Teaching, research, public service chancellor award winners named

The 2017 chancellor’s awards for distinguished teaching, research and public service honored 10 faculty.

Distinguished teaching award winners are:

• Sean Garrett-Roe, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
• Melissa Marks, associate professor in the Division of Behavioral Sciences, Pitt-Greensburg
• John Schumann, associate professor in the Department of Neurobiology, School of Medicine; and
• Cindy Skrzycki, senior lecturer in the Department of English, Dietrich school.

Distinguished research award winners are:

In the junior scholars category:
• Kara Anne Bernstein, assistant professor in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, School of Medicine; and
• Haitao Liu, associate professor in the Department of Chemistry, Dietrich School.

In the senior scholars category:
• Mark T. Gladwin, distinguished professor and chair in the Department of Medicine, School of Medicine;
• Thomas W. Kensler, professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology, School of Medicine; and
• Ronald Stall, professor in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, Graduate School of Public Health.

The distinguished public service award winner is:
• Anthony S. Novosel, undergraduate adviser and senior lecturer in the Department of History, Dietrich school.

Awardees will be recognized Feb. 24 at the University’s annual honors convocation.

TEACHING

The Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award honors teaching excellence.

Full-time faculty members with at least five years’ service at the University are eligible, provided they have been active as a teacher and have not won the award previously.

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

Sean Garrett-Roe Garrett-Roe was recognized for his work with the Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL) approach, which uses a flipped classroom model, incorporates technologies to encourage students to engage, derive and interpret the materials of physical chemistry.

He has also shared his pedagogical models in such venues as Pitt’s Summer Instructional Design Institute and the American Chemical Society’s national conference.

Flat funding proposed for Pitt

Gov. Tom Wolf’s $32.34 billion state budget proposal for fiscal year 2018 includes a 2 percent increase for State System of Higher Education schools, but holds funding flat for state-related universities.

Pitt’s state appropriation stands at $1.4677 million, made up of $144.21 million in general support and $2.56 million for rural education outreach. The University had asked for a 3 percent increase in state support in the coming year. (See Oct. 13, 2016, University Times.)

The governor’s proposed budget reduces academic medical center funding in the Health and Human Services budget — down 17.7 percent — due to an anticipated decrease in federal medical assistance payments to academic medical centers, including Pitt’s medical school.

Wolf’s proposed budget, presented Feb. 7 before a joint legislative session in Harrisburg, included a $571.5 million, 1.8 percent increase in spending with no broad-based tax increases.

The governor’s proposal represents a starting point. It’s now up to the General Assembly to hammer out a final budget before the July 1 start of the fiscal year.

To that end, appropriations hearings are underway.

The state-related universities are scheduled to present their budget testimony March 1 to the Senate appropriation committee. In a departure from past years, no hearing before the House appropriations committee is scheduled, although Pitt’s budget briefing package will be sent to the committee.

Paul Supowitz, vice chancellor for Community and Governmental Relations, told the University Times:

“At the fiscal year’s midway point in December, general fund collections were 2.7 percent, or $367 million, below estimate, according to the state Department of Revenue. And the department’s monthly revenue report shows that collections, as of the end of January, are $416.8 million, or 2.5 percent, below estimate.

The state’s Independent Fiscal Office is estimating revenues will be $716 million below estimate by the end of the fiscal year.

“We appreciate the governor’s effort to at least protect the small increase we’ve gotten in the past two years,” Supowitz said, adding that the state’s dire economic circumstances are magnified by the political situation in Harrisburg.

Wolf, a Democrat, must work with strong Republican majorities in the General Assembly. Sen. Scott Wagner (R-York), who has criticized the governor’s economic plans, has launched his campaign for the 2018 gubernatorial election.

— Kimberly K. Barlow
Debate in the classroom

The University began offering multifactor authentication to address the increasing risks from phishing scams and malicious software. Multifactor authentication provides an essential layer of security that safeguards your personal information and University data should you fall victim to a phishing scam or in some other way have your password compromised.

For example, starting March 5, multifactor authentication will be required for all services that faculty and staff get access to, such as the University's single sign-on service, Pitt Passport, and when using the Secure Remote Access service to connect to University resources.

The sophistication of phishing scams has increased dramatically. The University's security software prohibits 90 percent of the phishing scams and malicious software from reaching the University community. However, through there are usually several individuals who will be fooled into clicking on a link or providing account information. According to the 2016 Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report, 30 percent of phishing messages were opened nationwide, and 12 percent of those who opened the message clicks on the links and keys were opened. Our records show that the University's systems are consistent with these percentages.

These threats pose an immediate risk to your personal information and the security of University data. Through the efforts of our IT department, we identify and routinely intervene to prevent damage or exposure of data, but as offered as a guide, a more robust solution is required.

Why multifactor authentication?

Hackers are constantly searching for ways to compromise your password. If your password is guessed, hacked, stolen or shared with someone else, the consequences — for you and the University — are serious.

The University has put in place a robust array of security measures to protect you, including multifactor authentication (MFA). This required password changes, advanced email threat protection, phishing protection, and even the Pingit Passport single sign-on service. These protections play an important role in the University’s layered approach to security, but they can be thwarted once your password has been compromised.

Multifactor authentication is an additional layer of security designed to prevent unauthorized access to University information and data, including confidential retirement account details, pay statements or direct deposit information.

The University’s multifactor authentication solution is provided by Duo Mobile, which means that to log in to a service, you will need two “factors”: something you know (like your password) and something only you have (like a passcode sent to your phone). You will receive a login confirmation notice.

How does it work?

Protecting yourself with multifactor authentication begins with registering a device, such as a smartphone or tablet, as your second factor. To begin, select the Duo Mobile app. Once your device is registered, it’s a good idea to register a second device — such as your computer or laptop — in case the first one goes missing or is uninstalled. If you have a backup in case you don’t have access to your smartphone, you will be prompted to enter a passcode. You can also elect to receive a text message or a call, depending on which you prefer. If you lose your phone or Duo Mobile app, you can use the “Call me” option to have the University call you or send a text message to register a device for multifactor authentication. Alternatively, you can use Duo Mobile on your computer or a smartphone.

Once you start using multifactor authentication, you’ll see how easy it is. For example, when you log in to your University service that uses multifactor authentication, you’ll be prompted to enter a passcode. You can do this in one of three ways:

• “Send me a push” will send a notification to your smartphone or tablet. Just tap Accept and you will be logged in. (If you ever need to log in to a service that you were not expecting, tap Deny and report it to the Technology Help Desk right away.)
• “Call me” will dial your phone and play a recorded message. Press 1 to complete the login process. You will be prompted to enter a passcode. You will need to complete the registration process in order to access any service through Pitt Passport and University services.
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He is labeled a “true leader” by the chancellor, who also notes his substantial and continuing record of outstanding research and scholarly activity. Nominees must have the recommendation of at least three scholar-leaders in their field and be recognized in letters of recommendation from national and international leaders in the field.

Each award consists of a $2,000 honorarium, a $3,000 grant to support the faculty member’s teaching and research.

Senior Scholars
Kara Anne Bernstein
Bernstein’s award notes that she received the 2016 American Cancer Society Research Scholar Award, signaling her place as a young scientist of note who regularly is invited to speak at national and international conferences.

“Kara is one of the most exceptional and talented young scientists that I have encountered throughout my career as a cancer researcher,” wrote one peer in support.

The chancellor’s letter adds its own praise for her accomplishment. “Your strong work ethic, promoting quality and timely research, can be seen in your 23 peer-reviewed publications, six review articles, and an impressive record of grant awards for your research. An effective mentor and teacher to a diverse range of students, from post-doctoral fellows to high school students from minority and socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, you also demonstrate your mentorship and the productive operations of your laboratory, with a number of your students contributing to papers published from your laboratory.”

Haitao Liu
Liu was cited by the awards committee for “his work in shifting research in the area of graphene carbon materials, and his contributions to the field of DNA nanotechnology … You are a recognized growing leader in your field.”

Liu has given more than 30 invited talks at conferences and in universities in China, the United States, Australia, and Europe, with nearly 2,200 citations. Liu also is a member of the Scientific Reports editorial board, and was invited to serve as a guest editor for Chemistry Materials.

In support of his nomination, Liu’s peers noted: “Haitao has bravely established several creative new research directions, suggesting the ability to sustain a long and productive research effort. He is making an excellent and well-deserved promise for the future.”

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T he Staff Association Council (SAC) hopes 2017 will be the year in which the intersection of Fifth and Bellefield avenues becomes safe for pedestrians.

At the end of January, SAC updated its campaign, based on staff complaints about the intersection, bringing together Pitt and Oakland stakeholders to press for crosswalk improvements. It is seeking meetings with multiple Oakland improvement and watchdog groups, and sending Alex Toner, chair of SAC’s external relations committee, to these groups’ meetings to drum up support for the effort. SAC hopes that together the groups can petition the city to:

• install a crossing signal that lets pedestrians cross Fifth Avenue for 20-25 seconds before vehicles get the green light to turn from Bellefield onto Fifth; and
• ban right turns on red for vehicles turning onto Fifth from North Bellefield. (Vehicles on South Bellefield already are prohibited from making a right turn on red.)

SAC also is urging the City of Pittsburgh, which controls the intersection, to continue public forums concerning Bus Rapid Transit planning and the city’s Complete Streets project, to address broader concerns about vehicle/pedestrian interactions in Oakland.

SAC sent its Jan. 27 letter about the intersection to the chancellor, provost, the Office of Community and Governmental Relations, and to city officials and several Oakland organizations, including the Oakland Business Improvement District, Oakland Planning and Development Corporation, Oakland Transportation Management Association and the Bellefield Area Citizens Association.

Toner says numerous inci- dents of vehicles striking walkers, wheelchair users and bicyclists prompted the action.

Stakeholders, including Pitt, he says, “are aware of the lingering hazard it poses to anybody crossing there. We are hoping we can build a coalition of like-minded individuals and organizations in the city to create a strong call to action to implement some of the safety improvements we are seeking.”

As a result of teaming with Oakland organizations — if they’re amenable — to push for intersection improvements, “there might be other concerns raised,” Toner says, and other solu- tions proposed, such as repainting the crosswalks to be more visible, or putting in new lighting to make road signs more obvious.

There certainly are other intersections with problems, he allows, and SAC may in the future aim for the proposed coalition to target other road improvements.

“However, the persistent and relevant staff concerns that have been raised to us have made [Fifth and Bellefield] a priority at this time,” he says.

“We very much want to work with all stakeholders involved in this,” he says of the current effort, “to try to reach a desirable outcome for everyone — where the safety of everyone using that intersection is addressed and enhanced.”

— Marty Levine

SAC targets safety problems at Fifth/Bellefield intersection

Search for new sr. VC progresses

A shortlist of five candidates for the new position of senior vice chancellor for research has been submitted to the chancellor, N. John Cooper, dean of the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, told the Uni- versity Times.

Cooper, who chaired the search committee for the position, offered few details on the finalists, except to say the com- mittee reviewed a “spectacular group of candidates” from diverse backgrounds.

“The finalist stage is all in the chancellor’s hands now,” he told the University Times on Monday.

The senior vice chancellor for research will report to the chancel- lor and will oversee the Universi- ty’s Office of Community and Administration, research compliance, research computing infrastructure, economic develop- ment and innovation programs.

Members of the University community offered input on the qualities and qualifications they desired in a new top administrator for research during four town hall sessions held on campus last fall. (See page 14 for a list of comments and details on the position.)

In other business at the research committee’s meeting:

• Anthony DeArdo, faculty member in the Swanson School of Engineering Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Sciences, shared his experience as an innovator in research of interest to the steel industry. In the 1990s he was among the researchers who devel- oped a lead-free “green” steel that was more easily machined than leaded steel. He stressed the importance of understanding intellectual property implications in mature industries, such as the steel industry.

• Linda D. Dostilio, who joined the Office of Community and Governmental Relations as As- sociate vice chancellor for Pitt’s community engagement office, has been invited to serve on the committee’s April 7 meeting.

The research committee’s next meeting is set for 1 p.m. March 3 in 156 Cathedral of Learning.

— Kimberly K. Barlow

Global studies deadline nears

March 1 is the deadline for applications for the Global Studies Center (GSC) faculty fellowship and the center’s global academic partnership grant competition.

• GSC, selects a faculty member to advance and showcase scholarship related to one of the center’s current themes: global health, human rights and human mobility; and equality. The fellowship includes a course release; up to $15,000 to organize a scholarly event; plus $5,000 for related research, travel and curricular development. The award is for the academic year 2017-18 and may be renewed in 2018. The fellowship is intended to deliver a public lecture and participate in activities that support the center’s research, teaching and outreach priorities. More information is available at www.ucpitt.edu/globalfellow /

• The global academic partnership grant competition aims to enhance the university’s global health, human rights, human mobility, and equality. The grant is limited to $40,000 per year for up to three years for support ongoing campus programming that enriches the cultural environment at Pitt ($10,000 in 2017-18 and $30,000 in 2018-19).

The award is intended to support the Office of the Provost and the University Center for International Studies.

Submit proposals online at https://ucls.submitable.com/ submit/571425?ga-publisher-form-maximum=40-001&form information, contact Jessica Pickett at jpickett@pitt.edu.

Senate group plans session on minority student mentoring

T he University Senate student admissions, aid and affairs (SAAA) committee’s March 1 meeting will focus on minority student mentoring.

Sylvanus Wouo, the Swanson School of Engineering’s associate dean for diversity, has been invited as a guest speaker.

The committee also plans to reach out to student veterans to determine how it can support this subset of Pitt’s nontraditional student population. SAAA co- chair Harvey Bonover, a former Army reservist, said he has been in contact with Pitt’s Office of Veterans Services and the Pitt student veterans affinity group.

SAAA co-chair Juan Taboas said the committee has heard presentations on nontraditional students, but has not focused specifically on student veterans.

In brainstorming future areas of focus for the committee, Senate vice president and former SAAA chair Robin Keen expressed interest in an update on how student- athletes are supported at Pitt. Penny Semaia, senior associate dean for providing Jennifer Walker as Pitt’s Army reservist, said he has been invited to speak at the committee’s April 7 meeting.

GPSG’s special initiatives this academic year have focused on improving alumni interactions, increasing mental health awareness among graduate students; Title IX education; diversity and inclusion; and advocacy and community engagement, Saver said.

GPSG’s annual graduate student body survey is being released for release at the end of February. Saver welcomed suggestions for survey questions from the group.

“It’s really the student body survey that allows us to have information to issue recommendations,” he said. “Without that data backing it up, it’s more difficult to issue recommendations.”

Saver expressed appreciation to the Office of the Provost for providing Jennifer Walker as GPSG staff adviser. “She’ll be a great keeper of institutional memory for the future,” he said, adding that Walker is planning an expanded transition and inaugu- ration for new GPSG officers to smooth the leadership change each year.

In other business, SAAA rescheduled some spring term meeting dates to avoid conflicts with Senate Council meetings in April and May.

The committee will meet March 1, April 12 and May 10, all at 3:30 p.m. in 272 Hillman Library.

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The Cathedral of Learning may be celebrating the 80th anniversary of its dedication, but it still embodies the power literally invested in it by masses of schoolchildren donating their milk money for its construction — and the power of all that Pittsburgh steel through which it took shape.

JoAnna Commandaros, studio arts lecturer who creates sculptures and installations with local steel, says the Cathedral acted in 1937, and still acts today, as a community builder. These images by Pitt photographers Mike Drazdzinski, Aimee Obidzinski and Monica Synett of the University Center for Teaching and Learning show the Cathedral from many angles, in many lights and seasons, and thus many moods, but all show its continuing power to inspire.

For one, it is monumental simply because of its height, but also monumental in reflecting our aspirations in its form. It is a cathedral that urges us to worship the god of learning.

"We can imagine that we are going up there," Commandaros says of the building’s heights. "It speaks to the possibility of higher learning, to ascension" — both literally and figuratively.

Seen from below, the Cathedral naturally creates such feelings, as if one were faced with a mountain and challenged to climb it. Inside the first floor, you do "feel smaller than God," she says — one of the traditional functions of a cathedral. "When we go up to the top of the Cathedral and look out, we get a sense of ourselves," she adds, a higher sense.

Looking out the Cathedral’s upper floors makes one feel not smaller but more powerful, and more enlightened, she explains. "When you can see your whole landscape, you get a sense of the bigger picture."

The Cathedral frames the landscape below, showing us views through petal-shaped openings, through latticework and through other window-like forms — including, of course, its actual windows. The Cathedral becomes the frame around a landscape painting of Oakland and beyond, making what we see seem even more significant.

Today we see a new view of ever-shifting surroundings. "How do I take refuge in constant change?" Commandaros asks. The building’s frames never change, and so the Cathedral of Learning is a kind of anchor, she says. "There is something powerful about the strength of this structure … the truth of its material." It holds us aloft, and aims to broaden our perspective on life.

The community a building constructs can be quite literal.

Commandaros recalls living in London as a resident artist and seeking steel for her work. As a woman in the arts, not a constructor, her seriously until she mentioned converting steel producers to take her seriously.

"When I said ‘I’m from Pittsburgh,’ they just lit up," she reports. "These big, strong men just were like, ‘You’re from Pittsburgh? Did you know that Pittsburgh steel built this city?’ All these barriers fell away.” The steel thus became “a beautiful bridge” among cultures, she says. The Cathedral still shows off its Pittsburgh steel connection today, however cloaked in stone ornamentation.

But the main community the Cathedral builds is as an educational institution, of course. "We are the institution as it evolves," Commandaros notes. "We do not just look at it as a sculpture. We look at it as an institution we inhabit. We can still feel a sense of pride in what it stands for.”

Commandaros recalls conversing with a dean about the effect on the University of President Donald Trump’s recent order stopping travel from seven mostly Muslim countries, and curtailing the immigration of refugees. The dean was facing multiple meetings trying to deal with the executive order’s impact, even though it had been temporarily stayed.

"We’ve got real issues and this is a scary moment,” Commandaros says. “But the University is standing tall on this. When we think of the Cathedral of Learning, we can use that as a symbol, a mirror, a bridge to connect to our ethical mandate that education is for everyone. This is an extreme moment and the Cathedral of Learning standing for all these higher philosophies is really paramount now.”

The Cathedral, as a sculpture, may work as the Greeks intended sculpture to work: as the ideal figure to mirror the image of god in man. Perhaps the arcs of the Cathedral’s wire geometry, pointing toward the sky, are like “the arc of the moral universe … bending toward justice,” as President Barack Obama used to quote Martin Luther King Jr.
When the Cathedral has images projected on it, it becomes most contemporary, focusing all of our attention on the same idea. ‘It feels immediately like a link-up to me,’ Commandaros says — the Cathedral as social media, building its list of like-minded friends.

Lighted buildings can be their own art form, practiced most prominently by Krzysztof Wodiczko. They also can be purposefully frivolous — think of holiday light-up nights — but because of the Cathedral’s symbolism in the Pittsburgh landscape … it adds some gravitas,” she says.

When photographers capture the building from unusual angles — from mid-air, looking skinnier than normal from the side, or in a panoramic shot from below, which severely foreshortens its form — they allow us to contemplate the Cathedral anew, she adds. If the building is isolated in the photo, especially when rendered in black and white, we cannot even be sure when during the past 80 years the picture was taken, unless we peer closely enough to spot street signs beneath it, or squint at the very top — could that be a cell tower?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
Celebrating the CL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

“There could never be another Cathedral of Learning built today,” Commandaros concludes — just as there will never be another David chiseled from stone by another Michelangelo. “Our consciousness moves too fast,” she says. “We don’t have the temperament for it.”

Can’t get enough of the Cathedral of Learning? The University photographers can’t either. For more images from photographers Tom Altany, Mike Drazdzinski, Aimee Obidzinski and Monica Synett, go to www.instagram.com/pittteaching/.

—Mary Levine

Create your own Cathedral

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Cathedral of Learning’s dedication, the Pitt Alumni Association is sponsoring a contest to create Cathedral replicas out of any material — including virtual versions (www.alumni.pitt.edu/news-events/cathedral-innovation-challenge/). Pitt alumni, students, faculty and staff members, individually or in groups, should submit entries by Feb. 24. Winners will be chosen through an online ballot sent to all alumni on Feb. 27. A host of Pitt-centric prizes are at stake, from a dinner on the Cathedral’s 40th floor to football and basketball tickets. Winning entries will be on display in the Randall Family Big Idea Competition Awards Showcase on March 14.
W e recently discussed the role of social and economic inequality, particularly regarding the concept of white privilege, “a lot of what we do seem to be a chasing match,” a sociologist professor told those at the Feb. 1 Center for Race and Social Problems lecture.

Titled “White Privilege in America: Not So Invisible Any- more,” the presentation by Paul R. Croll of Augustana College aimed to bring recent data and a social scientific perspective to several central questions: What do Americans think about white privilege, why does it matter, and where do we go from here?

White privilege, Croll said, is “a space" where we can talk about the ways whites have advantages in our society.” Those privileges come without individual whites making any deliberate, conscious effort to acquire them, he said.

While the origins of white privilege are a lengthy U.S. history of segregation and suppressing people of color, it continues to exist today from America’s majority-white population being viewed by others as “normal" or “regular,” Croll said.

The experiences and attitudes of white people thus are assumed, by individuals and by our major institutions, to be the experiences and attitudes of all people. Even differences tend to have different experiences in daily life, in everything from classroom to family to law enforcement.

Thus, Croll noted, “being white is being in a place of relative advantage.”

This is a point that white privilege exists for decades thinking. Previously, U.S. society termed anyone who did not experience the “norm” of white experience as “disadvantaged.”

Instead, the term “white privilege” acknowledges, Croll said, that the advantages enjoyed by whites are not normal, that it is a true case of unfair advantage.

Scholars in previous decades had concluded that white privilege was unnoticed by whites, Croll pointed out. Peggy McIntosh’s 1988 research, for example, found that “white privilege is an invisible package of unearned assets” that white people do not even realize, and concluded “if we would just make it visible" to us, it could make progress on it," Croll said.

When white privilege was unnoticed by whites, Croll said, the majority of people are white. But if white privilege is noticed, it is not invisible, “it didn’t make us feel any better," Croll said. "But it did make us feel good to talk about it." When white privilege was thought to be invisible, “it didn’t make us feel any better," Croll added. "How can we have a situation where Americans, including about 50 percent are aware of white privilege and the problems it causes? Conversations about how to use that awareness and knowledge toward awareness, and understanding that privilege will do more for a country forward than trading Facebook posts and Twitter tweets among people who already understand white privilege and whose attitude we already share.

White privilege takes many forms today, Croll said. It cited a 2009 study showing a severe gap between total family wealth that blacks and whites may depend on in times of emergencies as an "advantage." Those who benefit from blacks into segregated neighborhood: Homemakers today is 50 percent of whites and 40 percent among blacks. "If you are white, on average, your total wealth is less than what you have wealth, where you have better schools," Croll noted.

He also cited studies that demonstrated "that black-sounding names" on resumes got people hired less often, and the fact that 10 percent of black men in their 30s are in jail in America on any given day.

To his white students who believe that they do not benefit from white privilege — who say, “I’m not a racist, I’m not a bigot," a majority of white Republicans agree that there is white privilege in America, 59 percent of Republicans acknowledged white privilege as well. When white privilege that was not acknowledged white privilege in America, 59 percent that whites have privilege in America, white privilege is acknowledged white privilege in America, 59 percent of Republicans acknowledged white privilege as well. "As your level of education increases, your level of agreement that whites have privilege in America increases," Croll said. Even among those adults who had not graduated from high school, two-thirds of survey respondents agreed white privilege exists.

The survey also found that the racial composition of respondents' home counties, and of their social networks, influenced their opinions: The more diverse their living environments, the more likely these respondents were to recognize white privilege.

Whites were certainly aware of white privilege, the Boundaries project showed, but not by a majority of overwhelming majority. In fact, more than a third gave contradictory answers to whether whites had advantages in America and whether race still mattered in this country.

Just 51 percent professed the view that whites had advantages and race still mattered, while 1 percent took the opposite but still consistent view that whites had no advantages but race no longer mattered. The remaining 38 percent seemed to hold two contrary ideas simultaneously. A quarter of whites surveyed believed whites did not have advantages in America, but that race no longer mattered. Another 13 percent acknowledged white privilege but still said that race no longer mattered for the nation.

Still factors that influenced an awareness of white privilege for all people, such as more education, worked to move whites toward greater understanding as well. Even a majority of more conservative whites — Republicans included in the Boundaries project — acknowledged white privilege in the survey. In fact, a majority of white Republicans agreed that white privilege was in play in American society.

Does an increase in awareness of white privilege translate to support for programs to counter white privilege, such as affirmative action for colleges and universities in the U.S?

The Boundaries survey also asked whether Americans supported affirmative action, and if they did so to maximize society’s diversity or to ensure everyone’s equal access to education.

In total, 40 percent of people supported an affirmative action, including a third of whites. But only four percent of those whites said they hoped to increase diversity; instead, most said their affirmative action support was based on a desire for equal access to higher education — even though the majority of white affirmative action supporters also saw white privilege as a reality. Similarly, only 13 percent of whites said African Americans should receive special consideration in job hiring and school admissions. Those who believed in white privilege were more than twice as likely to believe in affirmative action.

"Obviously that’s a hot-button issue," Croll acknowledged. But, "If you're going to be an umpire," he said — and the choice to call these things, he added. "Because that door is now open, people." "I think you’re right — I hate to say it," Croll answered. "I think there is a heightened risk. White people and those who have been passive and have not evolved need to be more active. More action needs to be taken to fight these things. We need to also acknowledge that the majority of people are on our side." Still, he acknowledged, even among those who today understand white privilege, that their unconscious racism may also be: "Who wants to give it up, and how would you?" "That is going to take time," he concluded. "I think it’s going to be years ahead, and I think the younger generation is going to have to figure that out." "We need to start having more honest conversations about white privilege. We need to not be afraid of it." —Mary Levine

Augustana College faculty member Paul Croll, who spoke on white privilege as part of the speaker series at the University Times, was a “surprise” to students in a 2019 study showing a severe gap between total family wealth that blacks and whites may depend on in times of emergencies as an "advantage." Those who benefit from blacks into segregated neighborhood: Homemakers today is 50 percent of whites and 40 percent among blacks. "If you are white, on average, your total wealth is less than what you have wealth, where you have better schools," Croll noted.

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Higher BMI linked to lower-quality end-of-life care

School of Medicine researcher suggests that the heavier someone is, the less likely they are to receive quality end-of-life care, and the chance to die at home.

The study was led by John H. Fedorchak, an ophthalmology, chemical engineering, and bioengineering faculty member who participated in the research during his fellowship at the University of Michigan Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation (IHPI). More findings were published in the Annals of Internal Medicine.

Researchers analyzed records from more than 5,600 senior citizens who took in the long-running national Health and Retirement Study, examining how their body mass index (BMI) related to end-of-life expenditures, such as their use of hospital services. They found that people with higher BMIs were less likely to enter home care, and among those who did, the average length of time that a patient spent fewer days in hospice than with those lower BMIs. The researchers focused on about 60 percent of the seniors in the study who died at home, an expenses-related finding that Americans might say they would choose. But that percentage dropped as BMI rose.

The differences in end-of-life care also translated into differences in the amount of time a month of life for a person with a normal BMI, the Medicare system spent about $4,000. For an obese person, the costs were about $3,500 higher.

The study was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Other authors included current and former IHPI members and a co-author from the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Genetic thyroid cancer test may preserve gland

School of Medicine scientists and engineers focused on the first-ever clinical trial to determine if a genetic test they pioneered could predict which patients with nonaggressive thyroid cancer from complete removal of their thyroids, which is important to hormone regulation and development. Such thyroid problems can lead to debilitating surgical complications, and many patients also may avoid taking medications every day to keep thyroid hormone levels in check.

The two-year trial, which is entirely funded by private donors, will enroll 120 patients with nonaggressive thyroid cancer. The results of a genetic test ThyroSeq can correctly differentiate between thyroid tumors that need to be removed and require complete removal of the thyroid gland, and those likely to be successfully treated using a thyroid-preserving surgical approach.

ThyroSeq uses a genetic test called ThyroSeq v2, developed by the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and its impact on students. For example, Hasik is using the CSL to study the effects of simulation-based learning for medical and nursing students, first responders and other health care practitioners. Idea Foundry is providing one-time, $25,000 awards, in addition to $25,000 of additional in-kind support, to assist in securing additional investment.

Two projects received $35,000 awards without a matching requirement.

- Nano-LED Technology for Microdisplays, proposed by Hong Koo Kim, Bell-Gy, NTU; Bell-Gy, NTU; Bell-Gy, NTU; Bell-Gy, NTU

The teams were selected by a panel of judges from a pool of 10 finalists. Each team will receive $140,000 to four Pitt teams to help them move their discoveries closer to commercialization, with the aim of making a positive impact on society.

Chancellors Innovation Commercialization Funds were established to provide support for and help scale innovations to assist in reducing the technical and/or market risk associated with these projects, and make them more attractive to investors or potential licensees. One of the paths for identifying funding opportunities is through a request for proposal program that was launched last November and recently culminated in these awards.

The teams were selected by a panel of judges from a pool of 10 finalists. Each team will receive $140,000 to advance their technologies. The award will fund testing to validate the technology.

New clues show viruses entering intestine

Researchers at the School of Medicine have discovered a link between the occurrence of enterovirus disease, which can lead to potentially fatal illness in the intestine, and the presence of enterovirus in stool samples collected from patients with gastrointestinal diseases.

The results of the study are published in the journal ClinicalTranslationalMedicine.

The findings were presented by Dr. John P. Rushnoff, a senior scientist at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The study was supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

The research was conducted at the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine and the Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, both located at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. The study was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association.
Enteroviruses are a class of viruses that are the second most common cause of viral meningitis and are primarily transmitted through close person-to-person contact, such as coughing, sneezing, or ingesting food or water containing the virus. These infections are associated with diseases that can range from mild flu-like symptoms to much more severe outcomes such as inflammation in the brain or heart, acute paralysis, or even death. 

Enterovirus infections are a type of virus that enters the bloodstream from an infected individual and can cause different diseases. However, the group is underresearched and understanding of the relationship between these infections and different outcomes is of great importance in a time when the world is facing a pandemic. 

The School of Law named senior federal appeals judge William H. Bush the inaugural recipient of the judge's namesake award. The prize was established in 2015. The first two winners were neighbors from Pittsburgh who wrote their personal financial planning courses. The prize included a gold medal and $25,000.

The University’s 2017 Nichol Award for Teaching Excellence was awarded to the University’s Dr. John C. Weidman, a faculty member in microbiology and molecular genetics. Dr. Weidman is the director of Pitt’s College of Environmental Science and Policy Studies, has received an Exemplary Educator Award from the University of California, and is a member of the University’s Department of Administrative Development and Exchange of Information. Dr. Weidman’s body of work spans over 1,000 scientific papers and has been published in more than 100 scientific journals. 

El Khoudary and her team evaluated clinical data, including blood samples and heart CT scans, from 478 women enrolled in the Study of Women’s Health Across the Nation. The women were in varying stages of menopause, including premenopause, perimenopause, and postmenopause. The women were divided into two groups: those with elevated pericardial fat and those with normal pericardial fat. 

The findings reveal a previously unknown menopause-specific indicator of heart disease risk, pointing to potential strategies to reduce that risk and a target for future studies on the impact of hormone replacement therapy in improving cardiovascular health.

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John L. Goldsmith

The Heinz Chapel Choir will perform during a memorial ser-

The event is set for 11 a.m. Feb. 24 in Heinz Chapel.

Goldsmith, who joined the music department faculty in 1989,
directed the chapel choir for 25 years before retiring in 2014.

Goldsmith’s love and passion were for a cappella singing and
he was a professor of music emeritus Don
Franklin, who was chair of the music department when Gold
smith joined the faculty.

“He had a remarkable skill of training the ear of singers
and in doing so achieved a fin-
tuned instrument” in the choir, Franklin said.

Goldsmith was a music major and undergraduate advisor for
students and alumni and a Silver
Brown Award for Choral Excel-
ence, presented to an individual
for outstanding lifelong work in
the choral arts.

In addition to his wife, Gold-
smith is survived by siblings Joan
Lawrence, William C. Goldsmith and Joseph
C. Goldsmith; as well as nieces and
nephews.

The family requests donations be made to the Heinz Chapel Choir, Department of Music, 110
Music Building, Pittsburgh 15260
or Catholic Hospice, 2605 Nich-
olson Rd., Suite 3240, Sewickley
15143.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

John L. Yeager

Former administrator and School of Education faculty
member John L. Yeager died Jan. 24, 2017. He was 79.

He was a public school teacher in Bethel Park and
Cleveland, then became a state research
board consultant for the Depart-
ment of Public Instruction before
launching a university career that spanned five decades.

He joined the Learning Research and Development Center
(LRDC) in 1964, initially as assistant director of field studies.
He held several positions there, ultimately rising to assistant direc-
tor of the center.

Former dean of the School of Education Alan Legold, who
met Yeager soon after arriving at Pitt in 1971, commended
Yeager’s administrative abilities.

“He handled the business side of LRDC mostly, and did a great job,”
Legold told the University Times.

Yeager joined the University’s central administration as director
of University planning in 1973 after Chair Charles O. B. Hunt.
He worked in central planning and budgeting capacities for
nearly 20 years, ultimately becoming the University’s vice president for
administration in 1989, a position he held until 1992.

“He certainly increased the ability of the University to under-
stand its current state and the implications of its plans, especially
in financial terms,” said Legold.

Yeager left the University administration, returning to the
School of Education to chair the Department of Administrative
In the department, he was named
director of the Institute for Higher
Education Management in 1999,
and program coordinator for the
department’s higher education program, 2004-08.

Beyond the university, his consulting and planning work included
activities in Mongolia, Germany, China, Egypt, Jamaica,
Cameroun, Chad, the Central
African Republic, Kenya, Saudi
Arabia, Indonesia and Thailand.

He contributed to the School
of Education’s efforts in helping
Thailand train administrators capable of running the nation’s expanding institutions of higher
education, and was involved in a number of other international
cooperative endeavors.

Legold said Yeager was among the faculty members sought out
from college and universities that international visitors were
eager to sit in on his classes on higher education management.

“John’s area of specialization as a professor was strategic planning,
and both Pitt and a number of Asian universities benefited from
his wisdom,” Legold said.

Yeager earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics at Clarion
State College in 1960, and com-
pletes his graduate studies at Pitt,
earning a master’s of education
degree in secondary education
in 1963 and a doctorate in edu-
cational research in 1966.

Initially an assistant professor of education, he was appointed
associate professor in 1970, and received a joint appointment in
the Graduate School of Public
and International Affairs in 1988.

Yeager was named emeritus associate professor of administra-
tion and policy studies.

He is survived by his
wife, Jean Hammerle Yeager; daughters Lauti Boerio and her husband
Mark, and Kimberly Bryson and her husband Sean; sister Phyllis
Boland; and a number of
nephews and grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be
made to www.pittsburghpromise.org.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Award for the Academic Medical
Library of the Year in 2011. In 2013, she helped lead the library
in 25 years to chair the library
selection and technical review
committee of the National Library of Medicine.

Following Tannery’s depar-
ture, Bernardine L. Burns has
been appointed HSLS associate
director for research, instruction and clinical services. Burns
has been at HSLS since 2002.

Since 2011, she has served as the executive director of the
Middle Atlantic Region of the National Network of Libraries of
Medical Institutes (NNLM MAR). She has served on the
national search for a new execu-
tive director of the NNLM MAR
in process.

Pitt-Bradford has received
several awards and recognition
for its programs.
Pitt-Bradford has received Gold-
Award in the Newspaper Adver-
sing-Series category for a series
of print ads featuring current stu-
dents and alumni and a Silver
Award in the Direct Mail-Series
category for a series of postcards
inviting prospective students to
open houses.

Mark Zampogna, a 1988
Pitt-Bradford alumni who
owns Laser Layouts in Bradford,
designed the award-winning
print ads, which were published
in newspapers in the region, includ-
ing The Bradford Era, Kane
Republican, Warren Times
Observer and Daily News in St.
Marys. The series have been papers in the Pitts-
bugh area.

Diane Fitzgerald-Harris of
Biography New York, who has
designed most of Pitt-Bradford’s
recruiting materials, designed the
direct mail pieces. Each of four
series included four personalized
postcards, each featuring scenic
campus images and open houses for
the 2016-17 academic year.
The 2016 awards program
received more than 900 entries
from college and universities throughout the country.

A panel of design and edu-
cation marketing professionals judged the programs in the categories
of creativity, layout/design, typog-
raphy, production, quality and overall effectiveness.

Pitt-Bradford has received
a total of 11 awards from the colle-
ge and university marketing field
ers in 2016.

Winners are posted at www.
collegiateawards.com.

—Compiled by K. Barlow
Thursday 16

UNIVERSITY TIMES

Thursday 16

Chemistry Lecture
“Exhausting Energy Storage in Soft Nanomachines Through Versatile Electrochemistry,” Joaquin Loeza, U of IL, 1500 Chevron, 2:30 pm

Black History Month Film Screening
“K. Leroy Irvis: The Lion of PA,” Hillman Library Thornhill Rm, 3 pm

A&S Open Door Project Panel
“From Snowmelt to the Supreme Court,” 750 Posvar, 3 pm (open door.pitt.edu)

Chemistry Lecture
“Imperfection & Bulk Structures of Ionic Liquids With Domain Disrupting Functionalities,” Edward Carpenter-Rogers, 1500 Chevron, 4pm

Humanities Colloquium/Workshop
“Using Multimedia Technology & Software in Conference Presentations,” 407 CL, 5:30 pm

Friday 17

Biomedical Informatics Seminar
“A Systems Level Approach to Understanding the Seasonal Factors of Early Development With Clinical & Pharmacological Applications,” Mary Boland, Columbus, 4th fl. conf. rm. 5607 Baum Blvd, 9 am

Psychiatry Lecture
“The Neuroscience of Major Depressive Disorder: Focus on Anhedonia,” Diego Pizzagalli, Harvard, TBA, noon

GI Grand Rounds
“Year III GI Fellow Presentations,” Anna Evans & Zachary Castner, Rutgers; 150 Chevron, 4 pm

Concert
“The Whiffenpoofs of Yale University; Heinz Chapel, 7:30 pm (www.yale.edu/mote)

Saturday 18

Diabetes Indian Dance Competition
Soldiers & Sailor, 5:30 pm (www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittarts/shakespeare)

Biology Seminar
“EndNote Basics,” Andrea Ketley, 4130 Posvar, 3 pm

Public Health Lecture
“Opioid Pilot Grant Research Reports, Part 2,” Mary Hall, Thomas Songer, Evelyn Talbott, G23 Public Health, 3 pm

USC UR Lecture
“Building Community & Ecological Resilience Through Obsolete Infrastructure Removal,” Lisa Segely, River Restoration/American Rivers, 3911 Posvar, noon (resv: swpap@pitt.edu)

Philosophy of Science Lecture
“Political Science Methodology: A Plea for Pluralism,” Sharon Cameron, Norco College; 817R CL, 12:05 pm (www.pitt.edu/~pintons/)

Senate EPC Mag.
156 CL, 2 pm

GSWS Lecture
“The Dangerous Public Fantasy of Post-racialism & the Black Bogeyman,” Ronald Jackson, U of Cincinnati, G24 CL, 3 pm

Anthropology Lecture
“Unruly Futures: Temporality, Scale & Speculation in Meds’s Sense of Unity,” Kaiji Inui, U of Toronto, 4130 Posvar, 3 pm

Bradford Campus Film
“16th”; Frame-Westoberg, Commons Musikayu U RM, UBIP, 8:30 pm

Wednesday 22

Molecular & Cellular Cancer Biology Work in Progress Meg

Neuroscience Lecture
“CBF Regulation of Stratal Dopaminergic Release & Its Role in Motivated Behavior,” Jamie Lemen, Natl. Inst. of Gen Med/Natl. Inst. Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism, 21F Langley, 3:30-4:30 pm

Pathology Seminar
“From Matrix to the Nuclear Lamina in Differentiation, Disease & Immune Therapy,” Dennis Doherty. Pm: 1104 ScAle, 1104 ScAle

HLSL Workshop
“Painless PubMed,” Michele Fedrizzi, Lib. Faculty classrm. 1, noon (fedrizzi@pitt.edu)

Thurber Symposium Workshop on Governance Lecture

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13
Thursday 23

OACD Workshop
“Life After Postdoc: Career Opportunities in Academia,” 10:30-12:30, 111 Atrium

Molecular Biophysics/Structural Biology Seminar
“Sequence & Function of the Cytoplasmic mRNA Export Platform & Membrane Ring, Component of the Nucleolus Pore Complex,” Seung-Ki Kim, UC-SanFrancisco (014 BST, 11 am)

Pharmacology/Chemical Biology Seminar
“Multiple Roles of Histone Methylation in ES2 in Myeloma Bone Disease; A Novel Therapeutic Target,” Deborah Galson, 1395 BST, noon

Health Services Research Seminars
“Improving Accuracy of Diagnosis & Management of Acute Otitis Media in Children,” Alejandro Holmester, 505 Posvar, noon

Shadyside Medicine Grand Rounds
“Morbidity & Mortality,” David Levinson, UPMY Shadyside wing, noon

Black History Month Poetry Reading

LGBTQIA+ Affinity Group Mixer
5803 Video Lounge Cafe, Shadyside, 5 pm (www.nameyourmonk.com/5VNSIRFW)

Union of Pitt Faculty/United Students Against Sweatshops Lecture
“University Endowments, Austen & Student Debt,” Marie Smith, Responsible Endowments Coalition; Frick Fine Arts aud., 6 pm

Bradford Campus Mass & Mr. Blue & Gold Pageant
BromleyTheater, UPB, 8 pm (ticket: www.upb.pitt.edu/Theatre)

PGH Contemporary Writers Lecture
Maggie Nelson; FYA aud., 8:30 pm (pgwieversters.wordpress.com/201415 lineup of writers)

Bradford Campus Black History Month Midnight Breakfast
The Diamond Steppers; KOA Dining Hall, UPB, 11 pm

Friday 24

Business Panel Discussion

French & Italian Conf.
“MassesDirectivity” 602 & 502 CL, 9-4 am (keynote: Alain Jolivet; 602 CL, 10-3 pm)

Board of Trustees Meetings
WPJ Assembly Rom., 10 am

Seniors GCC Meeting
717 CL, 10 am

Memorial Service
For John Goldsmith, former music dept. faculty member & director of the Heinz Chapel Choir, who died Feb. 2, Heinz Chapel, 11 am

Psychiatry Lecture
“The Neurodevelopment of Irritability: A Male Predominant Phenomenon,” Susan Perlman, Harvard; 1301A BST, noon

Philosophy of Science Lecture
“Methuselahian Individualism & Collectivism in the Social Sciences,” Wang Wei, 1871 BR, 12:05 pm (www.pitt.edu/~ipinz/)

Honors Convocation
CarNEGie Music Hall, 3 pm

Anthropology Lecture
“Fascination at the Borders,” Blake Sabaruk, UC-Santa Barbara; 4130 Posvar, 3 pm

Saturday 25

Classicis Lecture

Bradford Campus Black History Month Lecture
“Memory & the Construction of African American Identity,” Robert F. Williams, 204 SST, 10:30 am

Bradford Campus Black History Month Lecture
“Struggle of a White Student against Segregation: How Student Unioning,” Francesca Van Atkinson, 727 Posvar, noon

Tuesday 28

Neuroscience Lecture
“Mechanisms & Functions of Synaptic Facilitation,” Skye Jakeman, Harvard; A219B Langley, 9:30 am

Bradford Campus Lecture
“Journey From Homeless Child to Basketball Champion, Poet, Author & Activist,” Monti Washington; Frame Westermo Commons Makiyama U, Rom., UPB, 7:30 pm

Thursday 2

HSLS Workshop
“Power of Your Voice,” Julia Wexler, Falk Library classroom, 1, noon (jdahm@pitt.edu)

Bradford Campus Black History Month Discussion
“Should We Share Ancestral Stories?; How To Share Ancestral Stories?” Garth Robinson, 209 Posvar, 3 pm

HSLS Workshop
“Using Your Brain to Control Your Gut,” Eva Sobieszek, Visceral Inflammation/Pain Ctr.; WPJ, 1:30 pm

Classics Lecture
“A Longitudinal Study of Peer Influence,” Tonya Foster & Mabel Pierce, NC State; 150 Chevron, 4 pm

Neuroscience Lecture
“Methodological Individualism & Plausibility: A Multi-Modal Perspective,” Wang Wei, Tsinghua U; 401 Bridgeside Point 2, 2 pm

Friday 24

Computer Science Lecture
“Biotechnology: A Platform for Chemical & Biological Discovery,” Joshua Crabtree, 1 pm

Saturday 25

Music Lecture
“Music and the Mind,” Dr. Monti Washington; Frame Westermo Commons Mukayama U, Rom., UPB, 7:30 pm

Tuesday 28

Chemistry Lecture
“Two-dimensional Crystals,” Julia Jex, IBM Research Ctr.; 150 Chevron, 4 pm

Workshop
“Pediatric Critical Care,” Jeffrey Burns, Harvard; A1055 SCAB, 10 am

Seminar
“Painless PubMed,” Charlie Wessel; HSLS Workshop; 602 CL, 6:30 pm (rsvp: ojames@pitt.edu)

Event Deadline
Cathedral Innovation Challenge Submissions due by Feb. 24. (www. alumni.pitt.edu/new-events/cathedral-innovation-challenge/)

CTS1 2017 Pain Research Challenge
Round 1 applications due Feb. 27. (www.cts1.pitt.edu/funding-information.html)

Steve Manners Faculty Development Award
Letter of intent due Feb. 28. (annaca@pitt.edu)

UCIS Int’l Collaborations on Sustainable Innovations Grants Program
Proposals due Feb. 28. (umis@pitt.edu)

Global Studies Center Faculty Fellowship
Deadline for submissions March 1. (www.gsc.pitt.edu/global-faculty fellowship)

Global Academic Partnership Grant Competition
Deadline for submissions March 1. (www.ucis.pitt.edu/forms/sustainability-awards)

McKnight Memory & Cognitive Disorders Awards
Proposals due March 27. (www.neuroscience.medsch.pitt.edu/newsroom/upcoming-deadlines/2017-mwd)

Exhibits
Falk Library
“Surviving & Thriving: AIDS, Politics & Culture”; display case at 200 Scale through Feb. 25; M-Th 7 am-ml, F 7 am-10 pm, Sat 9:30 am-10 pm & Sun 11 am-ml.

Hillman Library
K. Leroy Irvis Black History Month exhibits, through Feb. 26, 1 st reading rm., & gr. fl. 1st fl., M-Th 24 hours; F till 10 pm; Sat 9 am-10 pm; Sun open 10 am

Bradford Campus
“Repeat, Please,” Chanda Zea, commissioner; KSA’s Gallery Blinded, UPB, through March 3; M-F 8:30 am-6 pm (www.zeacolleen.com)

Alumni Events
“Liminal Conjuration,” Sophia Sobers; “Dirty Work,” Eleanor Alford & Barbara Wiscarz; U Art Gallery, through March 23; M-F 10 am-4 pm

Event Deadline
The next issue of the University Times will include University & on-campus events of March 2-16.

For more information, go to www.play.pitt.edu.