Wolf proposes 5% Pitt hike for FY17

The University has yet to receive its state appropriation for the current fiscal year, but Gov. Tom Wolf is proposing a 5 percent increase for Pitt in fiscal year 2017. The governor’s $32.73 billion general fund budget, unveiled Feb. 9, includes a 5 percent increase for higher education, which would mean an additional $7.16 million in Pitt’s general appropriation. Wolf left academic medical center funding in his proposed budget.

The plan would raise Pitt’s general appropriation to $150.35 million, still shy of Pitt’s requested $168 million in FY17 general support. (See Oct. 15 University Times.)

Kenseth Service, vice chancellor for communications, stated, “We appreciate the governor recognizing how important the University of Pittsburgh and other state-related universities are to the Commonwealth. At the same time, we need an immediate resolution to the state’s budget impasse, as we are still awaiting funding for the current fiscal year.”

Partisan disagreements have left the state’s budget for the current fiscal year incomplete. In December Wolf line-item-vested parts of a Republican-proposed FY16 budget, approving $23.4 billion in state spending that included nothing for the state-related schools.

Because Pitt isn’t fully under state control, its state funding comes mainly through a non-preferred appropriation, which requires a two-thirds majority for passage. Its appropriation bill fell short in a Jan. 11 House vote, leaving the University without an anticipated $143.19 million in FY16 funding. (See Jan. 21 University Times.)

Appropriations for the state-related universities in part provide funds for a tuition discount for in-state students.

Student governments at the state-related schools have launched social media and letter-writing campaigns and have continued on page 4.

Task force recommends Pitt Promise for all

A Senate task force on diversity and inclusion presented a recommendation to the Senate to include a Pitt Promise for all, which aims to “clearly state to the world who we are as a University community and the values we believe are essential to fulfillment of the University’s mission,” the group stated in its Feb. 3 draft report.

The expanded promise would be based on the core concepts of civility that students promise to uphold in the Pitt Promise (www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittpromise).

• Creation of a standing Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council

The group is proposing a permanent advisory council for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to advise on recruitment and retention, to serve as a sounding board and to be a conduit for concerns and issues.

“The advisory council should start with the current group, develop over time as appropriate to the University’s needs,” the report stated.

• The Year of Diversity and Inclusion

The group recommends following the current “Year of the Humanities” with the “Year of Diversity and Inclusion” in 2016-17. This designation would provide a platform for the collective yet dispersed talents and ideas throughout the University to be highlighted and elevated through the provision of grants and incentives, the report stated.

• A Senate Council session devoted to a dialogue on diversity and inclusion

The group is recommending that Senate devote its March 23 meeting to a discussion of these recommendations, best practices and highlights around campus, with a goal of garnering the council’s commitment to the recommendations and to regularly scheduled sessions on diversity and inclusion.

The recommendations encourage council members — which include faculty, staff and student representatives — to engage with their constituents prior to the March 23 meeting.

• The Senate council group on diversity and inclusion was formed in November in response to Chancellor Patrick Gallagher’s request that the University Senate help devise a strategy for expanding dialogue on diversity and inclusion. (See Nov. 23 University Times.)

Wilson and Staff Association Council President Rich Colwell represent faculty and staff on the group. Representing the administration are Pamela Connolly, associate vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion, and Kathy Humphrey, senior vice chancellor for engagement, chief of staff and Board of Trustees secretary.

Student representatives are Student Government Board President Nastreuse Harun, College of General Studies Student Government President Julia Holger; Graduate Student Organization of Arts and Sciences (GSO) President Dominique Johnson; Graduate Student Organization of Arts and Sciences (GSO) Vice President Erin Kathleen Pfaff; and GSO Vice President Ethel Kozak.

In other Faculty Assembly business:

• Following discussion, the Assembly endorsed a provost’s ad hoc committee’s recommendations for additional sexual harassment prevention and response training for faculty and staff.

The provost’s committee is proposing training for employees at least once every four years as well as training in multiple formats. (See Jan. 21 University Times.)

Currently, new employees at Pitt must complete an online course on prevention of sexual harassment, but no follow-up training is required.

Connolly told the Assembly that the committee is seeking to revision the University’s sexual harassment policies and procedures in ways that better encompass federal Title VII, which prohibits sex-based discrimination in the workplace, and Title IX, which prohibits such discrimination in education.

Faculty asked that the University invest wisely in developing effective, evidence-based training and that training include guidance on how to respond when a student or colleague comes forward to report harassment.

• The Assembly approved a Senate budget committee (BPC) resolution directing the University Senate president to appoint a special committee of faculty and members of the Council of Deans to review the Planning and Budgeting System document and recommend revisions to the Senate and Council of Deans for action.

BPC is commencing an over-due re-evaluation of the PBS
Why do students cheat? It's a question that is as old as the human race. There are many other questions related to academic integrity, such as "How can I prevent cheating and plagiarism?" and "What do I do when one of my students has cheated?". Students are examined and plagiarism papers are a part of this discussion. One obvious answer is in the wrong choice. They may have failed to prepare sufficiently. When students feel overwhelmed, cheating might seem like the easiest way out. In the case of plagiarism, sometimes students have unwittingly committed a violation. Although students are responsible for their actions, consider whether you, the faculty member, inadvertently contributed to the likelihood of cheating. Perhaps your course expectations are not clear, or you did not provide the support necessary for students to master the skills you are asking them to demonstrate. Perhaps you have not taken the time to communicate the course academic integrity policy, its rationale and how seriously you take it. Perhaps you have simply made it too easy to cheat by failing to implement safeguards.

The University regards instructors as playing a key role in preserving and upholding academic integrity and the integrity of the institution.

The following practices may help:

Communicate the rationale for your academic integrity policy. Assessments do not exist for their own sake, but to measure students’ mastery of learning objectives. Cheating undermines the goal and may unfair affect the assessment of other students, skewing grade distributions. Let students know that, for this reason, you take academic integrity very seriously.

Let your students know that you are invested in their success in the course, and that you are prepared to support them in achieving that success.

It can help to provide opportunities early in the semester for “small successes.” Assign informal assessments or smaller, simpler assignments that your students are likely to complete effectively. A bit of success early can signal to students that, if they continue to complete their coursework, they can expect to succeed — honestly — on major assignments and exams.

Be explicit about consequences. If your policy for a violation is failure for the course, failure for just that assignment, or some other consequence of cheating, tell them. Tell them in the syllabus, on the first day of class, and again at the time you administer quizzes, tests and assignments.

Emphasize the serious consequences of your policy. Without being overly draconian, let them know that you have failed students in the past for academic integrity violations, and will do so for any others.

Correct the misconception that cheating and plagiarism are minor infractions. Cheating undermines the value of exams and papers. It can help to frame the consequences in terms of relative importance. Note that a poor grade on a single assignment or exams is not a consolation prize for violating the course policy.

Implement safeguards against plagiarism. This could include:

• File new examples of plagiarism and provide guidelines for avoiding it.
• Require students to turn in a signed statement with every paper indicating that they have read and understand the policy and guidelines on plagiarism.
• Utilize plagiarism software such as Turnitin SafeAssign, both of which are now integrated in CourseWeb/Blackboard.
• File an academic integrity violation report with your school, if you are required to do so. Such forms generally specify the violation (accompanied by evidence), summarize the discussion with the student, and detail the sanctions determined by the instructor. Both you and the student should sign the document; if the student refuses to sign, you should indicate that they did not sign.

This document generally will not go in the student’s permanent record, but it will be available to any other administrator who will keep the violation on file in case of future violations.

While it is incumbent upon you to be familiar with the University of Pittsburgh’s academic integrity policy, you will need to refer to it at some point. Perhaps you will need to refer to it to succeed in your course and/or suspension/expulsion.

What should you do if your best efforts to prevent cheating and plagiarism have been unsuccessful, and you have identified an academic integrity violation?

• File any evidence. Retain plagiarized papers and any original papers on which you have identified. If you have commandeered a “cheat sheet,” file it.
• Discuss the violation with a supervisor, the faculty or staff member in your department responsible for overseeing such issues. If you are a TA/IT, notify your course director or faculty mentor.
• Ask the student to meet with you and, if possible, have someone from your department or school sit in, so that you have a third party to confirm the discussion that takes place. Don’t begin with an accusation; instead, present the data the student has submitted work; whatever you regard as evidence of a violation (for example, a summary of the cheating you observed, an original source or another student’s exam).

If you determine that a violation has occurred, you must make sure the consequence is consistent with your course, department and University policies.

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Survey to evaluate faculty job satisfaction

A good ELN is a flexible tool that allows discretionary transfer of ownership of new and innovative discoveries into the community of revenue that drives the University. Any University ownership on their inventions should be based on sound academic principles and should emerge from discussions among all stakeholders — from the University (or other entities) — in return for added value such as protection of IP, funding, development, and commercialization or other considerations. We believe that all University ownership on their inventions should be discussed before the policy is finalized. We support the notion that all IP should be treated consistently. This includes new documents, computer code, works of art, inventions and more. Different types of IP require different policies by nature, but the same academic principles should be reflected in the different policies; finally, and perhaps most importantly: We urge the chancellor and provost to recognize that all scholars have an unbridled right to release their intellectual creations or discoveries to the public domain. Scholars alone decide whether to disclose their work publicly or to seek IP protection under the relevant University policy. In the end, Pitt’s new IP policy will shape the practice of scholarly advocacy.

The University Times reserves the right to edit letters for clarity or length, and reserves the right to publish letters in any medium, including online. Unsigned letters will not be accepted for publication.

(Editors’ note: Five additional faculty members’ names were included on this letter.)
The administration is being asked to permit Pitt employees to attend the annual lobbying event, Pitt Day in Harrisburg, this year without using a vacation or personal day, University Provost Kimhi said. A director of regional clubs and advocacy for Alumni Affairs, told the Staff Association on Monday that he believes his office is seeking administrative approval for this move, as well as for an additional employee from Chancellor Patrick Gallagher to encourage greater involvement in the annual lobbying trip, scheduled for March 22.

Donaldson acknowledged that “there hasn’t been much staff outreach” to spark more participation in the event, during which employees, students, and alumni meet with legislators to encourage future funding for the University.

Charlie McLaughlin, director of alumni relations in his office provided participants with talking points for their meetings with legislators, but urged staff to speak in their own words, rather than the simple, wordy language.

As the “state’s empirical response unit,” she emphasized the importance of the lobbying event, at the counseling center, Pitt Police, disability resources and elsewhere, “is really important for us to our community,” Wilson said. “I think it’s really important for us to respond to these things honestly and to just not dump it because these things are going to be used in the making of policy and they will have an impact.”

Wilson also encouraged faculty to attend the University policy review committee’s town hall forums on the topic of interest (COI) and copyright policies.

The group also decided to continue with the "We’re asking for your input on the COI and copyright policies," he said, "but we’re also asking for your input on the COI and copyright policies."
Fun Ways to Stay Active All Winter

With cold temperatures, fewer hours of daylight, and dicey footing on the streets and sidewalks, staying active in winter can be a challenge. Not surprisingly, our natural response is to stay inside, keep warm, and hunker down until spring -- preferably with a bowl of hot soup.

Don’t start hibernating just yet. You actually have some great options for staying active — which in turn helps with weight control, boosts your mood, increases energy levels, and improves sleep. Here are four great indoor activity ideas to help get you through the cold days and nights.

• Join forces. Take an exercise class or sign up for an indoor sport such as bowling or basketball. Getting together with others two or three times a week will help keep you motivated and give you a reason to climb out of bed on those cold mornings.

• Get set up at home. You don’t need a big basement or elaborate training machines for a great home workout space. Just create an area where you can get on a treadmill, jump rope, or even run in place. And consider buying second-hand exercise equipment, such as dumbbells or an elliptical trainer. There are ads for used exercise equipment in lots of places.

• Hit the mall. Retired people probably pio-neered “mall walking,” but everyone is doing it now. And it makes so much sense, thanks to long concourses, controlled temperatures, level footing, and great lighting. Added bonus: You’ll know when and where all the sales are happening. Figure out the least crowded times to go, and put them on your weekly calendar.

• Be a clean fiend. When it comes to physical activity, everything counts. Vacuuming, mop-ping, snow shoveling, even ironing — all these activities burn calories and get your heart rate up. Been meaning to get to that house project for months, but outside projects came first? Now’s the time to make it happen — and stay active in the process.

The Direct Route to a Healthy Heart

You already know how important heart health is. You also know there are lots of ways to get there, including lowering your cholesterol, reducing stress, quitting smoking, losing weight, and controlling your blood pressure and diabetes.

So here’s a great thing to try: How about doing just one thing — getting more active — that in turn can make most of those other things happen as well? According to current National Institutes of Health guidelines, “Physical activity both directly reduces your heart disease risk and reduces your chances of developing other risk factors for heart disease.” Risk factors include high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and excess weight.

Best of all, it doesn’t take a lot of activity to make heart health happen. You simply need to build up to 30 minutes of aerobic activity on five or more days per week. Aerobic exercises are those activities that increase your heart rate and breathing rate. They are the best type of exercise for your heart. And you don’t need to do it all at once, either. For example, 15 minutes of brisk walking in the morning and 15 minutes of bicycling in the evening gets you to the 30 minutes you need.

The key is to pick an activity or activities you enjoy doing. Walking, dancing, swimming, run-ning, bicycling, jump roping, Zumba — they all work. And there are countless other alterna-tives. It’s entirely up to you. As long as you exercise your heart rate.

So how do you get started? How can you fit activity into your busy day? What’s the best activity for you?

For answers to those questions, call a UPMC Health Plan health coach today at 1-800-807-0571. The service is free, and your health coach will:

• Help you determine your activity goal.
• Create a customized action plan with you.
• Help you take that first step.
• Keep you motivated along the way.
• Be available to answer your questions.

It beats approximately 100,000 times a day for you. Here’s what you can do in return:

• Be active — Walk briskly or do other similar activity at least 30 minutes a day, most days of the week.

• Control your cholesterol and blood sugar — Have screening tests and follow your doctor’s advice to keep your values in the normal range.

• Eat nutritious foods — Choose nutrient-rich, low-fat foods like fruits and vegetables, whole grains, fish, lean meats and poultry, and fat-free or low-fat dairy products.

• Keep your blood pressure under 120/80.

• Lose weight — If you are overweight, losing even 5% or 10% of your weight can greatly reduce your health risks.

• Don’t smoke.

Looking to live your healthiest possible life? Take these six steps to heart!
A
dozen faculty members are recipients of the 2016 chancellor’s awards for distinguished teaching, research and public service. Distinguished teaching award winners are:
• Neal Benedict, associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, School of Pharmacy;
• James Coyle, associate professor in the Department of Communication Science and Disorders, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS);
• Vicky Hoffman, professor of business administration and James H. Rossell Endowed Faculty Fellow in the Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration;
• Zhi-Hong Mao, associate professor and William Kepler Whiteford Faculty Fellow in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Department of Bioengineering, Swanson School of Engineering; and
• Nancy Pfenning, senior lecturer in the Department of Statistics, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.
Distinguished research award winners are:
In the senior scholars category:
• Lucy Fischer, Distinguished Professor of English and Film Studies in the film studies program, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.
• Xu Liang, professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Swanson School of Engineering; and
• Cecelia Lo, professor and F. Sargent Cheever Chair in the Department of Developmental Biology, School of Medicine.
In the junior scholars category:
• W. Seth Horne, associate professor in the Department of Chemistry, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, and
• Piervincenzo Rizzo, associate professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Swanson School of Engineering.
Distinguished public service award winners are:
• Lauren Jonkman, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, School of Pharmacy, and
• Loren Roth, Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, and faculty member in health policy and management, and clinical and translational science.
Awardees will be recognized Feb. 26 at the University’s annual honors convocation.
—Kimberly K. Barlow

Teaching

The Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award recognizes teaching excellence. Any faculty member who has served full-time at the University for at least five years is eligible, provided that he or she has been active as a teacher. Previous winners are not eligible.

Up to five awards are chosen each year. Each award consists of a $2,000 cash prize plus a $3,000 grant to support the faculty member’s teaching activities.

Neal Benedict
Benedict has received the 2014 Innovation in Teaching Award from the American Association of College Pharmacy, the 2011 Innovation in Teaching Award selected by the students of Rho Chi honorary society, and the 2009 and 2014 Cohen Teacher of the Year awards, also selected by students. In his award letter, the chancellor stated: “Your impact on your students through your work with the Experiential Learning Program, where you utilize modeling and one-on-one mentoring to teach the roles and responsibilities of a clinical pharmacist, earned you the 2012 ‘Preceptor of the Year’ award selected by your students. As co-director of the Pharmacotherapy Scholars Program and your extensive roles as professional student portfolio advisor and career learning advisor, you continue to mentor and develop pharmacy students of all levels.”

James Coyle
Coyle has received numerous teaching awards, including the SHRS 2006 Dean’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

The chancellor wrote: “Your ability to connect scientific evidence with clinical decision-making assists and inspires your students of all levels. It is apparent that your skill in connecting your ongoing research with your well-designed learning tools creates a thoughtful and rich environment for your students. The extensive contributions you have made to the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, such as your involvement with the development of the Doctorate of Clinical Sciences curriculum and your expansive external presentations and teaching within your discipline, have had a meaningful impact. The result of this outreach is reflected repeatedly through your letters of support and teaching evaluations. You have an exceptional skill in creating pathways to personalized learning and your encouragement to your students to integrate the content and perspectives of multiple disciplines prepares them to constantly inquire and utilize all of their training.”

Vicky Hoffman
Hoffman has held the James H. Rossell Endowed Faculty Fellowship since 2013 and has won the Excellence in Teaching Award for Undergraduate Teaching in the College of Business Administration (2000 and 2003-15), the Student’s Choice Award for Outstanding Teacher in the Master of Science in Accounting program (2012-15), the Ed & Margaret Kay Award for Teaching Excellence in Accounting (2010) and the Excellence in Teaching Award for MBA teaching (1998, 1999, and 2001).

The chancellor wrote: “Your genuine interest and investment in your students’ development has had a meaningful impact, which is highlighted so well with the many communications from your former students and their eagerness to share their successes with you.”

Zhi-Hong Mao
Mao’s prior awards include the 2010 National Science Foundation Career Award and the 2009 Outstanding Educator Award from the Swanson School of Engineering. The chancellor commended Mao for supervising numerous undergraduate projects and chairing many thesis committees.

“Your investment and dedication to your students is unquestionable and highly admirable,” the chancellor wrote.

“The result of this outreach is reflected repeatedly through your letters of support and teaching evaluations. It is readily apparent that you are perceived as a
Senior scholar awardees: Lucy Fischer, Xu Liang and Cecelia Lo

Public service

The Chancellor’s Distinguished Public Service Award recognizes outstanding public service contributions. Any full-time faculty member who has served for at least three years at the University is eligible. Up to five awardees may be chosen each year. Each award consists of a $2,000 cash prize plus a $3,000 grant to support the faculty member’s public service activities.

Lauren Jonkman

Gallagher commended Jonkman’s commitment to improving health care in underserved and under-resourced settings locally, nationally and globally.

“At our region, together with community health advocates, you have recognized the impact and potential of the health initiatives provided to our community. You have worked tirelessly to advocate for community health care abroad. You have been a valued volunteer and chief pharmacist for Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh-San Jose. You have had an integral role in facilitating real change in a village in Honduras and helped a small community develop a well-staffed full-time clinic. You have provided volunteer support at the University of Namibia by helping to establish a new School of Pharmacy by teaching patient care and supporting program development,” he wrote.

Loren Roth

The chancellor made note of Roth’s appointment as Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry and recipient of the Senior Vice Chancellor’s Extraordinary Service Award for his work in support of a local/regional bio-defense structure.

“ar used to be an active collaborator on the training and development of teaching assistants through the TA optimization program and to act as a liaison to the College in High School program, represents your passion to the craft of teaching and your investment in the next generation of educators.”

Gallagher pointed out that Rizzo has “built the Laboratory for Nondestructive Evaluation and Structural Health Monitoring Studies within the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering from the ground up.” He also noted: “An excellent publication record, along with the number of awards won and invited talks presented, work to demonstrate the position of prominence which you hold among your peers.”

Junior scholar awardees: W. Seth Horne and Piervincenzo Rizzo

FEBRUARY 18, 2016

The Chancellor’s Distinguished Research Award recognizes outstanding scholarly accomplishments. Any tenured or tenure-stream, full-time faculty member who has served at least three years here is eligible.

Up to five awardees are chosen in two categories. Senior scholar awardees are those who have compiled a substantial and continuing record of outstanding research and scholarly activity. Nominees must have achieved pre-eminence in their field and be recognized in letters of support from national and international leaders in the field. Except in unusual circumstances, support letters cannot be from friends or colleagues.

Junior scholar awardees include faculty members who, by virtue of the exceptional quality of their early contributions, have demonstrated great potential as scholars and who have achieved some international standing. Candidates for this award must have received their highest degree no more than 12 years before the time of nomination. Each award consists of a $2,000 cash prize plus a $3,000 grant to support the junior faculty member’s research and teaching.

Senior Scholars

Lucy Fischer

In his award letter, the chancellor stated: “The selection committee was exceedingly impressed by your scholarly achievements. Your numerous scholarly publications, many of which were selected for reprint or to be anthologized, are well known and greatly respected among your peers.”

Xu Liang

In his letter to Liang, Gallagher wrote: “The selection committee was very impressed by your groundbreaking achievements in hydrology.” Liang’s work to redesign undergraduate and PhD programs resulted in the growth of the hydrology and water resources program from two PhD students in 2006 to more than 10 currently.

Cecelia Lo

In his award letter, the chancellor stated: “The selection committee was impressed by your unique research on the genetic and developmental etiology of congenital heart disease. You are highly respected in both the basic and clinical sciences for your ability to bring your work to the basic sciences to use in the clinical research field.”

At Pitt, Horne has received NSF and NIH single-investigator grants as well as a number of honors, including a Thelma Chemistry Journal Award. “As a mentor to eight graduate students who set lofty standards of productivity, your work as a teacher is excellent. Among your peers, your research in peptide and protein science has been described as unique and systematic as evidenced by more than 40 invited lectures.”

Piervincenzo Rizzo

“Your collaboration with scholars nationally and internationally stands as testament to your exceptional efforts toward furthering research in your fields of scholarly activity.”

Senior scholar awardees: Lucy Fischer, Xu Liang and Cecelia Lo

Research

Gifted teacher who reaches out to students with clear and articulate lectures and as someone who transcends the boundary between teaching and research.

“You skill at incorporating real-life examples, interdisciplinary approaches, and utilization of your own research attracts and motivates your students to learn more about the subject. It is evident that you also receive as much joy from your teaching as your students do from your instruction.”

Nancy Pfennig

Pfennig’s prior awards include the 2011 Tina and David Belle Teaching Excellence Award. “Your dedication to the field of statistics through your authoring of ‘Elementary Statistics: Looking at the Big Picture’ illustrates your commitment to statistics education. It is with pride that your department utilizes your text for all of the STAT 0200 courses,” the chancellor wrote, commending Pfennig’s commitment to mentoring junior faculty and her dedication as a teacher.

“Your commitment to the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences to educate not only students and junior faculty, but to also be an active collaborator on the training and development of teaching assistants through the TA optimization program and to act as a liaison to the College in High School program, represents your passion to the craft of teaching and your investment in the next generation of educators.”

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Piervincenzo Rizzo

“The committee was greatly impressed by your scholarly achievements at such an early point in your career,” the chancellor wrote. “Your collaboration with scholars nationally and internationally stands as testament to your exceptional efforts toward furthering research in your fields of scholarly activity.”

Gallagher pointed out that Rizzo has “built the Laboratory for Nondestructive Evaluation and Structural Health Monitoring Studies within the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering from the ground up.” He also noted: “An excellent publication record, along with the number of awards won and invited talks presented, work to demonstrate the position of prominence which you hold among your peers.”

Senior Scholar awardees: Lucy Fischer, Xu Liang and Cecelia Lo

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Lauren Jonkman

Gallagher commended Jonkman’s commitment to improving health care in underserved and under-resourced settings locally, nationally and globally.

“In our region, together with Dr. Sharon Conroy, you took a leading role in developing a successful pharmacist-managed clinic at the Birmingham Free Clinic to provide patients with consistent continuing and comprehensive appointment-based care,” he wrote. “Through your clinical appointment and volunteer work at the Birmingham Free Clinic, your work with the Salvation Army Harbor Light Program and at the Pleasant Valley Men’s Shelter, and quality improvements at the Northside Christian Health Center, you have helped thousands of patients in southwestern Pennsylvania.”

He commended as well her advocacy for community health care abroad. “You have been a valued volunteer and chief pharmacist for Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh-San Jose. You have had an integral role in facilitating real change in a village in Honduras and helped a small community develop a well-staffed full-time clinic. You have provided volunteer support at the University of Namibia by helping to establish a new School of Pharmacy by teaching patient care and supporting program development,” he wrote.

Loren Roth

The chancellor made note of Roth’s appointment as Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry and recipient of the Senior Vice Chancellor’s Extraordinary Service Award for his work in support of a local/regional bio-defense structure.

“You have been a valued board member or leader with many charitable organizations,” Gallagher wrote, citing Roth’s roles as co-chair of Pitt’s United Way campaign, head of the United Way’s Impact Fund committee and service on the board of Point Park University.

He cited as well Roth’s impact on health policy development nationally and locally, “and the positive effects your efforts have had on public welfare, the protection of human rights, our communities, and individual citizens in all walks of life.”

Additional details on award criteria are available under the “guidelines” tab at www.provost.pitt.edu.

Senior scholar awardees: W. Seth Horne and Piervincenzo Rizzo

Public service

The Chancellor’s Distinguished Public Service Award recognizes outstanding public service contributions. Any full-time faculty member who has served for at least three years at the University is eligible. Up to five awardees may be chosen each year. Each award consists of a $2,000 cash prize plus a $3,000 grant to support the faculty member’s public service activities.

Lauren Jonkman

Gallagher commended Jonkman’s commitment to improving health care in underserved and under-resourced settings locally, nationally and globally.

“At our region, together with Dr. Sharon Conroy, you took a leading role in developing a successful pharmacist-managed clinic at the Birmingham Free Clinic to provide patients with consistent continuing and comprehensive appointment-based care,” he wrote. “Through your clinical appointment and volunteer work at the Birmingham Free Clinic, your work with the Salvation Army Harbor Light Program and at the Pleasant Valley Men’s Shelter, and quality improvements at the Northside Christian Health Center, you have helped thousands of patients in southwestern Pennsylvania.”

He commended as well her advocacy for community health care abroad. “You have been a valued volunteer and chief pharmacist for Shoulder to Shoulder Pittsburgh-San Jose. You have had an integral role in facilitating real change in a village in Honduras and helped a small community develop a well-staffed full-time clinic. You have provided volunteer support at the University of Namibia by helping to establish a new School of Pharmacy by teaching patient care and supporting program development,” he wrote.

Loren Roth

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“ar used to be an active collaborator on the training and development of teaching assistants through the TA optimization program and to act as a liaison to the College in High School program, represents your passion to the craft of teaching and your investment in the next generation of educators.”

Gallagher pointed out that Rizzo has “built the Laboratory for Nondestructive Evaluation and Structural Health Monitoring Studies within the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering from the ground up.” He also noted: “An excellent publication record, along with the number of awards won and invited talks presented, work to demonstrate the position of prominence which you hold among your peers.”

Senior scholar awardees: W. Seth Horne and Piervincenzo Rizzo
Simplified nutritional labels improve grocery selection

It comes to making healthier food purchases in our nation’s grocery stores, simpler nutritional packaging is better. In fact, if one only has to look at a single number — a score that represents the nutritional value of what’s inside the packaging — a consumer is more likely to buy healthier products, according to a study co-authored by a Katz Graduate School of Business faculty member. The study “Healthy Choice: The Effect of Simplified Point-of-Sale Nutritional Information on Consumer Choice Behavior,” was published in the Journal of Marketing Research and co-authored by Jeffrey Inman, associate dean for research and faculty, the Albert Wesley Frey Professor of Marketing, and a member of the Katz business administration faculty, with a colleague from Boston College. The study involved more than 535,000 shoppers, eight different food categories and a major grocery store chain that used the NuVal (short for Nutritional Value) simplified scoring system.

The NuVal system summarizes all the nutritional information available on a product’s nutritional label, scoring foods products on a scale of 1 to 100 — the higher the score, the better the nutrition. It is available in more than 1,600 stores in the United States and was developed by a team of nutrition, public health and medical experts after the passage of the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act (NLEA) after the 1990 Nutrition Labeling Amendment. A specialized system for modeling the function and dynamics of biomolecules, the Anton 1 was funded by National Institutes of Health in 2004 and the machine is expected to be allotted on the basis of research proposals submitted by U.S. researchers. The expert committee convened by the National Research Council at the National Academy of Sciences.

The Center for Medical Innovation awards four grants

The Center for Medical Innovation (CMI) awarded grants to four research groups through its 2015 round-2 pilot funding program for early stage medical technology research and development. The latest funding proposals include developing a patient monitoring wristband, a novel material to prevent thrombosis in vascular stents, a neuro-stimulation device to prevent bed-wetting in children and a novel method for treatment of sickle cell anemia.

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Winning projects are:

• “Self-Cleaning Smart Anti- bacterial ear infections,” to develop, build and test glaucoma drainage implants with antimicrobial properties, — Xing Chen, faculty member in ophthalmology — Paul W. Leu, industrial engineering faculty member in the Swanson school; Graham Hatfull, biological sciences faculty member in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences; and Robert M.Q. Shanks and Nils Loewen, ophthalmology faculty members in the School of Medicine.

• “Esophocclude (Temporary Occlusion of the Esophagus in Emergency Intubation),” to develop a new device for treatment of esophageal lacerations — Morgan Fedorchak, faculty member in chemical engineering in the Swanson school; and Cumeyt Alper, ophthalmology faculty member.

• “RegenMatrix (collagen-mimetic bioactive hydrogels for bone regeneration),” to develop bioactive hydrogels to guide bone mineralization in drug delivery system for treatment of middle ear infections — Morgan Fedorchak, faculty member in chemical engineering in the Swanson school; and Cumeyt Alper, ophthalmology faculty member.

• “Controlled release, gel-based ear drops for treatment of otitis media,” to develop a novel time-release microsphere drug delivery system for treatment of middle ear infections — Morgan Fedorchak, faculty member in chemical engineering in the Swanson school; and Cumeyt Alper, ophthalmology faculty member.

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The University Senate community relations committee (CRC) has endorsed a report by organizers of last fall’s Academically-Based Community Engagement Faculty Idea Exchange (see Oct. 1, 2015, University Times) that calls for the creation of better infrastructure to recognize and support faculty community engagement work across the University.

“This is the committee that the Senate looks to, to continue the dialogue in some kind of way,” said CRC member Tracy Soska, a School of Social Work faculty member who co-authored the report.

The University’s community relations office has developed strong connections externally and the Office of PittServes has connected students with service opportunities. “How do we bridge that gap to make sure faculty work is involved in that?” he asked.

Kamru Sahni, director of community relations, said a recurring theme at the idea exchange was the need for a mechanism to help faculty connect with each other, as well as a mechanism for proving long-term continuity in programs that serve community partners. “How do we organize going from semester to semester to maintain those relationships?”

Soska noted that many students consider an institution’s level of engagement when selecting a college. He added that many research universities, particularly in urban areas, have the Carnegie community engagement designations. “It seems odd that we’re not on that list,” he said.

“It’s a self-assessment tool,” said John Wilds, assistant vice chancellor for community relations. “It forces you to look at all aspects of the University’s outreach into the community, and what you do internally to support that outreach.”

Soska said: “We need to do a better job of benchmarking. If we don’t measure our collective impact, we are losing an opportunity to show what we really do.”

He said the establishment of benchmarks “allows us to not only assess our progress in this kind of work, but also allows us to look institution-wide to say what is our collective impact in terms of this community work as well. It provides us a good template for doing it.”

The summary report is posted at www.universenate.pitt.edu.

In other business:
• The committee discussed plans for improving pedestrian safety and awareness in Oakland. Sahni noted that a decision regarding bus rapid transit route alignment, expected this summer, would allow discussion on other Oakland transportation plans, including bicycle infrastructure and intersection improvements.

Safety issues will be included in CRC’s next report to Faculty Assembly. In addition, the committee will lend its support to the efforts of other groups such as Pitt’s Staff Association Council, Parking and Transportation Services, student organizations and the Oakland Transportation Management Association in raising awareness throughout the University community.

• The committee reviewed Oakland community activist Carlino Giampolo’s Feb. 9 comments to Pittsburgh City Council (posted at www.OaklandDignity.com) regarding the planned Campus Advantage residential development and the SkyVue development under construction on Forbes Avenue in Oakland.

Texas-based Campus Advan-
tage is seeking city approval to expand its plan to build student apartments on a vacant laundromat site at 3407 Forbes Ave. The company now wants to expand development to the adjacent Arby’s restaurant site. A city plan-
ing commission briefing is set for Feb. 23 with a hearing to follow on March 8.

Administrators from Pitt’s Office of Community and Governmental Relations disagree with Giampolo’s premise that the development will adversely affect the neighborhood.

Sahni noted that the Oakland 2025 community master plan will lend its support to the University in CRC’s next report to Faculty Assembly. It provides us a good template of this community work as well.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Applications sought for UCSUR awards

The University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) is seeking applicants for the annual Steven D. Manners Faculty Development Awards. Two awards of up to $10,000 each for pilot research in the social, behavioral and policy sciences will be presented, with special consideration given to applications that are related to areas of particular interest to UCSUR or applications utilizing data collected by UCSUR.

The awards honor Manners, who worked at UCSUR for 26 years and was assistant director at the time of his death in 2009. Proposals will be judged on scientific merit; background and experience of investigator; adequacy of resources and environment; appropriateness of budget; likelihood that pilot work will lead to external peer-reviewed funding; and relevance to UCSUR focus areas. Full-time faculty or researchers from all Pitt campuses are eligible.

A one-page letter of intent describing the proposed project is due Feb. 29. After review, applicants selected to submit full proposals will be notified within two weeks; final applications are due May 2. Awards will be made by June 20. Start dates for awards can be any time after July 1.

To submit letters of intent and applications in person or by mail, send four copies to Richard Schulz, UCSUR, 3343 Forbes Ave., Room 214. To submit electronically, email to Anna Avaliotis at annacca@pitt.edu. For more information, contact Donald Musa, dmusa@pitt.edu.

Spring 2016 Student Opinion of Teaching Surveys will take place from April 4 to April 24

Go to www.cidee.pitt.edu/omet for information about:
• Requesting a survey
• Asking students for feedback
• Using class tools for students to complete surveys

Students are more likely to respond if they know it’s important to you.
412-624-6440 • omet@pitt.edu

Office of Measurement and Evaluation of Teaching OMET Center for Instructional Development & Distance Education CIDE
Renee Frazier, former director of Pitt's Upward Bound program, died Jan. 20, 2016. She was 62.

Frazier earned a bachelor's degree in sociology at Duquesne University and completed graduate work at Pitt. She earned a master's degree in education in counselor education in 1976 and a PhD in psychology in 1984.

She began her 28-year career at Pitt in 1977 as a student services specialist in the Academic Resource Center, then was named coordinator of its counseling component in 1986. In addition to working with the University Challenge for Excellence Program (UCEP), in 1988 she became director of Pitt's Upward Bound program, which prepares eligible Pittsburgh Public School students for higher education.

After leaving the University in 2005, she continued to work professionally and as a volunteer as the Urban Academy of Pittsburgh charter school, where she served as a director, said Chenits Pettigrew, associate dean for student affairs and director of diversity programs in the School of Education. Pettigrew was a former UCEP director, remem

beted Frazier for her dedication to the program, its staff and participants.

“Frazier was committed to what the program represented,” he said, noting that she continued following her Upward Bound students as they went on to college.

Frazier was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and a former graduate adviser for Pitt's Upward Bound.

Her sorority sisters remember her as a “dedicated leader, role model and tireless servant of God” citing in a memorial Fra

zits Pettigrew said. “She also provided counsel to colleagues within the University, advising those who were considering graduate school and those seeking student services careers.

“She was always open and available,” Pettigrew said.

In addition to working with the students, she enjoyed movies, dining out and bowling.

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Thursday 18

HSLW Workshop
“Painless PubMed,” Barb Folli; Folli, Library classrom. 1, 11:30 am (folli@pitt.edu)

Epidemiology Seminar
“Healthy Lifestyle Intervention for AD,” Loretta Williams; 4115 Crab- 
tree; noon (wend@pitt.edu)

Bradford Campus Concert
Blind Boy Paxton; Studio Theater, UPJ; noon

Alzheimer Seminar
“Sleep & Executive Network Func- 
tion in Older Adults,” Kristine Wilckens; S439 Montefiore, noon

O’Hara ballrm., 2 pm (policyreview. 
cidde.pitt.edu/workshops)

Friday 19

Senate Computer Usage Com- 
mmittee Mtg.
717 CL; 10 am

East Asian Lecture
“Transcreation: Intersections of 
Culture & Commerce in Japanese 
Translation & Localization,” Dylan Reilly; 4130 Porear, noon

Friday 18

Black History Month Film 
Screening
“Where Avenue Days”; Thornburgh 
Bow. Hillman, 3 pm

Previous Inaugural Lecture
“Exascale HPC, Big Data & Quan-
tum Computing in Rocket Science,” 
Peymon Givi, mechanical engineering; 
2800 Forbes, 4 pm

GSWS Seminar
“Caregivers: Raising the Good 
Life,” Gabriela Lukacs; 401 CL; 4 
pm (www.gsws.pitt.edu)

Senior Student Admissions, Aid & 
Affairs Mtg.
272 Hillman, 4 pm

Honors Convocation
40th Annual 
Honors Convocation
3 p.m.
Friday, February 26
Carnegie Music Hall 
4400 Forbes Avenue
Honors Convocation is open to the public.
All honorees and their guests are invited 
to attend a reception immediately following the Honors Convocation.

Monday 22

American Experience Lecture
“Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis,” Robert Putnam; Harvard; UClub 817R CL, 2 pm (www.cellin 
burghforum.org)

Trustees Nominating & Gover-
nance Committee Mtg.
2700 Power, 3:45 pm

French/Italian Seminar
“Pruning (at) Versailles: Arbores 
Politics in 18th-Century France,” 
Paiga Carlile; Carnegie Museum of 
Art Theater, 6 pm

Tuesday 23

CIDDE Workshop
“Encouraging Student Participa-
tion,” 815 Alumni, noon (www. 
cidde.pitt.edu/workshops)

Psychology of Science Seminar
“Blur, Visual Consciousness & 
Empirical Friction,” Wayne Wu, 
Carnegie Mellon; 817R CL, noon

Basic/Translational Research 
Seminar
“Stillness & Mental Illness,” James 
Mindfulness: Between Mental 
and Fundamental Research,” 
Wayne Wu, Carnegie Mellon; 817R CL, 5 pm (humctr@pitt.edu)

Chemistry Seminar
“How Policies Are Impacting Chem-
isty & Fundamental Research,” 
Ryan Davison; 150 Chevron, 2:30 pm

Sunday 21

Men’s Basketball 
Vs. Syracuse; Petersen, 3 pm

Heinz Chapel Chamber Choir 
Festival
Heinz Chapel, 130 pm (www.music. 
pitt.edu)

Cntr for Mindfulness/Conscious-
ness Seminar
“The Promises & Problems of Mindfulness: Between Mental 
Stillness & Mental Illness,” James 
Robinson, Harvard; WPU, 5 pm (www. 
mindfulpitt.edu)

Psychiatry Grand Rounds
“Perinatal Psychiatry: Delusional 
Myths & Avoiding Pitfalls,” Priya 
Gopalani, WPC, noon

Humanities Seminar
“The Earthquake & the Micro-
scope,” Gerard Passanante, U of 
MD, 602 CL; noon (humctr@pitt.edu)

Philosophy of Science Seminar
“Method Controls Skilled Areas,” 
Wayne Christensen, Marquette 
U; 817R CL, noon (www.pitt. 
edit; -puyện)

Senate BPC Meeting
338 WPU

Wednesday 24

Molecular/Cellular Cancer Biol-
ology Seminar
“Probing Excluded-Strand Inter-
actions in Replicative Helicases,” 
Dongshu Chen, Hillman Cancer 
Ctr. Research Pavilion 2nd fl. conf. 
room, 3:30 pm

Pathology Seminar
“Cardiopulmonary NTP Synthesis in the 
Liver,” Sayeepriyadarshin Anakk, U of 
IL, 1104 Scaife, noon

HSLW Workshop
“Genome Navigation: UCSC 
Genome Browser,” Ansuman Chau-
topalayya; Falk Library classrom. 2, 
1 pm (ansuman@pitt.edu)

Trustees Property & Facilities 
Committee Mtg.
2700 Power, 3:30 pm

Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery 
Lecture
“Pathology,” Kurt Summersgill; 
G33 Salt, 3 pm

Chemistry Lecture
“Launching Chemical Education 
Initiatives in a Research Intensive 
Environment,” Paul Dowd, U of 
CA; 150 Chevron, 4 pm

GT/Hepatology Grand Rounds
“Endoscopic & Radiologic 
Unknowns”; 1104 Scaife, 5 pm

Thursday 25

Trustees Budget Committee 
Mtg.
2700 Power, 11 am

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