Assembly debates, approves sexual misconduct policy

Faculty Assembly has approved a revised sexual misconduct policy and a new University procedure on sexual misconduct, developed in light of changing federal requirements.

Despite misgivings by some, the Assembly moved the documents in a 17-8 vote with three abstentions, in the interest of having an improved policy in place before freshman arrive in August. The draft documents go to Senate Council for review next week.

“The legal landscape around sexual misconduct has dramatically changed, due a lot to how the U.S. Department of Education is interpreting and enforcing Title IX and due to amendments in the Violence Against Women Act,” said Laurie J. Kirsch, vice provost for faculty affairs, development and diversity, in presenting the documents to the Assembly May 10.

Kirsch chaired a provost’s ad hoc committee that has spent the past year reviewing Pitt’s existing policy and developing recommendations to revise and strengthen University sexual misconduct policy.

In addition to revising the existing policy, the committee developed a separate procedure documenting optional options for reporting misconduct, filing a complaint, investigation and resolution of complaints, and the appeals process.

The Council of Deans endorsed the proposed policy and procedure in March and the University Senate’s equity, inclusion and anti-discrimination advocacy committee did so last month, Kirsch said.

Among the changes that troubled some faculty are the “responsible employee” designation and associated reporting requirement that some say could chill relations between faculty and students who wish to confide in them.

“It’s a broad definition and it means that most University employees would be considered responsible employees, who are therefore required to contact the Title IX office promptly upon learning of alleged sexual misconduct, sexual violence or sexual harassment,” said Kirsch.

Because of that reporting requirement, responsible employ-

ees cannot guarantee confidentiality. “If a victim requests confidentiality, then you can direct that wish to confide in them. Employees would be considered responsible employees, who are therefore required to contact the Title IX office promptly upon learning of alleged sexual misconduct, sexual violence or sexual harassment,” said Kirsch.

The plan will be made public following approvals by the Pro-

vost’s office and the Board of Trustees, the latter likely in Febru-

ary 2017, they say.

After a proposal for the new school was formulated by com-

mittees with members from CS, SIS and other University units, an interim report was completed at the end of 2015. Together the committees produced a draft proposal that has been approved by both CS and SIS faculties, their councils and planning and budgeting committees (PBCs) and the PBC at the Dietrich school.

This fall the proposal will face the scrutiny of the Provost’s Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Programs and the University Council on Graduate Studies.

Znati and Larsen anticipate launching the school on July 1, 2017, with the first students matriculating in the fall 2017 term.

Current CS and SIS students will be grandfathered into the new school and current programs will be guaranteed for five years following the new school’s opening. But figuring out how to best potential students a picture of the new school in time for them to apply for September 2017 admission is “very much a work in progress,” Larsen allows.

However, he says of the plan-

ning, which has been underway since April 2015, “it has crossed a critical threshold. People recogn-

ize that this is something we are going to do, and that it is in the long-term interest not only of the University but of their discipline.”

Znati says: “The idea is to move now and start making it happen.”

The new college’s name, at least temporarily, is the School of Computing and Information. “The majority seems to think that is the right name,” Znati says, while industry contacts believe it’s the right moniker as well, Larsen adds.

Placing the school in one location is “a critical factor for success,” Znati says. “It’s hard to collaborate because of the physical separation” currently, but the pair can’t say more about the final physical shape of CS and SIS consolidation.

Afton Provost Patricia E. Beeson called for the move to a “second critical mass” out in Chancellor Patrick Gallagher’s strategic plan, four committees were formed to plan the new academic unit.

The education and curriculum committee, developed “consistent, coherent and joint” plans for combining CS and SIS and linking the new school’s pro-

grams to broader University needs and opportunities. The research and collaboration committee met with faculty from the health sciences and the arts and sciences and “it was extraordinary,” he says, while the organizational structure committee, examining the proposal’s organizational posture, looked at incorporating ideas from other universities that have made a similar recent shift, such as the University of California-Berkeley and the University of Michigan.

The final report’s vision and identity, worked on during the summer’s identity on campus and throughout the country, so that its new academic emphases “become a signature strength,” Larsen adds.

One emphasis of the new school, says Znati, will be pro-

grams that teach contextually situated computing. The role of computers long has been to serve

Pitt phil philosophy dept. ranked tops in world

Pitt is the world’s top university for philosophy, according to the 2016 QS World University Rankings by subject.

The annual ranking released last week, ranked institutions in 42 subject areas, based on schools’ academic reputation, their reputation for producing employable graduates and their research impact.

Philosophy had been on a steady climb, moving from No. 7 in 2013 to No. 3 in 2014 and No. 2 in 2015.

Pitt was also highly rated for computer science and informa-

tion sciences, chemistry; economics and econometrics; mathematics; and mechanical, aeronautical and manufacturing engineering.

Pitt’s environmental sciences

Ronald W. Frisch’s 21 years of service to Pitt as associate vice chan-

cellor and provost is being celebrated by the Staff Association’s Faculty Council (SAC) with a special reception and awards.

A video highlighting Frisch’s accomplish-

ments features testimonies from Emeritus Mark A. Nordenberg, who said, “Everyone who has worked with Frisch has been benefitted by the Frisch touch.”

A report on Chancellor Patrick Gallagher’s strategic plan, four committees were formed to plan the new academic unit.

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grams to broader University needs and opportunities. The research and collaboration committee met with faculty from the health sciences and the arts and sciences and “it was extraordinary,” he says, while the organizational structure committee, examining the proposal’s organizational posture, looked at incorporating ideas from other universities that have made a similar recent shift, such as the University of California-Berkeley and the University of Michigan.

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grams that teach contextually situated computing. The role of computers long has been to serve

SAC honors Frisch
German dept. proposes enlarging scope of PhD

German department chair Randall N. Halle has answered Provost Patricia E. Beeson’s May 1, 2016, deadline for lifting the suspension of the German graduate program, or closing it altogether by proposing a new PhD Program in European cultural studies.

Halle, the dean of the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, N. John Cooper, has requested a two-year extension of the deadline while a decision on the new program is made, according to the Provost’s office. Admissions to the German graduate program were suspended in 2012 and Beeson announced the May 1, 2016, deadline in 2014. Halle, Klaus W. Jonas Professor of German film and cultural studies, says the proposed PhD program would be “not only for the German graduate studies but for the humanities in general.”

While his own research examines the process of Europeanization in European Union countries, he notes, language studies departments traditionally have been divided along nationalities, which he calls “a really 19th-century way of thinking about the world. Europe has transformed what it means to be a part of a nation state.”

European Union founding principles speak about economic, political and cultural union, he adds. “That last piece is really the part that makes its engine, but it is the part that is least examined.” Cultural union is ignored as an area of academic study, he believes, “in part because people like me are parcelled away in areas that study only a single national discipline. I’m proposing that Pitt move out to the forefront … as the place devoted to studying European cultural union.”

As the current nominee to be the president of the German Studies Association, “I am committed to the study of German,” Halle says. “But from my perspective, what it means to study German and Germany at this point in time is very different than what it meant in 1989, and before European unification in 1992. I mourn the loss of the German PhD, but at the same time I’m very excited about putting together a program that could represent German graduate education for the 21st century.”

In 2014, Beeson also announced that the graduate program in religious studies would close in 2022 and set a May 1, 2018, deadline for the classics graduate program to have its current suspension lifted or to close altogether.

—Marty Levine

Philosophy ranked No. 1

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
and electrical/electronics engineering ranked in the top 300 schools in the subject matter ranking:

Of 42 subjects in the annual QS World University Rankings by Subject, Pitt was unranked in 20, accounting for finance, and agricultural and forestry studies; earth and marine sciences; geography and area studies; law, linguistics; materials science; mineral and mining engineering; modern languages; performing arts; sociology; and veterinary science.

Subject rankings are based on QS’s global surveys of academics and employers and on research indicators based at Elsevier’s Scopus research citations data base.

The full list of world university rankings by subject and the ranking methodology can be found at www.topuniversities.com.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

On campus health care

Pitt junior wins Udall

Ying Chen “Bailey” Lien has been selected as a 2016 Udall Scholar. A junior, Lien is majoring in neuroscience in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.

The UD Foundation awards its undergraduate scholarships to sophomores and juniors in recognition of their leadership, public service and commitment to careers related to environmental well-being or the advancement of American Indian nations.

Lien is the University’s ninth Udall recipient since 1995. She is among 60 students from 49 colleges and universities selected in 2016 from 482 candidates nominated by 227 colleges and universities.

Each scholarship provides up to $7,000 for the scholar’s junior or senior year.

Initially established in 1992 to honor Morris K. Udall’s three decades of service in the House of Representatives, the Udall Foundation now also recognizes his brother Stewart L. Udall’s service in the House and as Secretary of Interior under presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

An aspiring physician, Lien plans to focus her career on issues related to public health and environmental affairs. She also would like to conduct scholarly research on neurodevelopmental disorders caused by air pollutants or on chronic allergy and respiratory illnesses.
Progress is not made unless someone is to some degree dissatisfied with the status quo,” said Vinton G. Cerf, widely known as one of the “fathers of the internet,” in a brief address to Pitt’s 2016 commencement convocation on May 1.

Chancellor Patrick Gallagher, in awarding an honorary Doctor of Science degree to Cerf, noted that his work “changed the very fabric of the world we live in.” The white-bearded Cerf, now vice president and chief internet evangelist for Google, joked that he might be “a dinosaur” today, holding up a model of what looked like the Dippy statue in front of the Carnegie Museums. But he urged the new graduates to embrace discontent and risk as engines of change. He said he has been praising the value of dissatisfaction with one’s current state since he spoke as valedictorian of his high school in 1961.

“You can afford to take risks because you have time to recover” from failure, he said. “Moreover, risk is not fatal.”

He recalled two instances in which he resisted taking a large risk, only to succumb in the end, for the betterment of his own life and the future of the internet. After he completed his PhD dissertation at UCLA in 1972, he was asked to join the faculty of Stanford, where he had been a guest lecturer earlier. “I turned them down, thinking I had little to offer the undergraduate students there,” Cerf said. Stanford faculty, however, “would not take no for an answer.”

In particular recruited him persistently, and Cerf acquiesced. Together, he and Kahn then worked on the design of the internet, beginning in 1974. After seven years at Stanford, Kahn had moved on to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and he asked Cerf to join him there to continue designing the internet. “I thought, if I mess this up, all my friends will know, because this is such a visible project. So I refused.” Later, he relented. “Of course, this was an opportunity of a lifetime.”

The rest is online history: With Kahn (now chairman, CEO and president of the Corporation for National Research Initiatives), Cerf invented the way computers from disparate companies could communicate across a network.

“It took many years of patient and persistent work with many colleagues to make it work,” he noted, adding: “I do not suggest that the class of 2016 should leave this august university in an unhappy state of dissatisfaction” — at least not without acting upon it. Instead, he urged the graduates to work for change and improved conditions locally to globally. “While you’re young, you can afford to take risks,” Cerf concluded. “When forced into choices, you can take the risky road.

“Patience and persistence count in a world that may resist change. Set your sights to make a difference … Who knows? You may even change the world.”

—Marty Levine

COMMENCEMENT 2016
Physicians first prescribed opioids to alleviate pain in the worst cases — severe, often terminal illnesses. But then in the 1990s doctors began prescribing opioids such as oxycodone (marketed alone as OxyContin, or as an ingredient in other drugs) for less severe, often routine, pain relief. “All this was pushed out into the public” by pharmaceutical companies, Dempsey said.

“I’m not trying to deny any- one’s pain,” he added. But there is widespread agreement that this medication was being over-prescribed, and it led to addiction. Eighty percent of all heroin users started out on opioid medications, he said, then turned to heroin because it was cheaper and more readily available.

Since 2011, drug overdoses have overtaken traffic accidents as one of the top causes of death in the U.S., with more than 45,000 such fatalities in 2015, half from opioids.

Recent Pitt public health stud- ies have found that Pittsburgh is now one of the epicenters of the heroin epidemic — and that the epidemic of prescription opioid pain medications is to blame.

The students already had been working for weeks in small teams to research, formulate and present to the Allegheny County Health Department a proposal for the law and the public health system, to intervene in the opioid epi- demic. The interdisciplinary class included a student in the Graduate School of Public Health’s master of public health program; another working toward a PhD in genomics; medical students; an undergraduat- ing for a bachelor’s degree in economics; and even a Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) master of public policy student. Public health faculty member Elizabeth Van Nostrand, director of the school’s JD/MPH program and associate director for law and policy in the Center for Public Health Practice, was the instructor for the course.

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entists and humanities scholars projects in other domains, from on their software or hardware, and how such new scholarship is opening doors for new collaborations… and sets this new school apart from the crowd. That is what for me is exciting.” Has the mutual CS/SIS plan—began to be difficult … but I have going to be difficult … but I have plans to lead in developing a model which practice. Pitt has an opportunity to lead in developing a model which data sharing plans for funded research, but have not systematized this practice. The Provost has announced the creation of a new research Data Management Committee (DMC) which is charged with the mission of informing and catalyzing the University community in data management, data stewardship, and data sharing plans. The report also will describe potential strategies to achieve cultural change within the institution, recognizing U.S. government agendas toward open data and research funder requirements. The report also will describe potential strategies to achieve cultural change within the institution, recognizing U.S. government agendas toward open data and research funder requirements.

**School of Education**

Search committee chair Charles Perloff and the University Times that the search for a new dean of the School of Education would continue in the fall. An initial search failed to secure a candidate to succeed Alan Lesgold. The board of the school since 2000, will step down in August.

**University Library System**

Boston-based search firm Isaacson, Miller is continuing to seek candidates for a new ULS director, said in search committee chair Alberta Shughraj, vice provost for graduate studies. A search for Miller’s successor was announced in fall, but was soon put on hold as Pitt and Carnegie Mellon University began exploring possible library collaborations. (See Dec. 4, 2014, University Times.) The search recommenced last fall (see Oct. 29, 2015, University Times) and a trio of finalists were scheduled to present open lectures on campus in February. One candidate was forced to cancel at the last minute, unable to fly to Pittsburgh following an accident. Shughraj told the University Times she was uncertain whether the search committee would proceed with its work over the summer.

—Kimberly K. Barlow and Marty Levine

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**Provost Calls for Community Action on Research Data Management**

The Provost has announced the creation of a new research Data Management Committee (DMC) which is charged with the mission of informing and catalyzing the University community in data management, data stewardship, and data sharing plans. The report also will describe potential strategies to achieve cultural change within the institution, recognizing U.S. government agendas toward open data and research funder requirements. The report also will describe potential strategies to achieve cultural change within the institution, recognizing U.S. government agendas toward open data and research funder requirements. You can contribute to the work of the DMC in two key ways:

- By completing a survey about your research data requirements and practices http://pi.tt/datasurvey
- By participating in a Data Management Committee Open Forum (further details at URL below)

The co-chairs of the Data Management Committee welcome your engagement.

Dr. Dave Lyon, visiting professor, School of Information Sciences, said: “Our objective is to help the University of Pittsburgh to provide a coordinated and robust data infrastructure for its faculty, which meets their requirements and which recognizes the value of their research data, models and code as first-class research outputs.”

Dr. Mike Becich, associate vice chancellor for informatics in the Health Sciences, chair and Distinguished University Professor of the Department of Biomedical Informatics, said: “The next chapter of the evolution of science is dependent on the sharing of data generated by federally funded research. The NIH and NSF have required data sharing plans for funded research, but have not systematized this practice. Pitt has an opportunity to lead in developing a model which can scale nationally.”

For more information about the Data Management Committee, the Provost’s Office and the Data Management Committee Open Forums, go to www.zdmc.pitt.edu/.

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**Plans for CS/IS school proceed**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 other disciplines — at least, that’s been their image, even in academia. Computer and information scientists work in a vacuum on their software or hardware, after which the new machines or applications were recruited to aid projects in other domains, from the health sciences to English.

Dr. Znati says, computing has entered a new era in which computer scientists, other scientists and humanities scholars cannot afford to work in such isolation. Programs in the new school thus will take into account the need for computer and information scientists not only to learn how to code but to learn how to collaborate directly with, say, biomedical science researchers or history PhDs, to understand biomedical science researchers to collaborate directly with, say, how to code but to learn how need for computer and information scientists worked in a vacuum thus will take into account the isolation.

In particular, says Znati, the new programs may emphasize such up-and-coming fields as privacy and security, cyber-physical systems (designing hardware and software together), the internet of things and data stewardship (how data technology is supporting scholarly, community and how such new scholarship is opening doors for new collaborations… and sets this new school apart from the crowd. That is what for me is exciting.” Has the mutual CS/SIS plan—began to be difficult … but I have going to be difficult … but I have plans to lead in developing a model which practice. Pitt has an opportunity to lead in developing a model which data sharing plans for funded research, but have not systematized this practice. The Provost has announced the creation of a new research Data Management Committee (DMC) which is charged with the mission of informing and catalyzing the University community in data management, data stewardship, and data sharing plans. The report also will describe potential strategies to achieve cultural change within the institution, recognizing U.S. government agendas toward open data and research funder requirements. You can contribute to the work of the DMC in two key ways:

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**Fundraising jobs to be consolidated**

Plans are underway to combine the director of Institutional Advancement and the Medical and Health Sciences Foundation under a new vice chancellor for institutional development. Senior Vice Chancellor for Engagement and Chief of Staff Kathy Humphrey told the University Times. Having one person responsible for all fundraising will increase the strength of the units and enhance how the units work together, she said.

A search firm has yet to be selected to aid in identifying candidates for the position, Humphrey said.

Albert J. Novak Jr., vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement since 2003, announced last month that he would step down and return to a core fundraising position for Pitt. He will remain in his current role until a successor is named.

Kellie Anderson has been serving as interim president of the Medical and Health Sciences Foundation since the departure last June of Clyde Jones III, who had led the foundation since its inception in 2003.

The foundation combined advancement staff from the University’s six Health Sciences schools with fundraisers from UPAM’s Presbyterian and Monroefield hospitals. Anderson, previously the associate vice chancellor for Human Resources, will retire July 1.

**School of Information Sciences**

Znati said that a committee has yet to be formed to search for a new dean of the School of Information Sciences. The Office of the Provost is consulting with internal stakeholders and will establish the committee soon, according to Joe Miksch, interim news director in the Office of University Communications.

Ron Larsen, dean of the school since 2000, will step down in August.

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Faculty Assembly recommendation

Full-time NTS faculty need year-round access to resources

F aculty Assembly endorsed a recommendation for part-time NTS faculty to receive year-round access to resources, including computer labs and library resources, computing accounts, CourseWeb and other University resources they need in order to do their jobs. Irene Frieze, chair of the Senate’s ad hoc committee to investigate part-time and other non-tenure-stream (NTS) faculty issues, said NTS faculty who teach in fall and spring terms lose access if they are not on the active payroll during summer, making it difficult to prepare fall courses or to wrap up students’ incomplete spring grades.

She said the committee intends to make similar recommendations for part-time NTS faculty later. Several faculty members noted that the issue isn’t limited solely to NTS faculty, adding that fall courses start in late August, even though teaching contracts — and access to resources — begin Sept. 1.

“It’s a solvable problem,” said Laurie Kirsch, vice provost for faculty affairs, development and diversity. She said that the Provost’s office has been trying to address the issue, adding that a process is in place in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.

Alex Jones, co-chair of the Senate computer usage committee, noted that many services are related to University computer accounts. He said the committee worked with Computing Services and Systems Development (CSSD) to bridge the gap by ensuring that users’ computing accounts remain active for at least four months after a contract expires.

The recommendation is in conjunction with the ad hoc committee’s May 10 report to Faculty Assembly.

The ad hoc committee, formed last October to continue the work of an existing ad hoc committee that focused on full-time NTS faculty issues, has chosen to maintain its predecessor’s goal of improving the work environment for full-time NTS faculty. (See Oct. 15 University Times.)

In an update on the committee’s work, Frieze reported that Pitt’s part-time NTS faculty play a variety of roles. They may teach, work on funded research, do administrative work, perform clinical or field instruction, or have a combination of these duties.

The committee found that of approximately 6,150 Pitt faculty in fall 2015, about 1,700, or 28 percent, were classified as part-time.

Pitt’s 2,700 full-time NTS faculty made up more than 60 percent of the full-time faculty total. “Clearly they’re a big group,” Frieze noted.

The composition of 72 percent NTS and 28 percent tenured/tenure-stream puts Pitt in alignment with national estimates, Frieze said.

She said the committee is continuing to try to define different categories of part-time faculty in a meaningful way.

Frieze noted that most part-time faculty don’t fit the definition of the term “adjunct,” which, under University bylaws, refers to faculty who have another full-time professional job and who do only occasional paid work for Pitt.

“That’s one category of our part-time people, but the large majority of our part-time people are not technically what would be considered adjuncts.”

She said the committee is considering classifying part-time faculty as either provisional (recently placed on the payroll) or recurring (on the payroll for at least two semesters within a two-year span), with the expectation of continuing.

The committee plans to propose a recurring/part-time faculty be treated as continuing employees and be granted additional rights, Frieze said.

“We’re still working on this,” she added, inviting feedback on how best to categorize part-time faculty.

In other committee reports:

Computer usage committee co-chair Jones reminded faculty that email should not be considered a secure means of communication and that Pitt email accounts are to be used only for conducting University business.

The issue of email privacy in the University of California system made headlines earlier this year as some faculty there feared that third-party hardware installed to monitor computer network traffic might also violate their privacy.

“The same clear in that discussion that the monitoring system was not something that was to be used to read people’s email, but rather was designed to protect against malicious con- tent,” Jones said.

“There is monitoring of malicious content happening at the University of California,” she said, prompting the committee to report on email privacy, in consultation with the University’s Office of Access.

• University email is designed for conducting University activities and business. “It’s not designed for you to be communicating with family and friends,” she said, acknowled- ging that the lines will be blurred some.

“It really is designed primarily to be by your University address,” she said. “Really it’s not supposed to be used for anything related to external commercial or any personal outside work. ‘Really they shouldn’t be using University email to conduct research or business or personal.’

• Email by nature is an insecure method of communication, Jones said. “Regardless of whether it’s Pitt email or Gmail or some other email service, it’s not secure and it shouldn’t be considered as such.

If you need to communicate or correspond with someone in a secure fashion, you need to use another form of communication besides email for sending top secret or top level of email to conduct those activities,” Jones said.

“University email now will be moving to the cloud and no longer will be housed on University servers,” Jones said. “It’s going to be moving to the Microsoft service and servers and is no longer going to be administered at Pitt,” Jones said.

“CSSD and the University as a whole is not looking to read your email or to store information that you’d be communicating by email via the Pitt system,” he said, clarifying that the University is scanning email using third-party software in search of malicious content containing viruses, exploits or other content potentially harmful to the University.

Several committee relations committee (CRC) co-chairs Linda Hartman and Pam Toto channeled Alex Trebek, presenting its report in the form of a game. Categories were designated to familiarize Faculty Assembly members with CRC’s mission and issues that have been on its recent agenda.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Group to look into fossil fuel divestment

F aculty Assembly has asked University Senate President Frank Wilson to name an ad hoc committee to look into the issue of divesting the University of fossil fuel industry investments.

Michael Goodhart, faculty member in political science, raised the issue at the Assembly’s May 10 meeting, citing the activity of the Fossil Free Pitt Coalition (FFPC) student group.

In a March 19, 2015, letter to the University Times, FFPC estimated that the University invests 4.7 percent of its $3.5 billion endowment in the fossil fuel industry and urged the University to divest the endowment from holdings in the 200 largest fossil fuel companies as an example of ethical leadership.

Goodhart said he isn’t asking the Assembly to take a position, only to form the committee to look into the issue. He noted that the Faculty Council had authorized the Business and Student Affairs committee in February after the University disclosed the amount of its fossil fuels investments.

Goodhart said that the ad hoc committee consult with the student group and the trustees committee.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Under circumstances befitting a Greek tragedy, only somewhat the peregrine chick has survived from a clutch of four eggs at the Cathedral of Learning nest this season.

The sole survivor hatched early on April 29. A second chick hatched a few hours later, but it immediately was killed by its mother, Hope, and fed to its older sibling. The third chick hatched on April 30, but failed to thrive and died May 5.

The three were fathered by Hope’s deceased mate, E2. He died in mid-March, apparently in a collision with a vehicle. (See March 15 University Times.)

Hope’s new mate, Terzo, fathered the fourth egg. That chick hatched May 6, but it too became a meal for chick 1.

Kate St. John, author of the birdwatching blog Outside My Window (www.birdsoutdewy- window.org), had no explanation for Hope’s extremely abnormal behavior.

Born in 2008 in Hopewell, Virginia, Hope nested at the Tarentum Bridge before moving to the Cathedral of Learning nest this season.

Hope’s history at the Taren- tum Bridge included hatching four chicks in 2009, four in 2010, two in 2011, with the expectation that three would hatch in 2012, but two in 2014, according to St. John’s most recent compilation of local peregrine progeny. In 2013, one abandoned egg was found in the Tarentum nest.

Unlike the Cathedral of Learn- ing nest, where the birds’ activity is observed around the clock (www. birdsoncathedralwindow.org), there is no camera at the Tarentum Bridge nest.

Hope’s predecessor, Dorothy, raised 43 chicks at the Cathedral of Learning nest 22 with her initial mate, E1, and 21 with E2. She disappeared last fall and is presumed dead.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

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Chancellor Patrick Gallagher, at left, hosted some 4,500-5,000 of his closest friends at the second end-of-the-year staff and faculty appreciation picnic May 20 on Bigelow Boulevard.

There was food, music, dancing, games, caricatures and Pitt pride in a variety of forms. Several administrators, below, opted to show their Pitt pride with temporary tattoos. From left are Geovette E. Washington, senior vice chancellor and chief legal officer; Kathy W. Humphrey, senior vice chancellor for engagement, chief of staff and secretary of the Board of Trustees; Provost Patricia E. Beeson; and Gregory Scott, senior vice chancellor for business and operations.
More education may benefit women with CF

For female cystic fibrosis (CF) patients and providers, individual CF health care specialists have a significant role in helping patients gain access to educational resources that can help them improve sexual and reproductive health, according to a study by researchers at Children’s Hospital.

Women with CF face important disease-specific sexual and reproductive health concerns, including delays in puberty, increased risk of vaginal yeast infections, urinary incontinence, problems with sexual function, concerns regarding contraceptive choice, decreased fertility and adverse effects of pregnancy on their lungs.

The study, published online in Pediatrics and led by their lungs.

Other Pitt authors were David Orenstein, Daniel Weiner, Joseph Pilewski and Sonya Borrero. A researcher from the Children’s National Health System also contributed.

The study was supported by a grant from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Improving grafts for bypass patients

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded David Vorp, the William Keeler Whiteford Professor of Bioengineering and a leader for research of the Swanson School of Engineering, with a two-year grant of $477,831 for research into the use of cells from a patient’s own adipose (fat) tissue as vascular grafts for arterial bypass surgery.

This new method, which has been successfully tested in rats, would allow surgeons to perform bypass surgery without harvesting arteries or veins from the patient or requiring the time to isolate and grow a specific cell type, such as a stem cell.

Coronary bypass procedures often use other arteries or veins as a source for grafts. Arteries that can be used safely as a bypass graft in a different location are in short supply. The great saphenous vein in the leg is one of the most common sources for arterial grafts, but reusing veins as arterial bypass grafts can cause complications.

Said Vorp: “The vein graft, even though it is the most widely used graft material for the coronary or other small diameter artery applications, is not ideal. The problem is that veins are not arteries; they are built differently because they have different purposes in the body. Arteries pulse, and they are under higher pressure than veins. When you take a vein segment and put it under arterial conditions, it responds by thickening, which can cause the same blockage you were trying to treat.”

Vorp’s study, “An Autologous, Fat-Derived, Tissue-Biased, Tissue Engineered Vascular Graft,” will explore ways to facilitate the regeneration of a vascular technology that has been under development by him and his associates for a number of years.

The current methodology requires stem cells to be care- fully extracted from the fat and then spend time in culture before constructing a graft, which itself spends time in additional culture.

This new research will explore the potential for skipping the culture steps entirely, first by using all of the fat cells from the patient (instead of isolating and expand- ing the stem cells) and then by implanting the graft immedi- ately instead of cultivating it first. The researchers also will design a way to scale-up the process that creates their engineered graft.

“The key focus of the study is the translational aspects,” said Vorp. “We have shown that we can regenerate a small-diameter sort in a rat that functions for up to a year. We need to determine how to overcome some logistical issues so that we can use this technology to help human patients, which is why we started the research in the first place.”

R21 grant is really facilitating the start of that process.”

R21 research grants are de- signed for exploratory/devel- opmental research, generally still in the conceptual stage. They often are awarded to high-risk, high-reward studies that have the potential to become much larger in scope. J. Peter Reuben, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Endowed Professor, chair of plastic surgery and faculty member in bioengineering, as well as William R. Wagner, director of Pitt’s McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine and faculty member in bioengineering and chemical engineering, will collaborate with Vorp on the study.

New findings on schizophrenia’s biological processes

Further information:

For submission guidelines, visit www.utimes.pitt.edu.

The University Times Research Notes column reports on findings provided to Pitt researchers and on findings arising from Uni- versity research.

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Phone: 412-648-7120
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The Pitt research team included Mohamed Thaher, Adam Handen, Saumendra N. Sarkar, Robert A. Sweet, Vishwajit L. Nimgaonkar, Eileen M. Bauer and Srikanthi Chaparala. A colleague from the University City, Ireland, also contributed.

This project was funded by the Biobehavioral Research Awards for Innovative New Scientists (BRaINS) from the National Institute of Mental Health, part of NIH.

Blue light reduces mouse organ damage

A 24-hour exposure to bright blue light before surgery reduces inflammation and organ damage at the cellular level in a mouse model, according to new research from the School of Medicine.

The finding, reported in Pro- ceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, suggests a potential pre-treatment light therapy that could improve outcomes in patients undergoing procedures characterized by blood restriction, such as liver resection or organ transplantation. The research was funded by NIH.

Said senior author Matthew R. Rosengart, faculty member in the division of surgery and critical care medicine: “We were incredibly surprised by our results. The findings are of obvious significance suggesting that light and circadian rhythms profoundly influence our biology and impact the physiological response to stress. So while we were expecting to find some correlation with light spectr um and the immune response, we were not expecting results quite as dramatic.”

For further information:

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so striking.”

Light is complex and consists of intensity, duration of exposure and wavelength. This study is one of the first that accounts for this complexity and derives results that could guide future clinical trials in humans.

Rosengart and his team compared what happened when mice were exposed to red light, ambient white fluorescent light similar to that in hospitals and high-intensity blue light 24 hours before kidney or liver surgery involving periods of blood restriction and restoration.

The high-intensity blue light outperformed the red and white light, attenuating cellular and organ injury through at least two cellular mechanisms. The blue light brought about a reduction in the influx of neutrophils, a type of white blood cell involved in inflammation, which can lead to organ damage and other problems. Additionally, blue light inhibited dying cells from releasing a protein called HMGB1 that triggers organ-damaging inflammation.

The team then tested whether the blue light was acting through the optic pathway or some other mechanism, like the skin. Blind mice had the same healing response regardless of whether they were exposed to blue or red light, indicating that the protective impact of blue light does, indeed, act through the optic pathway.

The team then looked at whether one color of light might disrupt the circadian rhythm, which is linked to immunity, more than another. Blood from mice exposed to red, white and blue light had similar concentrations of melatonin and corticosteroid hormones.

Furthermore, the mice under each of the lights also had similar activity levels. These data indicate that the effects of blue light were not mediated by a disruption of sleep, activity or circadian rhythms.

Rosengart stresses that mice are nocturnal animals with visual, circadian and immune biology that is distinct from humans. Thus, the results of his study should not be broadly extended to patients or hospital settings until robust clinical trials have been performed to show whether pretreatment with intensive blue light is safe.

Additional Pitt researchers on this project were Du Yuan, Richard D. Collage, Hai Huang, Xianghong Zhang, Ben C. Kautza, Anthony J. Lewis, Brian S. Zuckerbraun, Allan Tsung and Derek C. Angus.

—Compiled by Marty Levine

A FULFILLING CAREER SHOULDN’T LEAVE YOU EMPTY HANDED.
A memorial service for Carl A. Rossman Jr. will be held at 3 p.m. tomorrow, May 13, in Pitt-Greensburg’s Campania Chapel. Friends and family are invited to a reception beginning at 2 p.m. Rossman’s UPG vice president for administration and finance, died April 24, 2016, of complications from pancreatic cancer. He was 68.

Rossman, a retired Air Force colonel who came to Pitt-Greensburg after 24 years of active duty, would have marked 17 years of employment at UPG on May 1.

“When you saw Carl, you would have known he was a military man,” said UPG President Sharon Smith. He maintained the posture, demeanor and impeccable dress of an officer, with his outward appearance reflecting the inner man, she said.

His ability to attend to the smallest of details while keeping sight of the bigger picture served him well in his work on campus, where he was responsible for financial administration, human resources, security, conferencing and IT and technology services.

“A particular area of Rossman’s expertise was his focus on expansion of Wagner Dining areas. Projects included expansion of Wagner Dining Hall and renovators to Bobcat Station, both in Chambers Hall, on campus completely changed on budget,” McMahon said. “His presence is outpaced by his commitment to service. He had an uncompromising lifelong commitment of service to the community that was only outpaced by his commitment to his family.”

Beyond his work, he enjoyed travel, dining, movies, musical theatre and罩otheatre. Rossman was survived by a son and daughter, Matthew Rossman and Mary Rossman; granddaughter Lyla Rossman; parents, Joseph and Mary Rossman; and wife of 45 years, Joyce.

Rossman was posthumously awarded the UPG President’s Medal for Distinguished Service during the campus’s April 30 commencement. President Smith said: “At Pitt-Greensburg, Carl set ambitious goals for the school, himself and all who worked with him. He had an uncompromising dedication to quality and made a profound impact on the University as a whole and to the community that was only outpaced by his commitment to his family.”

Russell memorial service set

A memorial service for Daniel S. Russell will be held at 11 a.m. May 20 in Heinz Chapel. Following the service, there will be a reception at the PAA.

Russell, eminent professor and former chair of the Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, died April 10, 2016.

Carl A. Rossman Jr.

William Arthur “Bill” Savage, former assistant to the chancellor and director of affirmative action at Illinois State, served as assistant director and coordinator of academic support services for the high potential student program, 1971-73; adviser and coordinator of the Academic Success Center, 1973-77; and the university affirmative action officer, 1977-80.

He left Illinois State in 1980 and upgrades that have made the Village Coffee House more student-friendly.

He had a knack for bringing in all the necessary resources you would need,” McMahon said, adding that the projects were ambitious but always tied to the budget.

“After the completion of the campus completely changed on watch,” McMahon said. He said Rossman always strove to ensure that the improvements were done correctly and met end-user needs.

“Then you had no leg to stand on,” McMahon said. “His presence is outpaced by his commitment to service. Carl loved this campus. He didn’t have a broad range of future plans,” Everyone wants to make sure the details Carl would have wanted to have will be there,” McMahon said. “His presence is felt still and will be for a long time.”

Rossman was a member of the National Association of College and University Business Officers and the Eastern Association of College and University Business Officers.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in administration at The Citadel and a master’s degree in systems management from the University of Southern California.

He was proud of his Air Force service, Smith said. Trained as a pilot, Rossman was stationed in the United States and Germany. Over the course of his military career, he also served as associate dean of faculty development, Air Force Systems Command; chief of the 8th Air Force Division Headquarters safety division; head of the North American recruiting at the United States Atlantic Command; commander of the 42nd Combat Support Group; and deputy commander of the 42nd Combat Support Group at Loring Air Force Base.

Rossman was active in veteran’s groups and each year participated in interviewing service academy nominees from state Rep. Tim Murphy’s district.

During construction of UPG’s head campus, agreed.

Students who came to Pitt-Greensburg were “A-1 Sauce,” he said. “He had to have everything in place... done down to the smallest of details.

McMahon worked closely with Rossman in upgrading campus dining areas. Projects included expansion of Wagner Dining Hall and renovations to Bobcat Station, both in Chambers Hall.

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Assembly debates, OKs sexual misconduct policy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Marianne Novy of English noted, “There’s a big issue right now where universities are effectively being forced to choose between providing the First Amendment and enforcing Title IX,” with little guidance on what to do.

Richard K. Zimmerman, a faculty member in the School of Medicine’s Department of Family Medicine and the Graduate School of Public Health, is the recipient of the 2016 Curtis G. Hames Research Award. Among the highest awards in family medicine, the Hames award honors individuals whose careers exemplify dedication to research in family medicine. The award is presented each year at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) spring conference.

The recipient is selected by a committee representing STFM, the American Academy of Family Physicians and the North American Primary Care Research Group.

Zimmerman, who has a joint appointment in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences in the Graduate School of Public Health, has been a Pitt faculty member since 1991. He has dedicated his clinical career and much of his research to improving the health of the disadvantaged. His clinical practice is based at the East Liberty Family Health Care Center, which provides care for the underserved. There, he has served on the quality assurance committee and as the health center’s immunization champion.

Zimmerman has over 200 publications on vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases and has led federally funded research projects on racial disparity and adult immunization and on ways to increase influenza vaccination rates. He is principal investigator for the Pittsburgh site for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Immunization Survey. Zimmerman has won national awards for his research on economic barriers to immunization and for his curricular materials on immunization.

Compiled by K. Barlow

Kirsch agreed that the situation is fluid and Pitt is not alone in its struggle to address the complicated issues, adding that the committee modeled some of its revisions on other universities’ policies.

She acknowledged that the documents should be reviewed regularly and updated accordingly. However, she said, “It’s important that we move forward with these changes now,” given that Pitt’s existing policy “is not consistent with where the legal landscape is at this point in time.”

Patrick Loughlin of engineering worried that the policy “jumps together a variety of different potential acts under sexual misconduct. They run the gamut from jokes and innuendo to rape and sexual harassment.”

“I don’t equate those on the same scale; I think it’s problematic to do so,” he said.

“My point is rape is a crime; telling an off-color joke is not. I don’t think the procedures for handling that should be the same.”

He also expressed concern that the proposed policy requires responsible employees to report to the Title IX office but states “they should not share information with law enforcement without the victim’s consent or unless the victim has also reported the incident to law enforcement.”

“If someone comes to me and says ‘I’ve just been raped,’ why is my first response not to call the police as a University employee, but to call Title IX?”

Noting that the Pitt policy is part of the University community, and that they are trained in investigations and in dealing with victims of crime, “At least for actions of violence and aggressions, why aren’t we asking the University police to take charge of this?” he asked.

Title IX coordinator Karina Pope said victims are encouraged to go to the police. “The reason that we’re obligated by the federal guidelines is if we automatically report … is because it’s up to the victim to determine whether or not they want to involve the police.”

Much of the Assembly’shour-long debate centered on faculty reporting requirements.

Pamela W. Connolly, associate vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion, said the federal Office of Civil Rights, in addition to naming specific categories of responsible employees who must report incidents to the Title IX office, views “anybody else the student thinks can help them” as responsible employees.

“If the student’s coming to you, they’re coming to you because they think that they can help them. It’s not what the University thinks that matters; it’s what the student thinks,” she said. “That’s the position we’ve been in. I don’t see it changing anytime soon.”

Being designated a responsible employee is akin to being a mandated reporter, observed Elizabeth Maluny of social work. An expectation of reporting can prevent incidents from “going underground,” she said. “But on the other hand, what are the ways we’re going to communicate to people who are abused … that telling us the story may put into play things they aren’t yet prepared to have go into play?”

Michael Goodhart of political science argued that the policy could lead faculty to simply post their office doors with signs warning that certain topics must be reported to the Title IX office.

“I think back to the few awful times in my life when. I’ve had these conversations with people who’ve come to my office. And I can’t remember the moments in the conversation when I’m saying, ‘I’m sorry, but before you go on, let me tell you that everything you say to me — if you choose to tell me anything further — is going to have to be reported to the Title IX office, whether you want me to report it or not.’”

Senate past-president Michael Spring commented: “I don’t think the procedure does enough to respect the fact that faculty are going to be in a very awkward situation if they’re forced to report it regardless of a student’s wishes.”

“I’d like to see, with every intent to make sure that the max-imum protection is provided to the student, the recognition that sometimes a faculty member is approached in confidence.”

“It doesn’t matter if you tell the student not to come in and I don’t want to do that. The point is that we’re not going to tell the student not to come in and I don’t want to do that. The point is that we’re not going to tell the student not to come in.”

Reporting to the Title IX office doesn’t obligate a victim to take any particular action, but enables staff members to help, said Pope. “The process is driven by what the student wants to have happen.”

Connell said that debate will continue, but Pitt’s policy must be updated. “We’re never going to have universal agreement on this. What we have is the (federal Office of Civil Rights) saying what responsible employees are.”

“What we also have is a batch of freshmen who are going to be coming in in August. And what we have on the books right now is a policy that has procedures and the policy is not up to Title IX standards.”

“We do have a large group of people coming in to join our community, and I don’t want us to lose the opportunity for a vast improvement because of something we can probably do better for them.”

Kirsch agreed. “Our current policy does not address the issues that, as a University community, I think we need to address,” she said. “Our faculty and our staff have had similar discussions and debates.”

She noted, however, that concerns about the policy aligned with where the legal landscape is.

“This is an area that our current policy is not as strong as it could be. And I think everybody also recognizes that this is an area that we’re going to be continually being revisited.”


—Kimberly K. Barlow

HELP WANTED

STUDENT WORKER

Computer exerted for University Times writing, editing, handling of e-mail and managing of web site.娴熟的中文者优先，有卖份者申请者优先。 Plese call 412-844-8844 for more information.

MARKS&ELDER LAW

Thursday 12

HR Workshop
“Excel 2013 Quick Start: Charts & Formulas,” Vernon Franklin; 302 Bellefield Hall, 10 am (repeats May 19; register: hr.pitt.edu/hrp)

Farmer’s Market
WPU, downtown, 11:30 am-2:30 pm

SC. Va. Laureate Lecture
“Developments & Evolution of the Centaur Culture,” Posko Raile, Yale; Schenley rm. 6, noon

CTSI Workshop

Saturday 14

AAS&I/Society for Novel Studies Conf.

Friday 13

AAS&I/Society for Novel Studies Conf.

Tuesday 17

Faculty/Staff Development Program
“Making Large Group Teaching Interactiv.”, Carla Spagnoletti & Jennifer Cottrell, medicine; 1104 Sealf, noon (412-648-1489)

CTSI Workshop

SAC Mtg.
102 Bouse, noon

Faculty/Staff Development Program
“Clinical Care Medicine Grand Rounds,” Steven Shapiro, UPMC; Scaife 101AB, noon

Immunology Eberly Distincted Lecture
“LC-3-associated Phagosome Biogenesis,” Suzanne Topalian; 342 Craig, 11 am-12:15 pm

Wednesday 18

Faculty/Staff Development Program
“Behavioral-Based Interviewing,” Mark Bunnel, 11 am-2:15 pm

SAC Mtg.
102 Bouse, noon

Faculty/Staff Development Program
“Starting or Completing an Undergraduate Degree or Certificate,” Kazith Yacob & Kim Phillips; 410 Posvar, 11:15 am-12:30 pm (www.hr.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-st)

CTSI Workshop
“Immunological Understanding of Microenvironment for Characterization & Development of Hydrogels & Gastrointestinal Barriers,” Seng Shafie, Frie University Berlin, 10:30 am

Thursday 19

Faculty/Staff Development Program
“Using Social Media for Career Development,” Kshira Moffen; 342 Craig, 9-11 am (register: www.hr.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-st)

SAC Mtg.
102 Bouse, noon

SAC/LifeSolutions Presentation
“LC3-associated Phagocytosis: Imping.”, Mark Ochs; G33 Salt, 4-6 pm

Tuesday 24

Faculty/Staff Development Program
“Different Like You,” Warren McCoy; 342 Craig, 9-11 am (register: www.hr.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-st)

HR Workshop
“Microsoft Excel 2013 Fundamentals,” Vernon Franklin; 302 Bellefield Hall, 10 am (repeats May 19; register: hr.pitt.edu/hrp)

SAC/LifeSolutions Presentation
“The Opiate Crisis: Managing the Opioids & Other Drugs,” Steven Shapiro, UPMC; Scaife 101AB, noon

Wednesday 25

Critical Care Medicine Grand Rounds
Steven Shapiro, UPMC; Scaife 1109AB, noon

Pathology Fellowship Lecture
“Malignant Gastrointestinal Neuroendocrine Tumor: A Bandage of Oncogenic Mucosal Promiscuity,” Eduardos Zambrano, Stanford; Children’s Hospital, 3rd fl. conf rm., 8 am (412-648-1049)

Faculty/Staff Development Program
“Managing Staff Performance: Addressing the Need for Improvement,” June 17, 8 am-noon, 9-11 am (register: www.chs.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-st)

HSA Workshop
“Painless PubMed,” Rose Turner; Falk library classroom, 1, noon ( registrado@pitt.edu)

Technology Planning Forum
WP U assembly rm., noon ( www.cit.pitt.edu/aplтехики)

Friday 20

Faculty/Staff Development Program
“P-Card Administration,” Rachel McCarthy, Wepfer & Assoc., & John Sinnamon; 1501 Forbes Twr., 1-3 pm

Saturday 21

Dental Medicine Diploma Cerem.
Heinz Hall, Downtown, 1 pm am1801(pitt.edu)

Monday 23

Monday 16

• Summer 12-week, 6-week-1, 4-week-1 sessions enrollment period ends, classes begin

SAC/Benefits Refresh & Open Enrollment Updates
WP U hallm., noon (register: sac.print)

SAC Mtg.
826 CL, 1 pm

Faculty/Staff Development Program
“P-Card Administration,” Rachel McCarthy, Wepfer & Assoc., & John Sinnamon; 1501 Forbes Twr., 1-3 pm

Wednesday 18

• Summer 4-week-1 & 6-week-1 sessions add/drop period ends

Pulmonary Hypertension Conf.
Senate EIADAC Mtg.
342 Craig, 9-11 am (register: www.entrepreneur.pitt.edu/events/the-mystery-of-the-cloud/)

Technology Planning Forum
WP U assembly rm., noon ( www.cit.pitt.edu/aplтехики)

Defenses
Public Health/Health Policy & Management
“Evaluating the Safety & Effectiveness of New Oral Anticancer Drugs in the Medicare Population,” Jennifer Corbelli; Medicine; 1104 Sealf, noon (412-648-1489)

AAS&I/Philosophy
“Planning for Failure,” Robert Sneed; May 16, 1001BL CL, noon

Medicine/Cellular & Molecular Pathology
“Leukocyte Specific Protein 1: A Novel Regulator of Hepatocellular Migration & Proliferation in Liver Regeneration & Cancer,” Kelly Koral; May 19, 520 ERE & 2 pm

Medicine/Chemistry
“Enantiospecific Synthesis & Cyclization of Bicyclic (1:1) Benzene,” Yongsheng Yan; May 19, 367 ERE, 2 pm

SHRS/Rehabilitation Science & Technology
“Timing & Coordination of Gait: Impact of Aging, Gait Speed & Rhythm: Auditory Cuing,” Haji Almamwa; May 24, 4060 Forbes Twr, 10 am

Exhibits
Libre Library
“Pictures of Nursing” postcard collection; main fl., through May 13

Bruce Law Library
“Oracles & Vesicles,” Michael Walter; through May 27

Deadlines
People’s Oakland Gala RSVP by May 16 for May 26 event “Celebrate Recovery,” Schenley Plaza, 6-9 pm. (412-683-7140 x234; www.peoplesoakland.org/ Home.html)

Benefits Open Enrollment Changes must be made online by May 17. (www.pitt.edu/hrp)

UPCI & IPM, Precision Medi-
cine in Cancer & Other Disci- plines Poster Awards
Application deadline is June 1. (www.priba vùngpitt.edu/Precision-Medicine)

Event Deadline
The next issue of the University Times will include University & campus events of May 26 June 9. Information for events during the period must be received by 5 pm on May 19. Send information to utcal@pitt.edu.