Computing & information school approved

**“Congratulations. We have a new school,”** announced Board of Trustees chair Eva Blum following the board’s Oct. 28 vote to create the School of Computing and Information (SCI) at Pitt.

Plans for the new school began in 2015 when Provost Patricia E. Beeson called on faculty from the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Department of Computer Science and the School of Information Sciences to develop a proposal for incorporating into a new academic unit focused on computing, data, and information. (See June 11, 2015, University Times.) SCI will launch with the start of the new fiscal year in July and will enroll its first cohort of students in fall 2017.

In her presentation to the board, Beeson said that advances in information and computing “aren’t just drivers for the economy, and aren’t just pervasive in everyday life, but they touch on everything that we do at the University. They’re changing the way that we educate students and they’re accelerating the pace of discovery and innovation in almost every area of inquiry.”

“The advances are transforming facilities and a growing commitment to diversity and inclusion as key factors,” she said.

**Impact through education**

External rankings often focus on graduation, retention or job placement rates. “I think the impact that we have through our educational programs is the impact that those graduates go on to have through their lives. What did they do with that education and it is that we admit and enroll here at the University of Pittsburgh,” the provost said.

She cited efforts to increase diversity as well as new programs designed to prepare middle- and high school students, and to provide the infrastructure for community engagement and information. And community engagement centers are being developed and information traditionally identified as an area of job growth for the academic programs that are envisioned in this proposal. Not only is computing consistently identified as an area of job growth in the future, but the programs that are being discussed by our faculty will have students studying not just computer science, but other areas as well.

**Support for faculty and staff**

To prepare students for a lifetime of success, “we need to have a faculty in place that’s committed to Pitt and to our students and to their success,” Beeson said.

“We need to support innovation and effective teaching practices,” and engagement in the classroom, she said, citing the new University Center for Teaching and Learning. (See July 7 University Times.)

Efforts are being made to increase the number of non-tenure-stream faculty on full-time contracts and those with multiple contracts “so that they feel the commitment to Pitt and to students because we have the same commitment to them,” Beeson said.

“It’s my hope that by consolidating these positions and longening the tenures of those who are exceptional at their teaching and their research are going to be able to help us forward in our plans and help us to really engage with students and with the other faculty and staff in the department to become truly a faculty together,” the provost said.

Beeson also said she has worked with deans to expand tenure-stream faculty positions in some areas by 5 percent or more. “It may seem like it’s a small number but it’s a big step given our current budget situation — and we’re hoping that over time we can expand that even further,”

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**Provost reports on strategic plan implementation**

The University culture his- torically has focused on having an impact, she said. “The question became how do we define what having an impact means?”

Beeson cited a strong faculty, more engaged students, a com- mitted staff, renowned education and research programs, improved

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**NOTICE**

NOVEMBER 10, 2016

The next issue of the University Times will be published on Wednesday, Nov. 23, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

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**IN THIS ISSUE**

About 1,400 University employ- ees are expected to be affected by changes in the federal rules for overtime pay... 4

Today’s job-seekers are told they should matter — and comm — their social media... 5

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**CONTINUED ON PAGE 1**

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**Impact through education**

External rankings often focus on graduation, retention or job placement rates. “I think the impact that we have through our educational programs is the impact that those graduates go on to have through their lives. What did they do with that education and that made a difference?”

“That’s a lot harder to measure than to say, ‘Did we graduate them?’”

Educational factors that correlate with success in later life include having a mentor; being engaged in the classroom; participating in experiential learning through opportunities such as internships, research and study abroad; and having an inclusive environment.

“If we want to move to the next level in our educational programs in terms of having a long-term impact, we need to make an effort to have those sorts of things happen to the students when they’re here,” Beeson said.

**Impact through research**

Measuring the impact of University research must go beyond the typical measures of research expenditures, research citations and journal publications.

“Who’s reading that work and who’s using it is important, but it’s not everything,” she said, adding that we need to look as well as whether faculty are helping to shape their disciplines and having impact on the scholarship and direction of their fields. And the University must support faculty whose work includes translating research into practice — including in schools, in health professions or through commercialization, she said.

Pitt is taking action in these areas. She noted that intellectual property and conflict-of-interest policies are being updated and the Innovation Institute is being strengthened. Processes and operations are being streamlined to support collaboration and interdisciplinary work. Investments are being made in high-performance computing, including the new School of Computing and Information. And community engagement centers are being developed to provide the infrastructure for faculty work in the community.

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**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

The University Times is the faculty & staff newspaper since 1968

VOLUME 49 • NUMBER 6

NOVEMBER 10, 2016

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
American Service Institute

The American Service Institute was founded in Pittsburgh in 1941 to promote better understanding and appreciation among all people of cultural and national backgrounds. For 20 years the institute created studies and reports on community projects, immigration and naturalization, the aged population, youth immigration and cultural groups’ customs and traditions.

Civil rights pamphlets

Among these resources are several pamphlets published by the Communist Party promoting civil rights, equality, peace, and political literature for the Urban League of New York and publications of other important civil rights organizations.

Elise H. Hillman papers

Elise Hillman was an advocate for the greater involvement of both African Americans and women in the political arena and specifically in the Republican Party at local, state and national levels. She also worked as a philanthropist to better the lives of all Americans, particularly the poor, inner city youth and those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Jean Witter papers

This collection documents the activism of Jean Witter, a Pittsburgh lawyer who was heavily involved with the National Organization for Women and was an advocate for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Kuntu Repertory Theatre Collection

The Kuntu Repertory Theatre was the oldest and largest African-American performing arts center in Pittsburgh. Founded in 1974 by Percival L. Prattis, the group engaged over 600,000 handwritten notes and manuscripts, clippings, photographs, and annotated first editions from his library, 1906-67.

Ramón Gómez de la Serna papers

Ramón Gómez de la Serna was a prolific Spanish-Argentinian poet, novelist and essayist known for creating a new literary genre he named the “guregues.” His works significantly influenced the avant-garde movement in Europe and Latin America. His personal papers consist of approximately 130 manuscript plays and conducted over 500 master classes and workshops before it closed nearly 40 years later.

National Council of Jewish Women, Pittsburgh chapter

This collection consists of organizational records such as correspondence, memorabilia, reports, minutes, photographs and oral histories, 1894-97.

Nationality Rooms

The University holds the archives of Nationality committees that were formed to create, finance and build the Nationality Rooms. These rooms reflect many of the immigrants who flocked to Pittsburgh for work.

Percival L. Prattis papers

This collection contains documents on the life and career of journalist Percival L. Prattis, executive editor of the Pittsburgh Courier, the local African-American newspaper that had a national circulation.

Pittsburgh gay periodicals

This collection of periodicals documents the gay experience in Pittsburgh from the 1970s to the 1990s and includes titles such as Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, City, Gay News Pittsburgh, Edition, Gay, Georgian, Planet Queer and Pittsburgh’s Gay and Lesbian Community News. It contains national and regional activism, news and history as reported by the gay press.

Ramon Gomez de la Serna papers

Ramón Gómez de la Serna was a prolific Spanish-Argentinian poet, novelist and essayist known for creating a new literary genre he named the “guregues.” His works significantly influenced the avant-garde movement in Europe and Latin America. His personal papers consist of approximately 60,000 handwritten notes and manuscripts, clippings, photographs and annotated first editions from his library, 1906-67.

Rose Rand papers

Rose Rand, one of the earliest celebrated female philosophers, was a student member of the Vienna Circle, a group of philosophers who met on a regular basis and whose research was based on the Vienna, Austria, 1922-38, and who proposed new philosophical ideas about the concepts of scientific knowledge. The papers comprise Rand’s personal and professional records of correspondence and working papers, as well as notebooks, research notes, manuscript fragments and transcriptions.

United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America

This collection consists of records from the International Union of Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America (UE) which includes organization and union records, correspondence, minutes of meetings, reports, resolutions, speeches, contracts and of the leaders of the organization.

The School of Social Work is hosting three Affordable Care Act enrollment sessions this semester. The first session will be noon-6 p.m. Nov. 15 in 2101 Cathedral of Learning.

The United Health Coalition representatives will be available to help campus and community constituents learn about and sign up for health insurance under the exchange during the November-February enrollment period.

The next two sessions — Dec. 7 and Jan. 17 — will be held noon-6 p.m. in 2017 Cathedral of Learning.

Students and employees not enrolled under parental plans (graduate and nontraditional students) and workers (especially low-wage earners) are eligible for coverage under the exchange plans.
Class of 2020 surpasses predecessors

The incoming class's average yield — the percentage of students making up nearly 30 percent of the class of 2020,
University prepares to implement OT changes

When the minimum wage and overtime requirements for workers go into effect Nov. 27, the University will be putting into effect here:

The change will affect postdocs and researchers who are eligible for overtime pay. The FLSA changes, thus, they will not be eligible for adjusted to the $47,476 threshold; research associates and research employees — who travel and/or work long or irregular work hours — are among the workers who are seeing changes.

Kenyon Bonner, vice provost and dean of students, said he is not seeing an option, Bonner said he’s not seeing it as a necessity right now.

“After a year or even a semester, we will know better whether we need to make adjustments to keep up the quality of services delivered,” he said.

In Student Affairs, “sometimes our work is unpredictable ... responding to the unexpected,” he acknowledged. “That will require us to look at this. If positions aren’t in the night bucket, we’ll move them into the night bucket.”

Similarly, Wendy Meyers, executive associate athletic director and chief financial officer of Athletics, said a combination of options presented at BPC’s Sept. 23 meeting. Those choices were developed by a Senate subcommittee, in conjunction with the Office of the Provost.

Bonner said it’s not uncommon for Student Life staffs who work with student organizations to shift their workday to a later start on days when they will be attending evening meetings or events, or to work a shorter day during the week when they will be attending a weekend event.

“We’re basically formalizing a flexible schedule for people who are not moving to the threshold,” he said.

He said he expects some culture shift as exempt staff “who are not used to thinking about their hours in a finite box — when and how long they work” — need to begin managing their time in consultation with their supervisor.

Workers won’t be able to simply decide on their own that they’ll work 10 hours of overtime in one week, for example, but will need a supervisor’s approval first, he said.

Although adding staff is an estimate of how many athletics employees will be affected.

Athletics, said a combination of Colvard commended HR staff for their proactive assistance in preparing for the changes. She said Q&A sessions for employees were held and that training sessions for supervisors on the submission of time cards and how to handle various scenarios are continuing.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

New benchmarking group recommended for 3 Pitt regions

The University Senate budget policies committee is recommending a new, smaller peer group for benchmarking faculty salaries at Pitt’s Bradford, Greensburg and Johnstown regional campuses.

At its Oct. 28 meeting, BPC endorsed a plan to base the annual salary comparison on a peer group made up of public and private not-for-profit baccalaureate schools, excluding those with primary professional focus, in Pennsylvania and the neighboring states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York (minus the metro New York City area), Ohio, West Virginia and Virginia.

That logic would yield a group of more than 100 schools and a smaller, more geographically compact group deemed more appropriate for comparing with the regional campuses with which the regions compete for faculty.

President and Provost David Dejong, chancellor’s liaison to BPC, agreed to present the recommendation during the week.

The current peer group, in use since 2010, is made up of schools in the Mid-Atlantic region bordering Pennsylvania. Viewed by critics as too large and too diverse, it encompasses more than 200 schools, including some as far away as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and includes private-independent, church-related and proprietary schools in addition to public institutions.

Senate President Frank Wilson and BPC’s chair, Beverly Gaddy, both Greensburg campus faculty members, expressed their desire for a more appropriate regional peer group a year ago. (See Oct. 1, 2015, University Times.)

The group’s being recommended spring from several options presented at BPC’s Sept. 23 meeting. Those choices were developed by a Senate subcommittee, in conjunction with the Office of the Provost. A report is due to Faculty Assembly earlier this week, Wilson said, and the recommendation would be presented to the Assembly for endorsement in December.

In other business:

BPC’s next meeting is set for 2:30 p.m. Dec. 9 in 156 Cathedral of Learning.

A new, updated Office of Institutional Research analysis of salary increases for continuing faculty is expected to be among the agenda items.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Hillman Library has become the first U.S. library to own a complete collection of the Biblioteca Punnena, a collection of Andean cultural history of the Andes.

The collection, donated by José Luis Velaquez Garambel on behalf of the Universidad Nacional del Altiplano-Puno, was presented at the end of a two-day international symposium held here on the work of Peruvian philosopher and cultural activist Gamaliel Churata (1897-1969), recognized as one of the greatest Andean writers of the 20th century.

Pictured: Garambel discusses the collection with Martha Mantilla, librarian for Latin American studies and Special Collections.

A partial catalogue of the collection is available at www.scribd.com/doc/179061324/catalogo-50-libros-biblioteca-punnena#scribd

Kenyon Bonner, vice provost and dean of students, said; “They work with student organizations and are called upon to respond to crises 24-7. The other half are those who work nontraditional hours and are called upon to respond to crises 24-7. The other half are those who see no effect, because they don’t work overtime; those who will shift their work hours (a practice already in place that will be formalized, Bonner said, and those who work over time on occasion — for instance, during orientation or other peak times will be paid time-and-a-half when they do.”

Bonner said it’s not uncommon for Student Life staffs who work with student organizations to shift their workday to a later start on days when they will be working overtime.

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Job hunters urged
to master, control it

If you’re looking for a new job, it’s crucial to know how to use social media, said Kyshira Moffett, assistant director of career management at the Karl Graduate School of Business, leading the Nov. 2 workshop, "Using Social Media for Career Development.”

However, she cautioned: “It’s one thing to have a profile that is great, but are you reaching out to employers and connecting with valuable contacts?”

“Not only is it important to create a presence on social media, it’s also important to be mindful of what and how you’re sharing with others,” she added.

Moffett said 92 percent of companies check social media during their hiring process, with more than 90 percent perusing LinkedIn, 66 percent looking at Facebook and 54 percent scanning Twitter. Despite that, only 36 percent of those seeking employment are active on LinkedIn, and only 40 percent on Twitter.

Perhaps that’s because 46 percent of employers have passed on an applicant “due to inappropriate content on their social media accounts,” Moffett noted.

There’s always a risk in having social media profiles, she said; ill-considered posts and photos from your past can bring up old baggage to haunt you. Moffett deleted her Facebook account after college and said she also has maintained dual Facebook accounts for a while—one, a personal, the other professional. “It all proved to be too much work.”

“It looks worse for you if you have friends on your personal Facebook if you have a bad presence” on social media, she counseled. “Take control of your presence and be the one deciding what’s out there about you and what’s not out there about you.”

“You can have fun with it,” she added, noting that professional quality social media profiles still can be colorful, reflecting your personality: “It doesn’t have to be a resume.”

Standing out online means branding yourself as if you were a product, Moffett explained. It means communicating your value and highlighting your best features to ensure you’re not overlooked by competitors, so you will stand out during company searches for new employees or when you are seeking opportunities yourself.

If you think of yourself as a business, she said, consider what is unique about your product (you) and define your target audience (potential employers and those who can put you in touch with them). What features of your product — your capabilities and experience — will appeal to this audience?

We dress in a businesslike manner and construct our resumes with unexpected opportunities, even if you use social media profiles with the same thing in mind,” she asked.

Your job history on these profiles, for instance, shouldn’t simply say you were responsible for this or that task; rather, it should be a “brag sheet,” she said. “You want it to communicate your success.”

When you underachieve and succeed at your next accomplishment—a project completed, a new board appointment—“then when you do that, go back to your LinkedIn profile and update it,” she said.

Most important overall for your digital brand, Moffett said, are a professional photo and a compelling biographical sketch on each profile, particularly LinkedIn.

The photo need not necessarily show you in a suit against a white background, but it needs to be clear and reproduced at a high resolution.

The bio should be your “personal brand statement.” By highlighting your career with words chosen so that they will be highlighted by search engines, use words that highlight so-called soft skills, such as “collaboration” or “teamwork,” instead use more industry-specific terms to describe concrete accomplishments.

And always write your bio in the third person, she said. It’s also important periodically to update your bio on LinkedIn and other social networks, since you never know when a recruiter may find an applicable term or trait in your write-up and contact you with unexpected opportunities, and “those are the best opportunities,” Moffett said.

Finally, it’s important to be consistent in your profiles across the various social media outlets you’re using for professional networking. If you have a nickname, for instance, or have gotten married in the meantime, it’s important to choose whether formal or informal, old or new names will be used consistently across online platforms. Job titles and descriptions, both current and past, should also match on your profiles.

Moffett also offered network-specific advice:

On LinkedIn:

- By default, LinkedIn places your latest job title at your headline, but this can and should be changed, Moffett said. Use business-oriented keywords in simple phrases or one-word sentences to highlight your experiences instead, each sentence is more like to show up in search engines. She also suggested customizing the name of your LinkedIn page by editing its URL, placing your name there instead of the random name chosen by LinkedIn.

- To attract more potential opportuni-
ties, use your LinkedIn bio to emphasize transferrable skills — trains and accomplishments that will be readily applicable to multiple places of employment.

- Use your LinkedIn page to blog about your experiences while adding videos and GIFs to attract new eyes. Moffett has blogged about milestones in the job market, and how she was able to overcome shyness. She suggested using a mix of paragraphs and bullet points in your prose, and wrapping up each post with a brief bio and your contact information.

- It’s amazing how far things travel on LinkedIn,” she said, and encourages speaking engagements and jobs based on a single blog post.

- Don’t just follow companies; look for features to add multimedia pieces to every job experience you list. “It’s so much easier than ever to add everything on LinkedIn, it is literally black and white,” she noted.

- Use LinkedIn’s “jobs” menu to find new positions through connections via your existing contacts.

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- Use LinkedIn’s “jobs” menu and its tools. They will show you jobs that you think you are fit for, plus companies in your network — those at which you have worked, contact them to see what they are currently doing, and other categories. Use this for networking and also for introduc-
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tions to finding new connections via your existing contacts.

On Facebook:

- If you’ve been on Facebook for years and now are looking for a job, it’s important to re-examine past postings and pictures, con-
structing a complete audit of your page’s content. “Make sure there is nothing there that could compromise your brand,” she advised, such as ill-tempered posts and pictures celebrating wild behavior.

- Add your job history to your Facebook page.

- One way to continually police your Facebook page is to check your privacy settings prior to posting new updates. You can classify your friend list into closest friends, family, other friends and organiza-
tions, and then can select, as you post new material, which groups should see each of them. “That gives you a chance to have a more discreet opportunity search,” Moffett says, once you’ve successfully only see a select group of your prospects.

- Join established Facebook groups, which can center on certain cities or interests, for networking purposes. Companies have their own LinkedIn pages, she pointed out, which also are great for learning about a target employer culture.

On Twitter:

- Moffett suggested creating a specific Twitter account that showcases your professional abilities, thereby using the Twit-
ter accounts of experts in your field and key employees of the companies you plan to seek employment. To inject yourself into their conversations, ask ques-
tions that they are commenting on and use the hashtag they are using; “You can gain your own following and find other people who are looking for someone like you,” she added. In fact, Twitter can be an easier network than LinkedIn if you’re having trouble finding a position, she said.

- Use Twitter’s advanced search capabilities to find and con-
nect with fellow college alumni or professionals for profession-
als—even people who use certain phrases common in your industry. Then look through your experiences and expertise. Moffett regularly live tweets conference proceedings. “It’s a way to have content visible,” she said, and to see who else is using the conference hashtag so you might connect immediately or later.

- Create topic-specific lists of people you are following. Such lists create a timeline of curated content that you can share or keep private.

Moffett suggested that wise use of social media can be supple-
mented by your own website or online portfolio, created with the help of sites and software, including:

- About.Me and Branded.Me for profiles.

- Wordpress, Wix or Square-

- space for websites.

- Slideshare for organizing a research project presentation.

- Visualize.Me for creating a great presentation of your resume.

“Never tell people to apply for a job using this kind of resume,” said Moffett who is involved in creating the online presentation of one young woman, who directed her approach entirely to JobBible. The woman argued — correctly — that the company needed to enter her professional repertoire of references; that she was just the woman to help them make this move.

“Women are often so concerned that the résumé and many other social networks also are very useful for market-
ing — and for meeting your potential employers, she noted.

“You don’t need to be on every network. You have to prioritize,” she concluded, “but you need to know how they work.”

— Marty Levine
Fat injections combat foot pain

Patients who suffer from pedal fat pad atrophy, or the loss of fat in the foot of the ball, may benefit from a new procedure that involves restoring the lost padding by grafting fat from other areas of the body. According to a clinical trial in the School of Medicine's Department of Plastic Surgery, published in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Said lead author Jeffrey Gusenoff, a department faculty member: “The fat pads in the foot act as a shock absorber when we walk, cushioning the structures around them. People with pedal fat atrophy face tremendous pain with each step they take. The loss of this important natural padding of fat, which can be triggered by age, obesity, high-heeled shoes or abnormal foot mechanics, among other causes, gives the sensation of walking on bone, making even standing for a short period nearly impossible.”

Researcher led a multidisciplinary team that included podiatry and plastic surgery clinicians as they compiled the data shared into two groups. One group was treated immediately with fat grafting, with follow-up after one year.

Model may predict brain dynamics

Scientists have been listening in on the activity of the brain, they have been trying to understand the difference between noise, apparently random, activity. In the past 20 years, “balanced network theory” has emerged to explain this apparent randomness through a balance of excitation and inhibition in recurrently coupled networks of neurons. A team of scientists has extended the balanced model to provide deep and testable predictions linking brain circuits to brain activity.

A newly developed program manages TCGA data, allowing researchers to take the tools that previously downloads, processes and analyzes data sets available to the average investigator and is called TCGA Expedition. According to co-author, Matthew Smith, ophthalmology faculty member in the School of Medicine and a member of UPB.

“It’s like balancing on one foot on your toes. If there are small overcorrections, the result is big fluctuations in neural firing, or communication.”

In the future, the model could be used with other large data sets to make sense of the explosion of new experimental data that is now being collected.

Program boosts adult vaccine rates

A newly developed program boosts vaccination rates in adult patients seen at primary care offices, two recent studies demonstrate.

Physician offices participating in the 4 pillars practice transformation program had nearly three times the increase in patients getting the Tdap vaccine for protection against pertussis (whooping cough) compared to non-participating offices, according to research published in Vaccine.

Another study, published in the Journal for Healthcare Qual., demonstrated that certain characteristics already embedded in some primary care practices, such as open leadership and staff communication, organizational culture, and the quality improvement, predicted which practices would garner the most vaccination rate improvement from the 4 pillars program.

Said Richard K. Zimmerman, faculty member in the school’s Department of Family Medicine and one of the authors on the two studies: "Vaccination is the single best way to prevent communicable diseases. In recent years...
Visual hallucinations induced, measured

Many people have experienced the sensation of seeing something that isn’t there: a visual hallucination. But studying the phenomenon in people with healthy brains has been difficult: They are irregular, transitory and highly personal — only the person experiencing the hallucination knows what he or she is seeing, and representations of what’s being seen are limited to verbal descriptions or drawings.

A research team at Bard Ermentrout, Distinguished University Professor of Computational Biology and mathematics faculty member in the Diethrich School, and Joel Pearson from The University of New South Wales in Australia have come up with a way to create hallucinations that could make them easier to be studied objectively, potentially leading to new treatment methods. Ermentrout and Pearson outlined their discovery in a paper, “Sensory Dynamics of Visual Hallucinations in the Normal Population,” which was published in eLife.

Most visual hallucinations are associated with illnesses such as schizophrenia, Parkinson’s disease, migraines and some forms of brain trauma, but healthy people also can experience hallucinations from drugs, sleep deprivation or loss of vision. Ermentrout and Pearson displayed a white ring that flickered around the center of a computer screen between two and 30 times per second. The subjects, college students with no history of migraines or psychiatric disorders, uniformly “saw” what they all described as pale grey blobs rotating around the ring, first in one direction, then the other.

Said Ermentrout: “Because the pale grey blobs are much simpler and uniform than more complex hallucinations that people generally see, they are much easier to study subjectively.”

To measure the hallucinations, Ermentrout and Pearson created an animation with actual grey blobs inside the white ring, and participants were able to convey the relative strength of the hallucinations by indicating whether the hallucinated blobs were lighter or darker than the real blobs. The researchers also were able to have participants gauge the relative speed of the hallucinated motion by placing fixed lines at the top and the bottom of the white ring and noting how quickly the blobs passed the lines.

The researchers found that both the real blobs and hallucinations seemed to be perceived in the visual cortex, and they created a computer model of the visual cortex.

They hope this model will help them understand what features can lead to hallucinations and lead to the next step, determining whether the same technique could be used to model hallucinations produced by psychiatric disorders.

Joel Pearson of Pitt also participated in the study, as did other colleagues from New South Wales.

RESEARCH NOTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

years, we’ve seen surges in cases of whooping cough, which can be deadly in newborns, who can contract it from unvaccinated adults. And we recently learned from federal health officials that the rate of people getting vaccinated against the flu — another virus that kills hundreds annually — fell last season. We need to find ways to get more people immunized.”

To support this effort, Robert- son and a multidisciplinary team of world leaders in anesthesiology research from Pitt, Allegheny General Hospital, George Mason University and the University of Pittsburgh are working with the University of Helsinki, University Central Hospital and Kuopio University Hospital to explore better ways to deliver vaccines to infants and children. By looking at vaccines as a way to prevent skin damage in neonates, the investigators will look specifically at how and why some vaccine preparations naturally are able to maintain a healthy aneurysm wall while the walls in other patients weaken, leaving them vulnerable to rupture. They will use computational methods to explore the micro- and macrostructural processes by which hemodynamics alters the wall and study the mechanisms of structural failure.

Additional Robertson: “Because of the critical importance and delicate nature of the brain, surgical treatment of cerebral aneu- rysms is avoided unless absolutely necessary. That’s why doctors and surgeons need more a effective way to determine whether a patient’s wall is ruptured or at risk for rupture. We expect our study to confirm earlier findings that provide biomarkers of wall fragility and provide essential knowledge for developing pharmacological treat- ments to harness and augment the natural repair process of the aneurysm wall.”

Co-investigators from Pitt are Spandan Maiti and Simon C. Watkins.

Children’s ED sees hike in headaches among patients

Children’s Hospital is seeing that the pediatric emergency department at Children’s Hospital is seeing increases in the number of children with headaches. The findings were presented at the recent annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics national conference and exhibition.

Researchers from Children’s Hospital examined the electronic medical record of patients ages 5 to 17 years who presented to the emergency department at Children’s, 2007-14.

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High-steppers get fit at Pitt

Those 79 faculty and staff members walking like Frankenstein around the Cathedral of Learning Oct. 28 weren’t practicing for Halloween. They were members of the Be Fit Pitt initiative who were incorporating some exercise into their workday.

The approximate 1-mile loop around the Cathedral included four activity stations along the way.

Renee Rogers is director and faculty leader of Be Fit Pitt, which was created by the School of Education’s Department of Health and Physical Activity.

Be Fit Pitt is primarily a texting service that suggests activities that people can do right in their offices, as well as providing nutritional and research information on fitness.

For more information on Be Fit Pitt, go to www.physicalactivity.pitt.edu/healthandfitness.aspx.

RESEARCH NOTES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

percent to more than 4 percent. In addition, the admission rate for children with headaches more than doubled from 10 percent in 2007 to nearly 25 percent in 2014. Females were more likely to be admitted for headache pain than males.

Said Michelle Perry, study author and pediatric resident at Children’s Hospital: “The results are intriguing because this is the first study to report a current trend in pediatric headache visits and to characterize pediatric patients with headache within a pediatric emergency department.”

Added Regina Toto, study co-author and pediatric chief resident at Children’s Hospital: “Our study confirms that headaches are an increasingly common reason for children to be admitted to our hospital, in accordance with national trends. Despite more patients receiving pharmacologic treatment, more and more children with headaches are being hospitalized. The reasons why remain unclear to us and represent a key next step in pediatric headache research.”

The research team hopes to determine why this is occurring and how clinicians can more effectively treat patients with headaches in emergency departments and outpatient settings to avoid hospital admissions whenever possible.

African drought decreasing

The notion that the African continent has been getting progressively drier over time is being challenged by new research that finds that drought actually has decreased over the past 1.3 million years and that the continent is on a 100,000-year cycle of wet and dry conditions. These new findings add a wrinkle to one of the keys to human evolutionary theory, the savannah hypothesis, which states that the progressively drier conditions in Africa led to the prehuman ancestors migrating from forests and moving into grasslands.

Josef Werne, Pitt faculty member in geology and environmental science in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, along with colleagues from other universities in the United States, Australia, Chile and the Netherlands, made the discovery by examining core samples extracted from the bottom of Lake Malawi, one of the world’s largest lakes, located between Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania in southeastern Africa.

Their paper, “A Progressively Wetter Climate in Southern East Africa Over the Past 1.3 Million Years,” was published in the journal Nature.

Previous studies of Africa’s climate focused on the northern part of the continent. Werne explained, and were responsible for the origin of the savannah hypothesis that the continent was getting drier. The 100,000-year cycles the researchers found correspond with the beginnings and endings of the great ice ages.

Lake Malawi had not been explored previously because the depth of the waters — 700 feet — exceeded researchers’ ability to get core samples from the bottom. The researchers were able to overcome that limitation by using a barge and modifying oil rig equipment to obtain a 385-meter-long sediment core sample. The core was dated using a combination of radiocarbon, volcanic ash and magnetic polarity reversals and examined for molecular fossils indicating changing temperature and rainfall.

Temperature was derived by studying the distribution of the membrane lipids of a single-celled microbe, which was analyzed by mass spectrometry. The aridity and rainfall were measured by calcium content and the distribution and carbon isotope composition of fossil leaf waxes. There is a difference between fossil leaf waxes that originate in trees and shrubs, which thrive in wetter conditions, and those that originate in grasses, which can outcompete trees in dry conditions.

By noting the changes in temperature records and especially rainfall, the team determined that the continent was getting wetter over time in southern East Africa; the team also identified the 100,000-year climate cycles. The research project was more than 20 years in the making; the solution to obtaining the core samples wasn’t completed until 2005.

Werne was in charge of analyzing the molecular fossils from these cores.

—Compiled by Marty Levine
NOVEMBER 10, 2016

Diane Marsh, psychology professor emerita at the Greensburg campus, died Oct. 16, 2016. Campus President Sharon P. Smith called Marsh “a real builder of the school.”

In 2011, the year Marsh retired after 33 years on campus, Greensburg dedicated its psychology laboratory in her honor. Marsh earned her BA in 1963 from the University of Michigan, where she was a competitive swimmer, followed by an MA and PhD from George Washington University in 1968 and her PhD from Pitt in 1977.

She received a Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 1986 and many other honors, including recognition from the American Psychological Association as well as national, state and county organizations focused on mental health and mental retardation, for which she served as consultant, advisory board and task force member. She was the author of more than a dozen books and monographs, as well as numerous scholarly papers.

She was awarded the President’s Medal for Distinguished Service to the Greensburg campus in 2011, for which Smith cited “her lasting influence on countless students who speak of her with affection and appreciation for the role she has played in inspiring them to raise the bar on their own aspirations and to realize their dreams.”

“She was somebody who was open to new ideas,” Smith recalled, “building every institution and new behavioral assistant program on campus.” She was “a voice for fairness and justice and kindness” as an advocate for improving treatment for those with mental illnesses, Smith said. Marsh also demonstrated this on campus by mentoring students in different psychology specialties, and through her teaching, Smith added, Marsh was “a wonderful friend whose death is a real loss to Pitt.”

Lillian Beeson, a retired Greensburg faculty member in English, met Marsh in 1975, at the beginning of Beeson’s teaching career. They eventually had adjoining offices.

Diane Marsh was good at everything she attempted to do,” Beeson recalled. “She was always a name on campus because she was so popular. Her classes were always filled to overflowing. Her door was always open to students — she was very accessible.”

“Whatever Diane Marsh touched she added her intellect, talent and magic to it,” Beeson added.

She recalled seeking Marsh’s help when a family member was diagnosed with a mental illness and Beeson’s family did not know how to proceed. Marsh’s book, “Troubled Journey,” a guide to navigating the mental health system and advocating for patients in the family, proved a tremendous boon, Beeson said.

“She was not an ivory tower clinical psychologist; she was very much of this world,” Beeson said.

A highlight of every term for Beeson was the dinner and craft session at Marsh’s house, she said. “It was the best session I ever experienced as a political science professor,” Beeson said.

“Not only has Professor Marsh been a friend and colleague through her scholarly work, but he has taken the lead in creating the collegial atmosphere for Pitt law students,” said Mark Nordenberg, who met Meisel in 1977 when Nordenberg came to Pitt to interview for a position on the law faculty.

The health law program is one of the oldest of its type in the United States and is ranked 12th in the nation in the U.S. News & World Report law school specialty rankings.

Law firms provide legal services to hospitals, health insurance companies, nursing homes and pharmaceutical manufacturers, to name a few. The program provides students with a strong foundation in health law that will enable them to practice in a variety of contexts.


Meisel served on the ethics working group of the White House task force on health care reform in 1993 and was a member of the President’s Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine in 1982.

Marcia Landy, distinguished professor emerita of English, was awarded an honorary doctorate from Stockholms University.

She was among eight awardees recognized in a ceremony in September in the Stockholm City Hall. The awards express the university’s appreciation for outstanding contributions in one or more of its areas of academic activity, which has taught Stockholms University courses on cinema studies and fashion studies for many years.

Mark Burdwell will take over as director of UPG’s Office of Human Resources, effective Dec. 29. He will succeed Cheryl Tomko, who is retiring.

A national search has commenced for Burdwell’s replacement as director of compensation.

Edward Chu, deputy director of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, will be interim director of UPCI while a search for a new director is underway.

Chu, a faculty member in medicine and in pharmaceutical and chemical biology in the School of Medicine, is chief of the Division of Hematology-Oncology and co-leader of UPCI’s cancer therapeutics program.

UPCI’s co-director, Nancy E. Davidson, who is associate vice chancellor for cancer research, is also a professor of chemistry and Distinguished Professor of Medicine and of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology in the School of Medicine, is leaving to become executive director of clinical oncology for the Fred Hutchinson/University of Washington Cancer Consortium, effective Dec. 1.

Sociology faculty member Jackie Smith and Pitt-Greensburg staff member Sheila Confer are among the winners of the 2016 Iris Marion Young Award for Political Engagement. The award honors members of the Pitt community who have worked on behalf of social justice and democracy.

The award was established by the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and what was then the women’s studies program (now the gender, sexuality and women’s studies program), in memory of Young, 27 Pitt-Virginia Tech game for his 30 years as Pitt’s head football team physician and orthopaedic surgeon for the athletic department.

She is editor of the open access Journal of World-Systems Research, co-founder and co-director of the Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance, and serves on the national steering committee of the National Human Rights City Network.

She also is co-founder of the International Network of Scholar-Activists and serves on the Leadership Committee of May First/People Link, an organization that provides education and communications rights organization.

Confer, who received a 2014 Chancellor’s Award for Staff for Excellence in Service to the University, is assistant director of the Academic Village at UPG. She also teaches in the theatre department.

She directs social justice education and training to the campus community through UPG’s Academic Village, the Allies Network and the committee for gender equity, which she chairs.

Outside of her work at Pitt, Confer is vice president of the board of directors of Blackburn Center, which aids victims of violence and abuse in Westmoreland County.

She also works on Blackburn’s social transformation committee and as the liaison for the agency’s ongoing relationship with Pitt-Greensburg.

Student winners are Hanifa Nakiryowa, an H.J. Heine fellow with the Global Studies Center who is pursuing a master’s degree in international development-human security at GSPIA, and Saskia Bertius-Thomas, a senior majoring in social work and minor in economics.

A highlight of every term for Confer is working on Blackburn’s social transformation committee and as the liaison for the agency’s ongoing relationship with Pitt-Greensburg.

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A memorial service will be held at Nov. 12 at 1 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center on the Greensburg campus.

—Marvy Levine
**UNIVERSITY TIMES**

**November 2016-17 publication schedule**

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<th>Events occurring</th>
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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.

**Friday 11**

**UHC Dean Search Forum**
2507 Posvar, 9 am

**Allegheny Commons and Its Neighbors — The Origins & Ongoing Development of an Urban Landscape**
David Grinnell, 5607 Baum Blvd., 9 am

**rh.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-st**

**The Impact of Sleep on Obesity & Weight Gain**
Sanjay Patel, G25 Parson, noon

**CTSI Workshop**
“High Stakes Consenting”; 3100A BST, 1 pm (www.ctsi.pitt.edu/RCR/workshops.shtml)

**Veterans Roll Call**
“Remembering Our Service to Women & Those Who Have Lost Their Lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom & Operation Enduring Freedom”; Heinz Chapel, 1 pm

**Ctr. for Teaching Workshop**
“Writing Assignments: Design, Assessment & Feedback”; 815 BST, 1 pm

**HSLS Workshop**
“Paintless Publishing”; BafsFolks, 10 am (www.westlib.pitt.edu/hsls/workshops/)

**HUMANITIES**

- **Exhibitions: Design, Assessment & Feedback**
- **Paintless Publishing**
- **Paintless Publishing**

**Poetry Reading/Reception**
“Black Poets Speak Out,” Jeri Brown, Mahogany Browne, and Ongoing Development of an Urban Landscape,” David Grinnell, 5607 Baum Blvd., 9 am

**Ctr. for Teaching Workshop**
“Getting Your Message Across,” Judy Cameron; 815 Alumni, 1 pm (www.westlib.pitt.edu/hsls/workshops/)

**SPHIA Poverty & Politics Lec**
“The Unseen Development of the Shadow State: Organizational Support for the Poor in the Smokeshell & Sunbelt,” Margaret Weis, Brown; 20th Century Club 2nd fl., 10 am (www.ccc.pitt.edu/)

**East Asian Lecture**
“Framing Movement and Stasis: Stage Properties in the Noh Yuya & Ozuha,” Elizabeth Oyster, 4130 Posvar, noon

**Ctr. for Teaching Workshop**
“Getting Your Message Across,” Judy Cameron; 815 Alumni, 1 pm (www.westlib.pitt.edu/hsls/workshops/)

**Saturday 12**

**Greenberg Campus Memorial Service**
For Diane March, prof. emerita of psychology, who died Oct. 1; Campana Chapel & Lecture Ctr., UPG, 1 pm

**Sailors & Soldiers Cannon Ball**
“Red, White & Blue Jeans Celebrate the nation’s military service.”

**UPG, 1 pm**

**Swanson School Electric Power Industry Conf.**
UClub, 8-12:30 pm (register: www.pitt.edu/teering-development/faculty-st)

**FSDP Workshop**
“QuadNet/Network Training: Improving Visibility & Support on Campus.”

**Men’s Basketball**
Vs. East MI; Petersen, 7 pm

**Sunday 13**

**Organ Recital**
Matthew Lobe, Duquesne; Heinz Chapel, 3 pm

**concert**
“Legend & Legacy: A Mging of Storytelling & Music,” SoulSound Project, Belfield auditorium, 7 pm

**Tuesday 15**

**Swanson School Electric Power Industry Conf.**
UClub, 8-12:30 pm (register: www.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-st)

**FSDP Workshop**
“Sexual Misconduct: Understanding Your Responsibiliti”

**Swanson School Electric Power Industry Conf.**
UClub, registration main lobby, 9 am-6 pm; keynote: Rich Razzu, Duquesne; Light Co., CG&Gluttermann, B, 10:20 am; Larry Fenn, Calidus Duke Energy; UClub buffet, B, 6 pm (also Nov. 15, 8 am-12:30 pm; register: www.pitt.edu/teering-development/faculty-st)

**Cell Biology Seminar**
“Chloride Channels & Cancer: Please Pass the Salt,” Umamaheswar Daruvuri; Eye & Ear Inst. 5th fl.; bulletin, 11 am

**Social Work ACA Health Insur**
Enrollment Event 2103 CL, noon-6 pm; Senate CERC Mng. 140 Alumni, noon

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**
## Continued from Page 10

### Basic/Translational Research Seminar

### Molecular Medicine Research Seminar
"Mitochondrial Dysfunction Contributes to the Pathogenesis of Inflammatory Bowel Disease," Kevin Mollen, Children’s Hospital, medicine; Samuel Hartson, pediatrics & genetic/developmental surgery; Range-Research Conf. Ctr. noon

### MWRI Work in Progress Seminar
Fabiola Balmir & Yingshi Ouyang, Magee-Womens Reseach Inst. Conf. Ctr. 1st fl., noon (klazar@mwri.magee.edu)

Ctn. for Teaching Workshop
"Developing a Teaching Portfolio;" 811 Alumni, noon (register: www.citt.pitt.edu/workshops/)

### SAC Seminar
"Philanthropy," WPF, ballofn, noon (register: www.sac.pitt.edu)

### LifeSolutions Webinar
"Read, Set, Relax: Relaxation Techniques to Maintain Well Being;" noon (register: www.lhs.pitt.edu/lifesolutions)

### Philosophy of Science Lecture
"Realize Pragmatism: Top-Down & Bottom-Up Approaches to Particles;" Anjan Chakravartty, Notre Dame; 817 BL, 12:05 pm (www.pitt.pitt.edu/pinnet/)

### FSDP Workshop
"The Ethical Use of Power," Roy Jones, bio. business, 528 Alumni, 1 pm (register: www.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-st)

### Pharmacology/Chemical Biology Seminar
"Recipes for Good & Bad Teleology: Proximities & Functional Analysis of Telomere T seeding," Eoin D’Arcy, Stripped Research Inst.; 1395 BST, 3:30 pm

### Ctn. for Sustainable Innovation Green Speakeasy
"Renewable Energy & Sustainable Development," Shami Gamper-Rahimian, UClub library; 4:30 pm (register: www.greenpitt.pitt.edu/grspeakaspey)

### Innovation Week Panel Discussion
"Innovating Integration After Graduation;" O’Hara Student Ctr. dinning rm., 6 pm

### Innovation Week Film Screening
"General Sturges;" 343 Alumni, 8:30–11 pm

### Wednesday 16

#### Women Voters of PA/Public Health Conf.
- "Stop, Start, Public Health;" UClub ballofn, 8:30–11 pm (www.stopstartpah.com)

#### FSDP Workshop
- "Money at Work 2," Chris Youn; 342 Craig, 9 am (register: www.hr.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-st)

#### HSLS Workshop
- "Pacific Rim Med.;" Rose Turner, Fkl library classrm. 1, 9:30 am (rzh@gpg.pitt.edu)

#### Public Health Clinic
- "Postpartum Care 2014 Common, 10 am -2 pm

#### Innovation Week Student/Alumni Networking Luncheon
- Peterson, 11:30 am -1:30 pm

#### Critical Care Medicine Grand Rounds
- "The Microbiome in Critical Illness;" Robert Dickson, U of Mi; 11:30MB Scale, noon

#### SAC Magc
- 102 Baldufn, noon
- Equipise Mc; 630 WPF, noon

#### FSDP Workshop
- "Feedback An Essential Leadership Skill;" Masteraz Lazear; 342 Craig, 1 pm (register: www.fsdp.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-st)

#### HSLS Workshop
- "Vetian Detection & Analysis CLC Genetornics, dbSNP, Cosmic & More;" Anamun Childsophokly, Falk Library classrm. 2, 1-4 pm (ansamui@pitt.edu)

#### Senate Council Magc
- 2700 Posvar, 1 pm

### Office of Diversity & Inclusion Book Sale
"Why Are They Angry With Us?" Larry Davis, social work; O’Hara Student Ctr. ballofn, 4 pm

### Thursday 17

#### FSDP Workshop
- "Student Privacy & FERRA;" Jennifer Sang; 342 Craig, 9 am (register: www.fsdp.pitt.edu/workshops/)

#### SAC Seminar
- "What Gencom Technologies, 8100A BST, 10 am (www.sac.pitt.edu/pinnet/)

#### Ctn. for Teaching Workshop
- "The Basics of Adobe Illustrator;" 314 Bellefield, 10 am (register: www.citt.pitt.edu/workshops/)

#### HSLS Workshop
- "Innovation Your Steering: SBIR/ STTR Bases;" Noah Syben, Inter-Phase Materials Pgh. Life Sciences Genome, 4524 Sibey St., South Side, 11 am (www.sac.pitt.edu/pinnet/)

#### Molecular Biophysics/Structural Biology Seminar
- "Polymer Enhanced Biomacromolecular Symptoms," Alan Russell, CMU; 1101 BST, 11 am

#### Epilepsy Seminar
- "Psychosocial Stress & Asthma;" Jean Geddes; G25 Purnan, noon

#### VC Laureate Lecture
- "Cell Memory & Exhaustion: Implications for Cancer Immuno-therapy;" Rafi Ahmed, Emory; Scale lecture rm 6, noon

#### Innovation Week Panel Discussion
- "Model, Architecture & Application: What Is Oursheds Quantum Mechanics?" David Wallace; UOE; 817BL, 3:30 pm (www.pitt.pitt.edu/pinnet/)

#### Alumni Assn. Dinner/Theatre Performance
- Dinner, UClub, 6 pm; "Hair;" Chair: Ronald Theile; Site (aturdaytheile.com)

#### Robert Sutherland Lord Memo- rial Concert
- Church, organist; Heinz Chapel, 8 pm

### Wednesday 23

#### Football
- Vs. Duke; Heinz Field, North Side, 3 pm

#### Monday 21

### SHRS/Communication Science & Disorders
- "The Effects of a Device Mediated Lingual Strengthening Protocol on Radiation & Chemora- diation Induced Dysphagia;" Natalie Braun; Nov. 11, 404 Forbes Twr., 1 pm

### SHRS/Coultter TPII Awards for Trans- lational Research
- Deadline for letter of intent is 5 pm-Nov.15 (www.engage.pitt.edu/coulter/)

### Exhibits

### Deadline
- Goule TPII Awards for Trans- lational Research
- Deadline for letter of intent is 5 pm-Nov.15 (www.engage.pitt.edu/coulter/)
- Heinz Chapel Choir Tour Fund- raiser
- Deadline for donations is Dec. 31. (www.engage.pitt.edu/proj ect/2700)