Business dean search forum gathers input

What is the University community looking for in a new business school dean?

Faculty, staff and alumni offered their opinions in a Nov. 15 forum hosted by the search committee charged with identifying a successor to Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration (CBA) Dean John T. Delaney. Delaney, who has been Pitt business dean since 2006, announced in September that he would step down from the position to become a business school faculty member once a successor is in place.

Joining search committee chair Chancellors Emeritus Mark A. Nordenberg and John B. Thornton, search firm Witt/Kieffer vice president and search committee members David Davis, John A. Harris, Evan Andrew, Stephen and Vanitha Swaminathan of the business school faculty, Louisa Kildow, professor and vice provost for faculty development, and student representatives Courtney L. Shear of CBA and Kenny Soo of the Katz school, about two dozen members of the University community attended the forum at the William Pitt Union. Among their comments:

- Brynn Schulz, director of international programs at CBA, said: "I do think a business education in the contemporary marketplace really requires an international flair or perspective," advocating for a new dean with international interests, background or experience and a commitment to the undergraduate business experience.

- Katz school alumnus Chris Kirsch requested a new leader who, while both academic and management experienced, "are there a great many conflicts at Pitt [business] and it will take a really great manager and leader to pull those together and forge ahead in the future," she said.

- Jeff Marzina and University of Pittsburgh at Main Campus Mathay, both past presidents of the business alumni group, praised Delaney's efforts to strengthen relations with other units within the University, urging the committee to ensure those connections continue.

And, noting that mentorship and interaction with alumni are among students' top requests, Marzina said, "I really think it's important that the new dean understand the significance of alumni involvement and value that," commending Delaney's skill in that area.

- Allie Quick of Institutional Advancement urged the committee to consider candidates' emotional intelligence and ability to manage off-campus relationships "with folks who experienced the leader in that area."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Senate seeks better communication with administration

Improving communication with the administration was high on the agenda at an initial meeting between the new chancellor and University Senate officers and committee leaders. In comments to Senate Council Nov. 13, University Senate President Michael Scarpinato characterized the expanded executive committee’s Nov. 7 meeting with Chancellor Patrick Gallagher as "a lively and broad-ranging" conversation.

"There were two issues that have come up in a variety of ways that were among the issues discussed," Scarpinato said. "First was the responsibility that the Senate takes very seriously in advising the administration on matters of University-wide concern."

"We shared our belief in" that with the chancellor and agreed to take whatever steps we need to, the question is: How can we ensure that we keep the all the people that were involved together, in a way that allows them to productively communicate and talk about these issues?"

Chancellor's report

As part of his report, Gallagher noted that the Pitt United Way campaign totaled more than $144,002 as of its Nov. 7 conclusion, with additional pledges continuing to come in after the official deadline.

"What I really want to highlight is this is everybody. This is students, faculty, staff, Pittsburgh, regional campuses — not only participating in the campaign but supporting it with a lot of just great volunteer efforts," he said. For example, Gallagher cited Business Faculty Emeritus Bob Gilbert's "PostInMotion" marketing class in which students developed marketing strategies for the campaign, homemade soup sales by staff at Thomas Boulevards, competition among Facilities Management work teams to arrange participation, and sales of "Yaya Give" T-shirts spearheaded by Kevin Sheehy and Heidi Fonzi in Parking, Transportation and Services to benefit the drive, in addition to participation in Pitt's annual United Way Day of Giving, the student-led Pitt Make a Difference Day and regional campus community service efforts.

"It's great to see the commitment to service and the University giving back to the communities that we're part of," the chancellor said.

In other business:

- Spring reminded faculty that the deadline for submitting intellectual property rights assignments or acknowledgments is Nov. 21.

- Spring said the Senate anticipates a December update from its ad hoc committees on non-tenure faculty issues. The committee, chaired by Irene Frizelle, Senate vice president, is charged with analyzing University policies and procedures related to full- and part-time non-tenure-stream faculty — "with an eye to adjustments that may need to be made and positioning of responsibility for consideration of these matters within the standing committees of the Senate, as well as identification of issues not currently within the purview of an existing standing committee."

- Membership of a second ad hoc Senate committee charged with addressing the University's current guidelines for performance evaluation and salary reduction has been set, Spring said.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
**Pitt organizes drives to help those in need**

Three drives sponsored by the Office of Community and Governmental Relations (CGR) will provide warm clothing to the area’s homeless, gather pet food for those in need and offer holiday cheer to local children who may not be getting presents this year.

- **Wrapping up tomorrow, Nov. 21,** the University’s annual effort to collect pet food for those in need. Pitt’s People For Pets aims to keep families and their pets together by suggesting that pet owners who are unable to feed their pets give them to local animal control agencies. Animal Control will also accept hundreds of households one month each gift pet food and pets through local community food pantries.
- **Drumming up Monday, Nov. 25,** all canned and frozen pet foods and treats at the drop-off locations listed below, or donations of money online through **ThinkingOutside/TheCage.org/Pitt**.
- **Pitt’s annual event** to give to local homeless shelters and transitional housing, while the hats, scarves and gloves will be distributed at Christ- 

**Lab notebooks in the digital age**

Leonardo da Vinci did it. So did Charles Darwin, Marie Curie and Grace Hopper. Keeping a lab notebook is part of the culture of the scientific enterprise, a necessary part of the research process for hundreds of years. Now, lab notebooks document a researcher’s hypotheses, experiments, data, figures, sketches, equations, analyses and more. In addition to organizing a person’s ideas and efforts, the notebook helps protect intellectual property derived from the research.

**What’s an ELN?**

An ELN — or electronic laboratory notebook — is a digital version of the analog or paper notebook. They are not specific to the sciences, but are used in many disciplines for their ability to store searchable notes, to share notebooks with others and to save almost anything — not just numbers, text and sketches — electronically.

Using an ELN, researchers and scholars can document both traditional and digital assets. Currently, Pitt researchers use traditional notebooks and several different ELN products, such as CERF, Evernote, OneNote, LabGuru and eCAT.

ELNs capture and store vast amounts of research data in one digital space. They have a number of advantages:

- **Improve searchability.** Search within the ELN and its related files.
- **Simplified backup/copy.** Can be backed up at regular intervals.
- **User access to control.** Ability to set controls to “read only.”
- **Improved lab management.** Consistency, customizable methods, and security and access controls.
- **Direct incorporated of data from instrumentation.**

CSDS is working with faculty and departmental and technology staff to identify requirements for a cross-disciplinary ELN product that could be centrally supported as an enterprise service available to all University research- and education-oriented units.

An enterprise solution can provide departments and labs groups with the efficiencies of administration (e.g. contract tracking and strong cost tracking and cost, but would not be a required service from the University. A number of vendors offer ELN products. After we identify Pitt’s needs, we will evaluate vendors to determine the best fit for our enterprise solution. The selected product will need to address the University’s legal, regulatory, quality assurance and account management, collaboration and centralized reporting needs. We have our work cut out for us.

**What Pitt researchers want**

Through discussion, surveys and focus groups, we know that important to researchers is the ease of use, flexibility and collaboration with internal and external collaborators. Researchers need easy access to their data at any time from anywhere. For some, the ability to collaborate remotely is key. Access to the data on the move with a mobile device is a key consideration.

While researchers must allow researchers to detail their methods and techniques and create data, they safeguard personal privacy. While it may seem obvious, the right ELN will take advantage of technology: backup, search and version-control will become much easier tasks. More specifically, Pitt faculty members do use an ELN can provide features that support their disciplines’ research, whether that is animal research, medical management, chemical biological regulatory inventories or immunology back- ground for long-term collection.

**Change can be good.**

**Projects that will help children**

Projects that will help children use devices to treat their asthma, a portable sensor that monitors a condition called osteoporosis and a web- based tool to aid recovery from knee injury were each awarded $100,000 prizes Nov. 12 in the second Pitt Innovation Challenge (PitCh).

Five other projects received $25,000 awards during the live judging event at the University Club.

More than 60 teams participated in the challenge, which was sponsored by the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), the Office of the Provost and the Innovation Institute. During the first phase of the competition, which began in September, each team submitted a video to advance to the final round. The winning teams were announced in a live event.

**“From cell to community. How can we help individual solutions for better health care?”**

Twelve teams were then asked to provide a written description of their proj- ects, and 10 finalists were chosen to present during the showcase.

**“CTSI visionary,”** research director Samuel E. Koepfli, associate chairman for clinical research, Health Sciences, and professor in the Department of Medicine, said: “PitCh is a celebration of the pioneering and entrepreneurial spirit of some of the brightest, most enterprising teams of visionary thinkers and leaders in the Pittsburgh region. This approach is leading to the implementation of some amazing devices.”

In addition to the cash prizes, winners also will get the assistance of a project manager to begin implementing their ideas.

**$100,000 awards**

- **Neovation**, a game-based software aid to help children properly use inhalers for inhaled treatment of conditions such as asthma. Team leader: Timothy Corcoran, medicine and bioengi- neering, pulmonary and critical care medicine.
- **Nanoket**, a small portable sensor for tracking people with a condition, common in diabetics in which the body uses fat instead of sugar for energy. Team leader: James Ellis, graduate student in Alexandra Sash’s lab, chemistry and bioengineering.
- **ACL Interaction**, a web-based tool to individualize rehabilitation of ACL injuries. Team leader is Michael McClary, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.
- **$25,000 awards**
  - **PediaTrian**, an educational video game that teaches children about heart conditions and families. Team leader is Tisha Houm, Pitt student.
  - **Psychometrica**, a screening test for metabolic disorders in infants to treat up to 3 years.
  - **Caring for Cancer Survivors** at the VA, a web-based tool to provide information for medical teams of childhood cancer survivors. Team leader is Aimee Costello, Children’s Hospital.
  - **MAGIC (Medication Admin- istration using Ginger.io In-Clinic)**, an app using passive and active data to track mental status of psychiatric patients. Team leader is Doug Henry, UBMC.
Faculty need advice on e-communication

A university Senate subcommittee has found that existing university academic freedom policies are sufficient to cover the use of electronic media, but that faculty could use more information on best practices for electronic communication.

The Senate tenure and academic freedom committee (TAF) formed a subcommittee to review Pitt’s policies in the wake of several well-publicized cases elsewhere in which repercussions resulted from faculty communications including emails and tweets.

In a Nov. 5 report to Faculty Assembly, TAFC member Seth Weinberg, who served on the subcommittee, said, “We basically were concerned that there were a lot of reports coming through the popular media about universities going after professors for doing things like posting online, posting things on social media sites, that usually were things like personal political views... There's been some concern in academic circles that there's not enough protection at the university level to guard academic freedom, academic speech.”

Weinberg said the TAFC subcommittee reviewed existing Pitt policies ranging from computer use to tenure obligations and responsibilities, as well as provost’s office position statements on academic freedom.

“We felt the current policies were not in need of repair or adjustment. They covered academic speech fairly well,” he said. “They aren’t specific in some way that would exclude electronic communications or other sort of communications.”

While the subcommittee found no overt gaps in University policies, “We did feel, however, that it would be reassuring if the provost would possibly make a statement of some sort, at least making clear that our policies extend equally to electronic speech, just as they do any other form of speech,” he said.

In addition, the subcommittee agreed that a “best practices” website for faculty may be in order to “just give faculty a little bit of information on some things to watch out for in thinking about your communication strategy, specifically around electronic communication,” Weinberg said.

“There are some things that happen in that form of communication that are new and kind of scary. The way things get propagated and shared is at a rate and a penetration that is just so different than any other form of communication that has previously existed. And there are some ramifications to that.”

Noting that the American Association of University Professors recently issued a report on academic freedom and electronic communications, Weinberg said the TAFC subcommittee expressed interest in developing a website in conjunction with the provost’s office “to help faculty make informed decisions for practical concerns such as setting up social media accounts for courses, ensuring that those accounts are separate from personal social media,” and in arranging a webinar or plenary session to address concerns.

University Senate President Michael Spring said, “I’m pleased to take a closer look at the University policies left this group with the feeling that we’re pretty much covered already,” adding “I share your concern for a best-practices kind of document or a website.”

Senate educational policies committee co-chair Zsuzsa Horvath noted that the committee last year began discussing the creation of digital ethics training videos in cooperation with the Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education and now is working forward to form a working group with TAFC to address these issues.

“Their not the same, but they have overlapping areas and these best practices would align well together with what’s coming from our committee,” she said, promising to keep the Assembly updated.

Senate budget policy committee co-chair John J. Baker commented, “I think this document was really quite well prepared. I agree that the University’s policies are pretty much adequate. I think the biggest problem is most faculty aren’t aware of them. So the idea of having some kind of educational forum on it, I think, is very good.”

Baker stressed the importance of being familiar with Pitt policies. With regard to the 2005 “statement on academic freedom at the University of Pittsburgh” (www.pitt.edu/~provost/afstatement.html), “it states that academic freedom resides with the University, not the faculty member,” he said, adding that what bothered him the most was the sensitive point when the statement was being developed.

“The University does bow to political pressure. That’s why this came up in the first place,” he said, referring to the state legislature’s decision in 2001 to stipulate that none of Pitt’s state appropriation could be used to fund the law school’s environmental law clinic. The restriction came after laws suits filed by Pitt law faculty to halt tree cutting in the Allegheny National Forest ranked state legislators and other lawmakers in the region.

A link to the TAFC subcommittee’s report and University documentation pertaining to academic freedom is posted at www.aaup.org/report/academic-freedom-and-electronic-communications.

For information on the Faculty & Staff Campaign, go to www.giveto.pitt.edu/fsgive.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Joncaire St. steps slated to be rebuilt

A key connection between Panther Hollow and central Oakland is set to become more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly.

The Joncaire Street steps, which connect Joncaire Street with Schenley Drive near the Pinn Fine Arts Building, will be rebuilt with the help of $384,000 in federal Transportation Alternatives Project funding. Construction is scheduled to take place next year, a city spokesperson said.

The Joncaire Street stairs project was one of 36 projects statewide selected by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to share $33 million in federal TAP funding.

A PennDOT spokesperson said the city plans to replace the deteriorated 136-step stairway with a wider, lighted staircase equipped with rails to aid in rolling bicycles up and down. The project is budgeted at $480,000. A Nov. 10 PennDOT release announcing the funding stated that TAP projects “enhance pedestrian and bicycle facilities, improve access to public transportation, create safe routes to school, preserve historic transportation structures, provide environmental mitigation, create trails that serve a transportation purpose and promote safety and mobility.”

Projects were selected based on criteria such as “safety benefits, reasonableness of cost, readiness for implementation, statewide or regional significance, integration of land use and transportation decision making, collaboration with stakeholders and leveraging of other projects or funding.”

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Why they give

Harvey S. Borovetz, Distinguished Professor of Engineering and former chair of the Department of Bioengineering, is finishing his 39th year at Pitt. So it’s understandable if he can’t remember exactly when he began contributing to the Faculty and Staff Campaign.

“I guess whatever they started sending me envelopes — a long time,” he says. “Whenever somebody sent me something I did my best to respond to it.”

But he certainly recalls why he’s been doing it. “Our students, both in the undergraduates and graduate levels, are very active professionally, and in their outreach activities. Even undergraduates travel to professional meetings and are involved in professional society work. So however we can support them, it’s something we certainly would like to do.”

He targets his contributions to his school’s bioengineering development fund and to athletics, since he is a Pitt sports fan.

“My primary academic appointment is in the Department of Bioengineering,” he explains. “It’s a department we’re all very proud of and we’re particularly proud of our students.”

He is confident that contributing to the campaign is simply the right thing to do. “It will always be used on behalf of our students in one way or another.”

For information on the Faculty & Staff Campaign, go to www.giveto.pitt.edu/fsgive.

—Marty Levine
A city divided: 25 years later, recalling the fall of the Berlin Wall

Nov. 9, 1989. The world watched in amazement as newscasters reported that the Berlin Wall was coming down. East Germans poured through the gates that had divided Berlin for nearly three decades. Celebrations erupted in the streets and revelers joined in singing and dancing atop the wall, which was being chipped away at with hammers and chisels. The Berlin Wall was coming down. Gorbachev: “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.” Ronald Reagan’s demand in 1987 to the leader of the Soviet Union. The Berlin Wall was torn up, and in the following months a permanent wall was erected the next day, roads were blocked, and the border to the western sectors of Greater Berlin.”

Temporary barriers were erected the next day, roads between East and West Berlin were torn up, and in the following months a permanent wall was constructed. The barrier did more than simply divide the city. When complete, it stretched nearly 100 miles to encircle West Berlin, separating the city from the surrounding East Germany territory.

Berlin became a symbol of the Cold War, the site of John F. Kennedy’s famous “Ich bin ein Berliner” speech in 1963, and of Ronald Reagan’s demand in 1987 to Soviet Union leader Mikhail Gorbachev: “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.”

Delmont said: “In the 28 years of the wall’s existence, the mundane daily activities of our life always had a backdrop — they were always set against the backdrop of continuous reminders of the constant threats of the Cold War.”

Luautzen was an American studying abroad, a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1989. She remembers that West Berlin, although enclosed, felt “incredibly free.”

Undoubtedly the most famous event of the Cold War was the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. As part of a series of events commemorating the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the University of Freie Berlin in collaboration with the Freie Universität Berlin held a series of events on campus commemorating the 25th anniversary of the historic event. Panelists Karen Lautanen of the Andy Warhol Museum and faculty members Ron Linden, Katja Wetzel and Gregor Thum, all of whom were living in Germany in 1989, discuss the fall of the Berlin Wall as part of a series of events on campus commemorating the 25th anniversary of the historic event.

On Aug. 12, 1961, in response to what was clearly a brain drain — many of the young and highly skilled professionals who were young, educated and it was threatening the very existence of East Germany and its stability — the GDR (German Democratic Republic) Council of Ministers declared: “In order to put a stop to the hostile activity of West Germany’s and West Berlin’s revanchist and militaristic forces, border controls of the kind generally found in every sovereign state will be set up at the border of the German Democratic Republic, including the border to the western sectors of Greater Berlin.”

“Thum, a West German who arrived in West Berlin in 1988 to study, agreed: ‘I think it was the biggest propaganda in world history.”

He said, “I was personally very fascinated by the wall. It was a big attraction in West Berlin — the bizarreness of the wall.”

West Germans could cross the border, he said: “But the East Germans were not free. I could jump on the metro and go back to the west. ... They could never dream of that ever. That knowledge limited the joy of being there.”

Border security was serious business, said Lautanen, who spent her senior year high school in West Berlin and traveled frequently to the eastern part of the city. On one visit in 1987 she was detained and held for several hours. “They pulled me out of the line and put me in a room. They took all my stuff away from me, including my passport and then quizzed me a number of times. It really snapped me into a lot of reality pretty quickly about what I was dealing with. Eventually I was allowed to cross into East Germany. ... It was really hard for me to understand how they really could have been worried about me at all. I was a 17-year-old girl moving back and forth to East Berlin.”

Quizzed about why she was visiting so often, she told them it was because she liked the architecture. “It’s funny now that I talk about it, but I wouldn’t have been able to say funny bad they really detained me,” she said. “They did take my passport and I was lucky at that point because there wasn’t any way that I could have contacted anybody. There weren’t any cell phones. There wasn’t any way to communicate with anybody.”

Hortgages were part of daily life in East Germany, said Wetzel, who was 12 when she and her mother were granted permission to leave the country. “While people didn’t go hungry, desirable consumer items were not readily available. ‘To get to new tears, it wasn’t that easy. You would need to know somebody who knows somebody to help you by to buy them,” she said.

She remembers being “very politically aware,” even in elementary school. “I was trained not to say things I heard at home. For instance, I was not allowed to talk anything politically because it could affect our chances of being allowed to leave the east,” she said.

After a three-year wait, they were allowed to leave in May 1989. Wetzel said they were given 24 hours to pack and go. “I could not say goodbye to the kids at school. It was not possible.”

Her family was divided by the move. “An older sister had decided she didn’t want to leave,” and remained in East Germany.

After living with relatives for the next two years in West Germany, Wetzel and her mother had just settled into an apartment on Berlin’s eastern side when the surprising news of Nov. 9 came. “We spent the rest of the night in the apartment,” she said. “What was just a miracle. It was really, really great because we knew things would probably change and now we would be able to see our family again,” she said.

Linden arrived in Munich in the summer of 1989 “expecting the Cold War to continue,” he said. “With Gorbachev there was a little tinkering and I think most of us thought there would be some soft reforms and a little tinkering around the edges.”

Linden said he was at home when he got the call from the U.S. office of Radio Free Europe: “He told me: ‘They just opened the Berlin Wall.’ ... I said what have you been drinking? It was absolutely the furthest thing from my mind.”

“It was an absolutely astonishing moment.”

Lucyet al., who lived in West Berlin near the wall, heard the news from a friend: “Turn on your TV. The wall has come down.”

“We watched immediately to the wall,” she said. “We followed the wall all the way to the Brandenburg Gate.”

“People stopped their cars in the middle of the street on this night,” said Aigertum Avenue just stopping and getting off. “That really happened,” Lautanen said.

“I had never seen the Germans so emotional. People were crying, people were hugging and touching each other. People were handing each other money, just opening their wallets and handling people money. People were opening up bottles of champagne, pulling out flasks.”

“It was just this incredible relief,” she said. “I think everyone was also stunned and wary. I think a lot of the people who came over, were there were talking to them, were unsure they were able to return. I think this flood happened over everyone. Thought ‘My God, what’s going to happen now...’ But we went and hung out and celebrated. ... It was a really exciting moment.”

Thum said he was in a university choir rehearsal preparing for a visit from a partner choir from Moscow State University...
Recalling the fall of the Berlin Wall
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

University when the news came. "We were playing, and someone said, 'The wall is open.'

"I didn't go right away to the wall. The next day we saw. This was unbelievable, the hole. You could really see that the state that had existed 40 years was in dissolution."

The choice from Moscow arrived a few days later amid chaos in Berlin. "They were very interested in getting tape recorders, a popular product not easily obtained in Moscow, he said. But when he took the guests shopping, there were no tape recorders to be found. "Amazing, for a first time in West German experience, the stores were empty because the East Germans came over and bought everything they could buy," he said.

"I apologized, but my Moscow friends said, 'Don't worry, we never believed in the propaganda that these things were available,'" Than said, recalling the experience.

Despite the attention surrounding the fall of the Berlin Wall, Germany was late to join in the reforms that were underway elsewhere in Europe. "I think it sometimes gets lost that the dismantling of the eastern bloc started first in Moscow with Gorbachev," Than said. In June 1989 there were partially free elections in Poland — a stunning victory for that movement. "In summer, Hungary opened the border to Austria. A lot of things were happening."

"In whole it was a crazy year," he said. "The best television show was the news, because nothing was more exciting than the news. Every evening there was something new and unbelievable."

Linden said, "Each of these European countries had a critical symbol during this amazing year that they could act on as a way of accommodating their own revolutionary public. The Hungarians opened the border with Austria... it was a way for East Germans to get out... The Czechs released (Vaclav) Havel from prison. The Romanians overthrew (Nicolae) Ceausescu..."

In the weeks before the fall, the East German government led by Erich Honecker had been dismantled and free elections had been promised.

Than said, "It was very clear, everything was falling apart. Nov. 9 was the seal. It was clear that the opening of the wall was the end of the GDR as a state. There was no future for the GDR. The wall was built to maintain the GDR."

Wetzel said, "The opening of the wall was a sign of collapse because they didn't know how to deal with all those East Germans who were leaving. They had thousands of East Germans just going into their cars once Hungary and Czechoslovakia began opening their borders. They had no way to keep these people. People would just leave... They'd leave everything behind and get to the West German embassy in Prague where they could take literally nothing with them."

"Our whole brotherhood of socialist nations that had been working for years fell apart, the East Germans were forced to do something," she said.

Uncertainty countered the happiness of the wall coming down and the borders opening. Wetzel said, "People in the east were still not sure what was going happen. They were still unsure about the economic situation. So people still continued to leave, creating an overflow of refugees into West Germany. There was a big refugee crisis because not everybody had relatives to go to,"

Wetzel said. "The opening renunciation of Germany created repercussions that continue to be felt today."

Than said. "The opening of the wall was really a moment of true joy... But then after a couple of weeks, the consequences became apparent. What does it actually mean for Germany, East Germany, for Europe, for the world? If unification happens it changes the entire architecture of postwar Europe."

"And I think we are seeing in the 25 years since then the politics in Europe have become much more complicated with a very big Germany in the middle of it... This is not what the post-World War II plan was," he said.


And University Library System Special Collections materials related to the fall of the Berlin Wall are on display through March. The exhibit, "Berlin 1945-1989: From the End of World War II in Europe to the Fall of the Wall," is in the second-floor exhibit cases at Hillman Library.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Lori Suchman, professor of anthropology of science and technology and co-director of the Centre for Science Studies at Lancaster University, delivered the annual Sins Fine Institute (SFI) lecture Nov. 6 at the University Club.

Her talk, "Sensing War at the Interface," focused on her research on immersive military training simulations that integrate virtual reality technology with physical props and human actors to create believably lifelike environments. Suchman's research environments have been used in military and educational institutions.

Her research is based in part on the archive of FlatWorld, a project of the University of Southern California's Institute for Creative Technologies that incorporates academic, government, gaming and entertainment industry collaborators in creating virtual reality environments. Suchman, who holds a PhD from the University of California-Berkley, was a researcher at Xerox Corp.'s Palo Alto Research Center for 20 years before joining the Lancaster University faculty in 2006.

SFI was established in 1999 in honor of School of Information Sciences faculty member Sins Fine, whose work focused on the psychological and sociological effects of new technologies. Fine, who died in 2012, taught in the School 1975-95, retiring professor emerita from the department of Library and Information Science.

Holiday Open House
Date: December 3rd
Time: 11:00am - 3:00pm

Place:
The PITT Shop
3939 Forties Avenue
412.648.2606
Maggie & Stella's Cards & Gifts
2039 Oakland Avenue
412.648.1806

The Oakland Bakery
3925 Fifth Avenue
412.365.7072
The University Store on Fifth
4000 Fifth Avenue
412.648.1465

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Business dean search forum gathers input

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institution at a very different time and perhaps don’t understand what the institution of today is,” and help them “see the vision for where the institution and where the schools are going.”

Quick said others had asked her to share the message that donors have been pleased with the business school’s direction and progress and that they view the impending leadership change as an opportunity for someone to continue the good work. Delaney has done in moving the school forward rather than to make dramatic, immediate changes.

• Jan Ware, director of alumni relations for Pitt business, noted that he observed how Dean Delaney on a recent trip to Asia interacted equally well with young alumni and one of the school’s wealthiest graduates. “Someone who doesn’t have an ego, somewho can relate with alumni and donors at all different levels, I think, is extremely important.”

He added, “Every decision (Delaney) has made that I’m aware of, has been made for the benefit of the students. I think that’s been a great attribute.”

• Admissions staff member Charmaine Evans, a 30-year veteran of the business school, asked the committee to seek candidates who will “talk with, not at, staff” and solicit their opinions and input when considering changes.

• Dennis Galletta, director of the Katz PhD program, would like to ensure the next dean will support the doctoral programs “to make sure we can compete with the best of other doctoral programs so we can continue placing students in the best possible positions.”

• Alumna Kathleen Farno-Mahaa said Pitt business undergraduates need more consistent technical skills, particularly in economics and computer science.

As an employer, she said she has found Pitt’s MBA graduates “fantastic” but has found inconsistency in undergraduates’ technical skills. “This needs to be more of a focus for the dean,” she said.

• Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education staffer Kevin Craig, a Katz MBA alumnus and lecturer in operations management, commended Delaney’s support for experience-based education programming.

“I want to see these initiatives started under the current administration continued,” he said. “In order for Katz and the business school to be competitive and move forward, we need to be innovative.”

• Bill Friday, a 1997 Katz school graduate and president of the Pitt business alumni association, expressed concern that the alumni group had no representation on the search committee, as it has in past business dean searches. “As degree owners we’ve got a lot at stake in the decision that’s going to be made, too. We’d love to be part of that,” he said, asking that the administration consider adding a representative from the alumni board to the search committee.

Nordenberg noted that the committee members themselves were all appointed or elected to the committee, and have no appointing authority of their own, although he promised to pass along the alumni board’s concern.

Nordenberg urged members of the University community to share their thoughts on the dean search with him, Thornton or members of the search committee as soon as possible.

In addition to the open forum, inquiries are being solicited via a survey posted at www provost pitt edu survey katz html. And, Nordenberg said, he and Provost Patricia E. Berenson have met with Katz and CBK faculty, Witt/Kieffer, Thorneburgh, has met with Katz school senior administrators and the school’s board of visitors who provided its own input on the search.

The position is to be advertised in the Chronicle of Higher Education later this month, and in online venues, Thorneburgh said.

Nordenberg said: “We know that, particularly at the outset, we’ve got to cast a very wide net, both in terms of identifying candidates and in terms of receiving the thoughtful perspectives of those from within the University community who have a particular interest in this search and the insights to share with us.”

Nordenberg told the University Times that although no strict timetable has been set, the provost could have the committee’s short list of candidates during the spring term, with the transition possible during summer 2013.

Including the session, Nordenberg thanked participants, saying, “We do our very best to deliver to the provost and chancellor the kind of finalists’ list from which they can select a dean who will keep the school moving forward in ways that matter to all of you.”

—Kimberly K. Barklow

UNIVERSITY TIMES
annual supplement

Books, Journals & More

Please furnish information to the University Times about peer-reviewed books, journals, CDs, electronic publications, art exhibitions, films, plays or musical compositions you wrote, edited or produced during 2014 only. Books must have a 2014 copyright.

NO individual journal articles, short stories, poems, chapters or self-published works can be accepted. Questions? Contact delraso@pitt.edu or 412/624-4644.

Submission form: www.utimes.pitt.edu

Submission deadline: January 31
Pitt's Osher institute initiates fundraising plans for expansion

Most people don't know that the Other Life-long Learning Institute (OLLI) exists. Pitt, admits its director, Jennifer Engel. She hopes a new strategic plan and dedicated staff members, whose annual budget will grow and diversify the membership of OLLI, which offers a full slate of classes, trips and travel opportunities aimed at those over 50.

She also hopes it will raise $20,000 from 15 percent of its current 1,100-plus members, allowing OLLI to apply for a second million-dollar endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation, which endowed Pitt's OLLI with $1 million in 2007.

The Foundation created its first OLLI at the University of Southern Maine in 2001, following by 40 more on other campuses across the country by 2004. Since Pitt's OLLI was established in 2005, a total of 119 OLLIs have been created — most with $100,000 gifts. Pitt is one of only 25 with a million-dollar endowment. Other Pennsylvania OLLIs are located at Carnegie Mellon, Penn State, Widener and Temple.

Today, OLLI at Pitt offers more than 80 hour-long classes, more than 30 five-week sessions and six-term, from "Playful Poets of the Renaissance" to "The Search for Anything" and "The Principles of Investing" and "Women in the Bible.

Most OLLI programs are separate nonprofits from their parent universities. Pitt’s OLLI’s ties to the University allow OLLI members to audit a long list of undergraduate courses as well. Members pay $115 per term or $225 for a school year, covering an unlimited number of OLLI offerings and two audits per academic term.

"Most of its publicity prior to now has been word of mouth," Engel says of OLLI, which she began leading just eight months ago. "We want to make sure that anybody who has a passion for learning knows about it.

OLLI's fundraising, begun in July before the campaign was announced, already has resulted in 102 members and 20 others contributing $16,000 toward the goal, which must be reached by June 30, 2013, to permit OLLI's next approach to the Osher Foundation.

But fundraising isn't all Engel plans to expand. "We didn't want to jump into a fundraising plan in place," she says. The organization also has a plan to expand its off-campus reach.

History, literature, and religious studies are among OLLI's most popular courses, while courses in science and the arts are among its most requested future courses. Engel also hopes to begin a Pitt history course by attracting Pitt University leaders to address the class.

OLLI's strategic plan, derived with the input of members, calls for diversifying its participants in several ways, since the majority of members are white, around 65, and from the East End. While classes technically are open to any age group, the plan aims to ensure more of those in those in their — currently just 13 percent of members — to join, as well as those who still are working. The plan envision evening and weekend classes for people who work during the usual class times, and OLLI satellite centers, particularly in the west and north of Pittsburgh, where public transportation to Pitt is not as direct.

The plan also hopes that individual Pitt departmentals will consider OLLI memberships as incentive gifts for current staff and faculty. University employees, retired or not, are natural candidates for OLLI classes, she says. "A lot of the people who are at the University are life-long learners." By 2011, Engel hopes, we will have between 1,200 and 1,300 members. People will know what OLLI is and what the benefits are to people over 50 ... and it will have a much more diverse membership.

"Our members will be more engaged and involved in Osher," she adds, and then we'll be a model for other OLLI programs across the country.

For more information on Pitt's program, go to www.cps.pitt.edu/node/331.

—Mary Levine

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Winter Open Houses December 3-9. RSVP online at www.shadySideAcademy.org/VisitUs

SAC to collaborate with CMU staff group

Pitt’s Staff Association Council (SAC) has been approached by the staff council at Carnegie Mellon University as part of the CMU group’s effort to examine how more established staff organizations function. SAC President Rich Cobwell announced at its Nov. 12 meeting.

"We are going to collaborate with them," Cobwell said. "We’re going to see if we can help each other look at the other council in the region and see what they’re doing," with the intent of potentially emulating others’ programming.

In other SAC news:

• During a presentation to the work of the Office of Governmental & Community Relations, by John M. Wilks, assistant vice chancellor for Community Relations, and Kaoru Saito, director, for Community Relations, Wilks announced a Dec. 10 public forum, Oakland Leadership Celebration, bringing together University Chancellor Patrick Gallagher and the four other new leaders of the largest employer in Pitt’s neighborhood. "There’s never been a time when the heads of all five Oakland institutions have changed in the same short period," Wilks said. The other senior leaders are new presidents of Carnegie Mellon University, Robert C. L. Suh, and CMOU, Suzanne K. Mellon, as well as Jayne C. Davis, Senior Vice President of CCMU and Executive Vice President and COO of the Health Sciences Division and Jo Ellen Parker, president of the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh. "We’re going to celebrate..." he said. "Hopefully they’re going to be talking about the future from their perspectives.”

The event, to start at 5:30 p.m. at Alumni Hall with a cocktail reception, will include a panel moderated by Bill Flanagan, executive vice president for corporate relations of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

Wilds warned that the event would have limited seating, but said the evening also would be webcast. Registration details are at www.pcode.org.

• Health, safety, IT and transportation chair Karen Drey said her committee is looking into whether staff firing marathons can be appointed for each building, as they once were, with SAC members ideally taking the lead in these volunteer posts to supervise evacuations during fires.

• Tamara Banks, staff relations chair, said the gender-wage gap remains currently being undertaken by SAC, with the aid of Human Resources officials, now also will include a comparison of salary increases between men and women. No timetable has been announced as of the study’s completion or release.

This year’s spring assembly will take place March 12 in the William Pitt Union and its focus will once again extend beyond technology.

• Elections for the next slate of SAC officers will be held at the group's May meeting; SAC members will vote on a four-person ad hoc elections committee in January.

• External relations chair Fiona Seals said her committee hopes to develop SAC videos to highlight the group’s capabilities and accomplishments, and has approached organizational development staffs in Human Resources to discuss future programming for SAC.

—Richard Cobwell

SAC is one of 42 organizations headed by Hillary Koller that reported that SAC’s Book Fund applications now are being reviewed, and that the annual award that year will be five $500 scholarships and one $500 — a new award in honor of Chancellor Emeritus Mark A. Nordenberg.

SAC member Matthew Richardson announced that the Pitt Dance Marathon would be offering all proceeds to a new charity this year, Children's Hos
dital, and that organizers of the 10th annual event are trying to increase involvement by the Pitt community. While Richardson said he did not expect staff members to spend 24 hours dancing in the Cost Sports Center (set for Nov. 21-22), staff can purchase individual or team fundraising goals through the event’s online site or may sponsor a ned at the event.

—Mary Levine

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UCSUR lecture
Land banks target vacant, delinquent properties

The state’s land-bank legislation of 2012 enabled Pitts-burgh to create its own law this April to more easily gather vacant and tax-delinquent properties for resale and development. New and proposed land banks all across the commonwealth make today “a really exciting time in Pennsylvania,” according to John Kroner, senior consultant with the Fels Institute of Gov-ernment at the University of Pennsylvania. Kroner spoke as part of a Nov. 7 University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) seminar on “Land Banks & ‘Land Aid’ in Pennsylvania Cities & Towns.” Kroner is the author most recently of “Fixing Broken Cities” and has worked with the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania. He was also direc-tor of housing for Philadelphia in the 1990s.

Real estate in parts of indus-trial towns is becoming more valuable today, he noted, although “it wasn’t so long ago that you couldn’t give away lots and build-ings.”

To get rid of blight, redevel-opment authorities such as Pitts-burgh’s Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) have long been able to purchase properties taken on by local treasurers for sheriff’s sale due to delinquent tax and utility bills. The URA also has been able to work with courts, municipalities, and utility companies to get rid of tax liens.

But finding the owners of abandoned properties and knock-ing through the courts and taxing authorities can take years for each property. Land banks now have unique powers under the 2012 law to expedite that process, as well as powers to convey the properties to developers more easily. Unlike redevelopment authorities, land banks can buy real estate and then sell it to a buyer — usually a developer — without having an established redevelopment agree-ment. They can acquire property brokered for tax sales before the sheriff’s auction starts. They can work with the new local government in Schuylkill County, for instance, local voters gave its land bank a small blight vote.

Without permanent funding, Pennsylvania land banks have had to focus on smaller projects, such as asset management in Philadelphia. There, the land bank began working together and creating a greenhouse for development. In its first two years, the land bank had turned over 5,000 properties and will begin acquiring more tax sales, planning to convey more and more each year: 350 in 2013, up to 2,250 by 2019. “That’s a pretty tall order,” Kroner allowed, even though the land bank has $50,000 in funding from the city and the redev eloopment authority and uses some of its staff.

A focus on blight elimination means that the land bank will seek to more frequently the goal of other state land banks already establish-ed: to bring back property where it can really make a difference with these blighted properties.”

Westmoreland County’s land bank, for instance, has just acquired the vacant 6.7-acre Mor-gantown Medical Center property. It and other county land banks are using their money and expertise in small municipalities that lack resources to work on elimi-nating blight. Westmoreland has signed agreements with 10 of its municipalitie, each of which pays the county $5,000 to discharge tax lien properties acquired by the land bank; each of the 10 also agrees to maintain land-banked properties until conveyed to new owners.

Some land banks sell prop-erties to developers as they are bought; others rehab the best or demolish the worst before trying to sell them. In Philadelphia the land bank can help houses all over the county, but the city also administers the Dauphin County Land Bank. Authority has decided to start small, with only four houses being acquired and renovated in two years.

“ ‘The tax sale is the biggest marketplace or ‘good properties’ target of those,” Kroner pointed out. “Not much to do that carefully with con-smetic planning in mind is missing a lot of opportunities. There’s an opportunity to make some money for the ‘public’ rather than letting private developers make up cheap properties, do minimal work to make them rentable and then neglect them again.”

In Bucks County, with the city of Reading, and in Erie, auction officials have had to expand their sales venues for the properties. Kroner has noticed Brooklyn and Miami residents among the bidders. There are also “great deals, but most properties still sell for ‘bargain basement prices,’ ” he lamented. While all of the properties remain unsold.

So we’ve got a big problem: Can we leverage the value of the sought-after properties to make some money?” to help buy and maintain the less-desirable properties they give.” That gives us an opportunity to tame the tax system in a good way.”

Kroner suggested two strategies land banks ought to try. One is to examine the tax-sale listings and see if there are threatened foreclosures and pull out the most sought-after properties for land banking and the second is for land banks to acquire the higher-value properties at sheriff’s sale, pay less for them, and then work with neighboring owners to sell those properties right away to developers.

To accomplish those goals, Kroner recommended that land banks vet potential development partners prior to property acquisi-tion. That tactic drew concern from audience member An Lewi, assistant faculty member in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSIPA) and executive director of the Steel Valley Council of Govern-ments, which is trying to start a land bank in your two area townships and school districts. She warned that some developers do not exist, and that even if they do, the overreach (that is) going to end up in court).

Kroner argued that any land banking strategy should be coupled with property maintenance code enforcement and a community planning effort: “What are our standards for making decisions about how to use towns and how will we consider for properties that will be considered for land banks?”

Kroner said that a “land bank” can sometimes raise hackles among the public, who envision the bank as a pos-sible government land grab. He proposed calling land banks “land aid” organizations instead.

Kendall Nelling, director of land development for the non-profit East Liberty Development, suggested that land banks and city officials sell back properties, but work to “take the sweet out of the bitter” the less desirable properties to en-umbers. “The auction is not the simplest expression of the private interest in land,” he said, that developers know: If we want to preserve our assets in a neigh-borhood, they are agency in his need to research and do our own buying and developing Develop-ment best and worst properties together, he said, “that’s where you really take care of the blight.”

An Lewi agreed. “ ‘The sweet spot,’ she said, is finding places of value in a close proximity, allowing you to ‘stabilize a neighborhood or section of a neighborhood’...”

Concluded Sabina Detrick, GSIPA faculty member and co-director of the urban and regional analysis research project. Westmoreland County’s Kroner: Land banks “are all different because they’re all just different,” and it’s up to us to set up. They’re very polarized.”

However, she added, “before that we want to.” The future is a whole of the question that kept us keeping those problems high what did us with fighting blight and fighting vacacy and help us pull together for existing challenges.”

— Mary Levine
Datasets for public health analyses inconsistent

Commercially available datasets containing a wealth of information about food and alcohol establishments differ significantly, raising concerns about their reliability as sources of information that could be used to set public policy or conduct scientific research, according to a Graduate-School of Public Health investigation.

The analysis, funded by the Astrea Foundation, was presented at the American Public Health Association’s (APHA) annual meeting. It examined statistical differences in two commercially available datasets when they were used to determine the relationship between neighborhood socioeconomic characteristics and the density of food and alcohol establishments.

Said lead investigator Dana Mendez of epidemiology, "If we’re making decisions about setting public policy to improve public health — such as incentives for grocery stores that offer fresh produce in economically depressed areas — then we need to be making these decisions based on accurate data to back up the need for such incentives. Our study found that relying on just one of these commercially available datasets likely wouldn’t provide robust information."

There are numerous datasets available for a fee that give detailed information about food and alcohol establishments across the US. Typically, these datasets are purchased by companies that use them for marketing purposes.

Mendez and her team used two different commercially available datasets containing information about food and alcohol establishments in Allegheny County, which includes Pittsburgh. The information was divided into the 416 distinct census tracts in the county as a means to define neighborhoods. Each census tract consists of an average of 4,000 people.

Both of the datasets showed that the density of alcohol outlets increased as neighborhood poverty increased. However, the datasets differed when it came to grocery stores. One showed that as poverty increased, the number of grocery stores increased. The other showed no association.

"This is a perplexing disagreement that likely comes down to the datasets using different classification systems and also not accurately capturing all the information. For example, because we are familiar with Allegheny County, my team was able to determine that some of the key grocery stores in our area were not included," said Mendez. "However, if we were doing a similar analysis for a city we were not familiar with, we likely would catch the discrepancy and could come to an accurate conclusion."

The Astrea Foundation funded the study as part of a larger grant to public health to study the potential influence of living in stressful neighborhoods on the health of African-American mothers and their babies.

Additional researchers on this study included Anthony Fabio and Kevin H. Kim of Pitt and a faculty member from Duquesne University.

Cyber dating abuse common among teenagers

Two in five teens surveyed experienced cyber dating abuse, which involves the use of technology to control, harass, threaten or stalk another person in the context of a dating relationship, in the previous three months, according to a Children’s Hospital study that appears online in Pediatrics.

"The study is the first about cyber dating abuse among a group of young people who are using school-based health services," said senior investigator Elizabeth Miller, pediatrics faculty member in medicine and chief of the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Children’s Hospital.

"In collaboration with the California Adolescent Health Collaborative of the Public Health Institute, California School-Based Health Alliance and Partners Without Violence, the study was conducted at eight school-based health centers in California where students receive confidential clinical health services, including annual checkups, sports physicals and birth control. The study, conducted during the 2012-13 school year, assessed those ages 14-19 for exposure to cyber dating abuse, adolescent relationship abuse, sexual behavior and care-seeking for sexual and reproductive health.

Key findings showed 41 percent of teens reported experiencing this form of abuse within the last three months, with more females than males reporting such victimization. Most commonly, their perpetrators used technology, including mobile apps, social networking, texts or other digital communication to repeatedly contact them to see where they were and who they were with.

Said Miller: "These findings underscore that cyber dating abuse is an emerging concern. We need to support prevention efforts that increase education about the many different forms of abuse in adolescent relationships, and to encourage parents, teachers, coaches and others to talk to young people about what healthy relationships look like.

As in previous research examining this form of abuse, the researchers found that teens exposed to cyber dating abuse were more likely to also experience other forms of abuse, including physical and sexual dating abuse, such as being slapped, choked or made to have sex by a dating partner, in addition to non-partner sexual assault. Additionally, greater exposure to cyber dating abuse was associated with less contraceptive use among adolescent girls.

"Professionals should talk to young people about empowering themselves by monitoring, questioning and sexting oneself, and empowering those they interact with to prevent and report such behavior," said Miller.

According to principal investigator David T. Huang, faculty member in critical care medicine and emergency medicine, patients who go to hospital emergency departments (ED) with coughs and breathing difficulties could have pneumonia, bronchitis, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or even congestive heart failure.

Said Huang: "Doctors prescribe antibiotics more often than..."
FDA approves personalized blood test to predict transplant rejection

A personalized blood test to predict the likelihood of organ rejection in children with liver or intestine transplants has received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval. Researchers at Children’s Hospital developed the test to determine a personalized rejection-risk index with cell-based technology.

**How the tiger beetle visualizes prey**

The tiger beetle, relative to its size, is the fastest creature on Earth. At their top speed, insects—tiny-inch-long beetles cover about 120 body lengths per second (at 457 kilometers per hour). Only the fastest human can do about five body lengths. To take the sprinter’s shoe, a person would have to hit 480 miles per hour.

But the tiger beetle has problems. At peak speeds, everything becomes a blur. It can gather enough light with its eyes, and it can savor the momentary opportunities, but it still cannot perceive the pursued but unseen prey.

**Radisic Vidic**

UNDERFIGURE TIMES

**RESEARCH NOTES**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

there’s a way to be really hard to tell if a patient has a lung infection or a non-infectious disease. The chest X-ray is very much like bacterial infections, and X-rays typically cannot distinguish between the two. This study will examine whether a novel biomarker can help doctors make more accurate decisions about antibiotic treatments.

School of Medicine faculty member in the department of Internal Medicine, Dr. Francesca Jovin, will lead the study in the ED and hospital.

More than 1,500 lung infection patients will be needed to complete the Prevalence of Antibiotic Consensus Trial (ProACT), which eventually will be expanded to include approximately 10 sites across the country.

Patients diagnosed in the ED with a lung infection and who are not critically ill will be asked to get the usual care alone or to also have a blood test to measure the presence of lung infection. Those who have pneumonia, which previous studies have shown is high with bacterial lung infections, will also have a viral infection. The result and a recommendation about antibiotic use will be available within one hour to the treating ED physician. If the patient is admitted to the hospital, a doctor at that hospital will be notified. The study will call study participants twice within 30 days of the ED visit to check on their health status and the period of antibiotic use, if any.

“The final decision to use or not use antibiotics is up to the doctor, who also will be taking into account the patient’s medical history and other factors,” Huang said. “My hope is that we’ll find that patient outcomes are just as good while antibiotic use declines.”

ProACT is funded by a $5 million grant from the National Cancer Institute’s one-year trial planning grant, from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

New method to treat high-saline water

Developing a method to use waste heat from thermoelectric plants to treat high-saline water from hydrofracturing and other processes is the focus of a Department of Energy project that recently awarded grants to researchers at the Swanson School of Engineering’s Department of Energy and Environmental Engineering.

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**Schunn said that “we chose to look at a variety of problems to find out if there is a consistent pattern, and there is. And we can see this from within people for a variety of problems, to identify the ideas that are ‘close’ and ‘direct people to look at them.”**

In short, Chan, said, “My overall theory is that creative ideas come from realizing the missing small insights, shifting the boundaries just a bit at a time.”

**Preventing colon cancer through anti-inflammatories**

Anti-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) protect against the development of colorectal cancer by inducing cell suicide pathways in intestinal stem cells that carry cancer-promoting genetic changes, according to a new study led by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Carnegie Mellon University, and the National Academy of Sciences.

Scientists have long known that the colon is at risk of developing tumors that use NSAIDs, such as aspirin and ibuprofen, lowers inflammation and reduces this future polyps, which can transform into colon cancer. But they have not known how aspirin and other NSAID can prevent colon cancer.”

**Lin Zhang**, faculty member in Medicine’s Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, said the team’s findings could be applicable to other tissues or organs at risk.

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RESEARCH NOTES

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and the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Center.

Addie Zhang: “Our study identified a new mechanism that could explain how this preventive effect occurs. These findings provide new insights into how aspirin and other non-aspirin NSAIDs may help lower the risk of colorectal cancer in the general population.”

The research team performed experiments on mouse models and examined tumor samples from patients who had taken NSAIDs in clinical trials. They found that NSAIDs activate the so-called death receptor pathway, which selectively triggers a suicide program in intestinal stem cells that have a mutation in the AIP gene that renders the cells dysfunctional. Healthy cells lack the mutation, so NSAIDs cause them to die. As a result, the drugs instigate the early auto-destruction of cells that could lead to cancer or unhealthy tumors.

“While we want to use our new understanding of this mechanism as a starting point to design better drugs and effective cancer prevention strategies for those at high risk of colorectal cancer,” Zhang said, “ideally we could harness the natural inhibitory effects of NSAIDs and avoid possible side effects that can occur with their chronic use, such as gastrointestinal bleeding and ulcers.”

The research team included lead authors Brian Leibowitz and Jian Yu of UPCI and the Department of Pathology, as well as others from UPCI and the School of Medicine, Sichuan University, INCELL Corp., and Indiana University School of Medicine.

The project was funded by NIH and the American Cancer Society.

Blood thinner dabigatran found to cause more bleeding

Patients with atrial fibrillation who take the blood thinner dabigatran are at greater risk for major bleeding and gastrointestinal bleeding than those who take warfarin, according to a study by researchers at the Graduate School of Public Health.

The findings, based on Medicare claims data and published in JAMA Internal Medicine, indicate greater caution is needed when prescribing dabigatran to certain high-risk patients.

Atrial fibrillation, an arrhythmia in which the heart’s upper chambers irregularly contract, causes the blood to pool in the veins from the liver to the blood vessels in the brain, explained study senior author Yuning Zhang, family member and director of the Pharmacoeconomic Research Group in Public Health, Department of Health Policy and Management.

For that reason, these patients often take blood thinners to prevent blood clots from forming and clotting.

The study was introduced in 2016 and, at the time of approval, it was the only study of a major, new, direct-acting anticoagulant, Zhang said. “Warfarin dosing can be tricky, and monitoring with blood

For more information, contact the Activity of Enterprise Development at 412-624-3160.

Course Highlights

• Develop your own ideas in workshop format
• Analyze the market potential of your discovery
• Maximize the full value of your intellectual property

The Innovation Institute facilitates the commercialization of technologies developed by University of Pittsburgh health sciences faculty, so the public may benefit from University discoveries and inventions.

The Innovation Institute is a joint partnership between the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC.

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The University of Vermont is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity and does not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, race, color, religion, national origin, veteran status, marital status, or genetic information in the administration of its educational programs or employment practices. The University of Vermont is committed to the highest standards of academic excellence, integrity, and community engagement. It offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs, including degrees in arts, sciences, business, education, health, law, and engineering.

The university is located in Burlington, Vermont, with several branch campuses in the state. It has a diverse student body and is known for its strong academic programs, research opportunities, and beautiful campus setting.

The University Times is a publication that covers news and events related to the University of Vermont. It includes articles on academic programs, research initiatives, student activities, and other university news.

In this issue, there is an article about the University of Vermont's leadership, featuring interviews with key administrators and faculty members. The article highlights the institution's commitment to excellence and innovation in education, research, and community engagement. The University Times is a valuable resource for students, faculty, staff, and the broader community, providing insights into the dynamic and vibrant life at the University of Vermont.
PEOPLE OF THE TIMES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

her MFA in theatre pedagogy with specialization in arts and education from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Faculty member Irene Friese was one of the winners of the 2014 Iris Marion Young Award for Political Engagement. The award recognizes individual contributions to social justice and democracy by Pitt alumni, faculty, staff or students.

The award commemorates the memory of the late Iris Marion Young, a philosopher and activist for gender equality, who was a faculty member in Pitt’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs in the 1990s. Friese is a faculty member in psychology, business administration and women’s studies. She was a founding faculty member of Pitt’s women’s studies program providing focused study of the gender, sexuality and women’s theories curriculum. In 1972 she directed the program 1984-89 and continued to be an active member of the program’s steering committee until 2014. Friese also has served as the chairperson for the University Senate ad hoc committee for the promotion of gender equity as well as the Senate’s ad hoc committee for the support and advancement of women.

Other winners include Yumma Rathore and senior Joseph Thomas. Award winners were honored at a Nov. 6 reception that included a panel discussion on race and education in Pittsburgh.

The Iris Marion Young Award is sponsored by the gender, sexuality and women’s studies program; the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs; the Office of the Vice Provost and Dean of Students; the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences; and the Center for Urban Education.

Dining on the School of Medicine’s annual curriculum colloquium, which was held last month, faculty members were honored for outstanding contributions to medical education.

The following are the winners of this year’s teaching awards:

- The Kenneth E. Schuit Award recognizes basic science and clinical faculty for education-related contributions to the School of Medicine curriculum: Elmer J. Holmgren, medicine, and Peter F. Dein, cell biology.
- The Sheldon Adler Award for Innovation to Medical Education recognizes individual achievement in innovation in medical education: Susan Dumnah, emergency medicine.
- The Donald S. Fraser Award for Best Medical Student Mentoring recognizes individuals for their service as mentors to medical students: Sharitha M. Zimmer, medicine.
- The Clerkship Preceptor of the Year Award recognizes faculty clinical preceptors who consistently provide outstanding clinical instruction and a favorable setting for Pitt medical students.

Amanda Brown, pediatrics; Sean E. Burton, pediatrics; Sherry T. C. Cook, pediatrics; Ankur A. Doshi, emergency medicine; Jody A. Glassman, psych.

The William I. Cohen Award for Excellence in Clinical Skills Instruction was awarded to a faculty member who consistently provide outstanding clinical skills instruction for first- and second-year medical students: Beth A. Peterson, emergency medicine; Reed W. Van Deuren, medicine.

The Award for Excellence in Clinical Precepting recognizes clinical preceptors who consistently provide outstanding clinical instruction in a community setting: Charles E. Reese, medicine; Marc J. Schneiderman, family medicine; Katerina A. Zavaroni, pediatrics.

The Clinical Educator of the Year Award was awarded to a faculty member who consistently provide outstanding clinical education in a third- or fourth-year elective course: Roberto J. Ortiz-Aguayo, psychiatry and pediatrics; Adam Z. Tobias, emergency medicine.

The Award for Outstanding Mini-Resident recognizing a resident who volunteer their expertise to present a mini-elective for first-year students. These electives provide students with the opportunity to pursue areas of interest and personal growth in areas outside of the traditional core curriculum: Antoine B. Donisay, psychiatry; Alice S. Howells, medicine; Joe Suyama, emergency medicine; Peter J. Veldskamp, medicine.

The Excellence in Education Awards, chosen by the Class of 2016 for valued contributions and dedication to teaching of the organ systems: course director — Jennifer E. Lee, medicine; lecturer — R. Haisha Rao, medicine; small-group facilitator — William P. Pollaner, medicine.

The Excellence in Education Awards, given by the Class of 2017 for valued contributions and dedication to teaching of the basic sciences and organ systems: course director — John B. Schumann, neurobiology; lecturers — James D. Tew Jr., psychiatry; small-group facilitators — Esa M. Davis, medicine; Ivonne M. Duly, critical care medicine; Joe Suyama, emergency medicine.

Chandrasheka Singh, faculty member in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and director of the affiliated Planck-based Science Education Research Center (db-SEC), has been named a fellow of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT).

Eliseh Karrunca, a nursing faculty member at Pitt-Johnston, who won Pitt’s nursing educator award. The awards gala has raised more than $1.2 million for the Cancer Care Endowed Nursing Scholarship program since the fund’s establishment in 2001. The scholarship supports practicing nurses who want to continue their education.

Lewis Kuller, former chair of the Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Epidemiology, has been named the winner of the John Snow Award from the American Public Health Association (APHA) and the Royal Society for Public Health in England. The award annually recognizes an outstanding scientist for excellence in epidemiologic practice or research. Award winners are chosen for their contributions to the improvement of human health or to substantial reduction in the burden of disease through innovations in public health practice based on clear epidemiologic foundations or implementation of epidemiologic approaches to the solution of health problems. Their contributions are practical, explicit and applied, rather than theoretical or speculative.

Oscar Albiez, director of epidemiology at the Rockefeller County Health Department in New York and a past chair of the APHA epidemiology section, said: “Dr. Kuller was selected because of his extraordinary body of work, contributing to the field of epidemiology, but also his impact on students and the next generation of epidemiologists.”

The award commemorates John Snow, a 19th-century British physician credited as one of the founding fathers of epidemiologic techniques, such as the cluster, to detect early heart disease in people without symptoms. He also is recognized for his research on the causes and prevention of causes, as well as the study of Anthrax’s disease.

Kuller received his medical degree from George Washington University and completed his residency in medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA. He received his M.D. in public health before joining the faculty there. In 1973, he became the chief epidemiology department, which he led for 30 years.

Sikh has conducted pioneering research on teaching and learning of quantum mechanics for almost two decades. She also has made major contributions in the areas of cognitive issues in learning physics, teaching effective problem solving, assessment of learning and impact of peer interaction on learning and re-construction of knowledge.

William T. Valenta Jr. has been named assistant dean for MBA and executive programs in the Katz Graduate School of Business. He will oversee both the MBA and EMBA worldwide programs as well as the Center for Executive Education.

The School of Nursing held its annual Awards of Caring gala Nov. 8 to celebrate the profession and to help alleviate the shortage of nurses by promoting nursing as a viable and rewarding career choice. This year 68 nurses from 24 health care facilities were honored.

Among the honorees was

The Opinion of Teaching Survey period has begun

Survey links were sent to students via e-mail and appear on their Course/Web/Blackboard landing page.

- Ask students to complete the survey.
- Allow time in class for students to complete the surveys on their laptop, tablet, or smartphone.
- Deadline for students to respond: December 7

Questions? Go to cidde.pitt.edu/omet or call us at 412-624-6440.

Office of Measurement and Evaluation of Teaching
**Monday 24**

Chemistry Seminar
"Biomaterials & Biotechnology: From the Discovery of the First Asparagosine Analogues to the Development of Controlled Drug Delivery Systems & the Foundation of Tissue Engineering," Robert Langer, MIT, 1:30 Chem 108, 4 pm

**Tuesday 25**

Senate Admissions & Student Aid Committee Mtg
229 Alumni, noon

Basic & Translational Research Seminar
"Lost in Translation" in Urologic Oncology," Sorin Dumitru, U of Headfngton, Hillman Cancer Ctr, Cooper Classroom D, noon (terg@upmc.edu)

Medicine Follows Educational Conf.
"Journal Jeopardy! 1," Foyly conf. rm. ML, noon (pfi@pitt.edu)

**Wednesday 26**

• Thanksgiving recess. No classes through Nov. 30.

Women’s Basketball
Vs. Radford, Petersen, 7 pm

**Thursday 27**

• University closed through Nov. 26 in observance of Thanksgiving.

**Saturday 29**

Heinz Chapel Choir Holiday Concert
Heinz Chapel, 8 pm (also Nov. 30 at 4 pm; 5-7299)

**Sunday 30**

Women’s Basketball
Vs. Loyola (MD), Petersen, 2 pm

**December**

**Monday 1**

• Classes resume.

Flow Cytometry Workshop
Hillman Cancer Ctr 2-4 floor lounge, noon, 9 am

CIDDTE TA Workshop
"Teaching Well with PowerPoint," G74 Hillman, 10 am (www.ciddte.pitt.edu)

CRSP Lecture
"Reimagining the Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century," Fredrick Thomas, Baldwin Foundation, 2017 CI, noon (4-7105)

**Tuesday 2**

Faculty & Staff Development Program
"Microsoft Excel 2010 Fundamentals," Vernon Fradlin, 302 Bellefield, 9 am-noon (register: www.la.pitt.edu/fasp)

Philosophy of Science Talk
"Troubling to Consider: Trading Speed for Precision," Colin O’Goonan, UC-Irvine, 718 S. 4th CI, 4:10 pm (4-1052)

Molecular Biology How-To Talk
"Macrophagation of Promonocytic MicrRNAa in the Cell," Jacek Bialkowski, Falk Library classroom 3, 2 pm (jawood@pitt.edu)

Faculty Assembly Mtg
7000 Potrue, 3 pm

Pharmacology & Chemical Biology Seminar
"IGF Regulation of Breast Cancer Invasion & Progression," Charles Lee, 1390 BSR, 3:30 pm (tomeclass@pitt.edu)

Greenbush Campus Poetry Reading
Ebbe Amorosos, Chamber Festival Lounge, LURG, 7 pm

**Wednesday 3**

Faculty & Staff Development Program
"An Introduction to Social Media: Networking the Old & the New," 3422 CSE, Research Center Administration, Kelly Darzens, R21 UCHL, 9-11 am (register: www.la.pitt.edu/fasp)

**Thursday 4**

Office of Academic Career Development Workshop
"Developing Competitive Grant Applications," Boister Ferraro & Peter Ferraro, S120 BRT, 8-10:30 am (noed@pitt.edu)

Faculty & Staff Development Program
"Understanding Your Personality in the Workplace," Mark Buschul & Maureen Lunsy, 345 CSE, 9 am-12:30 pm (register: www.cs.pitt.edu/fasp)

HSLS Workshop
"Pandemic Prepartion," Pat Ward, Falk Library classroom 1, noon (pfi@pitt.edu)

**Holiday Open House**

PITT Shop, Maggie & Stella’s, Oakland Bakery & U Store on 5th, 11 am-3 pm

CIDDTE TA Workshops
"Developing a Teaching Philosophy Statement," 11 am, "Dealing With Difficult Situations in the Classroom," 3 pm, G74 Hillman (www.ciddte.pitt.edu)

MMG Seminar
James Borch, PSU, 560 Bridgeside Pt., 2 pm

Dental Medicine Clinical Research Lecture
"Treating Head & Neck Cancer: A Multidisciplinary Approach," Sally Fuchs, 458 Salle, noon

HSLS Workshop
"Primer Design & Restriction Analysis," Carrie Tomlinson, Falk Library Memorial 2, 1-3 pm (jiwam@pitt.edu)

Greenbush Campus Prospective Student Information Session
UPG, 1-2 pm (registration required 724/556-9880)

Pitt Symphony Orchestra Concert
Bellefield auditorium, 8 pm

**Epidemiology Seminar**

"Reducing Risky Sex Among College Students: Prospects for Context-Specific Interventions," Christina Max, public health med, noon

FOH Seminar
"Development & Applications of Fluorescent Chemosensors for Metal & Radical Oxygen Species," Kamran Koirala, 540 Bridgeside Pt., noon (tamey@pitt.edu)

Holiday Concert
Pitt Jazz Ensemble, Bellefield auditorium, 8 pm

**Defenses**

A65/Mathematics
"On Causal Geometries," Jonathan Holland, Nov 20, 4:37 Thackeray, 10 am

A65/Psychology
"Urbanitas, Income & Academic & Behavioral Outcomes Across Childhood, Longitudinal Association & Mediating Mechanisms," Perian Miller, Nov 20, 4:30 Senett, 10 am

A65/Computer Science
"Accessing Knowledge Production System for Evidence-Based Studies," Vanessa Reis, Nov 20, 1010 CI, 2 pm

A65/History & Philosophy of Science
"Interventional Causation in Physical Sciences," Karen Zeiner, Nov 20, 4:30 Wean Hall, 10 am

A65/Chemistry
"Theoretical & Experimental Exploration of Charge Transfer in Small Molecules & Peptide Nucleic Acids," Xue-Ting Tu, Nov 21, 3:30 Elbashir, 1 pm

**A HOLIDAY REMINDER FROM THE OFFICE OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

All faculty, staff and students are reminded to turn off computers, radios, copiers, printers, scanners, automatic coffee machines, lights & other items in their area before leaving for the holiday.

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

Facilities Management thanks you for your consideration & wishes you a Happy Thanksgiving!
A&S/Computer Science
"Efficient, Locally-Enforceable Queue Partition for Distributed Database Systems," Nicholas Padget. Nov. 23, 5177 Seminit, 2:30 pm

Medicine/Computational Biology
"Distributed Spectral Graph Methods for Analyzing Large-Scale Unstructured Biomedical Data," Shannon Quinn. Nov. 24, 650 Gates-Hillman Complex, CML, 9 am

SIRS/Health Information Management
"An Integration of User Interface Design and Development of a Mobile Health System for Individuals With Diabetes and Impairments," Delshia Yu. Nov. 24, 6415 Forbes Pk, 10 am

Public Health/Health Policy & Management

Medicine/Molecular & Biophysics & Systems Biology
"Site-Specific Stresses & Dynamics of Polypeptide-Containing Assembly Filaments & the Cancerous Cell Mitochondria," Mayeul Arapis. Nov. 24, 408 RITC, 1 pm

A&S/Chemistry
"Synthesis of Neopolitalepols & Antibacterial & Antioxidant Activity," Zuzana Kovaříková. Nov. 25, 3607 Ekeley, 9 am

A&S/Classics
"Killing Tyrants: A Reading of Aeschylus, Medeis of Aetolia," Andrei Kostogradov. Nov. 25, 5061 Seminit, 10 am

Public Health/Behavioral & Community Health Sciences
"Gay as the Neighborhood: How Neighborhood & Context Impacts HIV & Substance Use Risks & Resilience of Gay, Bisexual & Other Men Who Have Sex With Men in New York City," Janet Eng, Nov. 25, 2502 Bellwood 2nd fl. conf rm, 1 pm

Public Health/Environmental & Occupational Health
"Hybrid Dispersion/Land Use: Exposure Modeling for Improving Air Pollutant Concentration Estimates," Dave Mauzeroll. Dec. 1, 406 Schenley Pt. 3rd fl. conf rm, 1 pm

Public Health/Biostatistics

A&S/Chemistry
"Multiplexing Techniques in Quantitative Proteomics to Study Disease," Ashok Bansal. Dec. 1, 307 Ekeley, 3 pm

Public Health/Environmental Health

A&S/Computer Science
"Adapting the Scheduling of Illustrations & Graphs to Learners in Conceptual Physics Tutorials," Michael Lipkind et al. Dec. 2, 5177 Seminit, 10 am

A&S/Chemistry

Public Health/Biostatistics
"Inference on Quantile Residual Life for Length BasedSurvival Data," Sania Lopez. Dec. 2, 309B Parson, 11 am

Public Health/Environmental & Occupational Health
"Exposure Assessment Methods for Examining the Role of Non-Chemical Stressors in Environmental Health Disparities," Jesse Cas- Simão. Dec. 3, 309B Parson, 9th fl. conf rm, 1 pm

A&S/Physics & Astronomy

Public Health/Epidemiology
"Determinants of Depressive Symptomatology Among Older Adults in Community & Treatment Settings," Stephen Snaga. Dec. 3, 309B Parson, 2 pm

Medicine/Molecular & Biophysics & Microbiology
"New Insights & Novel Treatments for VZV-Induced Pain in a Rat Model of Preeclampsia," Jessica Morgan. Dec. 4, 4141 RTSB, 10 am

Public Health/Biostatistics

Public Health/Epidemiology
"Using GIS to Link SEER & Medicare & Cohort Placeholders: Data: A Populations-Based Case-Control Study of Pesticide Exposures & Hepatocellular Carcinoma Risk," Tong VongPak. Dec. 4, 4003 Parson Cancer Pt conf rm, 9 am

A&S/Chemistry
"Probing Molecular Interactions in Metal-All-Complete & Superspecial Collections Exhibits
"Reading Grotesque," 363 Hillman. Dec. 12, 10 am-10 pm

SIRS/Health Information Management
"All In: The University in the Great War," Hillman Library p. 4. Dec. 13, 10 am-10 pm

Deadlines
OMET Teaching Survey Response deadline is Dec. 7 (grades@pitt.edu)
Basic to Clinical Collaborative Research Pilot Program Submission deadline is Dec. 15 (g4@pitt.edu)
Sustainable Innovation Grant Proposals due Jan. 30 (g4@pitt.edu)

Event Deadline
The next issue of the University Times will include University & off-campus events of Dec. 4-Jan. 8 Information for events during that period must be received by 5 pm on Nov. 26. Send information to utcal@pitt.edu.
Thursday 20

Medicine Seminar
“Making Sense of Tomornotol’s Cancer Vaccine Progress” by Steven Austen, MD, 11:30 am

ADRC Lecture
“How Does the Brain Break Our Hearts? A Neurobiological Perspective on Stress & Cardiovascular Disease” by Norma Giaccarelli, MD, 11:30 am

Epidemiology Seminar
“Prevalence of Malaria in the United States” by Alison Thomas, 11:30 am

EEOH Seminar
“Pulmonary Responses to Inhalation of Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotube” by Christopher Cattanach, MD, WVU, 11:30 am

Needlecord Law/Medicine/Psychiatry Lecture
“Medicojudicial Issues: Polio & Women in Pennsylvania & Beyond” by Sidney Watson, PhD, 11:30 am

Thurber’s Basketball vs. St. Joseph’s College, 9 pm

Contemporary Writers Lecture
Novelist Naipaul, 6:30 pm

Friday 21

SDBC Workshop
“The 2nd Step: Developing a Business Plan” by Martin S. Marks, 10 am

Autobahn Day
535 Hillsdale Library: East Wing, 11 am

CIBER Workshop
“Concepts of Pokemon GO” by Martin S. Marks, 10 am

Saturday 22

Heinz Chapel Vespers & Resurrection
Heinz Chapel, 11 am

Sunday 23

Episcopal Service
Heinz Chapel, 11 am

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The Discussions on Governance Lecture Series

James A. Getty
President Abraham Lincoln Portrait

“Lincoln and His Leadership”

JOIN US as one of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania’s most recognized residents comes to life on stage this fall in the award-winning performance.

November 20, 2014
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Alumni Hall / Connolly Ballroom
4227 Fifth Ave. / Pittsburgh, PA 15260

To Register and for more information, visit:

www.thoroburghforum.pitt.edu

This event is brought to you by:
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