Supporting science

Report updates women faculty’s economic status

There is some good news in the most recent report on the economic status of women faculty at Pitt, according to the Office of the Provost’s Amanda Brodish. She presented the report April 21 to the University Senate budget policies committee.

The two-part report compares the University’s Pittsburgh campus to its 33 public Association of American Universities (AAU) peers in the percentage of women faculty by rank and the ratio of the average of women’s salaries to men’s salaries by rank. Using University data, the second part of the report takes a closer look at Pitt faculty salaries, examining the ratio of the average woman’s salary to the average man’s salary by rank, controlling for tenure status, school and department.

In addition, the report tracks the percentage of women in administrative positions at Pitt.

The current report, based on fiscal year 2016 data, is the fourth such review undertaken by the provost’s advisory committee on women’s concerns and is conducted every five years, using faculty salary data submitted each year to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). Full-time instructional faculty, both tenure- and non-tenure stream, are included in the first part of the report, while part-time instructional faculty, non-instructional faculty, administrators and graduate student instructors are excluded. For the first time, all School of Medicine faculty are included, Brodish said.

Percentage of women faculty

The report found that, in FY16, women made up 26 percent of full professors and 43 percent of associate professors at Pitt, ranking around the median of the public AAU peer group. Women made up 52 percent of associate professors and 58 percent of instructors and lecturers, ranking near the top.

Women’s salary ratio by faculty rank

By rank, among full professors at Pitt, the women’s salary ratio was 86 percent of men’s, placing Pitt near the bottom of its AAU peers.

For associate professors, Pitt’s ratio was 97 percent, placing Pitt near the top. The ratio for assistant professors was 99 percent, ranking around the median.

For instructors and lecturers, Pitt’s ratio was 92 percent, placing it above the median.

Exact rankings were unavailable because of an error in the data that should have little effect on Pitt’s rankings, Brodish said.

Pittsburgh campus comparisons

Women full professors here earned 94.6 percent of what men earned among tenured/tenure-stream faculty in FY16 (91 percent in FY11). By school, the ratio was 93.7 percent (93.8 percent in FY11), and by department, the ratio was 97.1 percent (95.9 percent in FY11).

For women associate professors, the ratio was 96.5 percent for tenured/tenure-stream faculty (92.4 percent in FY11) and 95.6 percent (96.9 percent in FY11) by school. By department, the ratio was 100.1 percent (98.9 percent in FY11).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
One button
As the spring term comes to a close, many of you already are planning for the fall term. As you prepare courses and assignments, you might be considering integrating videos into your curriculum. Whether it’s interviews, presentations, lectures, pitch videos, role playing or something else, there are lots of ways to incorporate video.

Before the widespread availability of smartphones with good quality cameras and the ability to capture videos as well as stills, the barriers to video production were high. Expensive, sometimes heavy, barriers to video production were the norm. To capture videos as well as stills, the quality cameras and the ability to record videos in HD. In addition, the studio has fixed high brightness studio lighting and a professional boom mike. Two other standout features of the studio are the presence of an optional green screen, and the availability of an overhead projector that can be used to project something, such as a PowerPoint presentation, on one half of the screen.

The One Button Studio does not offer any post-production capability to campus computer labs, nor does it have video editing tools available. Many departments do as well.

The University’s subscription to lynda.com is a great resource for getting the basics of video editing. YouTube also provides intros and tutorials.

Hillman Library staff will be happy to work with you to integrate a video project into your curriculum. Library staff can help you design a video appropriate for your course and the One Button Studio can be a resource for your students in creating their projects.

Once you establish your objectives for an assignment, we can decide on the type of project that best fits those objectives. Regardless of the specific type, however, building a successful video usually requires the following general steps:

- **Outline**: A definition of the scope of the project. Who will need to be involved?
- **Script**: The dialogue or questions to be used. Can these be read off screen, or will they require presentation?
- **Storyboard**: A shot-by-shot plan of the video.
- **Rough cut**: The first draft of the video.
- **Final product**: The finished video, including any editing done post-production. This can include editing for time or clarity, special effects like dropping in a background or green screen, or anything similar.

Following this template allows you several weeks to work in with your students before they get to the actual recording, and helps to provide for structure and feedback as the assignment progresses. In structuring the assignment, it’s important to remember that even a 3-5 minute video can require several hours worth of work for pre-production, the production itself and any post-production work.

The One Button Studio is available for use by any Pitt campus or department, even if you’re not a teaching faculty member. Pitt’s Innovation Institute, for example, has shot several promotional videos in the One Button Studio.

For more information, go to library.pitt.edu/one-button, talk to your liaison librarian, or contact us via the Ask Us links on our website.

Jeff Wisniewski is the web services and communications librarian for the University Library System.

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Technology Corner

A layered approach to security

A strategic priority for information technology at Pitt is to protect our technology resources, University data and the privacy of your personal information from cyber threats. That challenge becomes increasingly difficult as new threats emerge and existing ones evolve.

No single technology or process is sufficient to secure the University’s environment, so we employ a defense-in-depth strategy that utilizes numerous layers of security controls. A threat that manages to circumvent one layer is likely to be thwarted by a control in another layer. The defense-in-depth strategy relies on multiple defensive mechanisms, at multiple layers, performing different tasks. Some of these security layers are defenses that you see and use every day, while others operate behind the scenes. But every layer works together to help protect you and the University. The protections listed here represent some of the University’s most important defenses against cyber threats.

Building better firewalls

Network firewalls are the University’s first line of defense and provide the greatest level of protection from attacks originating on the internet. More than 53,000 network ports across all five campuses are secured behind enterprise network firewalls.

We recently implemented a new self-service tool that provides greater visibility to campus Community Service firewall rules used to manage inbound access and network traffic. Using this tool, departments can view their existing firewall setup statements to add, modify or remove firewall rules as needed.

In addition to network firewalls, our web application firewall is available to actively monitor hosted web applications and help protect them from potentially harmful internet traffic. It can stop potential attacks such as suspicious activity and either log the event or alert us or immediately block the traffic. A log correlation and analysis tool enables us to analyze risks, predict threats and refine the parameters we use to monitor network traffic.

Protecting a high-value target:

Your account

Compromised accounts are the single biggest threat to the security of the University’s information technology infrastructure. The safeguards that have been put in place to protect your account are some of the University’s most visible security defenses.

Password requirements ensure that you select a strong password for your account (by combining letters, numbers and special characters) and that you change your password at least once every 180 days.

Pitt Passport, the University’s single-sign-on service, provides a consistent, trusted login experience across University services. You can verify the authenticity of the Pitt Passport login page by making sure the URL in your browser begins with https:// passport.pitt.edu. Pitt Passport already protects a broad array of University services, and we continue to add it to more services on a regular basis.

Multifactor authentication adds an important layer of security to Pitt Passport. Multi-factor authentication was added in March to all faculty and staff services that leverage Pitt Passport, and on May 14 it will be added to almost all remaining accounts that use Pitt Passport, including student accounts, emeritus sponsored accounts, emeritus faculty and visiting faculty.

Around-the-clock security monitoring

The University’s Network Operations Center (NOC) is at the heart of our security monitoring efforts. The NOC monitors critical University business and academic systems 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The NOC enables us to monitor specific areas of the network for anomalous network traffic, view attempts to breach the network and identify high levels of network traffic coming from a single destination.
Frank Wilson, a faculty member in sociology on the Greensburg campus, was recently elected for a third term as University Senate president in Faculty and Senate Faculty Assembly elections that ended last week.

Robin Kane, of the University Library System, was re-elected for a second term as vice president. She is a faculty member in the School of Education, elected secretary. All three officers ran unopposed. Their one-year terms begin July 1.

*Newly elected Senate members serve the first year of their three-year terms on the Assembly. After that, they work on both the faculty-only Assembly and on Senate Council.*

The following members were voted to Faculty Assembly:
- **Arts and Sciences**
  - Humanities: Dundy Lane, Dan Kahn
  - Natural sciences: Erica McCreery
  - Social sciences: Meri Long, John Steinberg

**Professional schools**
- Business: Paul Harper
- Computing and information technology: Alexander Labiadis
- Education: Heather Buchanan
- Law: Anthony Infantino

Schools of the Health Sciences
- Dental medicine: Seth Weinberg
- Health and rehabilitation sciences: James Becker
- Health Services Library: Julia Dahlm
- Medicine: A. Murat Kaynar; Sarah DeFazio
- Nursing: Rob Kaufman
- Pharmacy: Shiva Sapt
- Public health: Jeannine Buchanich

Wilson elected to 3rd term

Staff ombudsman job being discussed

## Senate committee slate set

Online voting runs through May 8 for the University Senate. There are three vacancies on each committee. The candidates are:

- **Athletics:** Matthew Darnell, health and rehabilitation sciences; Mike Epitropoulos, sociology/arts and sciences; Jay Irgang, health and rehabilitation sciences; John O’Donnell, nursing
- **Benefits and Welfare:** Lucas Bernardos, pharmacy; Mitnam Meikul, University Library System; Ann Mitchell, nursing
- **Budget Policies:** Elia Benisht, dental medicine; Tony Medos, biological sciences/art and sciences; Laura Fennimore, nursing; Emily Murphy, health and rehabilitation sciences
- **Bylaws and Procedures:** Gosia Fort, Health Sciences Library System
- **Community Relations:** Amara Atta, linguistics/art and sciences; Paul Harper, business; Anne Hays, education; Jennifer White, health and rehabilitation sciences
- **Computer Usage:** Dori Bubichokoski, information sciences; Arif Jamal, University Library System; Young Lee, nursing
- **Educational Policy:** Barbara Berg, biological sciences/art and sciences; Marnie Hampton, University Library System; A. Murat Kaynar, medicine; Barb Kucinski, psychology/art and sciences; Cynthia Luxenberg, psychology/art and sciences
- **Equity, Inclusion and Anti-discrimination Advocacy:** Allyn Bove, health and rehabilitation sciences; Brenda Cassidy, nursing; Cindy Dunford, nursing; Kathryn Gardner, biological sciences/art and sciences; Faith Luyite, nursing
- **Governmental Relations:** Suzanne Gribble, biological sciences/art and sciences; Jane Gottwettow, nursing; Mark Kelley, biological sciences/Pitt Bradford; Meri Long, political science and politics; Alyson Stover, health and rehabilitation sciences
- **Library:** Alex Choi, nursing; Becky Furt, nursing; Irene Frieze, emeritus and arts and sciences; John Mendoloff, public and international affairs
- **Plant Utilization and Planning:** Jeannine Buchanan, public health; Debbie Miller, health and rehabilitation sciences; Joe Newsom, medical and international affairs
- **Research:** Judy Callan, nursing; Eileen O’Connor, nursing; Kelly Coke, medicine; Rami Melhem, computer science/art and sciences; David Snyder, medicine; Thomas Songer, public health; Cecelia Yates, nursing
- **Student Admissions, Aid and Affairs:** Freyda Cohen, gender, sexuality and women’s studies/art and sciences; Julius Kus, library science/pharmacy; Sylvia Streeter, psychology/art and sciences; Zuzanaa Lusberg, biological sciences/art and sciences; Joan Tabous, dental medicine
- **Trustee:** Academic Freedom: Carey Babishan, medicine; Rose Constantino, nursing; Kirill Kiselev, biology/art and sciences; Ergin Kocylidin, medicine, Technology Corner

**Technology Corner**

Technology topics and trends from Computing Services, Arts and Sciences Development & SAP

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2*

Tools at the NOC also enable us to prospectively detect and remediate attacks on our residential network. We employ a number of advanced detection and prevention technologies. But we constantly add to our monitoring capabilities. For example, all of our email is monitored for suspicious activity and for multiple failed login attempts that could indicate an attempt to compromise our computer systems. The NOC receives an alert when a suspicious activity is detected, and a faculty member in the School of Education, elected secretary. All three officers ran unopposed. Their one-year terms begin July 1.

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- Education: Heather Buchanan
- Law: Anthony Infantino

Schools of the Health Sciences
- Dental medicine: Seth Weinberg
- Health and rehabilitation sciences: James Becker, a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry, attended the meeting to speak about Gerald Goldstein, a former departmental colleague and a VA senior research cancer scientists, who died April 8. An expert in alcoholism, schizophrenia and rehabilitation, Goldstein was the author of 350 published papers. (See obituary in this issue.)

In other business:
- The incoming student government leadership was introduced. The new presidents are: M. Jacqueline Gros, College of General Studies; Chris Sater, Graduate and Professional Student Government; and Mark Keser, Student Government Board. Amber Griffith was re-elected as president of the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization (GSO).
- Griffith read a statement outlining GSO’s support of “the efforts of the graduate student organization (GSO) and the formation of a graduate student worker union.”
- The annual student government elections are this spring. The final vote will be July 19.
- A campus-wide meeting is scheduled for May 8 for the University Senate. The meeting will be held May 23, noon-3 p.m. in the William Pitt Union Assembly Room. It includes a keynote address by Chancellor Patrick Gallagher on the theme of diversity and inclusion in the workplace; breakout sessions on campus-wide initiatives and programs for women, respecting coworkers’ diversity and facilitating intergroup discussions and lunch.
- The call for nominations for the Chancellor’s Awards for Staff has gone out (www.pitt.edu/CAFS-Guidelines), with a deadline of May 5.
- Spring assembly registration is available on the SAC website (https://sac.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bCPwWv94fS GAR). This year’s program will be held May 23, noon-3 p.m. in the William Pitt Union Assembly Room. It includes a keynote address by Chancellor Patrick Gallagher on the theme of diversity and inclusion in the workplace; breakout sessions on campus-wide initiatives and programs for women, respecting coworkers’ diversity and facilitating intergroup discussions and lunch.
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Misti McKeehen is at home amid the organized noise inside the William Pitt Union’s Assembly Room, as more than 50 Pitt students work around eight tables to create or assemble items for local nonprofits: health and school supplies for Presley Ridge students; planners for young adults pursuing careers through a Hill House program; or blankets for Hillman Cancer Center patients.

McKeehen’s calling is to install in these students a sense of their own service mission. She’s the director of PittServes, overseeing volunteer programs that students, as well as faculty and staff, can participate in. PittServes helps more than 300 community partners in Pittsburgh and, increasingly, throughout the nation and abroad.

“Our whole mission,” McKeehen says, “is to build a culture of service on campus and make sure students are engaging in Oakland, beyond Oakland, in alliance with their academic career, or at a tangent — so now, and when they graduate, they have a connection to something that is larger than themselves and eventually have a connection to a community they will call home.”

McKeehen is bracing for the lunchtime rush, but already at this twice annual snack-and-serve event there are students from the Pitt dance marathon; making cards and “encouragement decorations” for Children’s Hospital patients; from Alpha Phi Omega, creating enrichment toys for animal shelters in town; and from the Student Office of Sustainability, putting together bird-seed ornaments for local community gardeners to attract pollinators.

“Students are seeing service as something they can fit into their schedule even though they are busy college students,” McKeehen says.

McKeehen became PittServes’ director in February 2014. Born in Indiana County, she earned her BA in business and communications from Carlow University and an MS in community leadership at Duquesne University. Today she is in her first year of a doctoral program at Pitt’s School of Education. She already is planning her dissertation on PittServes’ mission, examining how to engage first-generation and low-income students in alternative spring break and other service programs. She recently returned from such a trip to Ecuador with a dozen Pitt students.

PittServes had been offering alternative break programs in other states and Washington, D.C., before she arrived, McKeehen notes, but she was happy to expand the scope to other countries as well. This spring, students spent half their time in Ecuador’s capital, Quito, and half in the town of Otavalo, helping members of its indigenous community open an outdoor market for residents as well as tourists.

The students helped to finish the main market structure, sanding and cleaning, moving hundreds of bricks and painting a mural on its concrete wall. They also planted nearly two-dozen trees on the market grounds.

McKeehen’s most visible work is probably Pitt Make a Difference Day. Last year, 3,875 participants from the Pitt community worked at more than 100 local social service agencies. The event has been so successful that this spring Pitt was selected for a National Make a Difference Day Award.

PittServes also has school- and department-specific partnerships, such as its program with the School of Information Sciences and the computer science department in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, which connects IT students to community groups that need help improving their computer systems.

Many of this program’s volunteers are international graduate students who may feel isolated here, McKeehen notes. Thus, volunteering may help them as much as it helps local nonprofits, she says.

On March 20, McKeehen joined a delegation of these students in China to talk to tech conference attendees about best practices for service programs.

Some of McKeehen’s work takes place in corners of the University that may not be visible to most other staff or faculty. In April 2015, for instance, she helped create the Pitt Pantry in the Bellefield Presbyterian Church on campus. This student-run space provides access to nutritious food for students who may not be able to afford every meal, serving about 200 students each academic year.

PittServes also has a student civic engagement council that plans and implements up to 30 service projects each month, coordinating with many community partners.

Visible to all, McKeehen hopes, is PittServes’ online volunteer portal (https://volunteer.pitt.edu), at which anyone with a Pitt email address can log in and search for particular types, dates or locations of volunteer opportunities — or even search by skills needed for the service projects.

The portal also helps PittServes channel the energies of volunteers to work that is truly needed: “There’s a lot of service that can be done,” she cautions, “but if the community doesn’t need it, it’s a waste.”

Together with her whole team at PittServes, she says, making public service possible for all parts of Pitt “does take a lot of planning and community work.”

As an undergraduate basic science student, McKeehen says she channelled her interests and skills toward the University community. “I tear through the learning with a desire to help others,” she says.

This is one in an occasional series profiling University staff, providing a glimpse of some of the less recognized employees whose primary business is making Pitt work.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
Discrimination can be prompted by the subtle ways women often are assumed to be different types of workers than men, one panelist said at an April 18 discussion on women in the workplace, sponsored by the Staff Association Council (SAC).

Women, more often than men, take time off from their careers to raise kids, observed Anupama Jain, an instructor in the gender, sexuality and women’s studies program who also is founder and principal consultant of Inclusant, a diversity and inclusion consulting company. Women usually are the primary caretakers of children even while having careers outside the home, and are called on more often than men to take care of aging parents.

Because of these choices or obligations, “they are excluded from full participation in the workplace,” she said.

Unfortunately, corporations requiring workers to learn about the value of diversity did not result in more diverse workplaces, Jain noted, citing studies on companies’ hiring and promotion practices.

“What were intended as diversity efforts that were going to create more equality — a lot of them have failed,” she said. “A lot of these programs are online, so even if you’re in Pittsburgh you have resources that you didn’t have before.”

But there are steps to take when preparing to leave the workforce temporarily; and during such a leave of absence, those contemplating a career break for children should develop and maintain their industry-specific network. “Networks are magical things,” she noted.

“I’m a big proponent of skills-based volunteering,” she added, advocating that women stay engaged in community in ways that keep their working skills sharp.

Gender bias can stem from implicit bias, Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion Pam Connelly said: “It’s easy to see that it is there; all humans have implicit bias. It is harder to shine the spotlight on yourself.”

She suggested trying Harvard’s online implicit bias test (https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html) to gauge one’s own degree of unconscious prejudice. “You might be surprised” at the result, she said. “It is very illuminating.”

The bias against women who have children affects the workplace even when supervisors think they are being kind or generous to their female workers, Connelly noted. “There’s a very human reaction to say, ‘She has a baby — or four — and I don’t want her [to do this], it is going to be hard on her.’”

Such discrimination is explicitly illegal in current anti-gender bias laws, Connelly added, and urged Pitt employees to report bias incidents to Pitt’s online system (www.diversity.pitt.edu/report-incident/bias-incident-report-form).

Cheryl Ruffin, affirmative action manager in Connelly’s office, pointed out that some people see an intersection of biases about their identities as women and as African Americans, for instance.

“You bring your whole self into the workplace and what people see about you is not one thing, they see it all and react to it all,” she said. “You have to navigate how somebody is going to perceive you.” Does an experienced worker, perhaps, wonder whether a new hire is simply “filling a particular quota?” Ruffin asked.

How can individual offices improve their diversity and inclusion?

“Part of what we have to do is challenge what we think careers look like,” said Audrey Marrell, associate dean of the College of Business Administration. She believes notions of career ladders are outdated, “particularly for women.”

In fact, she said, women’s career progression no longer looks like a ladder: “It’s very much a labyrinth.”

Traditional ways of defining career success must be challenged, she said, proposing “a much more holistic, I’d say a much more realistic” way of looking at them.

Marrell believes it’s not realistic to think of work and home lives as separate; that workers, particularly women, are too often worried about performing “non-promotable tasks” in the workplace, lest they harm their chances for advancement and that the definition of leadership must include the value a woman may have over competition, including the principles of diversity.

Non-promotable tasks are workplace duties not weighted heavily on job evaluations, such as contributing to team projects or taking on volunteer assignments.

At a university, that may mean mentoring students and supporting new faculty, she said.

Employees who undertake studies above and beyond their job descriptions really help make organizations most effective, she asserted. And labeling the mentoring of students a non-promotable task at a university “is like Nordstrom’s saying customer service is a non-promotable task.”

These non-promotable tasks are exactly what drives organizational effectiveness.”

She called such outdated notions “ghosts of the workplace past.”

To overcome workplace discrimination, Marrell suggested using the “power of peers” who may provide counsel, support and protection to those not lucky enough to have been mentored by a workplace supervisor or veteran.

The panellists were asked to offer their best advice, briefly, as their parting words.

“Don’t stay where it’s safe and where it’s easy,” said Allen. “People who have switched jobs always had to reinvent themselves.”

“It’s also very useful to build that professional relationship up in the organization,” not just down or laterally, said Connelly.

“Don’t believe the lie that everyone is in competition with you,” said Jain. “Competition is real and it can be healthy, but … it’s nonsense” as a governing principle.

“Don’t be afraid of a lateral move in a different area,” said Ruffin. “It allows you to broaden your skills.”

“Get involved in SAC,” said Marrell. “It is a really important resource on this campus. If there is something they are not doing, maybe they are waiting on you to get things started.”

Besides, she added, “the time to build a network is before you need the help.”

—Mary Levine

MAKING PITT WORK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ness and communications major, McKeen’s had thought she would work marketing a big company somewhere. But during her internship at Coro Pittsburgh, which aims to grow local leaders, she realized that “being able to make a difference was just a perfect storm” — she had found her career.

“I was so excited the University was making Pittsburgh a better place, that professional relationship up in the community, pointed out that some people can face an intersection of biases about their identities as women and as African Americans, for instance.

“You bring your whole self into the workplace and what people see about you is not one thing; they see it all and react to it all,” she said. “You have to navigate how somebody is going to perceive you.” Does an experienced worker, perhaps, wonder whether a new hire is simply “filling a particular quota?” Ruffin asked.

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Dormers from the Student Office of Sustainability work at Pittserves’ latest snack and serve event to create bird-seed ornaments for use by local community gardeners.
Joseph Alter, faculty member and Business Department of Anthropology, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Alter began his academic career conducting research on medical anthropology in southern Asia and creating multi-disciplinary projects concerning wisdom and aging. His current work has been on gender, health, particularly how culture affects the epidemiology of chronic diseases.

“Anthropology in many ways is a microcosm of the liberal arts,” he noted. “My scholarship and teaching are connected, being that teaching is a balance across the liberal arts (the arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences); and forming cross-disciplinary collaborative teaching among the Dietrich school and the Swanson School of Engineering, Katz Graduate School of Business and the School of Health Sciences.

“It certainly wouldn’t be an easy task,” he said, “but I think the intellectual effectiveness that will come out of that is well worth struggling against the bureaucratic intransigence” that might block this.

Don Bialostosky, chair of the English Department, Dietrich school

Bialostosky highlighted his work as chair of the Year of Humanities in academic year 2015-2016 and head of the University’s Humanities Council, as well as his early PhD research as a university scholar at the University of Chicago. “Being undergraduate is a crucial part of my long-term commitment” to Pitt, he added, noting that as a former graduate student he is writing a book on the close reading of poetry for undergraduate students.

Pitt’s distinctive honors college organization, he said, can lead to “problems and opportunities.

“It’s a clear advantage at admissions for the University to offer something like this to students,” he added. While top prospects for the next Pitt freshman class may hear about the UHC during the recruitment period, “many other qualified students don’t realize the college’s resources are open to them,” he said.

He also believes it is unfortunate that there’s not enough room in honors housing for all who qualify. “I love hookah bars” and working with undergraduates, he said.

Brian A. Primack, assistant vice chancellor for Research on Media, Technology and Health, and faculty member in medicine, pediatrics and clinical and translational science in the School of Medicine

P r i m a c k detailed his background in relation to what he said would be his approach to UHC.

“As an undergraduate at Yale, he studied literature, writing his thesis on Flannery O’Connor, but minored in music composition and also studied abstract mathematics and number theory. “I was very much like that kid in the candy shop,” he said. His first job was at an international school in the capital of Niger, then he moved to Harvard’s Graduate School of Education, worked on study adolescent and young adult development, including curriculum development and exploring how to use in education. There, he explored the psychology of students having difficulty in school. “I took some science courses. I loved them,” he said.

His journey took him to medical school, where he was first in his class (a distinction he still cherishes — an unlikely choice, he noted, given his unpopularity; he denied rumors that he had attended the UPMC St. Margaret family medicine residency program.

After his residency, Primack joined the Pitt faculty.

“One of the first things I did was seek out a problem. He said. He soon was teaching courses on the biochemical and sociological aspects of alcohol and tobacco use. He also mentored UHC students, he noted, and the students at the Center for Research on Media, Technology and Health have concentrated on media literacy and health disparities. His work on awareness of the ill effects of hookah bars and social media use has attracted wide media attention.

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The Year of Diversity inspired the schools of dental medicine and pharmacy to hold their second art and writing expo April 21 in Salk Hall. The event, begun as part of the Year of Humanities in 2016, this year showcased artifacts from the diverse cultures of the schools’ faculty, staff and students with a display of their arts and crafts.

Said Joanne Prasad, oral biology faculty member in dental medicine who organized the event and contributed a painting: “It’s something we’re trying to continue, showcasing a different aspect of health professionals that you don’t often see.”

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Photos by Marty Levine
University Times

Above, left: Miniature vignette in pen and ink by Anchal Malik, faculty member in dental public health.
Above, center: Fused glass piece by Zsuzsa Horvath, faculty member in dental public health.
Above, right: Photograph of rainbow over the Cathedral of Learning by Joseph Giovanniitti Jr., chair of dental anesthesiology, who also displayed a bottle of homemade wine.

Above: Beaded cross-stitch by Joan Witt, clinical instructor in restorative dentistry.

At right: Mission-style furniture and other wooden pieces by Mark Mooney, chair of dental medicine’s oral biology department.

Above, left: Hand-knit Pitt varsity cardigan by Fay Stricklin, faculty member in dental medicine’s diagnostic sciences department, who used dental burs to convert plain brown oval buttons into footballs.
Above, right: Beaded jewelry by pharmacy Dean Patricia Kroboth.

Mixing science, art
Motor cortical neurons adjust to control tasks

The work was done in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University’s College of Engineering and there that motor cortical neurons optimally adjust their intrinsic properties in task-specific patterns. The findings enhance our understanding of how movement regulation and brain adaptation work and have the potential to improve the performance and reliability of brain-machine interfaces, virtual reality, and neuro prosthetics, which assist paralyzed patients and amputees.

They also found that, in brain activity during simple motor tasks performed through virtual reality in both 2-D and 3-D, the researchers wanted to know if the motor cortical neurons would automatically adjust their sensitivity to direction when presented with a variety of possible directions instead of just one. Previous research in the field has suggested that a phenomenon called dynamic range adaptation, is known to occur in neurons sensitive to visual and auditory cues, prompting the researchers to ask if the same phenomena would apply to the motor system that is associated with movement.

Said Robert Rasmussen, School of Medicine student and first author of the study: “When you walk out into the bright summer sun, you squint, and the neurons that detect light and light and light and light, pass over again. This feature allows the brain to better encode information using its limited resources efficiently. We wanted to find out if our brain encodes movements in the same way.

The results revealed that dynamic range adaptation did indeed occur in the motor cortical neurons. Based on these findings, the researchers concluded that this feature is widespread throughout the brain.

Engineer Andrew Schwarz, neurobiology faculty member, chair in systems neuroscience at the School of Medicine and a member of the University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute “We found that dynamic range adaptation isn’t restricted to sensory areas of the brain. Instead, it is a ubiquitous encoding feature of the cortex. Our findings show that it is a feature of information processing that your brain uses to efficiently process whatever information it is given — whether that is light, sound, touch or move. This is an exciting result that will motivate further research into motor learning and future clinical applications.”

The paper was published in eLife.

Funding was provided by the National Science Foundation, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency.

Shaken baby detection improved

Researchers at Children’s Hospital and the School of Medicine have developed and refined a blood test that could help clinicians identify infants who may have had bleeding of the brain as a result of abusive head trauma, sometimes referred to as shaken baby syndrome. The science behind the test is described in JAMA Pediatrics.

The serum-based test, which needs to be validated in a larger population and receive regulatory approval before being used in clinical practices, would be used to detect acute intracranial hemorrhage or bleeding of the brain. Infants who test positive then would have further evaluation via brain imaging to determine the source of the bleeding.

Said senior author Rachel Berger, pediatrics faculty member in the school and chief of the Child Advocacy Center at the hospital: “Abusive head trauma (AHT) is the leading cause of death from traumatic brain injury in infants. The leading cause of death from physical abuse in the United States.”

However, approximately 30 percent of AHT diagnoses were missed because caregivers provide inaccurate histories or because infants have nonspecific symptoms such as vomiting or fussiness. Missed diagnoses can be catastrophic as AHT can lead to permanent brain damage and even death.

Berger and colleagues at Children’s Hospital and the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research in the school have long been working to develop a test to detect acute intracranial hemorrhage in infants at risk.

In the current study, the researchers’ collaborators with Axela, a Canadian molecular diagnostics company, to develop a sensitive test that could reduce the chances of a missed diagnosis by using a combination of three biomarkers along with a measure of the protein that carries oxygen in the blood. Axela’s automated testing approach will allow the researchers to measure multiple biomarkers simultaneously using an extremely small amount of blood, an important characteristic of a test designed to be used in infants.

At the biomarker for infant brain injury score (BIBIS), for discriminating between infants with and without intracranial hemorrhage, 10 of these chairs will be available to patients at the new splash park, Morgan’s Inspiration Island.

The patient-pending PneuChair uses high-pressure air as a nerve conduction signal instead of heavy batteries and electronics. The chair weighs about 80 pounds overall and takes just 10 minutes to recharge, compared to eight hours to charge an electric mobilility device.

HERI, which is a joint effort of Pitt, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and UPMC, already was working on a prototype of the PneuChair when it heard from representatives of Sports Outdoor and Recreation in the school. The collaboration was established at The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation of San Antonio to overcome Morgan’s Wonderland. They asked HERI for help in developing powered mobility for the new splash park.

Said Roger Cooper, HERI, director and faculty member in the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology: “Their needs and our research were essentially an ideal match. The potential to open opportunities for people with disabilities who need powered mobility to access splash parks, waterparks, beaches or pools is transformative.”

Branding Daveler, a graduate student researcher and the lead mechanical design engineer on the project: “The PneuChair uses a simpler design without a lot of electronics and software. If something goes wrong, any of the components can be purchased at your local hardware store.”

The maximum distance on one fully charged tank is around three miles, about a third of the distance an electric chair can travel before it needs to be recharged. Pitt and SOAR are looking to establish a licensing agreement wherein the PneuChair could be used in a variety of places, including personal care homes, shopping venues, grocery stores or airports.

The University Times

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However, if the LAIV effec- tiveness improves and can prevent flu in more than 63 percent of the people who get it, then it once again becomes beneficial to offer both forms of vaccination. “There has been a noddecreasein LAIV effectiveness in other countries, and we’re still unsure why it’s lower,” the researcher said.

The researchers also found that if not having a dose of live vaccine is an option drives down vaccination rates by 18.7 percent or 18.7 percent, both the needle and nasal vaccine are offered.

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If the needle-delivered flu vaccine does not work because the virus is circulating in a different form, children may still be protected as LAIV can detect more forms of flu.

The researchers noted that PittVax will continue collecting, analyzing and reporting on flu cases and flu vaccine effectiveness in the Pittsburgh region, helping to guide flu immunization recommendations.

Said senior author Richard K. Zimmerman, faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine and the Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Behavioral and Community Health: “This kind of surveillance is critical to charting the best course to save lives from a virus which kills thousands annually.”

On the other hand, the researchers did not find that a lack of effectiveness could lead to more flu illness in the U.S. if the inactivated vaccine becomes less effective. The researchers noted that if even death after data from the two previous flu seasons showed it to be ineffective at preventing influenza A, which is typically the most common strain. In the past, the LAIV was a common vaccine offered to children 2-8 years old.

Under current conditions, only offering the needle-delivered flu vaccine is the best strategy, as 20.9 percent of children ages 2-8 getting the flu are protected by both the needle and nasal vaccine are offered.

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Eugene Sawa, head of the government documents, maps and microforms unit of the University Library System (ULS), died April 8, 2017. He was 61.

Sawa joined his library career after 20 years at West Penn Power (which became Allegheny Power), first as a linesman and then in the account collections department. In 2002, while working toward his B.A., in history here, Sawa became a ULS student employee in the Hillman Library Current Periodicals Room. By 2005, he had become head of current periodicals/microforms. Previously, he oversaw the Stark Listening Center for playback of vinyl records.

In 2012, with the reorganization of Hillman and the formation of the research and educational support unit, Sawa took on a number of other duties and projects relating to the reorganization and storage of collections previously under his supervision.

While working in ULS he completed his master's degree in library science for 2009, adding credits in the history of art and architecture program.

Paul K. Kohberger Jr., assistant University librarian for research and educational support, knew Sawa during his entire ULS career and became Sawa's supervisor in 2012.

Kohberger says Sawa was a tremendously knowledgeable and valuable colleague. “He was always willing to help other people out on their projects,” Kohberger says. “He was very supportive of staff members who maybe did not have as big a voice in the ULS. We never hesitated to put him on committees, so we would use his expertise.”

He also recalls Sawa telling stories about his work with the power company. “He was always laughing and smiling,” Kohberger recalls. “He would always see the humor in situations. He was just fun to have around.”

“He was the kind of person who got along with everybody,” Kohberger adds — particularly when Sawa took shifts at Hillman’s information desk. “He was always very responsive to their needs and very professional in his interactions.”

Abby Jacobsen, library senior specialist at Hillman, says Sawa “had a passion for helping people and always went above and beyond to make sure that faculty, staff and students alike got whatever help they needed.

“It was very apparent that he did not just help people because it was his job,” she says. “He genuinely enjoyed helping people with their research. Behind the scenes he was a strong advocate for the staff at the ULS, and always made sure that everyone’s voice was heard. Eugene was an institution and used his influence to constantly push for better service.”

Jacobsen too recalls Sawa’s smiling presence at work: “You could be in the worst mood ever, but if he started laughing, you could not help but join in. He constantly surprised me, and I will miss him. We all will.”

Hillman co-worker Justin Wideman worked with Sawa in the microforms department. “I knew Eugene as a person with a tough exterior but a warm personality,” Wideman says. “If he could choose how he would be remembered, I think he would choose to be a caregiver, animal lover and friend. Because he liked to take care of the people close to him when they were sick or injured.”

Wideman recalls Sawa’s affection for his cat Novi. “He was also a great friend and boss to me. On numerous occasions when the stresses of life or work were weighing me down, he was there for me to talk to and he would try to help if he could. This type of generosity has been felt not only by myself but the entire library system.”

Sawa is survived by longtime partner Laura Rickert.

—Marty Levine

Nathan (Nat) Hershey, a longtime Graduate School of Public Health faculty member credited with founding the field of health law, died April 15, 2017, of complications from a fall in an Austin, Texas, hospital. He was 86.

He had been ill with Alzheimer’s disease for several years but — typical of his legacy as a professor and a passionate leader of the University Senate, colleagues say — still fought for the right of people facing such illnesses to have access to affordable health care.

“A person should be the master of his or her fate,” he told the University Times in 2014. “I feel like I’ve had a complete life by my standards.”

He had a very strong sense of trying to have fairness and justice, recalled another former Senate president, John Baker, an emeritus associate professor of oral biology in the School of Dental Medicine. Baker served under Hershey when Hershey formed several ad hoc committees to handle a variety of issues, during what Baker remembers as a contentious era.

“He was effective as a person of influence to accelerate the faculty grievance procedure and in creating a method for faculty to evaluate department chairs and deans,” Baker recalled.

“He was effective as a faculty leader because he was very persistent in bringing [issues] up to the administration,” he said.

“He could be very blunt,” Baker added. “He didn’t beat around the bush. But once you got to know him really he was a nice person. He was a very friendly person.”

For each Senate session a joke or story.

“He was a unique individual and I think the University is a lot better off for his involvement in the Senate.”

Hershey graduated from New York University in 1950 with a B.A. in history and earned his law degree from Harvard in 1953. After a stint in the Army he spent several years with a New York law firm, then joined Pitt in 1960 as an assistant research professor of health law.

In 1968 he became director of the health law training program in public health, rising through the academic ranks to become professor of health law in 1971.

Hershey was an elected member of the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences. His many publications include the books “Hospital Law” (1976) and “Hospital-Physician Relations: Case Studies and Commentaries on Medical Staff Problems” (1982).

Hershey served on many committees at this school, and as Senate vice president for three terms each. He also was involved in many of the Senate’s committees across campus.

Dean Donald S. Burke memorialized Hershey in a note to the Pitt community: “a champion for justice and equity” who could also disarm a colleague with an invitation to play basketball.

“Nat would frequently stop in to give me advice about running the school, usually unbidden, but always on the mark,” Burke wrote.

Alumni of the health and policy studies program “almost to a person, fondly tell me about their memories of Nat as a beloved teacher, mentor and role model.”

He is survived by his daughter Suzanne.

—Marty Levine

Eugene Sawa

—Marty Levine

Continued from Page 1

For women assistant professors, the ratio was 95 percent for tenure or tenure-stream faculty (93.7 percent in FY11). By department, the ratio was 98.1 percent (98.2 percent in FY11).

Regional campus ratios

For the second time, the analysis looked at the faculty salaries on Pitt’s regional campuses. For tenured/tenure-stream full professors, women earned 99.9 percent of men’s salaries (118.4 percent in FY11), controlling by division.

The ratio for tenured/tenure-stream female associate professors was 99.1 percent (100.5 percent in FY11) by division. Among assistant professors, tenured/tenure-stream women earned 103.5 percent (107.5 percent in FY11) by division.

Women in administrative positions

The report found that in 2017, as in 2012, women made up 19 percent of the voting members of Pitt’s Board of Trustees.

The percentage of female senior administrators at Pitt rose to 34 percent in 2017, up from 25 percent in 2012.

In 2017, women made up 35 percent of the provost senior staff positions, a decrease from 50 percent in 2012.

The percentage of female deans at Pitt in 2017 rose to 20 percent from 13 percent in 2012.

At Pitt in 2017, women made up 26 percent of all department/ division chairs, up from 25 percent in 2012.

By area in 2017, 39 percent of Pitt’s department chairs in natural sciences were women, compared with 26 percent in 2012.

In the professional area, 29 percent of department chairs in 2017 were women, up from 23 percent in 2012.

In the health sciences, 23 percent of department chairs in 2017 were women, down from 27 percent in 2012.

—Katie Fike
John O. Bolvin, former dean of Pitt's College of General Studies, died April 3, 2017. He was 87.

A graduate of Peabody High School, Bolvin served in the U.S. Army in Seoul, Korea. Prior to joining the University, he was a teacher, coach and guidance counselor for the North Allegheny School District, 1954-59, and principal of Area Junior High School, 1959-64. During that time, he worked part-time as a lecturer at the Pitt School of Education and School of Nursing.

In 1964-66 he served on the Pitt faculty as an assistant professor of education, a lecturer in nursing, and assistant director at the Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC). He was promoted to associate professor of education and served as associate director of LRDC, 1966-70.

In 1970-73, he was promoted to professor in the School of Education in addition to serving as associate director of LRDC, and was co-director of instructional design and evaluation at LRDC as well as executive associate to the dean in the School of Education. Bolvin was named professor and associate dean in the School of Education in 1973-74, while also serving as director of LRDC's development center.

He served as CGS dean 1983-94.

Bolvin was active in the community, serving as chairman of the Beaver County Mental Health Board and the board of directors of the Bidwell Street Cultural and Training Center, among other institutions. He also was an active member of the Bidwell Street United Presbyterian Church, serving in several capacities.

He earned a Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award in 1996 for his “steadfast commitment and astounding energy in serving the education and employment needs of the African-American population in Pittsburgh’s North Side.” His award letter continued: “Your work has been instrumental in bringing African-American youth from the community into the University for education and employment.”

As a specialist in educational research, development and evaluation, Bolvin consulted with educational institutions and organizations in the U.S. and abroad.

He served on numerous school and University committees, including the University Senate advisory committee, the University affirmative action committee and the University athletic committee, which he chaired. He also served as Pitt’s representive to the NCAA.

Bolvin belonged to a variety of professional organizations, including the American Education Research Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Association for Institutional Research, and the National Association for Research in Science Teaching.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in 1952, and his master’s and doctorate in education in 1955 and 1958, respectively.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Marjorie Bolvin; daughters Joan Bolvin Kelley and Nancy Bolvin Wolff; brother Richard E. Bolvin; granddaughter Allison Wolff; and many nieces and nephews.

—N.J. Brown

Former Pitt psychiatry and psychology faculty member Gerald Goldstein, who was a senior research career scientist and associate director of the Pittsburgh Veterans Administration Hospital in Topeka, Kansas, died April 8, 2017. He was 87.

Goldstein was known for his research and service contributions to the field of neuropsychology. He earned his B.A. in psychology at the City College of New York, in 1953 and his M.S. in clinical psychology there in 1956. He served in the U.S. Army as a personnel management specialist, 1954-56.

In 1962, he earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Kansas. He joined the Pitt faculty, he was a lecturer at the University of Kansas-Lawrence, 1965-75, and a faculty member at the Menninger School of Psychiatry, 1973-75.

He also was employed as a research psychologist, 1962-75, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Topeka, Kansas. He came to Pittsburgh in 1975, joining the Veterans Administration Medical Center there as chief of neuropsychology research and the Pitt faculty as an assistant professor then associate professor of psychiatry in the School of Medicine. In 1988, he was named a professor of psychiatry. He also had a faculty appointment in psychology, serving as an associate professor, 1977-88, and was appointed a full professor there in 1988.

He was acting director of the neuropsychiatric unit at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, 1977-80.

He held various positions at Pittsburgh Veterans Administration Medical Center, including senior research career scientist and deputy associate chief of staff for research and development.

Goldstein published more than 350 refereed articles, books and other scholarly publications. He was a member or fellow in several professional and scientific societies, including the American Psychological Association, the Society for Research in Psychopathology, the National Academy of Neuropsychologists and the American Psychopathological Association.

He served as president of the International Neuropsychological Society; the National Academy of Neuropsychology and the Division of Clinical Neuropsychology of the American Psychological Association (APA).

Among his awards was the Department of Veterans Affairs Service Award for 60 Years of Service, the APA Presidential Citation, the Distinguished Lifetime Contribution to Neuropsychology Award, and the National Academy of Neuropsychology’s Distinguished Service Award and Nelson Burtner Award for research contributions to clinical neuropsychology.

Goldstein was best known for his seminal research contributions to the neuropsychology of alcoholism and schizophrenia, and neuropsychological rehabilitation. He was a member of the Department of Psychiatry, said of Goldstein: “Pitt lost a generous and great man.”

Becker said that as recently as this February Goldstein still was attending professional meetings and making scientific contributions, publishing, as a first author on a paper as recently as last year.

Goldstein is survived by his sister, Sandra Garzosa; nieces Danielle Gardos and Alicia Gardos-Crumlich; and nephew Erik Gardos.

—N.J. Brown

Carolyn Green, founding director of Pitt’s Office of Enterprise Development (OED), died April 16, 2017, after a short illness. OED, which focused on translating and commercializing inventions stemming from Pitt’s health sciences’ schools, the Office of Technology Management and the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence, was combined in 2013 to form the Innovation Institute.

Though Green had left Pitt, she maintained connections here. Bob Carrey, director of education and outreach for the Innovation Institute, said she had been bringing Green back to Pittsburgh for the past 10 years to speak in the “Benchtop to Bedside” class.

“Carolyn Green was an inspiration to so many,” Carrey said. “From encouraging young women to enter the world of STEM to colleagues at senior levels, Carolyn gave of her time and expertise to help others. She was kind, giving and loving, but she was also smart as a whip and she could quickly gain insights into what needed to be done to solve a complex problem. I will forever be grateful to Carolyn for her unwavering support and encouragement,” Carrey added. “I know that others join me in recognizing that we are better people for having known her.”

At the time of her death, Green was executive director of Strategic Investments, Pfizer Worldwide R&D, a program that makes equity investments in companies that are of strategic interest to Pfizer. Previously, she was president of Atreasum, Inc., a privately held biopharmaceutical company, and president, chief operating officer and co-founder of Logical Therapeutics, Inc. For Logital, she helped to raise $85 million in venture financing from a syndicate of highly regarded venture capital funds.

She held other leadership and sales position, including CEO of Mobot, Inc., which specialized in artificial intelligence software and hardware for human-computer interaction; director of North American marketing and sales for publicly traded AEA Technology, in the computer-aided engineering software sector; and business manager for Algor, Inc., where she was responsible for the business development, sales and customer service sectors.

Green earned her B.S. chemistry at Pitt.

She lived in Waltham, Massachusetts. She is survived by her husband Adam and four adult children.

John O. Bolvin

Gerald Goldstein

Carolyn Green

Nominations for chancellor staff awards due May 5

May 5 is the nomination deadline for the 2017 Chancellor’s Awards for Staff. The awards recognize staff members for performance that consistently has exceeded the standards and expectations of their position, and who also have made a significant impact on the University through their commitment to the institution, its students, programs, home communities and colleagues.

The awards are the highest honors the University grants to classified and union staff members. Up to 10 awards are granted each academic year.

The awards recognize the diversity of all ranks of staff members and represent a cross-section of campus responsibilities and the regional centers and satellite locations.

Award recipients each receive a $2,500 cash prize. A permanent plaque located in the William Pitt Union bears the names of the award recipients.

The nomination guidelines for the awards are located at http://www.hr.pitt.edu/CAFS-Guidelines.

Nominations are submitted electronically at www.hr.pitt.edu/chancellors-award-nomination.
Thursday 27

FSDP Workshop
“Public Speaking in a Nutshell,” Michael Banos, 342 Craig, 9 am (www.bepit.edu/training-developoment/faculty-staff/development-program-fdpdscheduledregistration)
FSDP Workshop
“Office of Research Orientation,” Kelly Downing; B21 UClub, 9 am (www.bepit.edu/training-developoment/faculty-staff/development-program-fdpdscheduledregistration)
Greenburg Campus Benefits Fair
118 Village, UPS, 11 am–1 pm
Molecular/Biophysics/Structural Biology Seminar
Linda Perezcan; 6014 BST, noon
Pharmacology/Chemical Biology Seminar
“Histrone & Non-Histrone Targets of Dietary Deacetylase Inhibitors,” Rockedge-Danwood, TX A&M; 1:35 BST, noon
Chemistry Lecture
“Approaching Challenges in Physics With Joseph Chemistry,” Dana Franklin, Southen 41; 1:30 Chemony

Friday 28

Biomedical Informatics
“An Automated Data Science Assistant,” Jason Moore, 505 Rossi Biol. Red. rm. 407A, 9 am (dmipit.edu/events/35767)
FSDP Workshop
“University Archives & Records Management,” Zach Brode & Alex Toner; 342 Craig, 9 am
GI Research Rounds
“Dietary Disease: Work,” oral abstract presenters; Presby GI admin. conf. rm. ME-E-wing, noon
Pharmacy Irene Jakub Lecture
“The Neurodevelopment of Emotion Regulation: The Role of Early Experience,” Nim Teman, Columbus, SL120 BST, noon

Saturday 29

• Spring term ends.
Stivic Workshop
“The Film Maker in Rusia & the CIS: Statistics, Analytics, Politics,” Ksenia Leonit’eva, St. Petersburg State U; 10:30–12 pm
Graduate Student Commencement
Petersen, 4 pm

Sunday 30

• Residence halls close (except for graduation seniors).
Undergraduate Student Commencement
Petersen, 1 pm

Thursday 4

PGP Symposium on Intracellular Membrane Traffic
FSA aad.; 8 am–5 pm (keynote: “Ultrasound Synchronous Endoscopy: Revising healed & Reuse in the 21st Century,” Erik Jorgensen, U of Utah; FSA aad., 4 pm; www.pdpit.edu/events/seminars.html)
FSDP Workshop
“Strategies for Excellence in Witten Professional Communication,” Beth Blumman, 342 Craig, 9 am
FSDP Workshop
“Microsoft: Power Point 2013 Fundamentals,” Vernon Franklin, 302 Bellfield, 10 am
Russian Film Symposium
“Everyday: Does It Do Me,” 10 am; “levantino:” 10:30 pm; 232 CL (rusfilm.pitt.edu)
Benefits Fair
11:30 am; rm. A, B & C, 10:30 am–1:30 pm
Psychiatry Lecture
“Thinking Differently About Suicidal Behavior: Decision Processes, Cognitive Deficits, Social Reasoning,” Kardian Steam; SL20 BST, noon

Saturday 6

Russian Film Symposium
Roundtable 2, 11 am; “Zoology,”

Friday 5

FSDP Workshop
“Intercultural Competency: Beyond the Basics,” 342 Craig, 9 am
Russian Film Symposium
“The Geograph that Could Have A Gone Away,” 10 am; “Legend No. 17,” 2 pm; “The Student,” 7:30 pm; 232 CL (rusfilm.pitt.edu)
Benefits Fair
11:30 am; rm. A, B & C, 10:30 am–1:30 pm

Sunday 7

• Summer term: Residence halls open.

Monday 8

FSDP Workshop
“Developing Yourself at the University of Pittsburgh,” Sherry Miller Brown; 1400 Porlar, 9 am
FSDP Workshop
“Office of Research: Quest. Word, Excel, Power Point,” Venron Franki; 302 Bellfield, 10 am
Molecular Medicine Research Seminar
“Germinal Center-Derived IGF B Cells Are Rapid Responders to Infection,” Bangye-Rees Con.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
Tony Gibson has been hired as executive director of federal relations for the Office of Community and Governmental Relations. He will lead the University’s Washington, D.C., presence. Prior to his appointment at Pitt, he had been senior adviser for legislative affairs at the National Science Foundation (NSF), where he had worked for nearly 15 years.

Gibson began his career in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1993, moved to the White House Office of Science and Technology in 1997 before joining the National Science Foundation in 2002 as a senior legislative policy analyst.

During his time at NSF, he worked as a congressional affairs group leader and legislative division director before moving into his role as senior adviser for legislative affairs. As senior adviser, he was responsible for the leadership of NSF’s strategic legislative posture and operations and the planning and coordination of the foundation’s legislative outreach to policymakers.

Between NSF and the White House, he earned a B.S. in political science and international and comparative relations at Northern Illinois University and an M.A. in national security and strategic studies at the U.S. Naval War College.

He also did post-graduate executive-level training at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government and the U.S. government’s Federal Executive Institute.

The Renaissance Society of America has awarded Todd Reeser’s “Plato’s Platonic Straight” the Phyllis Goodheart Gordon First Book Prize, which recognizes the best book of the year in Renaissance studies.

Reeser is a faculty member in the Department of French and Francophone Studies at the University of Pittsburgh and in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.

The book won the Littman Prize for Renaissance translation and philosophy, and the use of queer theory as a heuristic for Renaissance texts will all find the book engaging, challenging, useful, and even entertaining.”

Keith Gavin has been named the 11th head coach of Pitt’s wrestling team.

Gavin took his first big coaching role and returns to his alma mater after spending a year as an assistant with the Oklahoma Sooners as well as three years as an assistant with the Virginia Cavaliers.

While with the Sooners, Gavin assisted in qualifying eight wrestlers for the 2017 NCAA championships, while the team earned a second-place finish at the Big 12 championships.

Prior to making the move to OU, he spent three seasons with the Cavaliers, guiding them to the 2015 ACC championship title.

That same year, seven wrestlers qualified for the NCAA championships and three made it to the Round of 12 as well as garnering All-America status.

After graduating from Pitt in 2008, Gavin remained on the staff for a season to work with the middle to upper weights. He then started training for his freestyle career. He had numerous top finishes at the international level, including a runner-up finish at the 2010 and 2014 U.S. world team trials. He also qualified for the 2012 U.S. Olympic trials before capturing the U.S. national championship in 2013 and 2014.

As a Panhellenic, Gavin was the 2008 174-pound national champion and a two-time All-American. His 120 career wins rank eighth in program history; Gavin is a two-time Eastern Wrestling League (EWL) champion, two-time EWL Wrestler of the Year and a member of the EWL Hall of Fame.

David Brienzo, associate dean of research in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS), received the Kosack Award from the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) for his contributions to the prevention and/or management of pressure injuries.

The award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the prevention and/or management of pressure injuries through their leadership in the areas of research, education and/or patient care. Brizeno received the award at NPUAP’s 2017 biennial conference.

Also in SHRS, faculty member Pamela Toto was named as the 2017 Health care Professional Geriatrics Teacher of the Year by the Pennsylvania Geriatric Society western division.

The award recognizes a health care professional who has made significant contributions to the education and training of learners in geriatrics and to the progress of geriatrics education across the health professions.

Alumnus Barbara J. Christner will be the speaker at Pitt-Greensburg’s 2018 commencement ceremony.

Christner served on the boards of the Lutheran Youth and Family Services (now Glade Run), the Westmoreland County Sosc, and various committees at the First Lutheran Church of Greensburg.

A 1985 UPG graduate, she is vice president and shareholder at Ward & Christner, PC, in Greensburg. In 2010, Pitt-Greensburg selected her as its Alumna of Distinction, an award that recognizes excellence among UP alumni based on outstanding level of professional achievements, service to the community, service to the University, special recognition or honors, and other special efforts or success.

Christner also graduated from Duquesne Law School and has been named to the keynote speaker at Pitt-Bradford’s commencement ceremony. May 30.

Commencement will be held at 2 p.m. in the KOA Arena. For submission guidelines, visit www.utimes.pitt.edu/?page_id=807.

The People of the Times column features recent news on faculty, staff, and students, 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.

For submission guidelines, visit www.utimes.pitt.edu/page_id=807.

P E O P L E   O F   T H E   T I M E S

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Defenses

Business
“Let It Go: How Agency & Power Impact the Consumption of Uncertain Products & Group Experiences,” Aleksandra Kowalewicz; April 27, 210 Mervis, 10 a.m.

A&S/Mathematics
“On Extremal Pair-Spheres,” Marc Beaucay; April 27, 427 Thackrey, 1 p.m.

A&S/Mathematics
“Geometric Structures on Manifolds,” Sam Sukli; April 27, 427 Thackrey, 3 p.m.

A&S/Applied Anthropology
“The Biocultural Ecology of Gendered Social Processes in Pre- & Post-Contact Native Americans: An Analysis of Mortuary Patterns, Health & Activity in the Ohio Valley,” Robin Murphy; April 28, 1210 GAP, 10 a.m.

A&S/Philosophy
“Icons of Value: A Study of the Epistemic Significance of Emotional Experience,” Brian Ballard; May 4, 1101 CL, 3 p.m.

Deadlines

Staff & Faculty Appreciation Picnic
RSVP by April 27. (technology.pitt.edu/about-us/pittpicnic)

Pitt Innovation Challenge 2017
RSVP by April 27. (technology.pitt.edu/open-ed)

Thru June...

Staff & Faculty Appreciation Picnic
RSVP by April 27. (technology.pitt.edu/about-us/pittpicnic)

The President’s Award for Distinguished Service recognizes for outstanding level of professional achievements, service to the community, service to the University, special recognition or honors, and other special efforts or success.

Chancellor emeritus Mark A. Nordenberg will be the keynote speaker at Pitt-Bradford’s commencement ceremony. May 30.

Commencement will be held at 2 p.m. in the KOA Arena.

Nordenberg currently is chair of Pitt’s Board of Trustees and a member of Pitt’s Board of Governors. He served as chancellor from 1988-97 and as Pitt’s chief executive officer from 1987-97.

May 16 is the deadline for full-time, faculty, research associates, post-doctoral associates and full-time/part-time staff to make changes in their benefits for the fiscal year 2018, which begins July 1.

Open enrollment information is available online at http://hr.pitt.edu/hrbenefits.”

Exhibits

Studio Arts Student Exhibit
FPA Gallery, through April 29. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Benefit changes due May 16

May is the deadline for full-time, faculty, research associates, post-doctoral associates and full-time/part-time staff to make changes in their benefits for the fiscal year 2018, which begins July 1.

Open enrollment information is available online at http://hr.pitt.edu/hrbenefits. Benefits for the Bradford and Titusville campuses already have been held. The remaining benefits fairs are:

• April 27, Greensburg campus, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Millroll, hr.pitt.edu. Current benefit elections also can be accessed from this website, or by going directly to the University portal at my.pitt.edu or logging onto employee self-service.

If you want to retain your current benefits election, no action is necessary.

The open enrollment period for part-time faculty, research associates, post-doctoral associates and post-doctoral scholars will be May 15 through June 1.

Information for those groups will be available online during that period.

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