Survey shows most pay hikes for staff exceeded inflation

Between fiscal years 1998 and 2013, the consumer price index (CPI) rose 9.3 percent. For the 1,105 full-time staff members who were employed at Pitt during the entire 15-year period, 94 percent received salary increases that exceeded inflation. A salary cohort analysis prepared by the Office of the Provost for the University Senate budget policy committee (BPC) for the first time compared how long-term Pitt staff fared, in addition to updating earlier cohort reports on Pitt full-time faculty salaries (see Nov. 21, 2013, University Times). The data indicate that Pitt’s staff are made up of full-time active staff in FY98 who remained so in FY13. It covers staff on the Oakland and Pittsbugh campuses, including the medical school, and staff on Pitt’s regional campuses, said Amaada Bodich of the Office of the Provost, in her presentation at BPC’s Dec. 12 meeting.

The 13-year staff cohort represents 66.3 percent of the University’s FY13 full-time staff of 6,699.

According to the report, 98 percent of the staff cohort exceeded the overall salary pool maintenance costs for employees with satisfactory performance), which rose 28 percent.

74 percent of the staff cohort exceeded the overall salary pool (maintenance, merit, merit and equity components) increase, which rose 9 percent.

• 74 percent of the staff cohort exceeded the 58 percent increase in the overall salary pool increase plus academic initiatives funds. Although academic initiatives don’t apply to staff, the compensation was made in order to staff salary performance in comparison to the total.

The analysis did not differentiate between staff who remained in the same job classification throughout the entire period and those who moved to higher classification.

David Dejong, vice provost for academic planning and resources management, said his office would examine ways to separate the groups in future analyses.

Faculty cohort salary analysis

The report also followed a cohort of Pitt faculty who were full professors in FY13, analyzing their salary progress based on their rank in FY98. Both tenure stream and non-tenure stream faculty on all Pitt campuses, plus medical school faculty, were included in the analysis. The Pitt Faculty Book, the University’s 4,470 full-time faculty included 983 full professors.

The report did not analyze salaries for faculty who remained in the lower academic ranks. Dejong noted that individuals can determine how their own...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Efforts target mental wellness

Lunchtime workshops on reducing stress and its health effects, along with new online resources, are the latest efforts of Pitt’s mental wellness task force, formed by the University Senate’s benefits and wellness committee last year.

Nadra Lamb, a psychologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said that staff are more likely to engage in workshops that are part of a larger series.

Pitt’s two-week workshop series starts at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The first session is on stress management and the second on mindfulness.

Pitt’s mental wellness task force plans to offer workshops and resources throughout the year.

The task force’s website will be a guide for faculty and staff to connect with the variety of resources that exist on campus to help faculty members.

The task force hopes to host workshops and provide information on mental wellness resources.

For the first series of lunchtime seminars, the task force has recruited Bruce S. Schaefer, a professor of psychology and psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

The seminars will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the William Pitt Union at noon. The seminars will focus on stress management, mindfulness and other topics.

The task force plans to offer more workshops and resources throughout the year.

The task force also plans to offer workshops and resources throughout the year.
New email system = new capabilities

Last summer CSSD implemented a new email system for University faculty, staff and students. The email is provided by Microsoft, an Internet-based e-mail service that offers a number of new opportunities.

For instance, scheduling meetings or appointments with other members of the Pitt community is easier now. Instead of circulating a paper sign-up sheet for meetings or conferences this fall, some instructors took advantage of the new system’s capability and asked students to get their conference appointments directly on the instructor’s calendar. Using this approach, both the student and the instructor had the meeting marked on their calendars.

This means, CSSD began to offer members of the Pitt community a new capability — the opportunity to personalize email addresses by adding an email address “alias” that they choose.

Email aliases

When people join the University as faculty, staff or students, a user account is established for them. The username for this account is a personal identifier, followed by a number, and so the established email address becomes that combination of initials and numbers followed by @pitt.edu.

While that algorithm works well for ensuring that each user name is unique, we recognize that these user names are not necessarily intuitive. Using an email alias allows you to provide a personalized email address that is easier to remember than a username.

An email alias is a pseudonym for your established Pitt email address. Email messages sent to you at your established Pitt email address (e.g., abcd123@pitt.edu) and messages sent to you at your alias (e.g., minnie.b.good@pitt.edu) go to the same inbox.

Choosing your personalized email address

Many people may want to have a personal email address, especially when they have a real name that is not their given names: backside.b@pitt.edu or stein.stan@pitt.edu. Aliases are easy for others to remember and easy for you to use when giving out your address.

But you also may want a Pitt email address that references your academic life. For example, you may want to give your students an email address that includes your title or department: prof.woolsey@pitt.edu or robinson.chemistry@pitt.edu — or give professional colleagues an address that references your area of expertise: oaks.potty@pitt.edu.

Creating your own email alias, you’ll need to keep in mind that

• You’ll be able to create two aliases for yourself during your career at Pitt.

• Once an alias is in use, it will be associated with you and cannot be transferred to another user. For this reason, it would be wise to personalize your alias at registration, as department.chas@pitt.edu or the role identified in that alias typically becomes one that changes hands periodically.

• Pitt account names establish the individual user and cannot be recycled. New email aliases will not be recycled either. Once that alias has been assigned, it is complete for life. If you lose an email alias, you’ll need to create a new alias.

Email aliases will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis. When you log in to create an alias for your email account, you can check to see whether that name is available. If someone else has used it, you will need to create a different alias. If someone else is using an alias that is very close to yours, you may wish to create an alias that is not quite similar to avoid confusion.

The fine print

Login credentials. The alias is a pseudonym for your email address and is not your official Pitt username and password. You will still log in to My Pitt and other Pitt online services using your established username and password.

Reserving an alias for you. Setting up an alias for your Pitt email address will not change where you read email sent to your Pitt account. If you currently read your Pitt email via My Pitt email, you will continue to log in and read email the same way you do today. If you currently read your Pitt email through a non-Pitt account to which your Pitt account has been forwarded (such as a passing through a phone company) or a non-Pitt account to read your Pitt email there in the same way, whether that message has been to a device (1323@pitt.edu or minnie.b.good@pitt.edu).

• The “Forward” line. If you select an email alias, you can choose which name shows up in the “Forward” line when you send an email message. You may wish to keep your established Pitt username as your primary address from which all email messages will come, but you could also select one of your aliases (e.g. prof.woolsey@pitt.edu) as your primary address.

• Alias criteria. The alias you choose for your email address must be professional in its representation of you and the University. It should not reflect personal opinions, usage, letters, numbers, periods, dashes and underscores. The alias address must be at least eight characters long, unless the alias includes a period, dash or underscore. Our system allows the dots (e.g., dotty@pitt.edu) as can be as short as five characters.

It probably goes without saying, but be sure to provide complete information on the creation of the “alias” term, an email alias cannot be used to deliberately misrepresent your identity.

Where to go to set up a Pitt email alias

Pitt faculty, staff and students can create email aliases through CSSD. If you don’t have access to My Pitt. After logging in to your My Pitt, you’ll see a link to Manage My Pitt. By default, the first link found on that account pages, you can set email preferences, including

CSSD’s website — technology.pitt.edu — includes additional details and instructions. FACULTY and staff who are interested in learning more about using email aliases for their Pitt email address.

Call for Alzheimer’s pilot proposals

The Alzheimer Disease Research Center (ADRC) funds pilot grants to stimulate new and innovative research relevant to Alzheimer’s disease. Research proposals can range from basic science to psychosocial, with primary given to novel approaches. Proposed research may involve human, other animals or in vitro studies. The patient registry, clinical and neuropsychological databases of the ADRC can be used in whole or in part. Additional resources include the database from the National Alzheimer’s Coordinating Center.

Full-time Pitt faculty and post-doctoral fellows are eligible. Previous recipients of ADRC seed money are not eligible.

A brief description of the proposed study should be sent to the ADRC. Each proposal should include the title of the proposal, investigators/co-investigators and a brief statement of relevance of the proposed research. Those invited to submit a full proposal will be contacted by Feb. 11. The deadline to submit abstracts is Feb. 11. Funding is limited to $26,000 in direct costs per project.

For more information, contact Donna Dime @ 412/624-2753 or ADRC, 401 West 11th. Pitt, example: you have been involved in Alzheimer's research.

Dario Menzelec
Entrepreneur Architect

EVENTS CALENDAR

The University Times is published on weekends. Thursday by the University of Pittsburgh. Second class postage paid at Pittsburgh, Pa. 15261-Ballard Hall, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15260. (724) 648-7919 or 444-7919. Email: utimes@pitt.edu.

Subscriptions are available at no cost for $25. For subscription, which your campus, send your name. All subscriptions are available at University Times.

The newspaper is available online at times. pitt.edu
Partnerships key, chancellor tells leadership group

Gallagher explains campus message

University always address the most important issues facing society," Chancellor Patrick Gallagher told Senate Council members in elaborating on his Dec. 4 message to the University community on the events in Ferguson, Missouri, and Staten Island, New York.

The message can be found at websites.edu/sites/default/files/Chancellor-letter-141208.pdf.

Gallagher said he sent the message following a dialogue with African-American student leaders. "Upon reflection I felt that it was very important to send a letter to the University community commending and reflecting on the situation regarding justice and race that this country has been dealing with," he said.

"I felt it was really important to reaffirm both how proud I was of the community and how we were responding but also reaffirming that commitment that we make to civil discourse and openness that are a key part of a being a university," he said.

"It was certainly my hope that we at Pitt continue to reaffirm that commitment we all made and do all that we can to use our means of communication to advance this discussion.

"It's good news as we enhance our own diversity but it's also really good for the country that we can be a place where these issues can be addressed," he said.

Senate President Michael Spring recommended the chancellor for the action.

"This statement of the lofty goals we've articulated in the Pitt Promise is most appropriate in this time of urgent and public

about to see something remarkable happen right before our very eyes.

"That excitement and that enthusiasm and that confidence, I think, is palpable.

Gallagher was joined by Leslie C. Davis, senior vice president of UPMC and executive vice president and chief operating officer of its Health Services Division, Suzanne K. Mellon, president of CalNow University, Jo Ellen Parker, president of the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, and Sibha Suresh, president of Carnegie Mellon University, who shared their observations as part of the Oakland Leadership Celebration hosted by the Oakland Task Force and Oakland Business Improvement District.

Bill Flanagan of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development moderates the Dec. 15 roundtable.

"What strategy is needed for Oakland to realize its full potential?" Some of the most exciting things that are going to happen are going to happen not in any sites that exist today, they're going to happen when things are rubbing shoulders with something else," Gallagher said.

"It's always at the seams that the magic happens, whether it's technology and art, whether it's the humanities and science, whether it's business and nonprofits, public versus private.

There's always for me a fascination with the fact that one of the strategies has to be creating an environment where that kind of shoulder-rubbing happens.

"Silos themselves aren't innately bad, he said.

"As humans we organize them to get all of us across things and create specialties. The problem is when they become an excuse to not look broader. Any time you create a silo to make something easy, with any tool you can't let the tool take over," said Gallagher.

Today's communication and computational technologies have made connectivity possible in powerful new ways that can be both good and bad, he noted.

"The best way to cope the benefits and manage the risks, I think, is to lean in and be part of the transformation and take

Continued on PAGE 4

FACULTY & STAFF CAMPAIGN

Why they give

"The challenge here was to take advantage of new leadership at both Pitt and CMU and the fact that there was a changeover in leadership of the library systems on both campuses," Gallagher said. In addition, "We're looking at a rapid change in technology and digital collections, and it struck me that if we were ever going to examine this issue, now is the time to do it.

Leaders at Pitt's Health Sciences Library System and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh have expressed interest in being part of the conversation, Gallagher said.

"It's a sign that there's a lot of energy here and there's a real appetite for having these discussions."

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Ronald A. Brand has been at Pitt for 32 years, so he was surprised he only—only—given to Pitt for three decades.

"I've covered the past two years, then," he says.

Brand is now faculty director of the School of Law's Center for International Legal Education (CILE), which he founded along with the School's Master of Laws program for foreign law graduates. He is also the Chancellor's Mark A. Woodruff School Professor, a distinguished faculty scholar—and a basketball and football season ticket holder.

Geming to Pitt's Faculty and Staff Campaign is second nature to Brand now because, he says, "the goal here is to help impact opportunities for students.

Geming focuses on law school programs such as the CILE, and those funds that provide school-year and summer stipends for faculty members to study abroad, as well as for scholarships and conference attendance.

"We live here from Sarajevo to Jordan. Each year, for instance, a law school team attends the

Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna.

"It has a huge effect," Brand said. "Our students who have done this most event have gone on to train others [students] to do it.

"Those kinds of experiences are crucial for students ... in conveying the development of the law in other cultures as well as their appreciation of other cultures.

His support of athletics, he added, stems from his confidence in their unique contribution to college life: "I have always thought that one of the nice things about American universities that you don't see in the rest of the world is the connection between universities and athletics that creates a sense of community.

"Will be contribute for another 30 years? I guess, if you do it for 30 years straight you don't stop all of a sudden. I like the tradition and history of the University of Pittsburgh. It's worth supporting."

—Nancy Levine
Honors college names its first faculty fellows

The following is the group of University Honors College faculty fellows:

**ARTS AND SCIENCES:** Tia-Lynn Ashman, biological sciences; Kathleen Allen, anthropology; Gretchen Bender, history of art and architecture; David Birnbaum, Slavic languages and literatures; Paul Bove, English; Jeffrey Brodsky, biological sciences; T. Patrick Card, neuroscience; Ana Paula Carvalho, Hispanic languages and literatures; Pradya Cohen, gender, sexuality and women's studies; Michael Goodhart, political science; Janelle Greenberg, history; William Harbert, geology and planetary sciences; Alan Hasty, physiology; Steven Husted, economics; Michael J. Hinson, history of art and architecture; Paul Florencia, chemistry; Michael Glass, geology and planetary sciences; Brian Hoffer, music; Werner Troesken, economics.

**BUSINESS:** Andy M. Mersky, business administration.

**ENGINEERING:** Harvey Borovetz, bioengineering; Steven Little, chemical engineering; George Stetten, bioengineering.

**GSPIA:** Muge Finkel, international development; Lisa Nelson.

**MEDICINE:** Judy Cameron, psychiatry; Teresa Hastings, neurobiology; Amy Wagner, physical medicine and rehabilitation.

**CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY:** Mandela Lyon.

**SHRS:** Ellen Cohn.

**SOCIAL WORK:** Cynthia Bradley-King.

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Partnerships key, chancellor says

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advantage of it. What's exciting is that Pittsburgh and Oakland are so close; that's a unique situation. It's a great opportunity to play such a key role with the technology, the talent, the data. The University is able to do a driver's research on the trends that are happening. The health care -- a data-driven business in these days, we see it in museums and zoos and so forth. It's a very big component in the middle of this in a way that's very powerful. I think there's a lot of people who can learn, when we see each other, we're talking about these potential areas of collaboration.

Strategies must focus on partnerships and community-building, he said, noting that institu-

## Most raises exceeded inflation

- 92 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity.
- 90 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity plus academic initiatives increases.
- 86 percent exceeded the CPI.
- 53 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity plus academic initiatives increases.
- 78 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity plus academic initiatives increases.
- 46 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity plus academic initiatives increases.
- 94 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity plus academic initiatives increases.
- 100 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity plus academic initiatives increases.
- 92 percent exceeded the CPI.
- 96 percent exceeded maintenance.
- 87 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity.
- 74 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity plus academic initiatives increases.
- 64 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity plus academic initiatives increases.
- 94 percent exceeded the CPI.
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- 90 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity plus academic initiatives increases.
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- 53 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity plus academic initiatives increases.
- 78 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity plus academic initiatives increases.
- 46 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity plus academic initiatives increases.
- 94 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity plus academic initiatives increases.
- 100 percent exceeded maintenance, merit, market and equity plus academic initiatives increases.
Research looks at drinking, sexual violence links

Efforts target mental wellness

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

...and just for his expertise. "He makes everybody feel good," she says. "He is so non-judgmental and approachable." 

Says Rabin: "We will take the faculty and staff on a journey" to understand how stress responses alter the quality of health, and educate them so their brain will become less responsive to stress. The goal is to help people stay healthy as they go through the aging process. "Stay healthy, get older and die quickly—that's the blessing," he says, rather than potentially suffering from a chronic, stress-induced illness that eventually causes death.

The 50-minute seminars—in the William Pitt Union Kuttman Room beginning at noon on Jan. 21, Feb. 11 and March 4—will educate the attendees about exactly how stress increases our risk of mental and physical diseases and teach behavior techniques that decrease stress effects.

Who ought to attend? "Those who attend are likely to decrease their risk of being affected by stress," Rabin says, and those already suffering from such diseases as fibromyalgia, hyperthyroidism, ulcerative colitis or multiple sclerosis, who want to learn how to reduce the severity of their symptoms and the frequency of relapse.

The goal of the program is to help them be able to live with their families," he says. Attendees will learn how to create a healthier environment in which to raise children, for instance, so the sessions will be helpful for any parent or grandparent.

Seminars materials also will be posted on the Human Resources website and at healthylifestyle.pitt.edu.

—Mary Levine

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Community it's thought that higher risk for alcohol-related problems goes hand in hand with higher levels of drinking. However, recent research is showing that it doesn't necessarily take an excessive amount of time to raise some students' risk, said Maier. While four or more drinks for a woman and five or more for a man is considered "binge" drinking, "There's no way to say five drinks is safe," he said. "There's a huge subset of individuals that we found who socially, at two drinks, three drinks, are at an increased risk level," he said.

"Someone who, typically, when they go out has one drink may be at much greater risk for a set of alcohol-related problems when they have three or four drinks, which doesn't necessar- by sound like a huge volume of alcohol."

In her research, Maier found a dataset that included nine years of data from students on 14 California college campuses who were surveyed about drinking and risky behaviors. The data included 37,000 drinkers who were asked about their drinking overall as well as within six common drinking contexts: Greek parties, dorm parties, on-campus events, off-campus parties, bars, and outdoor settings (such as tailgating).

Among other questions, the survey asked about victimization as well as perpetration: Whether the students felt pressured to have sex or whether they were sexually assaulted or raped, as well as whether they felt pressured to have sex or whether they may have sexually assaulted or raped someone.

Maier and 3.1 percent of respondents reported being pressured or forced to have sex (the equivalent of 19 events per 1,000 students in a 26-day period), 4.3 percent reported being taken advantage of via verbal or physical means, while students reporting both, for a total of nearly 6 percent reporting some sort of sexual victimization.

"People reported being pressured or raped, with 1.2 percent respons- ing that they were pressured or forced to have sex for every three victims who said they were sexually assaulted or raped, as well as whether they felt pressured to have sex or whether they may have sexually assaulted or raped someone.

Nearly 3.1 percent of respondents reported being pressed or forced to have sex (the equivalent of 19 events per 1,000 students in a 26-day period), 4.3 percent reported being taken advantage of via verbal or physical means, while students reporting both, for a total of nearly 6 percent reporting some sort of sexual victimization.

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19th-century system is a better model for criminal justice today, CRSP lecturer says

Frederick Therian, former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Americans are in jail, including one of every 26 people in their 20s, one of every 30 men aged 30-34, and one of every nine black men in that age category. Therian noted the U.S. has 5 percent of the world’s population and 25 percent of its prisoners. One of every 28 children in the U.S. has a parent behind bars. And each prisoner costs the country $30,000-$40,000 a year.

There’s no dispute about these kinds of facts,” he said. “And we should not be accepting them. This is the social and civil rights issue of our time.

You can’t really view the criminal justice system in the United States in a complete vacuum,” Therian maintained. He noted that these three decades saw a decision that mass institutionalization for mental health problems did not provide the right treatment for such problems. Today, with 30 percent of prison inmates estimated to have a mental illness, with 60 percent being asked to serve as mental health care facilities instead.

The criminal justice system itself is not doing particularly well,” Therian said, “because we’ve asked it to do things it was not particularly suited to do.”

He blames politicians who have pledged to “toughen up” crime, passing legislation with mandatory minimum sentences and other offenses infractions, plus laws such as life without parole and “three strikes,” you’re out.” These have led to the “disproportionate sentencing, draconian penalties, and irresponsible mandates for people who offend.”

Therian cited studies by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, which has found that just two to three days upon arrest have a 30 percent chance of re-arrest in the following two years, that jumps to a 57 percent chance of re-arrest for those in jail six to seven days pre-arrest, and chance to increase for those held longer.

Therian also recommended sending police back to school for police sources, particularly in areas with a high risk for crime — as a deterrent crime — and get them focusing more on apprehension. Police departments across the country are adopting different, effective ways to determine where to undertake such “hot-spot deployments.”

“Police officers where the crime is greatest have the greatest number of housing units in the city as well as social media and surveillance cameras to find out where to patrol next,” he said. “They can no longer be in their cars.”

Community policing is “also more necessary than it’s ever been,” according to Therian. The police officer who understood that community better.

“Life occurs in the midst of tension,” Therian concluded. “In nature, that can occur at the treeline or the surface of a body of water. For people, that tension is focused mainly in our cities. It’s what causes the violence of cities, but the police need to be in the middle of that.”

“Police officers must go to the people who live in their areas, live in their homes, and be there in their homes, and be there in their jobs.”

“Police officers must go to the people who live in their areas, live in their homes, and be there in their homes, and be there in their jobs.”
School health counseling helps teens and addictive relationships

By Elizabeth Miller, a faculty member in the School of Medicine, the University of California, San Francisco, offers a potential benefits of a brief, provider-delivered universal education and counseling intervention in school-based health centers to address and prevent the many health risks associated with adolescent relationship abuse. The study was supported by the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice.

New clue for development of lung fibrosis in older patients

When School of Medicine researchers took a closer look at certain cells from the scarred lungs of patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), they were surprised by what they saw: many multilayered, bloomed mitochondria. The unexpected observation led them to conduct a study that could for the first time help explain why the risk of developing the deadly lung disease increases with age. The study results are online and will be featured on the cover of the February issue of the Journal of Clinical Investigation.

Older age is a well-known risk factor for IPF; a disease in which the lung tissue becomes progressively fibrotic, or scarred, leading to breathing difficulties and death within three-to-five years if a lung transplant isn’t possible, said senior investigator Ann L. Moro, faculty member in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine and a member of the Heart, Lung, Blood and Vascular Medicine Institute (VMI). The cause of the disease is unknown, or “idiopathic.”

Said Moro: “Other chronic and progressive diseases we see with aging, such as Parkinson’s disease, have been recently associated with mitochondrial abnormalities, so we wondered if that was occurring in IPF. It was a simple question, but it hadn’t been asked before, so we examined lung cells from patients with advanced IPF and healthy people. We were surprised to see dramatic differences in the number, shape and function of the mitochondria.”

After characterizing the oddities of the mitochondria, which provide energy for the cell, Moro’s team checked the levels of an enzyme called PTEN-induced putative kinase 1, or PINK1, that plays key roles in mitochondrial function and cellular survival, or shape. Experiments showed that impairment of mitochondrial function was associated with loss of PINK1 in IPF expression, and mice lacking PINK1 had dysfunctional, bloomed mitochondria in lung cells and were susceptible to developing lung fibrosis.

“We found that low PINK1 is associated with increasing age and cellular stress,” Moro said. “This might help us understand why older people are at greater risk for developing IPF, and it could help scientists develop new options to boost PINK1 levels or improve mitochondrial function will help treat IPF.”

The team also hopes to find biomarkers to identify the disease in earlier stages as well as explore other factors that could increase susceptibility to IPF.

Pitt collaborators included:

- Martha Boese, Ven-Chun Lui, Judith Bland, Claudette St. Cotes, Christiane Dicker, Carrie F. Hunter, Tomas R. Friedman, and Charles T. Chu, along with researchers from Yale and Cedars Sinai Universities in Los Angeles.

The project was funded by the National Institute of Health (NHF), VMI, the Institute for Translational Medicine and the Hemophilia Center of Western Pennsylvania.

Faculty contribute to Energy Technology shale issue

Swanson School of Engineering, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPA) and Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences researchers studied their findings from three studies related to shale gas in a recent special issue of the journal Energy Technology, edited by Götz Vesper, the Nicholas and Elizabeth Driehaus Professor of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering at the Swanson School of Engineering.

The faculty members look “smart wells” that use wireless communication, wastewater management and information gaps between legislators, regulators, industry representatives, researchers and the public on the health and environmental impacts of shale gas drilling. The issue also included contributions from experts from the United States, Europe and Asia.

The three papers included:

- On smart wells, Andrew A. Burger and his co-authors proposed the development of a series of sensors built into wells that will allow drilling companies to pull data from the deep and share information with various sections of productive wells, ramp up or shut down productive sections and find pockets of gas or oil that have been overlooked. Burger, in civil and environmental engineering in the Swanson School, teamed with colleagues from electrical and computer engineering, faculty member Ervin Sejdic, PhD, and economist Nicholas Franscomini and rector professor Martin Meilich. Burger likens this nascent technology to cell phone communication, with the signal being transmitted through sensors on a cell phone, say, Pittsburgh to Los Angeles rather than between different over the phone. Each stepwise process is necessary, he said, because of the difficulty of crossing the great distances through rock and oil-rich geological media.

- On wastewater management, Radisic Vidić, the William Kepler Whitehead Professor and chair in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the Swanson school and a national energy leader in the nation’s energy policy, describes new expert issues related to fracking, investigated methods to safely reuse drilling wastewater and ways of removing potentially harmful substances, including naturally occurring radioactive materials, from the wastewater. Vidić reviewed the management of wastewater produced during fracking in Pennsylvania’s Marcellus Shale, with some 50 active fracking sites and 1,000 more in the Marcellus in Pennsylvania.

- On information gaps, Shanit Gampfer-Rubindax examined the gaps in the collection of information — and access to that information — that prevent the public, researchers, regulators and investors from fully understanding the health and environmental impacts of the shale industry. Resolving these information gaps would enable further innovations in risk-management strategies and, thus, benefit the industry and society. Said Gampfer-Rubindax, a faculty member in GSPA and in the Department of Economics in the Dietrich school, “Informing public debate in the lifecycle of unconventional shale gas development will help reduce the uncertainties in its benefits and risks, the unequal distribution of these benefits and risks in society, and the need to make evidence-based trade-offs between the benefits and risks of coal-removal strategies.”

New findings from mind-controlled robot arm project

In another demonstration that brain-computer interface technology has the potential to improve the function and quality of life of those unable to use their own arms, a woman with quadriplegia shaped the hand of a robot arm with just her thoughts to pick up big and small objects, a ball, an oldy shaped rock and fat and skinny tubes.

The findings by researchers at the School of Medicine, published online in the Journal of Neural Engineering, described, for the first time, 10-degree brain control of a prosthetic device in which the patient kept the sum and minus.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
A grant of up to $4,000 will be awarded to stimulate research at the Thornburgh Archive at the University of Pittsburgh.

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

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

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

The deadline to apply is March 18, 2015.

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

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

University of Pittsburgh
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

be a large task, and she is working on developing computer models that can analyze massive datasets to identify patterns and predict future events.

The team is also studying the effects of social media on public opinion and behavior. They have found that social media platforms can be used to spread information quickly and effectively, but also that misinformation can spread just as rapidly. They are working on developing tools to help users identify credible sources and verify information.

In addition to the research on public opinion and behavior, the team is also studying the impact of social media on mental health. They have found that social media can be both a source of support and a source of stress. They are working on developing interventions to help users manage their social media use and reduce the negative impacts of social media on mental health.

Overall, the team is making significant progress in understanding how social media is shaping society and how it can be used to create positive change.

* * *

**Research Note: Understanding emotional reactions after terrorist attacks**

The study found that in the Boston Marathon bombing, the public’s emotional reactions were not uniform. People living in Boston were more likely to express fear, anger, and sadness, while people living in other parts of the country were more likely to express solidarity and support.

Researchers analyzed emotional reactions on Twitter in the hours and weeks following the attack. They studied the influence of media campaigns and hashtags used in social media discussions. They found that media campaigns, such as #PrayForBoston and #BeStrong, had a significant impact on emotional reactions. These campaigns were more likely to be associated with positive emotions, such as support and solidarity.

Hashtags used in social media discussions were also studied. Hashtags, such as #PrayForBoston, were more likely to be associated with positive emotional reactions, while hashtags with negative connotations, such as #BostonBombing, were more likely to be associated with negative emotional reactions.

The study also found that the emotional reactions of individuals were influenced by their personal ties with Boston. People with a stronger emotional connection to Boston were more likely to express specific emotions, such as grief and anger, while people with a weaker emotional connection were more likely to express general emotions, such as sadness and fear.

Overall, the study provides insight into how social media is shaping public opinion and behavior after a terrorist attack. It highlights the importance of media campaigns and hashtags in shaping emotional reactions and the need for continued research into the impact of social media on public opinion and behavior.
**COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION POSTING FORM FOR POLICY ON THIRD PARTY COMMENTS**

The Commission currently publishes in its accredited lists of programs the year of the next site visit for each program it accredits. In addition, the Commission posts its spring and fall Accreditation Announcements which inform the public of site visits scheduled for the spring and fall of each year. Developing programs submitting initial accreditation applications may be scheduled for site visits after the posting of the Accreditation Announcements; thus, the specific dates of these site visits will not be available for publication. These programs will be noted in the Accreditation Announcements with a special notation that the developing programs have submitted initial accreditation applications and may or may not be scheduled for site visits. Parties interested in these specific dates (should they be established) are welcomed/encouraged to contact the Commission office.

The United States Department of Education (USDE) procedures also require accrediting agencies to establish (and, where appropriate, referred to the appropriate agency. For those individuals who are interested in comments, comments relative to programs being visited will be due in the Commission office no later than 60 days prior to each program’s site visit to allow time for the program to respond. Therefore, accredited programs, all comments relative to programs being visited will be due in the Commission office and staff physician at the Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System. “It is [still] critically important to demonstrate that these improvements in care are accompanied by better patient outcomes. Further studies are needed to investigate if racial and ethnic disparities in mortality have truly decreased.” Fine also directs the Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion at the University of Pittsburgh, which is focused on detecting, understanding, and reducing disparities in health care and vulnerable populations.

Fine and his co-investigators looked at more than 12 million acute care hospitalizations over the two-year period and found that while quality of care improved and hospitals did a better job providing appropriate care and treatments, procedures, and so did racial and ethnic equity. Nine out of 10 disparities in 2006 existed in 2008 and had mostly or totally disappeared by the end of 2010. With improved evidence remains for racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in medicine, and the results of the team’s analysis, while very positive, address only a narrow spectrum of care delivery.

They believe that when hospitals strive to improve quality, they can improve equity. Using data publicly reported to CMS through the inpatient quality reporting program, the team analyzed at the national and regional levels by race and ethnicity for 17 procedures that are recommended to improve patient outcomes, such as giving an aspirin to heart attack patients, a flu vaccination to patients at risk for pneumonia, or clearing a blood clot in an artery of heart attack patients within 90 minutes. They found that rates of improvements were between 3.4 and 58.3 percentage points. At the beginning of 2005, they were noticeably—three among blacks and six among Hispanics—for which there were small but statistically significant decreases in 2008, but no further improvements by race and ethnicity for 17 procedures that are recommended to improve patient outcomes, such as giving an aspirin to heart attack patients, a flu vaccination to patients at risk for pneumonia, or clearing a blood clot in an artery of heart attack patients within 90 minutes. They found that rates of improvements were between 3.4 and 58.3 percentage points. At the beginning of 2005, they were noticeably—three among blacks and six among Hispanics—for which there were small but statistically significant decreases in 2008, but no further improvements.

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Researchers link brain abnormalities, concussion-related depression, anxiety

White matter brain abnormalities in some patients with depression occur independently of concussive head trauma. Researchers present their findings at the American College of Radiology annual meeting.

The researchers, who also studied anxiety in concussion patients, believe determining these white matter injuries also could help effective therapy for the people who experience them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
Taking LIFESTYLE to New Heights...

Stylish living in Mt. Washington. Fully equipped 1 & 2 Bedroom Loft Apartments. Generous amenities include rooftop balcony area, outdoor terraces, optional parking, and more.

www.lofts-mountwashington.com
Albert C. Van Dusen, professor emeritus and vice chancellor emeritus, died Dec. 18, 2014, at his home in Upper St. Clair. He was 99.

Van Dusen was recruited to Pitt in 1956 to join then-Chancellor George A. Klinzing’s administrative staff as assistant chancellor for planning and development. In addition to his administrative duties, he held joint appointments as a faculty member in psychology and business administration.

Credited with enhancing the University’s image abroad over the course of his career at Pitt, Van Dusen was associated extensively to advance the University’s goals. In 1981, Van Dusen served as chair of the board of directors of Pittsburgh Metropolitan Public Broadcasting (WQED). He also was a member of the Education Commission and was a board member of Duquesne University, the World Affairs Council, Dollar Savings Bank and ACTION-Housing, among others.

Van Dusen was named an IEEE fellow, and his wife, Karen, his daughter, Margaret Pysz, and son, Van Dusen, Jr., and his grandchildren, are Pitt alumni.

Memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of donations may be made to the Albert C. and Margaret Van Dusen Summer Study Abroad Scholarship, 1209 Cathedral of Learning.

— Kimberly K. Barlow

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The People of the Times column features recent news on faculty and staff, including awards and honors, accomplishments and administrative appointments.

We welcome submissions from all of the University. Send information and related attachments to 308 Bellefield Hall by fax at 412-648-4377 or by campus mail to 308 Bellefield Hall.

For submission guidelines, visit www.uitimes.pitt.edu/page/007070.html

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Mark Abbott, chair of the department, recommended Col- for the award. “Each student merits his full time and attention. He is truly available to all and will do his best to provide an answer. If he himself does not have the answer, he will follow through and put the student in touch with someone who does. He seems unlikely any one (advising) model could substitute for the simple, but necessary one-on-one time that Mark spends with students. Therefore, I would characterize his advising model as one of being present and accountable.”

News from faculty members in the School of Education includes:

• Anna Arlotta-Guerrero, Department of Psychology in Education, recently was elected to a two-year term as president of the American Psychological Society at the American College of Spors Medi- cine. ACSM Fellowship recognizes high standards of professional

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Van Dusen earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the Uni- versity of Florida. He served his alma mater as an instructor and as a professor of psychology until 1941.

He earned his PhD in psycholog- y from the University of Florida in 1942. Following four years as an officer in the U.S. Navy, he was a faculty member at both Indiana University and Stephen F. Austin State University.

Memorial service will be held at a later date.

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service, professional achievement and significant contributions in the field of sports medicine via education, and a demonstrated interest in and/or contribution to the goals of sports medicine.

• Marigold “Goldie” Edwards, emerita professor in the Department of Health and Physical Activity, was elected to the U.S. Squash Hall of Fame.

• Sean Kelly, Department of Administrative and Policy Stud- ies, has received an outstanding reviewer award from the journal Sociology of Education. Kelly is a tenure-track assistant professor and served on the editorial board 2010-12.

• Roger Klein, Department of Psychology in Education, has written, produced and narrated a brief video about psychol- ogists, was selected as one of five outstanding researchers and won the eHealth/mHealth section poster contest at the American Psychological Association’s annual conference.

• Renee Rogers, Department of Health and Physical Activ- ity, was selected as one of five outstanding researchers and was a winner of the Obesity Society’s eHealth/mHealth section poster contest at the American Psychological Association’s annual conference.

• Jennifer Lin Russell has been named a Carnegie Fellow for 2014-15 by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Fellows are expected to participate in programs by contributing blog posts, offering presentations, and participating in the annual summit and fall offsite retreat.

Steven P. Levitan, the John A. Jurekno Professor of Com- puter Engineering at the Swanson School of Engineering, has been named an IEEE fellow. Levitan was recognized “for contribu- tions to mixed technology micro- systems education.”

The title of fellow, the height- est honor granted by IEEE, is conferred by the IEEE board of directors upon a person with an outstanding record of accomplish- ments in any of the IEEE fields of interest.

His research interests include computer-aided design for optoelectronic computing.
In order to better serve our permit parkers, the University Parking Office requests that personnel with permits in surface lots utilize the Soldiers and Sailors Garage or the O’Hara Garage on days when snow makes the lots difficult to access. Arrangements with garage attendants have been made for permit parkers on these days. Please do not use any open lots after midnight if snow begins to accumulate. Your cooperation will assist Facilities Management in clearing the lots of snow and ice in a timely manner.

If you have any questions regarding these arrangements please call the Parking Office during business hours Monday—Thursday, 8:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m., Friday, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. at 412-624-4034 and press 5 for a customer service representative.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

John V. Collins
Parking Operations Manager
2015 Assessment Conference
January 30, 2015

The 2015 Annual Assessment Conference will be held on Friday, January 30, 2015 at the University Club from 8:30 am–2 pm.

Hosted by the Office of the Provost, this conference brings together faculty and staff who are directly involved in the ongoing assessment of student learning outcomes at the undergraduate and graduate level.

The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Marco Molinaro, Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Innovation, Research, and Analytics and Hub Director for the Interdisciplinary Agriculture Medicine Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Hub at the University of California, Davis.

Faculty members from all campuses will present their own assessment experiences as well as best practices. The conference will close with lunch and a discussion including campus resources.


University of Pittsburgh
In 2014, did you:

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

Tell us about it!

A few important guidelines:

- Furnish information on peer-reviewed books, journals, CDs, electronic publications, art exhibitions, films, plays or musical compositions written, edited or produced during 2014 only.
- Books must have a 2014 copyright.
- Do not submit information about journal articles, short stories, poems, book chapters or self-published works.
- Submission deadline is Jan. 31.
- All fields of the submission form must be completed.
- Complete a separate electronic form for each submission.
- Questions? Contact 412/624-4644 or delraso@pitt.edu

Fast and easy submission form on the University Times website:

www.utimes.pitt.edu

Submission Deadline: Jan. 31