene Cohen
Gallagher recognized Cohen’s research as “scientifically rigor-
ous, highly creative and novel work that is making a substantial impact on the field of sensory processing and perception.” “Not only have you been extremely successful in obtaining funding for your research, but you have also demonstrated that you are an independent, creative and talented scientist who is emerging as one of the true leaders in your field,” he wrote.

Kirk Erikson
Gallagher said Erikson’s research is notable for its meth-
dological rigor as well as for its broad public health implications. “You have had an impact in the training of neuroscientists. Your graduate and undergradu-
ate classes on the fundamentals of neuroscience and specifically fMRI have consistently received outstanding student reviews and changed the culture of training in your department,” Gallagher wrote.

Teaching awards
The Chancellor’s Distin-
guished Teaching Award is open to any faculty member who has served full-time at the University for at least five years, provided that he or she has been active as a teacher. Up to five awardees are chosen each year.

In his letters to the teach-
ing award winners, Gallagher commended their efforts as “an inspiring example of excellence in the role of University teacher.”

Gretchen H. Bender
In his letter to Bender, Gal-

lager acknowledged her prior award in the community pharmacy post-PharmD residency program. In addition to her ongoing commitment to community pharmacy practice and patient education, she has been an active member of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy’s community pharmacy fellowship program, a shared research course for community pharmacy residencies in Pennsylvania, a research training course for faculty of other pharmacies, and modifications to Pitt’s PharmD curriculum.

William C. Pamerleau
Gallagher’s letter to Pamerleau cited accolades including the Pitt-Greensburg Excellence in Teach-
ing Award. He noted Pamerleau’s teaching in psychology as well as in cross-disciplinary courses with other faculty in English writing, biology and sociology and collabora-
tions in UPG’s common text project in 2000 and 2001, its Humanities Academic Village (2007-08) and its common-pro-
gramming committee (2003-12). “Your educational efforts have significantly shaped both your division’s educational program-
ning and your campus’ goals in the areas of global awareness,” the chancellor wrote.

The award winners were rec-
ognized at the Feb. 28 convocation and will be honored later at a private reception.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
Governor proposes nearly 11% increase for Pitt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

14.7 percent hike to its base appropriation for FY16 and a 5 percent increase in funding for the School of Medicine, the School of Dental Medicine and dental clinic, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic and the Center for Public Health Practice. (See Oct. 9, 2014, University Times.)

Wolf, a Democrat, pitched his budget to a legislature held even more strongly by Republicans. In the November elections, Republicans gained eight seats to hold a 119-84 majority in the House and added three to hold a 30-20 majority in the Senate.

“I campaigned on the idea that we need a new approach to governing Pennsylvania — one that challenges the status quo and takes on old problems in fundamentally new ways. And one of the old problems we need to put to rest is the idea that Democrats and Republicans cannot work together to solve Pennsylvania’s problems,” said Wolf.

“I learned as a business owner that you can disagree with people without being disagreeable and that on every issue, if you are willing to talk, there’s a much better chance that you can find truths that both sides can share,” the governor said.

“The people of Pennsylvania need leaders today who are willing to listen to each other, learn from each other and work together to give all the people of this state a shot at a great life. That’s the different kind of approach we need to take to move Pennsylvania forward,” he told legislators in prefacing what he labeled a “different kind of budget” that includes both Democratic and Republican ideas as well as ideas that exist “beyond party lines.”

Wolf told legislators: “If you don’t agree with my ideas, here is my request: Please come with your own ideas. It’s not good enough just to say no and continue with the same-old, same-old. That’s our responsibility; to the people of Pennsylvania. They may have voted for divided government, but they did not vote for gridlock or dysfunction.”

In his Feb. 18 report to Senate Council, Chancellor Patrick Gallagher said he’d met in recent weeks with Gov. Wolf as well as with House and Senate leaders. “I think there’s a lot of hope and optimism that split governance can work,” Gallagher said.

Gallagher likewise was optimistic about state support for the University.

“We continue to explore areas of common interest and talk about their support for the University of Pittsburgh and for the state-related universities,” he said, adding, “You couldn’t ask for a better front seat” than yesterday’s Pitt Day in Harrisburg.

Neither snow nor rain kept Pitt staff, faculty, administrators, students and alumni from traveling by bus March 4 to visit state legislators during the annual Pitt Day in Harrisburg.

The governor’s budget proposal is the starting point for annual state budget negotiations. Appropriations committee hearings in the House and Senate follow, with a deadline of June 30 for legislators to negotiate and approve a budget for the new fiscal year.

Representatives from Pitt and its fellow state-related universities are scheduled to present their budget testimony March 24 in hearings before the House and Senate appropriations committees in Harrisburg.

Details on the proposed state budget are at www.budget.state.pa.us.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

UPB reopens after water main break

Pitt-Bradford reopened March 2 after being closed for most of last week due to a 24-inch water main that broke Feb. 24.

The emergency on campus drained the City of Bradford’s water system, and UPB students were encouraged to travel home for the duration, although 200 of the regional’s 900 students remained. The campus dining service continued to provide a limited menu of meals and bottled water was available. Portable toilets were brought in.

The loss of a reported five million gallons of water also closed local businesses and schools and left area residents without working taps.

While the campus has reopened, a boil-water advisory remains and some water fountains are still unusable.

Spokesperson Pat Cercone expects the boil-water instruction to continue for “at least another couple of days.” She says UPB still is providing bottles of water for students and has delivered water to all faculty and staff offices.

The campus web site also has posted an FAQ on procedures for safe water use.

During the previous week, “only essential personnel were here,” she reports. That included administrators and staff in facilities management, student services, health services, counseling, residence life and housing.

“We wanted to make sure we had enough resources to provide services to those students who remained,” she says.

While making up missed classes will be necessary for faculty and students, Cercone says, “our dean of academic affairs has asked the faculty to be as understanding as possible, while making sure all the material for the semester is covered.”

“It’s always delightful to see how hard working and resilient our campus community is,” she adds. “We’re a hardy bunch up here.”

—Marty Levine

Bradford’s water main break took place right outside of Blaissell Hall, seeming to turn the pathway next to Blaisdell into a creek (above) and the area outside its front door into a lake. “We were lucky no water got into any buildings,” says campus spokesperson Pat Cercone.
Admissions ramps up minority recruiting

At a time when Pennsylvania has declining numbers of college-age students and, in particular, college-eligible black students, recruiters have found a new form of diversity recruitment efforts.

That’s the message Office of Admissions and Financial Aid (OAA) officials brought to the Feb. 25 meeting of the University of Pittsburgh’s main campus advisory council.

For the last two years, we have really stepped up what we are doing,” said Debbie Rupert, OAA senior director. That’s because diversity is “one of our top priorities,” said Marc Harding, chief enrollment officer.

In fall 2014, Pitt admitted 3,884 freshmen and 844 transfer students. While it exceeded all 50 states and 115 countries, 69 percent were Pennsylvania residents.

Public school enrollment has gone down in Pennsylvania over the past few years, Harding reported, and private school enrollment has remained flat. At the same time, there has been a 6 percent decline in the number of African American students taking the SAT in the commonwealth.

That’s a concern that means the pool is shrinking,” of potential applicants among black students, he said, since Pitt will not admit those without SAT or ACT scores.

In this year or the new or increased OAA efforts Rupert outlined was bringing to campus guidance counselors to reach larger minority populations so that they can gain firsthand experience and share that impression to students. OAA also is hiring more African-American admissions associates to work on the event.

Rupert says black high school seniors visiting for Create a Day “are now meeting with someone who looks like them. That has made such a difference.”

Last year 610 potential freshmen and their families participated in the spring Create a Day program. Rupert said Pitt expected to host more than 800 people for the next Create a Day this month.

In addition, OAA hosts special group events for officials and students from specific school districts and community organizations, more of which are focusing on minority recruitment. It has added 12 diversity-focused college fairs to its visitation schedule recently, joined the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education and created new Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia recruitment trips that include breakfasts for local ministers and guidance counselors from schools that have a more diverse student population.

“Guidance counselors roles have changed over time,” Harding noted. “They can readily support a college or university’s efforts if they know what we’re all about.”

“We are really out here more than we have been before,” Rupert said.

She said the University also plans to increase its marketing to potential transfer students, including minorities. “That is a market where we should do even more,” she said.

Those efforts include a new marketing billboard with a photo of African American poet and English faculty member Terence Hayes, who won a recent MacArthur Fellowship, and the message: "Giant poet’s giant voice. Your professor.

OAA is also creating a recruitment video featuring top black University officials.

The idea, said Harding, “is to bring the Pitt brand in a real way that is not hockey or games.”

“OAA may be at the core of this, but everything... matters,” he added. Rupert noted that, for recruitment events, “we even hand-pick the janitors who are assigned to us for the whole day,” preferring those who make eye contact and smile at the students.

“IT takes a whole University to recruit successful students.”

—Mary Levine

Dental center serves special needs patients

Members of the University Senate benevolents and welfare committee toured the School of Dental Medicine’s Center for Patients with Special Needs (CPSN) earlier this year. The group’s Feb. 19 meeting

Committee chair Angelina Ricci, who is a special school faculty member, called the center “a little jewel in this dental school that people don’t know about.”

Lyne Tailet, director of CPSN, said that dental care is the most common unmet health care issue for special-needs patients. CPSN students and faculty see patients with developmental disabilities they’ve had since birth, as well as those who develop debilitating illnesses or injuries, such as dementia that impair their ability to cooperate with dentists in regular practice. CPSN is especially helpful to those who need sedation, restraint or behavioral modifiers to accept dental treatment.

“The dentistry is the same. I tell my students,” Tailet said. “It’s the delivery of the dentistry changes.”

She said the CPSN uses “a lot of sedation,” and was the first dental school clinic in the nation to train students to do dentistry with anesthetists, who today use intravenous, intramuscular and oral anesthetics on CPSN patients. She called such patients “the largest minority” in the country who need a steady dental home.

“Dental home,” she labeled it.

“The care comes from down to Temple and Penn, and they drive all the way over here,” for treatment, she noted.

CPSN is common for dental schools to offer training about medically complicated dental patients and those with disabilities. Pitt is unique in offering training for students to work with the administration of anesthetics. “We’ve had six new patients this week. It’s the way we see how they look for patients.” Websites for families of those with specific disabilities also have spread the word about CPSN.

CPSN is a required rotation for third- and fourth-year dental medicine students; dental hygienists also have a required course in the facility. Dental patients are taught in CPSN as well.

A Down’s patient is your typical special-needs patient coming to the clinic, Tailet said, although there is a long list of other special needs and disabilities for which CPSN students receive training. The goal is to help dentists learn how to treat such patients in their regular practices.

“Our special-needs patients are living longer too,” Tailet noted, and so dentists may see CPSN patients throughout the lifecycle. The clinic has six treatment rooms, including two with general anesthesia capabilities, a recovery area and a consultation area. Specialized equipment includes a handheld X-ray machine as opposed to full machines to fit patients to and from dental chairs and to tilt wheelchairs for easier patient access. The CPSN also are trained in behavioral guidance and protective stabilizations, from simple hand restraints to what Tailet describes as “a big umarm” wrap with Velcro closures, used mostly for uncooperative children. While patients are under sedation, family members sometimes even step in to cut patients’ hair or nails under these easier circumstances.

Tailet said she gets calls from former students who, as residents, find that they are now “so happy and prepared” than their fellow residents.

In other committee news:

• John Kowal, assistant vice chancellor for Human Resources and a councilor’s liaison to the committee, reported that he will be meeting with his medical advisory committee this fiscal year. 2016 medical insurance coverage for facility and staff. “I don’t expect significant changes in any way,” he said.

• Sue Suda-Velaskr, a Swanick School of Engineering faculty member, replaced Ricci as chair after a committee vote. Ricci had completed three years as chair, the maximum allowed.

—Mary 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 Spring Break.

Please take a moment to shut these items off. This will help reduce University utility costs & lessen the potential for physical damage to the equipment.

Facilities Management thanks you for your consideration and wishes you a Happy Spring Holiday!

Move It and Lose It!

Annual Wellness Challenge

Who: The Pittsburgh Business Group on Health (PBGH), working in collaboration with the American Heart Association and the School of Education’s Department of Health and Physical Activity, is sponsoring a regional wellness challenge.

What: A 10-week wellness challenge that tracks steps in a competition-style format. Compete internally against other faculty and staff members, departments within the University and other regional organizations.

Where: Anywhere you can get your steps in!

When: March 2 - April 26

How: Sign up as an individual or with a team (groups of 3-7)

For details on registration and tracking information, please visit the Human Resources Department website announced section at http://hr.pitt.edu.
Crowdfunding platform provides new option for donors

Lots of Pitt projects can now be funded through EngagePitt crowdfunding platforms.

About 50 crowdfunding projects will launch soon. Projects are important. Identifying lead donors, who have helped fund new equipment or projects, is expected to lead the way training and assistance, each different avenue for funding or opportunities for partnering with the University in the right direction in these areas.

In addition to the launch of the software in April, Atkins said that the pilot projects motivated a lot of first-time donors, Atkins said. The rise of such sites as GoFundMe and Experiment.com has prompted the University to launch its own crowdfunding platform provides new option for donors.

“Employees earning $30,000 to $60,000 aren’t adjusted for income level. We’re trying to show leadership, and to continue to show leadership on anxious issues on the table,” said Sam Williamson, SEIU district council.

Contracts negotiations continue with SEIU

Contract negotiations are set to continue March 12 between the University and representatives of its service workers union.

Approximately 400 custodians, groundskeepers, and maintenance workers are represented by Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ. They have been engaging in contract negotiations for the past 17 months.

In addition, Pitt and UPMC have pre-negotiated a set of pilot projects. The University is creating a University-generated team, Pitt Ventures commercialization startup program.

Pitt ties for 8th in student Fulbrights

Pitt tied for eighth place among U.S. public research universities in the number of Fulbright U.S. student grantees in 2014, 17th among all research universities in the nation. The ranking was announced by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

The following graduate students from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, and the Swanson School of Engineering are Fulbright recipients:

— Zeba Ahmed, who earned her BA in Japanese and social policy, is conducting ethnographic research in Sendai, Japan.

— Jacob Bohmker, who earned his BA in Russian and East European studies, is serving as an English teaching assistant at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, in Moscow.

— Andrew Fichter, who earned a Master of International Development degree from Pitt, is serving as an English teaching assistant in Jordan.

— Madeline Eschenburg, a graduate student in Russian, is researching and writing her dissertation in China.

— Kelsey Hughes, who earned a BPhil in neuroscience, is performing field research on the presence of diabetes in the native and indigenous communities in the Rajasthan region of India.

The following graduate students in the Dietrich School were awarded Fulbright grants:

— Kash Punshil, who earned a BPhil in neuroscience, is performing field research on the presence of diabetes in the native and indigenous communities in the Rajasthan region of India.

— Madeleine Eschenburg, a PhD candidate in the Department of Art and Architecture, is researching and writing her dissertation in China. Esschenburg will conduct research focusing on contemporary Chinese artists.

— Elise Thorsen, a PhD candidate in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, is researching and writing her dissertation focusing on Thorsen’s graduate research focuses on the Russian empire in the early 20th century and its relevance to the 21st century, especially as the U.S. faces the Russia-Ukraine war.

— Mary Mallampalli, who earned her BA in philosophy, political science, and Spanish, is serving as an English teaching assistant in Madrid.

— Rachel Meyer, who earned a BS in mechanical engineering, is performing research on wind-energy technology and understanding coursework toward a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering at the Technical University of Denmark.

— Milton Pratt, who earned a BS in materials engineering, is performing research on anxiety disorders at the University of Crete School of Medicine in Greece.

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Gallagher installed as Pitt’s 18th chancellor

Patrick Gallagher was formally installed as Pitt's 18th chancellor during this year's honors convocation Feb. 28 in Carnegie Music Hall. The day also marked the 228th anniversary of the University's founding.

Honors convocation recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of Pitt faculty, staff and students.

Chancellor Gallagher delivered the convocation address. The Heinz Chapel Choir performed during the event.

Gallagher took over as chancellor Aug. 1. Prior to that, he had been acting deputy secretary in the U.S. Department of Commerce, a position he had been appointed to by President Barack Obama. He also had been director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and undersecretary of commerce for standards and technology.

He earned his MS and PhD in physics at Pitt. His bachelor's degree in physics and philosophy was from Benedictine College.
RESEARCH NOTES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Although 86 percent of the video showed active interac-
tion, only 7 percent contained references to alcohol dependence. Of the 2,232 likers
were registered for every “dislike.”
While 89 percent of the videos involved males, only 49 percent involved females.
A specific brand of alcohol was referenced in 44 percent of the videos.

“These statistics should be viewed and planning intervention,” said Paluck, who also is a practicing physician. “For example, we know that men tend to report more frequent binge drinking than women and that alcohol use is perceived as more socially acceptable for men. Because they are portrayed more frequently, alcohol may be more appealing to them.”

Additional authors on this research are Jason B. Coid, and Kevin C. Pang of Pitt, and a colleague from Brown University. This research was funded by ABMRF/The Foundation for Alcoholic Research.

Teen brains’ decision-making often “overruled”

Teenage exploration and risk-taking could be explained by dramatic changes in the brain that allow elaborate planning and derail the need for immediate reward, according to a neuroscien-
tist who presented his research to the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting.

Using a model in which eye movements or saccades, reveal insight into executive function, Beatestron, Beatrix Luna, Stanislaw Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics in the School of Medicine, has studied hundreds of volunteers to examine brain development during the transition between childhood and adulthood.

Beatestron: “Our studies are beginning to challenge the tra-di- tional concept that the teenage brain can’t plan because of an immature prefrontal cortex. Our findings indicate that the teen prefrontal cortex is not yet fully mature or not yet developed.”

In the experiments, volunteers are instructed to immediately look away from a small light that randomly appears on a screen in front of them. This “anti-saccade” test shows if the brain is able to engage the planning centers of the prefrontal cortex to overcome the impulse to look toward the light rather than away from it. Luna’s team has found in previous studies that children succeed in about half their tries, teens in about 20 percent of tries and adults in about 50 percent of tries. People with mental illnesses typically struggle with the task.

The teenagers and volunteers do the same tasks while scanning their brains with functional MRI. They found that much of the architecture of the mature brain is in place by adolescence, but the ability of the network to talk to one another and integrate information is still a work in progress.

“Further enhancement of this network integration is likely why adults can switch and very quickly adapt their behavior to changing circumstances, which is more difficult for adolescents,” Luna explained.

She added that while parents and teachers sometimes find bewildering the choices teens might make, their brains are perfectly adapted to explore and take some chances as they become independent adults.

Across species and species, we know that adolescence is a period of increased sensation seeking, which can lead to risk taking, which increases mortality rate. Also, we often see during this period the first signs of mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, depression and eating disorders. All of these have a neurobiologi-
cal basis, so if we know how the brain is changing, we might be able to figure out a way to intervene earlier in life.”

Luna teamed with research-

ers from the Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., Columbia University Medi-
cal Center and the University of California-Berkeley.

Reducing adverse drug outcomes in mental illness

Geneticists at the Graduate School of Public Health provide their scientific expertise to a new initiative aimed at preventing and reducing the adverse effects of medications in people with mental illnesses.

The 3-year project will take a personalized medicine approach to managing drug therapy by analyzing each patient’s genetic makeup to determine potential adverse reactions to medications. Funded by the Poll Foundation, it will be led by NHS Human Ser-

ices, one of the nation’s largest providers of human services, in collaboration with Pitt’s public health school, Case Western, a medication therapy management services provider, and ColdLight Sciences, a pharmacogenomics testing company.

Said Dietrich Stepan, chair of the Department of Human Genetics at the public health school: “An individual’s genetic makeup defines how many common drugs are processed by the body and who is at risk for an adverse drug response from such therapies. Individuals can suffer immensely from the very drugs that are meant to improve their health if given drugs they cannot tolerate, often resulting in increased emergency room visits and elevated health care costs.”

For example, some people are genetically predisposed to metabolize certain drugs faster than the average person, causing them to have a stronger, more immediate reaction to medications. Such responses can cause unexpected and potentially dangerous drug interactions.

“The people at highest risk, such as the aged and mentally ill, often are prescribed a multitude of drugs with no insight into their genetic susceptibilities,” said Stepan, who also is an associ-
ate director of the Institute for Personalized Medicine, a collabora-
tion between Pitt and UPMC.

“In this study, we aim to systematically implement com-
prehensive genetic testing in these populations and develop the evidence around improved outcomes and reduced costs that allows such testing to be broadly delivered to the general popula-
tion and reimbursed by insurers.”

Stephan serves as chair of the clinical advisory panel for the 28-month, $350,000 initiative.

Study oversight will be pro-

vided by Robin Grubs, director of Pitt’s genetic counseling pro-

gram, and by Lisa Parker of the Center for Bioethics and Health Law who also provides oversight for the National Human Genome Research Institute.

Compiled by Maury Levine

LUNCH AT THE PORCH

FAST & FRESH

FAST & FRESH SERVICE AVAILABLE MONDAY - FRIDAY 11AM - 4PM
FULL SERVICE DINING AVAILABLE EVENINGS & WEEKENDS

DOES YOUR CHILD SHOP AT CONVENIENCE STORES?

The RAND Corporation, in Pittsburgh, is conducting a research study to learn about what children, ages 11-17, purchase at convenience stores.

Participation requires one 20-minute phone interview and one 90-minute visit to the RAND study center. Children who complete the study will be compensated for their time and effort with $50 in gift certificates.

Parking and travel compensation will be provided.

If you are interested and want to learn more about the study, please call 412-802-4980 or email c-storestudy@rand.org.
Lessons from Ferguson

By Barry Levine

In police-citizen relations, the past cannot be ignored, David Harris told an overflow crowd Feb. 25 at the latest Reed Smith lecture from the School of Social Work’s Center on Race and Social Problems.

"With race and criminal justice, we are never writing on a blank slate," Harris said. "There is a history, and it counts, every single time."

In introducing Harris, who is a distinguished faculty scholar and professor of law, former city councilman Sala Udin called him "the preeminent police researcher [and] leading national authority on racial profiling."

Harris began outlining his topic, "The Collision of Race and Criminal Justice: Lessons From the Aftermath of Ferguson," by showing images of protests in this Missouri town following the killing of unarmed black teen Michael Brown by white police officer Darren Wilson. Police in military-style gear aimed weapons at crowds of civilians with their hands in the air, and faces of civic leaders were painted with anti-police slogans saying signs, "I am a man." Harris then flashed simple images of 96th street rights protests.

"How far have we come?" he said. "We have come a long way but not nearly far enough. We have to be farther along than this."

Harris pointed out that local police departments had been front and center in the enforcement of runaway slave laws and segregationists edicts in the South.

"This was American policing," he said, "lest we forget," he said, "So I have to ask — who was the genius who brought the dogs to Ferguson?"

When I saw this in August, I thought, oh my God, People don’t understand the history they are dealing with."

Even FBI director James B. Comey has admitted that the past still was overwhelming current relations between law enforcement and the public. He told the Georgetown law school crowd on Feb. 12: "First, all of us from law enforcement must acknowledge this issue. It is a hard truth."

"The police in America, law enforcement enforced the status quo, a narrative that was often brutal, unfair to disfavored groups. … People thought, oh my God. People don’t understand the history they are dealing with."

Harris believes all the attention following the shooting of  unarmed black teen Michael Brown by a white police officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri, on Aug. 9, 2014, created a national moment of  "blank slate," Harris said. "There is a history, but we must talk about our history. It is a hard truth that lives on."

Harris said, "I almost fell off my chair" at the nation’s top law enforcement officer’s unconscious acknowledgment of this issue. "That’s one thing we can do." Harris continued, "We can make lessons about that history part of  police training."

The single most frequent question that Harris said he got was why more police officers are not arrested, tried and convicted for misconduct.

"Blame the law," he said. "Police in the United States have a privilege to use force," he explained, "that is necessary to do their jobs [and] reasonable and reasonable.

While other citizens under suspicion of  committing violence must prove they acted in self-defense, for police the question is only, Did you use excessive force?"

"The way that is defined favors the police," Harris said. "Prosecuting these cases turns out to be devilishly difficult," he added. "With most jurors, they are going to accept a story told by police. They are going to think the police are the good guys." Trying to prosecute a police officer is "going against the dominant narrative. You are starting [from] behind." Harris said.

Prosecution of  police is never easy because it falls to local prosecutors to handle such cases. "Prosecutors and police in your county are on the same team," Harris said. "I am not saying that they collude. But prosecutors depend on police as their main witnesses in many cases. That naturally makes for a reluctance to prosecute their local folks." Harris said.

Nor are federal prosecutions of  police easy to secure. Those prosecutors must prove not only that an officer employed excessive force under state law but that he or she deprived the victim of  civil rights under federal law, which has "among the highest burden of  proof," he said.

Such federal cases are "among the most difficult cases to bring and even more to win." Between 2002 and 2011, he said, there have been 9,000-12,000 such cases a year investigated by federal authorities, but those have resulted in only 30-40 indictments a year — "not because they are bad prosecutors and not because they are in bed with police" — and a mere 15-20 convictions per year.

One possible alternative to local prosecution is for states to create independent statewide prosecution units. Two years ago, Wisconsin created a state agency to undertake investigations in possible law enforcement incidents, but still left prosecutions to the local district attorney’s office. That didn’t work out so well, "because they only went half way," Harris said.

Grand juries, empaneled to decide on indictments in the most prominent cases, do not provide a likely remedy in cases where cops may face charges, Harris said. The grand jury in Ferguson, for instance, brought no indictment against Officer Darren Wilson. While grand juries were designed centuries ago as a way to keep prosecutorial zeal and politics in check, in 21st-century America they took on another function: "They … became a sword, a weapon of  investigation," especially against such things as organized crime and, in another era, Communism and so-called subservives.

Today, "the prosecutor decides everything that happens in front of  the grand jury," Harris said. The DA presents only evidence that supports indictment, and may recommend the charges a jury should levy; there are no defense lawyers present, nor, usually, the defendant, who may be invited to testify but usually is kept away by defense attorneys.

None of  this is illegal, because grand juries are only deciding whether there is probable cause to bring charges, not guilt or innocence.

However, in the Michael Brown case, when the grand jury was considering whether to indict Darren Wilson, the prosecutor had all the evidence in front of  the jury, including defense witnesses, starting with Wilson himself. The prosecutor also offered no direc- tion for indictment.

"It’s not illegal to do what he did — but it is highly, highly, unusual," Harris allowed. "And the disparate treatment is what tells you this was not right. You want justice? Show me the justice everybody else gets. Somebody got special justice."

Harris believes all the attention following the shooting of  unarmed black teen Michael Brown may not be fruitless. He predicts that the current federal investigation of  Ferguson police will result in government officials threatening to sue the department unless they accept a consent decree to make certain changes in procedures, as the Pittsburgh police experienced in the 1990s. (At press time, the Department of  Justice was set to release its assessment of  Ferguson police.)

Harris favors police wearing body cameras to film their encounters with civilians, and is helping Pittsburgh police today formulate their camera-use poli- cies. He cites a Rialto, California, study in which police officers in the same shift, with the same assignments and duties, were divided into two groups those donning body cameras and those without. The cameras were mounted on officers’ helmets, the same style Pittsburgh police will deploy. Citizen complaints against Rialto police who filmed encounters were 88 percent below the other group, while the use of  force among the body camera group was 60 percent below the control group.

"There’s no way to know whether any other police depart- ment would get numbers this dramatic," the preeminent police researcher said. "But if  you get numbers any closer to this, it could be a game changer … you put a camera on people, they behave better on both sides.

Cameras may even help police improve their training methods, he said. Still, he cautioned, cameras are not a cure-all. He cited the case of  Eric Garner, who was arrested on a Staten Island sidewalk last year for allegedly selling illegal cig- arettes. Asking to be not arrested, Garner was taken to the ground in a chokehold. He was banned by New York police, while protesters "I can’t breathe" more than half a dozen times.

A black woman in the audience asked Harris: "How do you have reasonable suspicion when the civil- lians that look like me are going to engage or want to have relations with police, when we know the history? What expectation do you have that folks would buy in?"

"I don’t have the expectation that [this] would happen easily or quickly," Harris replied, "but you have to have to have people on both sides who want that progress. In a way it’s an act of  optimism" to work toward healthy police-citizen rela- tions, he added. "But if  we don’t do it, we won’t end up better than we are now. And where we are now is not tolerable."

Most of  the images Pittsburgh had to take were shown by chief Cameron McLay show him going to community meetings and talk- ing to people who had protested out. "He’s building those bridges, trying to build them back up, trying to mend the damage and he’s trying to reengage his officers to do the same.

"This has to be done now. This has to be done in the town in the country where I would not go in and say the same thing." —Marvy Levine
Paul Florecio, a professor in the Department of Chemistry, and Nancy Glass, a professor in the Department of Chemistry, were recently awarded the 2015 Distinguished Contribution to Research Award by the American Chemical Society's National Capital Section. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to research and teaching in undergraduate studies in the fields of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.

Dr. Florecio is a member of the Department of Chemistry and Dr. Glass is a member of the Department of Chemical Engineering. Both have made significant contributions to their respective fields through their research and teaching activities.

The award recognizes their contributions to the advancement of knowledge in the fields of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. Their work has been influential in shaping the direction of research in these areas.

The award also recognizes their contributions to the education of undergraduate students. They have been instrumental in developing innovative teaching methods and curriculum that have been adopted by universities across the country.

Dr. Florecio and Dr. Glass are both highly respected in their fields and have received numerous awards and recognition for their work. They have made significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge in the fields of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, and their work continues to influence the direction of research and education in these areas.

The award is a testament to their dedication to their work and their commitment to the advancement of knowledge in their fields.
Betty Jane McWilliams, former director of the University’s Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Center and professor emeritus in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the Newhouse School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, died Feb. 20, 2015, at Longwood, Oakmonton Verona. She was 88.

A native of Martins Ferry, Ohio, McWilliams earned a bache- lor’s degree in journalism from Ohio State University in 1949. Her career in communications was begun in Pitt, where she earned a master’s degree in audiology in 1950 and a PhD in speech-language pathol- ogy in 1953.

She was director of the Wheel- ing (W.Va.) Speech Clinic in 1949-50 and directed the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Speech and Hearing Clinic 1952-63.

McWilliams joined the Pitt faculty in 1954 as an assistant pro- fessor of speech pathology and speech, rising to associate professor in 1958, professor in 1965, and member of the faculty’s cleft palate center 1969-91. McWilliams was named professor emeritus in 2004.

The University recognized her as a 2000 Distinguished Alumna award recipient and a 2004 Distinguished Alumnus Fellow.

An internationally recognized expert in speech-language pathology, she consulted with many groups that serve children with disabilities, speech and hearing impairments and published widely in her field. In addition to more than 60 journal articles, other publications, McWilliams coauthored the textbook “Cleft Palate Speech” in 1984.

She edited the Cleft Palate Journal 1975-81. She was presi- dent of the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association (ACPA), the ACPA Educational Foundation, the Cleft Palate Foundation and the Pennsyl- vania Federation of Cleft Palate Clinics. She also served as the center’s secretary-treasurer and as its 1969 international congress assistant secretary-general.

She was a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the American College of Dentists and a member of the American Psychological Association and the American Association of Speech Scientists.

Among numerous profes- sional recognitions, she received the ACPA Distinguished Service Award in 1975, and in 1987 was awarded the Honor of the American Cleft Palate Center and the ACPA’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 1993, the in 1995, the American Speech Language Hearing Foundation established the Betty J. McWilliams Lifetime Achievement Award for professional achievement in the field of cleft palate and craniofacial anomalies.

In 1995, the American Speech Language Hearing Foundation honored McWilliams with the ACPA Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of “exemplary contributions to the profession of practice” over a period of no less than 20 years.

McWilliams was among the early proponents of a multidisci- plinary approach to treating cleft palate anomalies, appointing team members in dentistry, surgery, plastic surgery, orthopedics, pediatric psychology and social work to the Pitt Cleft Palate Center, said Thomas Forrest, who joined McWilliams at the center in his first faculty position after com- pleting orthodontic training at Pitt in 1988.

Although such an approach wasn’t new, he said, “she was responsible for helping create what was to become the standard” in caring for children with cleft palate and craniofacial anomalies.

Forrest, son of the late Edward J. Forrest, a former member of the University’s faculty and a dean, remembered McWilliams as a pioneer and a role model.

“She was someone who was a clinical, scholar, author and, in my case, a guidance counselor,” he said, recalling both her rapport with young patients and her ability to oversee a team of specialists in the center that initially was housed in the dental school. “She was a very comfortable knowing he had her as head of a center.” Forrest said.

Professor emeritus Herbert K. Rubin remembered McWilliams as a “powerhouse” in the depart- ment, having first met her when he interviewed for a faculty position in 1958. She accomplished a great deal with her attitude and her competence, he said, recalling her as a feisty individual. “She backed down to no one,” he said. At the same time, he said, she was an effective teacher, a capable diagnostician and a skilled interviewer, “able to interact with young patients effectively, every patient,” Rubin said.

Rubin also maintained a friendship with McWilliams, based on their common interest in antiques.


McWilliams maintained con- nections with former coworkers and students, Rubin said, adding that colleagues arranged a birthday celebration for her 90th birthday. SHRS faculty member Ellen Cohn received McWilliams’ doctoral dissertation adviser, as an “amazing” mentor. “She would not accept less than what the American Psychological Association and the ACPA Distinguished Service.

She enjoyed opera and was a member of the baseball team, earning a letter and, later, election to University of Pittsburgh Press published her monograph, “The Four Walls: The Lives and Work of a Family of Western Pennsylvania Artists” in 2000.

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Simulation demonstrates impact of measles outbreaks

To bring facts and clarity to the public debate about immunization in light of recent measles outbreaks, the Graduate School of Public Health has unveiled a computer simulation that explores the impact of such outbreaks across the U.S. Users can see how an outbreak would play out if their city had high or low vaccination rates.

The simulation, which is accessible from mobile devices, is an adaptation of the popular framework for Reconstructing Epidemiological Dynamics (FRED), a free resource created at Pitt. By visiting pitt.edu/measles, people can select cities they're interested in and watch short animations that play out an outbreak with either high or low vaccination coverage. Estimating the impact of high and low vaccination rates allows people to grasp the concept of herd immunity, explained Donald S. Bruce, public health dean and UPAC-Jonas Salk Chair of Global Health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that when 95 percent of the people in a community -- or "herd" -- is vaccinated against measles, the 5 percent who can't be vaccinated because they are too young or have compromised immune systems, as well as those whose immunity waned off or never took hold, should be protected because the virus can't gain a foothold and spread. When vaccination rates dip too low, the herd isn't protected and measles can sweep through.

Measles is a highly contagious virus. If someone with measles is in a room, nine out of 10 unvaccinated people in that room will contract the virus. For two hours after the infected person leaves, the room's air will harbor the virus.

The measles virus, rubella (MRR) vaccine is recommended for children 12-15 months of age, with a booster usually given between 4 and 6 years of age. Older children and adults who missed the vaccine or aren't sure if they received it can get vaccinated by their doctor or at a clinic.

Future scenarios of FRED Measles will allow users to adjust vaccination rates and experiment with how close schools could affect an outbreak.

"Teachers could use FRED to help their students get hands-on look at how public health interventions impact an infectious disease outbreak," said FRED creator John Greenough, a Pitt faculty member in health policy and management. "It's also something that pediatricians could use to open a dialogue with parents who may not want to vaccinate their children despite the risks.

FRED was created at Pitt's Models of Infectious Disease Agent Study Center of Excellence, which is supported by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.
Friday 6
- Spring term monitored with withdrawal deadline.

SDRC Program
- "The Brain: Energy Metabolism of a Small Boaster," Merrin, 7:30-10 am (registrants are encouraged to attend).
- Mental Health in Japan Conf. PAA, 8:45 am-5:30 pm (also March 7).

Mood, Activity, and Mental Health
- "March 2015" (registration deadline March 2015).

UNIVERSITY TIMES
- "March 2015" publication schedule.
- "March 2015" for submission.
- "March 2015" for publication.

Saturday 7
- CIDEDE TA Services Workshop
- "Feeding the Hungry: Philosophy Session Part 1," B.311 Alcove, 10 am (registration deadline).
- Philosophy Seminar: "Feeding the Hungry: Philosophy Session Part 1,", B.311 Alcove, 10 am (registration deadline).

Tuesday 10
- Basic & Translational Research Seminar
- "Small Protein Potentials for Selection of Drugs/Organisms for Cancer," Atlas Alumnus, UPCI/Heiman Cancer Ctr. Conference Room B.311 Alcove, 10 am (registration deadline).
- "March 2015" for publication.

Wednesday 11
- EEE Workshop: "The Mindset of Eight-Figure Profitable Growth," Andy Burt, Kresge Ctr., 5th Floor, 10 am-4 pm (registration deadline).
- Chemistry Seminar: "Electrochemistry & Mass Spectrometry Imaging in Films, Cells & Vessels," Andrew Wagg, Fredrick R. Schuman Ctr., 5th Floor, 10 am-4 pm (registration deadline).

Thursday 12
- ADRB Seminar: "Theories of Chromatin Regulation: Environmental Health Challenges and Cloud Computing Target Hampers for System Pharmacology & Altheimer's Disease Discovery Research," Xiong Xu, MD, PhD, 5th Floor (registration deadline).
- "March 2015" for publication.

Sunday 8
- Spring recess for students begins.

Monday 9
- CIDEDE TA Services Workshop
- "Enveloping Students: Participate," B.311 Alcove, 10 am (registration deadline).
- Chemistry Seminar: "Enveloping Students: Participate," B.311 Alcove, 10 am (registration deadline).
- "March 2015" for submission.
- "March 2015" for publication.

Wednesday 16
- Clinical Oncology & Hematol-
-oggy Grand Rounds
- "Neuroimmune Therapy for Triple Negative Breast Cancer," Dr. Series, 10 am-12 pm (registration deadline).
- "March 2015" for publication.

Thursday 19
- Molecular Biophysists/Structural Biology Seminar
- "The Atomic Resolution of Viral Envelope Structure of the demonstrates a new level of detail in understanding how viruses infect cells," Dr. Series, 10 am-12 pm (registration deadline).