Pitt ramps up federal outreach

In response to the Republican administration’s shift in budget priorities, Pitt plans to increase federal outreach activities, Chancellor Patrick Gallagher told Senate Council March 22.

Changes were expected, but the release of the Trump administration’s budget outline earlier this month (www.whitehouse.gov/files/omb/budget/6/2018/2018_blue-print.pdf) revealed what Gallagher described as “the most dramatic shift in priorities across the board that I’ve ever seen.”

Said Gallagher: “It would probably be very good news for anybody on the defense-related research side, but on everything else, if the president’s budget were enacted, it would be very bad news.”

The fiscal year 2018 federal budget proposal centers on a $54 billion increase in defense spending—balanced by cuts elsewhere—including a proposed 18 percent cut of $5.8 billion to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the University’s largest source of sponsored research funding.

According to Pitt’s fiscal year 2016 financial report, sponsored research activity totaled $726.5 million in 2016 and $713.9 million in 2015, with about two-thirds sponsored research funding. In 2016 financial report, sponsored research funding.

“Early signs are it’s not going to come out like this,” he said. “It is, I think, important to pay attention to. And I think it’s important for not just this University, but all universities, to weigh in on the potential ramifications of this budget as it goes through so that lawmakers, as they begin their process, are aware of that.”

Gallagher announced that the University has hired Anthony Gibson, National Science Foundation (NSF) senior adviser for legislative affairs, as its full-time director of federal relations, based in Washington, D.C.

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“It’s important to remember that the president’s budget release is one step in a long process,” the chancellor said. More budget details must be filled in “and the actual appropriations are done by Congress, then sent back as a bill to the president,” Gallagher said.

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“We brainstorm about how to deal with that and what options there might be to create additional alternatives to secure funding,” she said. “Of course, work-life balance predominates as a faculty stressor, she adds. “Sometimes it’s things that can talk with me [about] and implement and come back and talk to me about how it is, and then we can adjust the plans,” she added.
Sustainability survey runs through April 7

When adjusted for cost of living, salaries for Pitt’s professors, associate professors and assistant professors rank above the median for Association of American Universities (AAU) public peers, but salaries for associate professors and lecturers remained below the midrange target. These findings are in the cost-of-living adjusted salary report presented by Amanda Brodish of the Office of the Provost to the University Senate budget policies committee (BPC) March 17.

The adjusted salaries for professors and associate professors topped in the top 10, while the slightly adjusted salaries for assistant professors ranked 16th. The unadjusted salaries for professors, associate professors and assistant professors ranked at or below the median for the 34 public AAU institutions.

When cost of living was considered, the ranking for instructors and lecturers moved up four spots. The unadjusted salary for instructors and lecturers ranked last out of 31 public AAU institutions.

Providing a competitive salary to instructors and lecturers is a critical recruitment and retention tool, said David Dejong, executive vice provost.

“The official target is we want to be in the median of the AAU publics on this campus, and that’s across all the ranks,” said Dejong. The Pitt faculty salary report for the Pittsburgh campus report were derived from the American Association of University Professors’ “The Annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession, 2015-16.”

Cost of living comparisons were taken from the Council for Community and Economic Research’s ACCRA Cost of Living Index 2015-16.

Regional faculty salaries

Examining the Bradford, Greensburg and Johnstown campuses as one, the salaries for professors, assistant professors and instructors and lecturers was significantly below the median when adjusted for the cost of living, but unadjusted fell below the median for a new benchmark group of 108 regional campus institutions (Nau 10, 2016, Uni- versity Professors). The adjusted salary for associate professors was 26th; the unadjusted salary for associate professors ranked slightly above the median.

The salaries for the regional campuses report ran from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Human Resources file. The salary comparisions were based on Bradford’s cost of living, which lies between Johnstown and Greensburg, and determined by referencing Sperling’s BestPlaces.

Pitt-Titusville, a two-year institution, was not included in the salary comparisons.


In other business:

• Dejong said that a salary report for part-time faculty should be available next year.

• Brodish will share an updated gender equity salary report (for the previous report, see May 2, 2015, Executive Briefing) at BPC’s April 21 meeting. Dejong will present the facilities capital plan at BPC’s May 26 meeting.

—Katie Fike

University Times letters policy

Letters should be submitted at least one week prior to publication. Persons criticized in a letter will receive a copy of the letter so that they may prepare a response if they wish. Letters will be published in full.

Letters can be sent by email to njbrown@pitt.edu or by campus mail to 388 Biddle Hall.

The University Times reserves the right to edit letters for clarity or length. Unsigned letters will not be accepted for publication.

University Times/BpC, May 9, 2016

Barbara A. Epstein

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Barbara A. Epstein
Pitt finishing 10-year facilities plan

The University is putting the finishing touches on a new 10-year facilities plan that includes $1.6 billion in strategic high-priority projects for which funding has been identified.

The University’s current capital-plan spans fiscal years 2007-18. (See March 1, 2016, University Times.) That plan, initially $1 billion, has grown to $1.5 billion over time, said Scott A. Bernotas, associate chancellor for Facilities Management.

Overall, the new plan includes 139 projects totaling $3.5 billion. In addition to the $1.6 billion in funded projects, it outlines $1 billion in projects based on prospective funding streams, such as gifts, and $900 million in deferred projects that could be undertaken if money is available.

The plan was presented to Pitt trustees last month and will be released following approval by the chancellor, Executive Vice Provost David Dejong said in a presentation to the University Senate plan Utilization and Planning committee last week.

Details on timing and funding for projects are listed in the three years of the plan are being finalized. That work should be complete by the end of April, Dejong told the University Times.

Among the first projects:

• A $260 million renovation of One Bigelow, currently a surface parking lot on the site of the former Syria Mosque. (See March 3, 2016, University Times.)

• A Hillman Library annex is in the design phase, with construction set to begin next year.

• A new building, One Bigelow, will house the Center for Creativity and other student life enhancements.

• A Posvar Hall annex that will aid in the plan to cluster the social sciences together. The planned 80,000-square-foot addition will face Bouquet Street, Dejong said.

• Salk Hall renovation.

The plan was developed after conditions assessment of every University building across Pitt’s five campuses and a University-wide survey of units’ anticipated needs over the 10-year horizon, Dejong said.

Projects, all of which had to align with the University’s strategic plan, were prioritized as either “core” or “aspirational,” he said. The plan is designed to be dynamic and subject to revision, he said, noting that at least two mid-term re-evaluations are expected.

“We’re not going to put this thing on the shelf and pick it up 10 years later. We’re going to systemically come back and review progress.”

Dejong said 130 percent of the new plan’s $1.6 billion in priority projects are for education and gen-

eral (E&G) projects; 24 percent are for preservation; 9 percent are auxiliary projects; 5 percent are regional campus projects; and 2 percent are for the School of Medicine.

Among the core elements are:

• Creating space for the next School of Computing and Information.

• Growing new research capacity and the Innovation Institute.

• Expanding capacity and consolidating social sciences disciplines in the Posvar Hall/ Sennott Square area.

• Expanding space for engineering and the applied sciences.

• Preserving and renewing existing facilities.

• Enhancing student life and recreation.

Dejong said 60 percent of the new plan’s $1.6 billion in priority projects are for education and general (E&G) projects; 24 percent are for preservation; 9 percent are auxiliary projects; 5 percent are regional campus projects; and 2 percent are for the School of Medicine.

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• Expanding space for engineering and the applied sciences.

• Preserving and renewing existing facilities.

• Enhancing student life and recreation.

Details on the April 13 unveiling event are set for 2:30-4 p.m. on the William Pitt Union patio and lawn (in case of inclement weather).

City of Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto and Pam Connelly, vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion, will speak.

In addition to the T-shirt display and musical performances, campus and community organizations will provide activities 1-4 p.m.

Displays will include information from Pitt’s Office of Faculty Evaluation. Plenary session coverage will be published in the April 13 University Times.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Bibliometrics workshop precedes Senate session

A dministrators should not consider bibliometrics while evaluat-

ing a faculty member, cautioned Berenika M. Webster of the University Library System in a March 14 presentation to faculty.

In “What Bibliometrics Tells Us About the Research Enterprise,” a precursor to yesterday’s Senate plenary session, Webster and Andrea Ketchum of the Health Sciences Library System discussed the value of quantifying scholarly work based on publication citations and fielded questions from faculty.

“You should not use these types of tools to evaluate individual performance. These are great to show you a discipline and how it changes and what is happening within a discipline,” said Webster. “When it comes to 15 publications by one person, you don’t even have statistical power behind it. You should not be doing any analysis of less than a hundred papers.”

The video of the workshop can be viewed at www.univsenate. pitt.edu/plenary-senetion-ay-2016-2017.

—Katie Fike

Senate elections to begin April 4

University Senate elections will be conducted electronically April 4-19. To vote, faculty should go to mypitt.edu.

All three officers are running unopposed: Frank Wilson, Pitt-Greensburg; sociology; president; Bolin Keur, University Library System, vice president; and Cindy Tizani, registration, undeclared.

The following faculty members are running for election to Faculty Assembly:

• Humanities (2 vacancies): Dawn Lundy Martin, English.

• Natural sciences (1): Erica McGreevy, biology.

• Social sciences (2): Meri Long, political science; John Stoner, history.


• Education (1): Heather Bachman.

• Law (1): Anthony Infanti; Sassaninnen.

• Computing and information (1): Alexandros Labrinidis; Kostas Pellechritis.

• Dental medicine (1): Seth Weinberg; Adriana Modesto Vestey.

• Health and rehabilitation sciences (1); Kevin Conley.

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• Health and rehabilitation sciences (1); Kevin Conley.

• School of Pharmacy (1): Shilpa Sant.

• Computing and information (1): Marietta Salmi.

• Life sciences (1): Benjamin Korchun; Aleksei Teplyak.

• Medicine (3): Carey Bablan; A. Murat Kaynar; Ergin Kocyildirim; Maria Kovacs; David Salcido; Alexander Spiess.

• Engineering (1): John Feeley; Rob Kaufman; Cecile Yates.

• Pharmacy (1): Shipa Sant.

• Public health (1): Jeanine Buchanich; Mackey Friedman.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Sexual assault awareness events set

Hundreds of T-shirts decorated by Pitt students, faculty and staff will be on display April 13 as sexual assault awareness month events conclude on the Pittsburgh campus.

The creations are a tangible display of support for Pitt’s part in the It’s on Us movement (itsonus.org), a national campaign to eradic- ate sexual assault on college campuses.

The It’s on Us T-shirt project has produced a decorative outlet for allies as well as for those who are survivors of rape or sexual assault, and focuses on issues such as consent, others aim to raise awareness of the frequency of sexual assaults on college campuses. Others depict individuals’ own experiences with non-consensual sexual assault or assaults.

Alia Gehr Selovero, who, with fellow Student Health graduate assistant Greg Valdiviesa, coordi-

nates Pitt’s It’s on Us campaign.

Throughout the year, members of the Pitt community have gathered in the Center for Creativity, residence halls, departmental offices and other venues to decorate shirts. The sessions foster conversation and sharing, all while raising awareness of the resources available on and near campus.

Krisztina Szepeski, senior Title IX and diversity specialist in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, noted that conversations shared in those forums are not subject to reporting. In those forums are not subject to reporting.

A final T-shirt project drop-in session is set for 2:30-4 p.m. April 13 in the Assembly Room in case of inclement weather.

City of Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto and Pam Connelly, vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion, will speak.

In addition to the T-shirt display and musical performances, campus and community organizations will provide activities 1-4 p.m.

Displays will include information from Pitt’s Office of Faculty Evaluation. Plenary session coverage will be published in the April 13 University Times.

—Katie Fike

—Kimberly K. Barlow

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Provost looking at recommendations from Senate on part-time NTS faculty

A provost’s committee is being formed to examine recommendations from the University Senate regarding part-time non-tenure-stream faculty.

Provost Patricia E. Beeson told Senate Council that she has appointed Laurie J. Kinzel, vice provost for faculty affairs, development and diversity, to head the committee. Additional members have yet to be named, Kinzel told the University Times.

Following Faculty Assembly’s approval earlier this month (March 16 University Times), Council on March 22 endorsed the Senate ad hoc committee on part-time non-tenure-stream (PT NTS) faculty’s report, which called for changes to practices in the areas of transparency, seniority and compensation.

Among the more than a dozen recommendations were: standardizing biannual practices and providing orientation; ensuring that PT NTS faculty have access to ID cards and necessary training; and providing performance reviews for recurring PT NTS faculty.

In her comments to Senate, Beeson commended the ad hoc committee’s efforts. “This is a committee that’s worked really quite well over the last four years in a really wonderful way to bring the issues forward and to address them in a constructive way,” the provost said, thanking the committee leaders, administrative liaisons and members for their work.

The Senate’s anti-discrimination advocacy committee (now the equity, inclusion and anti-discrimination Advocacy Committee) gender subcommittee initially took up a review of conditions for PT NTS faculty.

Following the subcommittee’s report in 2012 (Jan. 10, 2013, University Times) Faculty Assembly authorized the formation of an ad hoc committee to examine University policies and procedures related to full- and part-time NTS faculty. (See Sept. 12, 2013, University Times.)

Given the complexity of the issues, the ad hoc committee, headed by Senate past president Irene Friese, soon chose to limit its initial focus to an investigation full-time NTS faculty.

The committee issued a report in February 2015 that, in part, called for an enhancement of the inclusion of policies and procedures for PT NTS faculty, as well as detailed career and incentives. (See Feb. 19, 2015, University Times.)

Changes have ensued. Among other efforts, the University has recommended setting a minimum pay level of $4,000 per three-credit course for instructional faculty on all campuses; extending contract eligibility for emeritus status.

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The full report and recommendations on PT NTS faculty can be viewed at www.unites.pitt.edu/documents/PT_NTS_fac_rec.pdf.

The Feb. 10, 2015, report on NTS faculty issues can be viewed in the documents section of the committee’s page at univsenate.pitt.edu/committees/ad-hoc-committees.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

SAC is developing release time policy

The Staff Association Council (SAC) is working on what it calls a volunteer and community service approved absence plan to help staff members to get time off for service projects, including University-sponsored events such as the recent Pitt Day in Harrisburg.

At the suggestion of a SAC member, the organization also is considering negotiating the administration to allow staff to either be paid monthly or twice a month.

SAC’s April 18 brown bag session will focus on women in the workplace. Staff members can log on to sectionals.pitt.edu to view the meeting, which will feature a panel discussion in the William Pitt Union Assembly Room. Room, room.

SAC is gearing up for its next officer elections, which will take place in the fall. The new slate of officers will be announced before the end of the academic year, since SAC bylaws dictate that long-time president Rich Colwell will be replaced by the fall.

SAC is planning to allow staff members to serve on the university’s maintenance and repair crews.

In other SAC news:

• SAC has begun urging the administration to set a larger cost-of-living increase for faculty and staff salaries.

• The University’s proposed budget includes a $4,000 per three-credit course for instructional faculty on all campuses; extending contract eligibility for emeritus status.

• The full report and recommendations on PT NTS faculty can be viewed on the University Senate’s website.

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Sexual assault awareness events set

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 themselves, Valdisera said. Signatures can be added to a quilt that will be on display in the Student Health Center and Pitt’s H’s on Us paper chain (March 3, 2016, University Times) will be on display.

Those who have decorated a T-shirt will be able to collect their shirt after 4 p.m.

The event will conclude with a march around the Fifth-Forths Avenue block outside the union. Additional details will be posted at titlexix.pitt.edu.

Faculty and staff were welcomed, Rezpecki said. “Seeing familiar faces can be encouraging if something should happen,” she said, adding that students may feel safer disclosing harassment or assault to someone they recognize as a supporter from such events.

Related sexual assault awareness month events include:

• “Queering Religion,” a panel discussion on the intersection of religion and queer identity, sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies. The event is set for 7 p.m. April 4 in 548 William Pitt Union.

• A candlelight vigil in support of sexual assault survivors, coordinated by the Office of Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Education and the Title IX office, is set for 8:30 p.m. April 6 on the Cathedral lawn.

• For help or to report an incident of sexual harassment or assault, visit share.pitt.edu.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

2 commencements planned

Pitt will have two commencement ceremonies this year.

In a departure from past years, in which only doctoral degree candidates were recognized individually, Pitt plans to permit undergraduates to be recognized individually as well. Graduate degrees will be awarded at a ceremony at 4 p.m. April 29; the undergraduate ceremony is set for 1 p.m. April 30, both at the Petersen Events Center.

Chancellor Patrick Gallagher told Senate Council March 22: “The University will have two commencements to make the experience of all Pitt students who are participating.”

Details are at www.commencement.pitt.edu.

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Pitt employees advised: Lead where you are

Jim Earle, assistant vice chancellor for business, preached the importance of leadership during a workshop at the March 23 staff Association Council-sponsored workshop.

In his talk, “Culture Champions: How can Pitt employees lead where they are?” Earle illustrated seven principles.

1. First, knowing yourself is essential. “We have to be secure in who we are to be an effective leader,” Earle said.
2. “You’re really tight,” he added, displaying a more effective leadership position from successful marketer and motivational speaker Jim Rohn.
3. The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be tried, but not tried; be helpful, but not hurtful; be true; but not true; be honest, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly.
4. “It’s easy to talk about our strengths,” Earle noted, but equally important to know your weaknesses.
5. His second principle: “Bring enthusiasm to everything you do.” Earle said he was surprised to read Microsoft founder Bill Gates explain in an interview, that his strength was not proven by creating companies or designing computer programs, but instead demonstrated when he shared his enthusiasm.
6. “He got so many people excited about his vision and his ability to do that, he created this amazing organization,” Earle noted.
7. His suggested Pitt employees can be leaders in their offices by displaying their enthusiasm for the University through the way they communicate — the energy, passion and positivity they show in their work.

Jim Earle was the speaker at the March 23 staff Association Council workshop on leadership.

Psychologist now dedicated to faculty needs

Continued from page 1

Oerckvitz said, “Also, we can look at additional resources that can be helpful to them,” either on campus or elsewhere when needed.

If a faculty member is struggling with work-life balance, Oerckvitz said, the University can help by suggesting his/her spouse to join a seminar. “Sometimes having a third party involved can be helpful,” he added. “The same faculty may be able to talk to each other, too.”

“Where are we excited about making our work better? What can we do more. What do we need more?” he asked.

Tom Koloc, senior account manager at UPMC MyHealth@Work, helped guide the conversation by being helpful: “Culture champions put the team first and it’s team needs that have to take priority.”

“Be persistent and persevere,” the sixth principle, requires building bridges among colleagues, he explained. “Those who lead where they are,” he said, “reach out and help others. People feel better. It’s going to be hard. You can never give up.”

Finally: “Choose happiness.”

Earle recalled a trip to Miami. When the Super Shuttle pulled up to take him from the airport to his hotel, out jumped the driver, who asked Earle to the airport in a closing moment of the story.

Earle was the only person on the shuttle and saw Hernandez studying in the rearview mirror. Then Hernandez spoke up. “You seem like a happy guy,” he said. Earle replied that he saw it in Hernandez, too.

“Tell me, what’s your secret?” Earle asked.

Hernandez replied: “When I wake up in the morning, I look around and think, ‘Who is driving the traffic, no matter how bad my customers may be, they can’t stop me.’”

Earle learned that Hernandez had lost a lot of money in the hotel business, making his current job a bit of a comedown.

“Omar did not want to be driving the Super Shuttle,” Earle said, “but he’s the best Super Shuttle driver the world has ever seen.

Leaders who lead where they are choose positivity.

Marvin Levine

Faculty who want to schedule a meeting with UPMC LifeSolutions’ Sue Oerckvitz can do so by calling 866-647-3432 or going online at www.pitt.edu/lifesolutions.

When we care unselfishly, it has an impact on people’s lives,” Earle said. He cited a quote from Adams, who noted: “Those who lead where they are,” he said, “reach out and help others. People feel better. It’s going to be hard. You can never give up.”

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Pitt goes to Harrisburg

The March 21 Pitt Day in Harrisburg event drew nearly 150 students and 400 faculty, staff and others, Chancellor Patrick Gallagher reported at the March 22 Senate Council meeting. Pitt supporters traveled to the state capitol to influence state lawmakers and tell their own University of Pittsburgh stories.

“The tone was quite positive, I would say. The outlook seemed to be positive,” the chancellor said.

“We spent a lot of time talking about the opportunities for the University to make a difference in the state, particularly in the areas where Pitt can play a unique difference.”

Photos by Monica Synett/Photographic Services

At right: Kenny Donaldson of Alumni Relations in the Office of Institutional Advancement addresses the Pitt delegation in the capitol rotunda as Chancellor Patrick Gallagher looks on.

Below, left: Provost Patricia E. Beeson.


Bottom, left: Others in the Pitt delegation meet with Sen. Guy Reschenthaler.

Bottom, right: Members of the Pitt delegation talk in the capitol rotunda. From left are Andy Stephany, Department of Medicine and vice president of public relations for the Staff Association Council (SAC); Alex Toner, University Library System Archives Service Center and chair of SAC’s external relations committee; Ed Galloway, Archives Service Center; and John Wilds, Community and Governmental Relations.
Faculty win science center 2017 awards

- Kevin P. Chen, the Paul E. Lego Professor in Electrical Engineering in the Swanson School of Engineering's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, is the winner in the Innovation in Energy category.
- Alex Jones, faculty member in the Swanson school's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and director of the computer engineering program, is the winner in the Innovation in Technology category.
- John Kellum, faculty member and vice chair for research in the School of Medicine's Department of Critical Care Medicine, director of the Center for Critical Care Nephrology and director of the Center for Assistance in Research Using Ercorder, is the winner in the Life Sciences category.
- Chandrakalekha Singh, faculty member in the Diether School of Arts and Sciences Department of Physics and Astronomy and director of the Discipline-based Science Education Research Center, is the winner in the University/Post-Secondary Educator category.

MARCH 30, 2017
Inclusive campuses may lower sexual assault risk

Students who perceive that their campus is more inclusive and welcoming of sexual- and gender-minority people have lower odds of becoming sexual assault victims, according to a study led by the Graduate School of Education and published in Journal of Interpersonal Violence.

In a comparative study, the researchers found that some minority groups are at considerable risk for becoming sexual assault victims in college than peers in majority groups. Published in Prevention Science, it is among the first analyses to explore how populations with intersecting minority identities have varying risks of sexual assault victimization.

Said Robert Coulter, doctoral candidate in Pitt’s Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences and lead author of the study: “Despite the formation of the White House task force on sexual assault, students from sexual assault in 2014, few interventions have been shown to be effective in preventing such assaults. These gaps in interventions are tolerated for racial and ethnic minorities, and not one intervention has been evaluated with sexual- and gender-minority population. Therefore, a need exists for college prevention and treatment programs to focus efforts on sexual, racial, and ethnic minority groups.”

Coulter and his team analyzed survey data from 874 undergraduate students from 120 U.S. post-secondary institutions in 2011-13.

• Non-transgender women had nearly 150 percent greater odds of being sexually assaulted than their peers who felt their campus was more inclusive.

• Among non-transgender men, black men had higher odds of sexual assault than white men, and black men had higher odds of sexual assault than non-black men.

• Among non-transgender women, bisexual women had higher odds of sexual assault than heterosexual women. Compared with white women, black women had higher odds of sexual assault, while Latino and Asian women had lower odds.

• Among transgender people, black transgender people had higher odds of sexual assault than white transgender people.

“What is particularly unique about this analysis, aside from being one of the largest studies to examine sexual assault on college campuses, is that it provides insights into why some campuses vary among populations with multiple and intersecting marginalizations, and not just between both transgender and black,” said Coulter.

In their other study, Coulter and his team examined surveys completed by nearly 2,000 sexual- and gender-minority students from colleges in all 50 U.S. states. Students who perceived that their campus was more inclusive of sexual- and gender-minority people had lower odds of having been sexually assaulted than their peers who felt their campus was less inclusive.

The researchers hypothesize that sexual- and gender-minority people may feel less empowered to stop bystanders or try to stop, or attempt to stop, sexual assault or gender-transporter people. Such campuses also may dissuade perpetrators from targeting sexual- and gender-minority people. Additionally, inclusive campuses may empower people to take steps to reduce the likelihood of becoming sexual assault victims by, for example, being careful when drinking alcohol.

Examples of potential ways to make colleges more inclusive include programs that train faculty, staff and students to be allies for sexual- and gender-minority people. By building resource centers and student groups for these minorities; and creating/forcing support and enforcement policies that protect these groups.

“If sexual assault prevention efforts solely focus on sexual violence, they may invalid- date sexual- and gender-minority experiences and make intervention ineffective for them,” said Coulter. “To overcome this, exist- ing efforts must make the interventions: to explicitly address homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and racism. And new interventions could be created specifically for sexual, gender, racial and ethnic minorities.”

The Journal of Interpersonal Violence study included a co-author from Rankin & Associa- tes Consulting. Additional Pitt authors on the Prevention Science study were Christina Mair and Derrick Matthews. Colleagues from Children’s Hospital, the Department of Veterans Affairs and Michigan State University also contributed to the research.

This research was supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Veterans Affairs and Campus Pride.

Tissue regeneration therapies center established

The School of Dental Medi- cine has received a $7 million grant from the National Insti- tute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), to establish a resource center dedicated to advanc- ing therapies for regener- ating damaged dental, oral and craniofacial tissues.

Pitt established the center in conjunction with researchers at Michigan and Harvard University as part of the NIDCR’s Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Regeneration Consortium. The goal of the consortium is to guide medical research from the bench to clinical trials.

The $7 million grant was awarded to Pitt by the U.S. National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

Principal investigator is John Keen, chemical and petroleum engineering.

Physician judgments sound for sepsis

Doctors across 138 hospitals in seven countries shared treat- ment protocols and harmonized data collection from three clinical trials, resulting in a comprehensive analysis on care for sepsis, the leading killer of hospital patients. The worldwide collaborative evaluation was overseen by physi- cians at Pitt’s School of Medicine, who expect the work to serve as a model for future research on this scale.

When combined, the trials confirm that, even in acutely sick patients, the previously recommended treatment protocols for diagnosing and treating sepsis did not change survival chances. The research was announced at the International Symposium on Intensive Care and Emer- gency Medicine in Brussels, and published in The New England Journal of Medicine.

Said Derek Angus, Distin- guished Professor and Mitchell P. Lurie Director of the Department of Critical Care Medicine, and principal investigator of the U.S. trial, the $21 million funding for the research was supported by “These results are reassuring because we’ve already been chang- ing sepsis care based on individual findings from the three trials.”

Sepsis arises when the body’s response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs, sometimes progressing to septic shock. According to NIH, it occurs in more than a million U.S. patients every year, and — despite best practice — an estimated 28-30 percent of these people do not survive.

In 2008, the U.S.-based “Pro- tocolized Care for Early Septic Shock” (ProCESS) trial, the U.K.-based “Management in Sepsis” trial and the Australasian Resuscitation in Sepsis Evaluation” trial, based in Australia and New Zealand, were launched with federal funding from each country. They were designed to build on a 2001 study of 283 patients at a single Detroit hospital that suggested that early goal-directed therapy (EGDT) reduced mortality from sepsis by 60 percent.

Before enrolling a single patient, the scientists leading each trial worked together to ensure that their trials tested treatments and collected information in a way that would make the findings compatible. In doing so, the scien- tists effectively tripled their data, allowing more detailed analyses compared to any single trial.

The combined meta-analysis of the three trials included 3,733 sepsis patients, approximately half treated with “usual care,” in which the bedside physician directs the course of treatment based on what he or she determines is best for the patient, and the other half treated with EGDT, which requires the clinician to follow a set protocol, such as deciding what to order a catheter as a central line in the jugular vein to monitor blood pressure and what solutions to give as delivery of drugs, fluids and blood transfusions.

The meta-analysis determined that EGDT did not improve patient outcome and increased hospitalization costs when com- pared with usual care, supporting previously announced findings from the ProCESS trial. In other words, good early bedside sepsis care with therapies targeted to severity is key, not the usual care, singular protocol.

Said Donald M. Yealy, faculty member and chair of the Depart- ment of Emergency Medicine and lead author of the previous ProCESS publication: “Randomized clinical trials are the gold standard of medicine, but are very difficult and expensive to perform, and are best when meted with data from other trials to get the picture possible. However, merging such data is a challenge because often the studies are conducted consistently across trials. We planned ahead, two years before the trials started, and created an approach allowing each trial to not stand on its own, but to combine to contribute to a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.”

Other Pitt authors were Amber E. Barnato, Elizabeth Gimbel, David T. Huang, John A. Kellum and Edwin Music.

This research was funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Intensive Care Foundation, the Alfred Foundation and the U.K. health technology assessment program of the National Institute for Health Research.
Healthy lifestyle institute formed

The University has established an umbrella organization coordinating internal efforts to improve the health and wellness of society at large.

Said John M. Jaulic, founding director of the new Healthy Nutrition and Dietary Trends, "The institute harnesses the collective efforts of top researchers, clinicians and thought leaders throughout the Pitt campus. Bringing these talented minds together under the same umbrella to collaborate and share ideas will potentially improve the well-being of our society.”

Housed within the school, the institute aims to integrate health-related research endeavors from Pitt centers, departments, laboratories and related divisions. University officials envision the institute becoming a leader in the development of behavioral modification interventions, a resource for understanding how lifestyle factors impact health and a model for how universities can communicate internally.

The institute will develop new approaches for modifying lifestyle behaviors that differ from overall health, it will explore how biological factors, such as genetics, influence lifestyle behaviors as well as how these factors impact chronic diseases and negative health outcomes. The institute also will innovate institutional outreach approaches and develop training materials for health care professionals.

Key to the success of the institute’s mission will be the implementation of new initiatives to enhance research capacity. These initiatives and programs will be installed within various schools — will bring new technologies to the institute will improve understanding of biological influences on human behavior and will improve patient care between Pitt and the broader community.

Additionally, the institute will work with nonprofit organizations and public schools throughout southwestern Pennsylvania.

Access to infertility services lacking

Researchers from the School of Medicine found that nearly 10 percent of reproductive-aged women in the United States have limited or no access to assisted reproductive technology (ART) clinics, which provide services that are vital to many women struggling to become pregnant.

Nearly a quarter of the white women surveyed had scores that fell into the highest scoring fifth of those surveyed, compared with 14 percent of the Hispanic women and 4.6 percent of the black women. Almost half — 44 percent — of black mothers had a score in the lowest-scoring fifth, significantly lower than mothers with greater education levels for all three racial/ethnic groups, but the highest of the three racial/ethnic groups.

Approximately 34 percent of the women — or energy — the women with a college or graduate degree consumed more energy drinks and juices than less-educated women. Women with a college or graduate degree consumed more energy drinks and juices than less-educated women. Soda was the primary contributor to energy intake among black, Hispanic and less-educated women. Women with a college or graduate degree consumed more energy drinks and juices than less-educated women.

Juices and sugar-sweetened beverages are increasingly popular, and a larger proportion of vitamin C intake than solid foods or vegetables comes from sugar-sweetened beverages among non-pregnant women. The opposite was true for white women or more chronically ill women.

For groups, green salads was the only vegetable in the top 10 sources of iron, green salad and processed cereals were the top two sources of folate for all groups except black women, whose second highest folate source was 100 percent orange juice. Folate and iron are important nutrients for developing fenses and healthy pregnancy.

"Our findings mirror national nutrition and dietary trends,” said Boondong Park, director of the Healthy Lifestyle institute, "American women and men are incorporating more fruits and vegetables into their diets, consuming more protein and nutrient-rich foods and thinking about a healthy diet. Future research needs to determine if improving preconception dietary quality impacts pregnancy and birth outcomes. If so, then we need to explore and test ways to improve the diets for everyone, particularly women who might have difficulty doing so.”

Hyagvet N. Simhan of Pitt and Seattle Children’s Research Institute was an author on this research. Also contributing were colleagues from RTI International, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Case Western Reserve University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of California, Davis, the University of California, San Diego, and the University of California, San Francisco.

Funding was provided by Pitt, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, RTI International, Case Western Reserve, Columbia, Indiana University, the University of California-Irvine, Penn and the University of Utah.

Penn and the University of Utah. Pitt researchers and on find-
School of Medicine faculty members and University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) researchers Yuan Chang and Patrick S. Moore are being recognized for their outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical science in the United States.

The two will be presented with the 2017 Passano Foundation Award for Innovative Cancer Research at the School of Medicine. The Passano Foundation’s award was presented on March 27 in Baltimore.

Kenyon Bonner, vice provost and dean of students, is being honored by his alma mater, Washington & Jefferson College, with the 2017 Maurice Cleveland Wal tersdorf Award for Innovative Leadership.

The award recognizes outstanding alumni and students of Washington & Jefferson College who maintain a high level of achievement and exemplify the spirit and leadership qualities manifested by Maurice C. Waltersdorf, a professor and chairman of the Department of Economics at W&J, 1924-56.

Bonner earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology and philosophy from W&J in 1974.

He came to Pitt in 2004 as the associate director of residence life. He served as associate dean of students for seven years and as the director of student life for 11 years.

He was appointed interim vice provost and dean of students in 2015, three years before graduating from 308 Bellefield Hall.

For submission guidelines, visit www.utimes.pitt.edu/?page_id=6807.

Memorial donations may be sent to: utimes@pitt.edu, by fax at 412-624-4579 or by campus mail to 308 Bellefield Hall.

Entries are posted at www.colorawards.com/10thphotoshow/.

The People of the Times columns feature recent news on faculty and staff, including awards and other honors, accomplishments and administrative appointments.

We welcome submissions from all areas of the University. Send information via email to: utimes@pitt.edu, by fax at 412-624-5779 or on campus mail to 308 Bellefield Hall.

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**Friday 31**

**Ctsr. for Bioethics/Health Law Medical Ethics Conf.**

*“Ethical Issues in Caring for Diverse Patient Populations”*; 11th fl. Scaife Conf. Ctr., 8:30-4 pm (register: https://www.cscup.org/live/event/787871)

**Teaching Ctr. Workshop**

*“Teaching/With/Prest”* B23 Alumni, 10 am (www.teaching.pitt.edu/ workshops/)

**Psychiatry Lecture**

*“Unique Molecular Regulation of the Newly Evolved Prefrontal Cortex Affiliated in Schizophrenia: Exposing Vulnerabilities,”* Amy Ambrose, Yale; 1210 BST, noon

**East Asian Lecture**

*“Sam Marc: Oasis or Mirage? The Phenomenon of ‘The Chinese Woman of the Ocean,”* Sandy Ward, 4310 Prest, noon

**OACD Workshop**

*“McKinsey & Company Information Systems Session,”* 8:30 am, 3 pm

**Public Health Inn’r Dinner**

O’Hara Farms Steakhouse, 4:30-8 pm (tickets: https://publichealth.pitt.edu/home/life/signature-events/international-dine)

**Italian Film Festival Screening**

*“They Call Me Jorg,”* FFA aud., 9:30 pm

**April**

**Saturday 1**

**Be a Good Neighbor Day**

Various locations; 9 am-3 pm (register: VolunteerPitt)

**Italian Film Festival Screening**

*“Daddy’s Boys,”* FFA aud., 7 pm

**Thursday 30**

Religious Studies Lecture

*“Questioning Religious Theology: The Student Perspective,”* 602 CL, 5:30 pm

Petris and Global Cultural Awareness Seminar

*“Hunger Simulation,”* WPU ballroom, 6:30 pm (www.pitt.edu/petris)

Honors College Panel Discussion

*“Truth or Consequences: Journalists’ Challenge in the Trump Era,”* Alumn ’75 fl. 6:30 pm, Italian Film Festival Screening *“Like Cesar,”* FFA aud., 7 pm

**Monday 3**

**Cardiovascular Epidemiology Conf.**

*UClub ballroom, 8-9 am/plenary lecture: “Cardiovascular Disease in Women, 1970-2016: What Have We Learned? Also a Few Men That Next?”* Lewis Kuller, noon (www.publichealth.pitt.edu)

**Nursing Year of Diversity Luncheon/Discussion**

*“Understanding Bias,”* 1210 BST, 11 am-3:30 pm (register: www.nursing.pitt.edu/events/event/understanding-bias-luncheon-presentations)

**Global Studies Ctsr. Forums**

*“Backlash: The Rise of Populism in Global Perspective,”* 2910 Prest, noon (register: https://www.cscup.org/global/backlash)

**Health Sciences Event**

*“Health Disparities: Poverty Competition,”* 8:30 BST, noon, 4 pm (www.cscup.org)

**Teaching Ctr. Workshop**

*“Developing a Teaching Portfolio,”* B23 Alumni, 1 pm (www.teaching.pitt.edu/workshops/)

**French/Italian Tucci Lecture**

Jane Tylor, NYU; 412 CL, 6 pm

**Tuesday 4**

**FDA Workshop**

*“Microsurgical Recognition: Challenging a Subtle Form of Bias,”* Warren McCray; 342 Craig, 9 am (www.teaching.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-staff-development-program-fsdp-registration)

**FDA Workshop**

*“Using lynda.com for Professional Development,”* Vernon Franklin; 302 Bellefield, 10 am (www.teaching.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-staff-development-program-fsdp-registration)

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**Events occurring**

**submit by**

**April 13-27**

April 13-27

April 27-31

May 11-25

May 25-31

June 22-26

June 25-30

July 6-20

July 20-24

**For publication**

April 6

April 27

April 27

May 4

May 18

June 1

June 22

June 26

July 6

July 13

**The University Times events calendar includes Pitt-sponsored events as well as non-Pitt events held on a Pitt campus. Information submitted for the calendar should identify the type of event, such as lecture or concert, and the program’s specific title, sponsor, location and time. The name and phone number of a contact person should be included. Information should be sent by email to: utcal@pitt.edu.**
**Calendar**

**Saturday 8**

**Monday 10**

**Tuesday 11**

**Wednesday 12**

**Defenses**

**A&S/Geology & Environmental Science**

**A&S/Physics & Astronomy**

**A&S/Chemistry**

**Monday 9**

**Tuesday 13**

**Wednesday 12**

**Defenses**

**A&S/Geology & Environmental Science**

**A&S/Physics & Astronomy**

**A&S/Chemistry**

**Monday 9**

**Tuesday 13**

**Wednesday 12**

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**A&S/Physics & Astronomy**

**A&S/Chemistry**

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**Sara Goldrick-Rab of Temple will lecture on “Programming the Price” April 7 in the William Pitt Union lower lounge. The event will involve a student panel discussion on college costs and financial aid.**

**GSPS Years of Service Event RSVP due April 4 for April 4 event.**

**Sustainability Survey Deadline is April 7.**

**Exhibits**

**Public Health/Research/Logo Exhibition**

**Barco Law Library**

**Exhibit**

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