Business dean named

Arjang A. Assad has been named the Henry E. Haller Jr. Dean of the Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration. He will succeed John Delaney on July 1, who will join the Katz faculty.

Assad has been dean of the School of Management at the University of New York, for the past seven years, during which time he expanded the size and reputation of both its faculty and facilities. He led the institution of new programs in health care management, leadership and entrepreneurship.

Previously, Assad held positions of increasing responsibility at the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, where he was instrumental in launching the decision operations and information technology department and where, as assistant dean, he was instrumental in its growth.

In 2007, he was named the inaugural Dean’s Professor for Extraordinary Service in recognition of his service to the school. He is recognized for his scholarly contributions to operations and quality management, optimization of distribution systems and the history of operations research and has received numerous awards for his teaching.

Assad holds four degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: a doctorate in operations research, and has received numerous awards for his teaching.

The head of NASA to address Pitt commencement

The head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will address Pitt’s commencement convocation April 26.

Charles Bolden Jr., who also served as NASA’s administrator in 2009, is a retired major general of the U.S. Air Force and has served as NASA’s associate administrator for aeronautics and safety. He’s been awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, the Department of Transportation’s Distinguished Service Award, and the National Reconnaissance Office’s Distinguished Service Medal.

Brubaker to step down

Dean Clifford Brubaker will remain on the faculty as a tenured professor.

He will succeed John Delaney, who served as Pitt’s dean of the Katz Graduate School of Business from 2010 to 2015.

Most faculty pay averages fare well in AAUP survey

In an annual survey by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) that shows average salaries for faculty members on the Pittsburgh campus, except for instructors, exceeded the national average for faculty at public doctoral institutions.

The AAUP recently released its 2015 report on the economic status of the profession finds that full professors here averaged $144,200, above the national average of $139,039 for professors at public doctoral institutions.

Pittsburgh campus associate professors averaged $96,400 (compared to $88,716 nationwide) and assistant professors averaged $80,000 ($77,446 nationwide).

Only instructors, who averaged $47,100 on the Pittsburgh campus, trailed the national average for their rank, which was $50,915 at public doctoral institutions.

Combined, faculty of all ranks on the Pittsburgh campus averaged $97,400, higher than the national average of $93,819 at public doctoral institutions.

The data, which cover full-time instructional faculty, exclude medical school faculty. The AAUP noted that its Pittsburgh campus data includes faculty in schools or programs of law, dentistry, nursing, engineering and business.

Salaries by gender on the Pittsburgh campus

By gender, average salaries for female faculty members on the Pittsburgh campus trailed the average for men of the same rank. Male professors on the Pittsburgh campus averaged $149,000 while women at that rank averaged $129,900; male associate professors averaged $98,400 while women at that rank averaged $84,997; at the assistant professor rank, men averaged $80,858, women $73,741, and at the instructor rank, men averaged $52,284, women $50,001.

Continuing faculty raises fare well in AAUP survey

With the exception of the associate professor rank, continuing faculty on the Pittsburgh campus saw higher average pay increases than their peers at public doctoral institutions.

Professors here averaged a 3.9 percent increase in 2014-15 (compared with 3.4 percent on average for professors at public doctoral institutions); associate professors averaged 3.8 percent (3.9 percent nationwide); assistant professors averaged 4.2 percent (3.9 percent nationwide), and instructors averaged 4.9 percent. 

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Implementing inclusive language

In an effort to make our language more inclusive, the university has introduced a new policy that encourages the use of gender-neutral pronouns. This initiative aims to promote a more inclusive and respectful environment for all students.

Chancellor Patrick Gallagher and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Jack Schmick, have committed to implementing this new policy. They have expressed their support for the initiative and have encouraged all faculty and staff to do the same.

Chancellor Gallagher says, "This is an important step in creating a more inclusive and welcoming community for all our students. We want to ensure that everyone feels valued and respected, regardless of their gender or gender identity."

Dean Schmick adds, "We recognize that language can be a powerful tool for inclusion. By using gender-neutral pronouns, we can help create a more inclusive environment for all students."

The new policy encourages the use of gender-neutral pronouns such as "they," "them," and "their," instead of gender-specific pronouns like "he," "she," and "his." This change is being implemented across all university communications and materials.

"We are excited to see how this new policy will help us create a more inclusive community," says Gallagher. "We look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our campus."
Individuals are key in computer security

Computer security often is a social problem, not a technical one. A recent report on Internet security by the University of Washington and the University of California, San Diego, shows that users who take basic precautions can do much to protect themselves. The study, which was conducted by researchers at the University of Washington and the University of California, San Diego, found that users who take basic precautions can do much to protect themselves.

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Tattoo parlors & regulations

S

ven McCarthy, owner of Scion's Court Tattoo on South Avenues, was glad to see Graham School of Public Health faculty member Elizabeth Bjerk's students in his shop the very spring – even though they were young customers. Bjerk's a 10 of 11 current Robert Wood Johnson Foundation public health law fellows creating new curricular offerings designed to provide immersion teaching nationally. The fellowship gives her the impetus for a new multidisplinary class, “Law and Public Health Practices,” which attracts students from public health, law, medicine and nursing. Consulting with the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) on areas of public health and regulatory concern, Bjerk decided the class would focus on whether tattoo parlors need a new oversight from the ACHD, and if so, what the best approach might be. It seemed a perfect question for Bjerk's students to tackle, since tattoo parlors are uniquely local, by the city, county or state, and the Jones's Court owner welcomed the students' attention. “I've been interested in this issue since we opened our shop in 1995,” says McCarthy, who now has four shops. “That's a real challenge, especially all of the regulations or licensure — it's like trying to navigate the ‘laughingstock’ of the industry.”

As the students in Bjerk's class are completing a dozen parlors for their colleagues work, they were basi- cally laying in the industry — “they were basi- cally laying on the ground watching McCarthy and two of his students for the past few years,” says McCarthy, who has been one of their instructors. “I think that's the way students will get the most out of this.”

The course, she concludes, “allows the students to develop communications skills and real laborat- ion skills outside of their discipline. It allows the students to begin to develop some- thing personal.” The Allegheny Health County Department gains insight into the problems that have been identified to address.”

McCarthy's students in his shop are part of her Robert Wood Johnson public health law form.”

The students have been ana- lyzing their research findings and drawing conclusions that they will meet effec- tively present their findings to the health department on April 23.

According to Bjerk, they will recommend: The formation of a Body of Art Advisory Board to facilitate professional discus- sion between ACHD and tattoo parlors; The development of an internal resource handbook in Allegheny County to manage difficult regulations; The creation of an educa- tional website for consumers to inform them about risks associated with tattooing and proper aftercare practices; A marketing campaign to promote the website to targeted demographics, such as college campuses.

In addition to assisting the students, Bjerk's students also take the lead on the local tattoo shop industry, the community's ability to receive the best type of educational experiences.

As part of her Robert Wood Johnson Foundation fellowship, Bjerk is also working on a textbook on health regulation courses to be adapted and adopted with other faculty to help other professors to create basic health and public health courses.

If Pitt faculty are looking for ideas for service-learning courses, or have an idea on how to develop it, this fall's seminar, "Academically Based Community Engage- ment: An Idea Exchange" should be a great start.

Tracy Suska, a School of Social Work faculty member and chair of the community, organization and social action program, is involved in planning the Sept. 25 gathering. The event will outline the small grants available for incorporating service learning into new and existing courses (including grants from the University Honors College), offer examples of successful current efforts, and introduce faculty to the PittServe and the Community and Governmental Relations offices.

Each term the students undertake both a group and an indi- vidual service project. The idea, Suska says, is for students “to learn how important service is to building your personal and professional skills, and converting your discipline to service in ways that allow you to apply your knowledge in the field. It also helps you apply your own leadership skills and enhance your cross-cultural experience.”

While community engagement may seem a natural for social work students, Suska says anyone in any academic discipline can find a way to serve the Pitt community and apply his or her learning to the project. First-year engineering students, for example, recently worked to devise water collection equipment for a local neighborhood garden.

Beginning in 2000, Suska also was one of the directors of the Community Outreach Partnership Center, which lasted a dozen years. He hopes to revive it in a different form to help students create a more engaged campus and apply the wealth of stu- dent/faculty knowledge to the community.

Students engage certainly are an important pillar of Chancellor Patrick Gallagher's current plan for the Univer- sity to make Pitt more "student centered," he notes. "I’m pleased that our students have been engaged (marginal, diverse and underrepresented between residents and nonresidents), these are the opportunity to get an external impression of the city as our campus, Soska says, “We're not just a uni- versity, Soska notes; in January, Chancellor Gallagher appointed Tracy Soska, a School of Social Work faculty member and chair of the community, organization and social action program, is involved in planning the Sept. 25 gathering. The event will outline the small grants available for incorporating service learning into new and existing courses (including grants from the University Honors College), offer examples of successful current efforts, and introduce faculty to the PittServe and the Community and Governmental Relations offices.

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New treatments for bowel disease to be studied

A promising new treatment for the fistula of Colitis will be supported by the National Institute of Health (NIH) after their research grant was awarded to a team of researchers at the University of Virginia. The grant, which is one of the largest ever awarded to the University of Virginia, will provide the researchers with the resources to further study the disease.

The disease, known as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), affects millions of people worldwide. It is characterized by inflammation of the lining of the intestine and can cause severe pain, bleeding, and other complications.

The research team, led by Dr. Jane Smith, proposed a novel approach to treating the disease by using a new class of drugs that target the immune system. The team believes that this approach could lead to more effective and safer treatments for IBD.

The NIH grant, which totals $1.5 million over five years, will allow the researchers to conduct clinical trials to test the effectiveness of their new treatment. The team plans to recruit patients from the University of Virginia and other hospitals in the region to participate in the trials.

The researchers are excited about the potential of their new treatment and hope that it will provide a significant improvement in the lives of IBD patients. "We believe that our new treatment has the potential to revolutionize the way we think about IBD," said Dr. Smith. "It will provide a new option for patients who have not responded to other treatments."
Mark Fragapane

Mark Fragapane was named the 2013-2014 Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Bioengineering at the University of Pittsburgh. He received this award for his excellence in both his academic and extracurricular activities.

Mark Fragapane is a senior at the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in Bioengineering. He is a member of Beta Alpha Psi, the National Engineering Honor Society, and has been involved in various extracurricular activities, including being a member of the Bioengineering Honors Society and a research assistant in the Fragapane lab.

Fragapane received his Bachelor of Science degree in Bioengineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 2013. He plans to pursue a career in the field of biomedical engineering.

Fragapane has received several awards for his outstanding academic performance, including the Dean's List and the Presidential Scholarship. He has also been honored with the Outstanding Undergraduate Student award for his contributions to the Bioengineering community.

Fragapane's research interests include bioengineering and biomechanics, with a focus on developing new technologies and solutions for medical and health-related problems. He is currently working on a project to develop a novel device for monitoring and treating patients with cardiovascular disease.

In his free time, Fragapane enjoys playing soccer and volunteering in his community. He is also active in his church and participates in various community service activities.

Fragapane's accomplishments and dedication to his studies have earned him the respect and recognition of his peers and professors alike. He is a true inspiration to all those who know him and is sure to have a bright future ahead of him.
"Induction and Pathogenesis of Lupus Erythematosus: The Role of CD8+ T Cells and Immune Complexes"

Richard S. Levy, MD, Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

A 65-year-old woman with a history of connective tissue disease presents with a 1-week history of fever, rash, and myalgias. She was recently diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and is currently taking prednisone and hydroxychloroquine. She has no prior infections, and her laboratory studies show elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and C-reactive protein (CRP), as well as positive antinuclear antibody (ANA) and anti-double-stranded DNA (dsDNA) antibodies. She is being evaluated for possible lupus nephritis.

Questions:
1. What is the likely cause of her symptoms?
2. What diagnostic tests should be performed to confirm the diagnosis?
3. How should her treatment be adjusted to manage her symptoms?

Richard S. Levy, MD, is a professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a world-renowned expert in the field of systemic lupus erythematosus and has published extensively on the subject.
April 16
Faculty & Staff Development Program
"Feedback: An Essential Leadership Skill," Maureen Bard, CMU, 150 Northside Park, North Side, 7:30 p.m. (reservations: 412/321-4900)
Alumni House & Dinner Ensemble: Bellfield Cafe, 6 p.m. (5/2-22)

Saturday 18
Reading day.
• CGS classes, Saturday College classes, graduate classes & evening classes continue to meet through April 25 final exams should be held during the last scheduled class meeting.
French/Italian Film Festival Screening & QA "Tout est Fait," Jean-Marc Vézien, 300 LCL, 5:30-7 p.m. (www.aisfilmfestival.org/pittsburgh.html)
French/Italian Film Festival Screening "Swiss & Stale" Ferris & 7 p.m. (www.aisfilmfestival.org/pittsburgh.html)

Sunday 19
Engineering Sustainability Conf. "Innovation & the Triple Bottom Line,"Creature Care, downstairs, 2 p.m. April 21 (http://sustainable.pitt.edu/eng-sustainability-2010-0)
Heinz Chapel Choir Spring Concert "Departures," CL Common Room, 2 p.m.

Monday 20
• Final exam period for all undergraduate day classes through April 25.
Senate Educational Policies Committee Meeting, 8:26 CL, 3 p.m.

Tuesday 21
Faculty & Staff Development Programs
"Imagery Services: Employment-Based Voice [3-1, 11-8, 0-4, T, N, Y, Z]," 342, 9 a.m. (Microsoft Excel 2010 Users’ Groups), Vernon Franklin, 300 Bellefield, 9 a.m.-noon (reservations: www.lap.it/microsoft-development/feedback-rt).
MMH Seminar: "Targeting Proliferation/ Apoptosis Inducers in Pulmonary Hypertension: New Strategy to Reverse Pulmonary Vascular Remodeling," Elena Guchkovskaya, Children’s Hospital And, noon (lunch provided).
Senate Community Relations Committee Meeting, 572 Ellwood, noon (CTSI Workshop "Demonstrating Respect & Enhancing Trust: Maintaining the Informed Consent Process (RBC)," 7090 Pecos Ter, noon (www.ctsi.pitt.edu/registration/program=110).

Wednesday 22
Clinical Oncology & Hematology Grand Rounds
"New Molecular Strategies for Early Diagnosis," David Stepans, Professor of Comp. Ot 2nd & 3rd, 6 a.m. (mlmers@pompe.com)
Faculty & Staff Development Program
MMG Seminar: "Human Papillomaviruses & the DNA Damage Response," Laucine Lianian, Northeastern, 300 Bellefield, 11 a.m. (lunch)
Pathology Seminar: "A Nucleus Game: Rapid Cell Cycle Evolution Driven by Karyotype Instability & Chromoetomy Chromatid Instability," Rong Li, Vascular Inst, 11:40 Studies, noon (HSLS Workshop "Facing uphill," Ross, 7 p.m. (pitt.edu)
Senate Council Meeting, 7 p.m. (pitt.edu)

Missile & Rocketry Lecture: "Goodbye Pide Biology?" Kazim Arslan, U of CO Boulder, 300 Bellefield, 3:30 p.m.

April 24
Chemical & Petroleum Engineering Lecture: "Body Building: Design Gels to Promote Tissue Regeneration," Kazim Arslan, U of CO Boulder, 10:30, 9 a.m. (lunch)
Psychology Lecture: "Abnormalities: Trauma/1stotive," Ernie Reiners, WPIC and, noon

Saturday 25
Spring term ends.

Sunday 26
Residence halls close (except for graduating seniors).
University Commencement
Pottery, 1 p.m.

Monday 27
SAC Seminar "Medical Benefits," WPUB Assembly Room, 1 p.m. (reservations: www.pitt.edu/event/benefits/hag-medical-benefits)