Faculty Assembly votes down revised relationship policy

Faculty Assembly acknowledged improvements in a revised University draft policy on consensual relationships, but again rejected the proposed policy, which included provisions that some argued could put faculty at risk of baseless accusations or administrative abuse.

Existing University policy (Policy 02-04-03) prohibits intimate relationships between a faculty member and a student whose academic work, teaching or research is being supervised or evaluated by the faculty member. The purpose of the policy (http://www.utesmes.pitt.edu/documents/revised_draft_consent_policy.pdf) would expand that ban to prohibit relationships between staff and students and would prohibit supervisors from initiating consensual relationships with employees under their area of responsibility.

Of most concern at Faculty Assembly was a provision concerning relationships with students that stated: “Consensual relationships that harm the academic atmosphere, undermine professionalism, or hinder the fulfilment of our academic mission are also prohibited, even if there is no supervision or evaluation involved.”

A motion to endorse the policy failed Tuesday in a 19-12 vote with two abstentions.

At its October meeting, the Assembly, without voting, took issue with perceived gaps and nebulous language in an earlier, lengthier draft presented by Laurie J. Kirsch, vice provost for faculty affairs, development and diversity. (See Oct. 13 University Times.)

Kirsch said of a provision that would have created a committee that also revised Piet’s updated sexual misconduct policy (as Sept. 1 University Times), returned to the Assembly with a new draft consensual relationships proposal that clarified and clarified the policy’s language, removed punitive-sounding wording and eliminated redundancies and portions already covered under other policies and procedures.

Noting that some in the University community “strongly believe there should be a complete ban on faculty-student relationships,” Kirsch said the proposal represented a compromise.

“It’s a compromise, but the revised policy is true to core principles that we share: Trusting and respectful relationships between members of the Pitt community are fundamental to who we are as a University. The well-being of our student population is a primary concern and of utmost importance to us as a community.”

Assembly member Chris Bonnano of political science, who serves on the University Senate tenure and academic freedom committee, commended Kirsch’s committee for the revisions, but said the new policy would expand that ban to prohibit relationships between staff and students and would prohibit supervisors from initiating consensual relationships with employees under their area of responsibility.

“Of most concern at Faculty Assembly was a provision concerning relationships with students that stated: ‘Consensual relationships that harm the academic atmosphere, undermine professionalism, or hinder the fulfillment of our academic mission are also prohibited, even if there is no supervision or evaluation involved.’”

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He suggested requiring a material evidence of disruption rather than mere ephemeral perception of disruption or harm to the academic environment to better protect faculty.

“I don’t think anybody here has any issue with the need to protect students,” said Bircher, past president of the Senate, chair of the Senate bylaws and procedures committee and a TAFC member. “Nobody’s debating protecting students. It’s just that the policy is too vague to protect against administrative abuse.”

Kristin Kantah of political science commented, “Consensual relationships between faculty and students of faculty and staff don’t always look one particular way.”

Kantah, whose husband earned a degree at Pitt using her faculty-spousal status benefit, said the policy could deter spouses from attending Pitt. “What do we do?”

In a Nov. 29 message to University employees, Cheryl Johnson, vice chancellor for Human Resources, stated that Pitt positions that were to move from exempt to non-exempt would remain unchanged pending resolution of the injunction. However, employees who were notified of salary changes related to the pending FLSA rule changes will see those raises as promised, Johnson’s Nov. 29 memo stated.

Some employees whose pay was near the proposed threshold received pay increases in order to remain exempt. About 600 full-time postdoctoral associates and scholars, research associates and research faculty were among about 700,000 Pitt employees whose salaries were adjusted to the $47,476 threshold, said Steve Ferber, assistant vice chancellor, Human Resources.

The last-minute timing of the injunction forced speedy decisions on how to respond. Ferber said University leaders, in consultation with peer schools, weighed the options.

“There isn’t a good answer,” he said, noting that different institutions arrived at different solutions. Some put all changes on hold; others implemented them all as planned, he said. About 40 percent of the schools the University consulted with aligned with Pitt’s decision, he said.

It’s unclear when the federal issue may be resolved. The U.S. Department of Labor appealed the judge’s decision Dec. 1 and is seeking an expedited hearing.

If that review isn’t set in motion before the Republican administration takes office, the proposed rule could be altered or abandoned.

“The bottom line is nobody knows. We’re in uncharted waters here,” said Ferber.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
Help for basic science researchers

Working on basic science research? Pitt’s libraries have specialized services and resources available to the University’s large population of researchers, staff, and graduate and undergraduate students in the basic sciences.

Animal research

Amongst many areas of oversight, the Pitt institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC) ensures that researchers are compliant with the Department of Agriculture Animal Welfare Act, including USDA policy 12. This policy requires that investigators consider alternatives to procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress to research animals. The USDA considers the performance of database searches and analysis of articles an efficacious means for demonstrating compliance with this requirement. Sample literature searches can be found on the IACUC policy web page. Literature searches can be found on the IACUC policy web page. Literature searches can be found on the IACUC policy web page. Literature searches can be found on the IACUC policy web page. Literature searches can be found on the IACUC policy web page. Literature searches can be found on the IACUC policy web page.

Data analysis

Since 2002, the HSLS Molecular Biology Information Service (MBIS) has taken a four-pronged approach to helping biomedical researchers with their data analysis needs.

• A website with information about services, classes and access to bioinformatics resources and tools.
• Bioinformatics consultations with researchers at all levels, including undergraduates.
• Access to major bioinformatics databases, software tools and recommended tools for each step.
• Submissions to the “Post-election Thoughts” in Pitt Times.

We have, especially in this academic year, proudly and publicly affirmed a set of core values that will help guide our actions when we are inevitably faced with unfortunate incidents, uncomfortable situations and tough and hard choices. While these may be among our core values, they also are at the root of the social confrontations threatening us all. My hope is that we will be able to see that the strength of our commitment to protest are fundamental to who we are and what we do. All of us—students, staff, faculty and administrators—must find our appropriate roles and responsibilities.

The primary function of any public university is the production and dissemination of knowledge. This is where we teach, do research and serve our publics. This should be the place where open and principled debates about competing ideas are encouraged and modeled. If Pitt ceases to be such a place, out of fear of political punishment or further reductions in federal and state funding, our country’s social fabric will be further torn. If enough universities abdicate their responsibilities, the damage may become irreparable. It is probably easier for most of us to be quiet and let speech do than to do the same for actions. Although I actively challenge them, I can still defend the right of white supremacists and fascists to operate out of the shadows, but I cannot counter and even punish them, and there are usually an abundance of existing laws and rules to draw upon to do that. Activity protesting existing laws, rules and dominant norms really puts us to the test, however. We know that important social and political changes have occurred at least in large measure from collective protest actions, sometimes intentionally illegal ones. Sometimes this turns out poorly, but some of our most important advances also have come from this kind of boundary shifting. This is risky business, but a risk worth taking and protecting.

Pitt has seen plenty of protests in recent times. When they are directed outward—opposing war, or crime and violence in our communities—we have little to fear from peaceful or even noisy protest. More problematic is when the protests of competing causes are at issue—say over abortion or the Israel/Palestine divide. Here again Pitt’s libraries have been able to support public understanding and unity with out choosing sides. Most challenging of all, however, is when the protests are directed against the University and its existing policies itself—whether we should cut our campus, divert from fossil fuel corporations, implement a $15 hourly minimum wage, or lower tuition because student debt is too high. It is likely that all of these will be points of contention at some time.

If we have affirmed that a core institutional value of the University is the production and dissemination of knowledge, then Pitt Libraries have been able to provide access to major bioinformatics databases, software tools and related educational outreach.

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Technology Corner

Jeffrey Rhoades
Services and Solutions

Office 365 comes to Pitt

One of the Faculty and staff benefits of being at the University is being able to access a range of software for both professional and personal use. Office 365 is moving fully to Office 365 as part of its unified communication efforts, that benefit to you has expanded to include powerful set of cloud services and, for many people, the ability to install the full versions of Microsoft Office 2016 on up to five computers.

Office 365 features online versions of familiar Microsoft applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook), as well as cloud storage and a suite of other applications. This online access means you can work without having Office installed on your computer and independent of your operating platform.

New applications currently associated with Office 365 include OneDrive, Office 365 Groups, Delve, SharePoint Online, Skype for Business, OneNote, Forms, Planner, Video, Class Notebook and Staff Notebook.

Office 365: Email — and more

Office 365 email is a cloud-based version of the My Pitt Email service and provides 50 GB of email storage, constantly updated; new features; and additional integration with other Office 365 tools.

Pitt students have used the Office 365 platform for two years; by the end of January, all University email boxes will be moved to Office 365. CSSD staff are working closely with departments throughout this process to ensure a smooth transition.

What will you notice once your Pitt email account is on Office 365?

• Easier scheduling. For many of us, finding a good meeting time is one of University life’s greater challenges. With Office 365 for Pitt email, you and your faculty and staff can now use FindTime, which shows the days and times that work best for you and your colleagues. Based on those results, participants can then vote for proposed times, allowing the group to come to a consensus. Once that time is selected, FindTime can send the meeting invitation on your behalf.

• Coordinated group email work. Office 365 Groups is another useful tool within the Office 365 version of My Pitt Email. Office 365 Groups works in the Office 365 applications that you already use to allow easy collaboration when working on documents and sending email in a group setting.

With Office 365 Groups, you can create an email distribution list that includes a shared document library, notebook and planning tool. These added features allow your group to store and easily access files, take meeting notes and organize/assign tasks among members of the group.

Additional applications

Office 365 provides other new ways to collaborate:

• Store files on OneDrive, where you can share those files internally or externally and work together simultaneously on the same document. Your Office 365 account comes with 5-terabyte of cloud storage using OneDrive, and you can increase storage as much as needed.

• Files stored in your associated OneDrive account can be accessed anywhere in the world at any time from many different types of devices.

• Coordinate projects with a SharePoint site. SharePoint Online allows students, faculty and staff to create collaborative websites that can be used share files, assign tasks, write blogs and much more.

• Each person at the University has a personal My Site on SharePoint and the Office 365 Group applications can be requested for a department, team or project. For instance, the search committee for the new director of the University Library System used SharePoint to make the CVs of its candidates available to everyone at the University.

Bonus perk: Office Pro Plus

Also available with Office 365 is Office Pro Plus. As mentioned earlier, this allows members of the University community to install the full versions of Microsoft Office 2016 on up to five computers and provides access to Office’s mobile applications on Android and iOS.

Access to Office Pro Plus requires a license. The University has negotiated a site license that authorizes all students and teaching faculty to access the entire suite of Office 365 web applications at no individual cost. In addition, non-teaching faculty and staff who are members of a department research have the ability to purchase an annual subscription to the Microsoft campus agreement can use the Office Pro Plus features.

Getting started

To log in and start using Office 365 at Pitt — or to get more information about the service — visit office365.pitt.edu. Please connect to your Office 365 here or dive into more specific information about applications like SharePoint and OneDrive. As new Office 365 applications are released, we’ll include information about them here, too.

If you have questions about Office 365 and would like to share your experience with using any of its functions, please let me know (jeffreyrhoades@pitt.edu).

Jeff Rhoades is a service owner in Computing Services and Systems Development (CSSD) who is prepared to admit to an inquiry stage be recorded for a “friendly, inclusive, safe, and for a “friendly, inclusive, safe, diverse and student-focused academic environment” after faculty observed that some students felt safe on campus, but not as safe in the community.

“I think it’s really important for us to put these messages out there for all to see, not just within our own community but those connected to Pitt,” he said.

Agreed Wilson. “While we grapple with the idea of an institutional statement of core values, I think that it’s worthwhile and may be necessary for individual units and schools within the University to be having this discussion themselves.”

Faculty Assembly’s next meeting is set for 3 p.m. Jan. 17 in 2700 Peters Hall.

—Kimberly K. Barlow

Volunteers needed for Christmas at Pitt event

Volunteers are needed for the 10th annual Christmas Day at Pitt dinner. The event is the largest in the region, more than 2,000 meals are expected to be served to those in need.

Volunteers should register for only one shift. If family members work together, each member must be registered individually. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old.

Volunteers should register at https://www.eventbrite. com/e/volunteer-for-36-hours-of-care-for-those-in-need-2016-volunteer-registration-regis- 129828329286.7

Donations sought

Community and Governmental Relations is accepting and coordinating the holiday gift drives through Dec. 15.

New hats, gloves, scarves and socks are being collected for distribution to those in need, including attendees at the Christmas Day at Pitt celebration.

Donations can be dropped off at the Office of Community and Governmental Relations round office on Forbes Avenue and at the Alumni; Benedum; Cathedral of Learning; Craig; Eureeka; Hillman Library; reaction Center; Park Plaza; Petersen; Public Safety; Scaife; Thackeray; Thomas Boulevard; Pitzer; University Store on Fifth; and William Pitt Union.

Donations can also be chosen to select items online using the University’s Amazon wish list (www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist?ie=UTF8&cid=A3PTVMJ411TSTS).

Donations for Pitt’s holiday gift drive provide a gift to each child attending Christmas Day at Pitt. Gifts should have a retail value of $20-25 and are wrapped as a holiday present, with the child’s age and gender tag visibly secured.

Contact Office of Community and Governmental Relations to arrange for a departmental pick up, or drop gifts off at 715 Forbes Avenue.

The Staff Association Council’s fall food drive, which runs through Dec. 19, will benefit students through the Pitt Pantry.

The food items needed are deodorant, shampoo, toilet paper, toothpaste, soap, pasta sauce, breakfast items, rice, boxed potatoes, healthy snacks, veggie beans, peanut butter and jelly.

Contact Deb Whitfield at dwb54@pitt.edu to arrange for a pickup of donations.

Office 365 app launcher

Participation policy voted down

(Continued from Page 1)

Continued from Page 1
Each year they come, choosing Pittsburgh as their winter vacation destination. Thousands of American crows, having spent the summer in the north, descend in late October in cawing, swirling masses before scattering in February and March to nest farther north.

“It’s a fantastic sight,” said biological sciences faculty member Tony Bledsoe, who has grown accustomed to seeing the annual visitors settle into treetops and rooftops near the Clapp-Linley-Crawford complex.

Crows are social creatures. They live in small groups during the breeding season, which begins in March, but in fall they gather in large roosts. Pittsburgh has a resident crow population, but at this time of year it also is a destination for flocks of migrant birds from Canada, New York and Ohio.

Bird expert Kate St. John equated the gathering to a huge winter beach vacation for the birds. Crow families come with teenagers and little ones in tow — the previous year’s hatchlings help raise the next year’s brood. And, for one to two weeks prior to the spring breeding season, this is the place to meet, said St. John, author of the Birds Outside My Window blog.

Intelligent and tenacious, crows tend to roost in the same areas year after year. They can live 10-20 years, so “there are crows in the crowd that remember, crows that know,” St. John said.

She counted about 4,000 crows in a four-block area near Fifth and Bellefield avenues in early November, last year’s Christmas bird count found more than 25,000 crows in the city of Pittsburgh.

Migrant crows in recent decades have increasingly begun favoring urban roosts, which are a little warmer than the surrounding countryside, said Bledsoe. Well-lit areas with large trees offer protection from crows’ chief natural predators, the horned owl, also an enemy of peregrine falcons.

Although the crows and the peregrines share a common enemy, the two usually don’t interact with each other. The raptors that nest atop the Cathedral of Learning “typically don’t bother with things below the 20th floor,” Bledsoe said. And the crows will have departed before Pitt’s peregrines begin their nesting.

Exactly why the crows choose Oakland isn’t known, but some years they’ve targeted Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall; other years they’ve chosen Runkin Avenue as their hub, Bledsoe said.

This year, the scene is being played out along Fifth Avenue, where the crows have converged by the hundreds in the tall oaks that border the Cathedral of Learning lawn.

They Adams predate, fanning out across a 10-15-mile radius to feed. Toward nightfall they reconvene, squawking and swirling before settling into the treetops — just as evening commuters are departing Oakland.

If they follow form, they soon will move on to roost in the vicinity of Polish Hill and the Strip District before they head home in spring, Bledsoe said.

For some, the crows can’t be gone soon enough.

While they pose no danger — they don’t attack humans nor are they considered a vector or reservoir for disease that can spread to humans — their droppings foul sidewalks, buildings and vehicles.

“IT’s not really bad unless you’re under the roost when they come at night or when they leave in the morning,” said Bledsoe. They tend to “lighten the load” before taking flight, St. John said.

This year the crows also have taken up residence in the trees near Heinz Chapel, where they’ve created a smelly, slippery mess. Heinz Chapel director Pat Gibbons is perturbed.

“It’s a terrible time for this,” she said, citing a busy schedule including tonight’s Chancel- lor’s holiday concert — as well as weddings, rehearsals, tours, music lessons and worship services on the calendar this month.

Her plea — “I didn’t want to have to be the one to have to deal with a bride whose dress had been dipped in it” — have brought Facilities Management to the rescue. They’ve been power washing the pavements, handrails and bus shelters — “Everything that’s under the birds” — several times a day, and plan to rent a small street cleaning machine to help clear the sidewalks, said Dan Fisher, assistant vice chancellor for operations and maintenance.

The University isn’t the only institution that’s become a destination for crows. At the state Capitol complex in Harrisburg, where roosting crows have been a nuisance for decades, Capitol police have been firing exploding shotgun shells to scare off, but not harm, the birds.

And Penn State announced that it would shoot pyrotechnic bangers and screamers to scare off roosting crows. According to a Nov. 9 media release, some 3,000 migrating crows roosted on Penn State’s main campus last year.

According to the Penn State Extension’s guide to managing urban crow roosts, pyrotechnics, distress calls, low-powered lasers, fogging agents and effigies are among the non-lethal harassment tactics that may encourage crows to roost elsewhere.

Pitt has been using a sound system in an effort to encourage the birds to move on. The record- ing, which includes sounds of the horned owl and of birds in distress, aims to make the crows uncomfortable enough to leave, Fisher said.

The unit is moved every day or two, and its start and stop times vary. “We have to keep mixing it up because they learn the patterns quickly,” he said.

Fisher said Pitt began using the recording several years ago with success, after consulting with the National Aviary. This year, however, the spooky sounds seem to be more disturb- ing to unsuspecting humans than to the birds. “This year they don’t seem to be moving,” Fisher said. “We need to continue to disrupt them.”

Fisher said there are no plans to fire any pyrotechnics here, but the loud sounds of fireworks may be added to the arsenal of recordings, and more machines may be added, since the birds seem unwilling to go.

St. John said dissuading the crows early is key: “It’s harder to roost them out once they’ve become comfortable in a place.”

—Kimberly R. Barlow
Pitt’s entrepreneurial activity should include social enterprise, Vice Provost for Research Mark Redfern told faculty in closing remarks at the second annual Academically-Based Community Engagement (ABCE) Idea Exchange.

The Dec. 1 event, hosted by the University Honors College, the Office of Publicity and the Office of Community and Governmental Relations, showcased current community engagement work and focused on plans for community engagement centers that will support partnerships among the University and groups in local neighborhoods. (See Sept. 29 University Times.)

“We’ve got an Innovation Institute. They’re looking at entrepreneurial activity from a commercial standpoint and for entrepreneurial activity from a social standpoint,” Redfern said, citing the many disciplines represented at the idea exchange.

The University is close to naming an assistant vice chancellor for community engagement who will oversee the neighborhood-based centers. The new AVEC is expected to be in place by January, said Paul Supowitz, vice chancellor for Community and Governmental Relations. The five centers will be planned for the Hill District and Homewood, but up to five could be established, Supowitz said.

Redfern cited a report that emerged from last year’s ABCE idea exchange (See Oct. 15, 2015, University Times) and action within the University Senate, in alignment with Pitt’s strategic plan and with ongoing discussion within the administration, as motivators for the establishment of the centers.

“I’m really pretty excited about what can happen with these centers,” Redfern said. “When you do things like this, if it’s right, it resonates up.”

Faculty have the opportunity to create interdisciplinary partnerships to facilitate community-based work.

“The key is not just to have a community-based research. We have to be bringing people together who can work across disciplines to be able to something in the community,” he said.

With the idea exchange, the advisory council for Pitt’s community engagement centers (CECs) sought faculty input on their community engagement work and how the centers might be used.

Roundtable discussions focused on three areas:

• The physical and structural features that need to be included in the CECs in order to facilitate faculty members’ community-based research.

• What community partners need to know about the way faculty conduct community-based research — what can and cannot be done in such projects.

• The challenges that may need to be overcome or avoided in the new CECs.

Input from the discussion will be compiled into a report that the advisory council will share with Pitt’s administration.

Faculty members Mackey Friedman of public health, Jackie Smith of sociology and John Wallace of social work, business and sociology, shared their perspectives in a panel discussion on research partnerships within the community.

Friedman, principal investigator of Project Silk, which provides a community space for young adult LGBT people of color, pointed out that the communities Pitt researchers work with aren’t all geographically based, but can be communities of marginalized individuals.

He encouraged researchers to recognize the knowledge that exists within those communities and supplement it, rather than going into a community with the approach that the researchers are the experts with all the solutions.

“We do have some knowledge and it’s great that we develop that and we can share that knowledge and convey it, but that knowledge does not ever supersede the community’s knowledge,” Friedman said.

“Solutions do not typically come from university researchers who are philosophizing from their offices. They come from the community. It’s our job to foment and generate that information and help communities channel that power and energy and solutions into effective responses,” he said.

He cited the HIV/AIDS epidemic as an example. “It’s important to recognize the response to HIV/AIDS didn’t come first from the government or from the medical establishment per se, or the research establishment,” he said. “It came from the affected communities who were pressing for better research, for more funding, for a response that was appropriate to the devastation of the epidemic.”

In keeping with the fact that the community response is the best response, he said it’s important to develop leadership systems within the community. “Pit in when you can and when you can help but more importantly establish an infrastructure so communities can take over these projects,” he said.

“Build the infrastructure of the community so they can take your job,” Redfern said.

Effective community-based research is time-consuming, said Smith, whose research focuses on social movements and globalization.

“It really requires a long-term commitment to being deeply involved in practice. We can’t just parachute in and do research with the group for a few months, or a few years even,” she said.

“We need to think less about instrumental goals that we usually bring to our research and really think more in terms of building relationships. It means scheduling meetings at times that are difficult and being open to the kind of demands that working with people take. We can’t take the kind of time-bound approaches we do in much of our other work,” she said.

In addition, “we need to be open about the outcomes and the directions that this work will take us,” she said.

Smith said her work on Pittsburg’s Human Rights City Alliance, an initiative to use human rights as a framework for community governance, has taken her in some unexpected directions. “I never imagined that I would be working on housing,” she said.

“I’ve spent a lot of time getting up to speed on areas of public policy that really have nothing to do with anything I’d worked on before. But that’s what’s going to be the work as a really important area of focus,” she said.

Although she was led by people within the community to take up the issue, the direction has benefited her own scholarship.

“Now in sociology there’s much more discussion of global processes related to housing. So now I’m better prepared to engage in those debates on a professional level as well,” Smith said.

“It’s been a mutually beneficial relationship but one that follows the conventional approaches that people take to doing research.”

Scarce resources pose a challenge. In addition to time challenges, money and administrative resources are limited, especially if you’re doing politically transformative work, she said.

It can be difficult to find volunteers. “People are busy; their jobs are more insecure and they spend more time in them. There aren’t enough faculty and people don’t do this work,” she said.

Students may be more focused on careers than acting as change agents.

“Get very difficult to convince people to take their scarce time and devote it to these projects. But if we want a better city and a better community, we need to get people involved in the projects of transformation like the Human Rights City project,” she said.

“With us as scholars to teach our students that there are ways to make a difference in the world, that’s a big deal,” said Wallace, who works within the Homewood community.

Students in the School of Social Work’s community-based participatory research course have had field placements in community-based organizations in the Hill District and Homewood.

“We’ve done research projects out of that class that have been turned into dissertations and published work,” Wallace said.

He encouraged faculty to seek grants funding for their community engagement work. “You do research, and train your students, and offer them a different kind of experience in the life of a kid — how powerful is that?” he said.

“Research is great, but if we don’t work with aren’t the communities that are concerns in the Homewood, we can’t do this work,” she said.

“People are busy, administrative resources are limited, reiterated Wallace, who has concerns that the school’s property and real estate ownership because they are concerns in the Homewood community.

Positive relationships between the University, the city and the community are important in facilitating the work, which benefits researchers, students and the community.

The opportunities are varied — ranging from a college in high school program at Westinghouse High School to the Everyday Cafe, a new coffeehouse that not only offers coffee but with a “third place” beyond home and work, but to play a role in revitalizing the community.

The University has established PACS — Pitt-Assisted Community Schools (pacs) — to coordinate service work in the neighborhood.

Supowitz stressed: “Something has to either make you cry or has to make you angry,” said Wallace. “If it does neither of those, then it’s just a research project.

“Unless you’re serious about the work and willing to spend years doing the work, leave it alone,” he advised.

— Kimberly K. Barlow
In 2016, did you:

- Write a book?
- Edit a journal?
- Produce a play, CD or film?
- Exhibit art?
- Publish a musical composition?

Tell us about it!

A few important guidelines:
- Furnish information on peer-reviewed books, journals, CDs, electronic publications, art exhibitions, films, plays or musical compositions written, edited or produced during 2016 only.
- Books must have a 2016 copyright.
- We cannot include individual journal articles, short stories, poems, book chapters or self-published works.
- Submission deadline is January 31.
- Questions? Contact utimes@pitt.edu

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“It’s not as if we are seeing information that is helpful and going to move a project forward”

How to be polite, persuasive & avoid being its prisoner

Pitt plans to shift some of its debt from tax-exempt bonds to taxable bonds early next year in a move that will save millions of dollars in interest costs and free the University from some of the federal shackles that conflict with its strategic goal of expanding commercial partnerships.

The Board of Trustees, through its budget and executive committees, on Wednesday authorized the University’s chief financial officer and, or treasurer to oversize the issuance and sale of taxable bonds for the purpose of refinancing as much as $614 million in outstanding tax-exempt bonds.

Background materials provided to the board committee stated: “By refunding the outstanding bonds with taxable debt, the University is able to reduce the costs of federal tax compliance, and eliminate ongoing ‘nonqualified’ restrictions applicable to certain University property and facilities. The issuance of taxable bonds will also provide the University with greater financial flexibility and permit the University to cultivate a much larger and more diverse investor base.”

Although Pitt has refinanced bonds before, said Senior Vice Chancellor and CFO Arthur G. Rimacine, this is the first time it will refinance tax-exempt bonds into taxable bonds.

Other institutions, including some Ivy League schools, are taking similar action, he said, it’s an attractive time to do it because the spread between the tax-exempt and tax-exempt interest rates has narrowed, making the switch from tax-exempt bonds less attractive.

Although the board authorized negotiations with all of the University’s outstanding tax-exempt bonds, Rimacine said his staff forsy in early January will refund only a portion — approximately $464 million.

Reframing taxable bonds will open the University to a broader range of investors, including non- endowment investors who are unfamiliar with the University, Rimacine noted.

He said his staff plan to spend time over the term break providing information and making themselves available to answer questions from potential investors.

Although the exact amount depends on the market, Rimacine estimated that the University stands to net about $20 million in interest savings by issuing the taxable bonds.

There are other benefits: The tax-exempt bonds require hundreds of hours in staff time each year to be issued and handled. Tax-exempt requirements a portion of the University’s budget would be saved, Rimacine said.

And there’s a benefit that aligns with Pitt’s sustainability goals: By being a partner for impact. Facilities that are funded using the tax-exempt bonds are subject to “no solicitation” use restrictions that prevent them from being used for commercial purposes.

That means buildings such as Benedum Hall, Chevron Science Research Tower, the new student center towers — “all the majors ones we’d collaborate in” — currently can’t have commercial space with commercial partners, he explained.

Kimberly B. Barlow
Long-term staff celebrate milestones

60+ years
Office of the Provost
Jerome Rosenberg – 63

University Center for International Studies
Maxine E. Brubns – 51

School of Medicine
Division Administration
Ethel Ellis – 56

School of Pharmacy
Francis Haberle – 52

50+ years

School of Education
Carole Bost

50 years

School of Education
Carole Bost

40+ years

Business Operations
Thomas Heldkamp – 42
Robert Helfrich – 43
Jean Aiello – 44
David Held – 46
Michael Rosol – 46

Chief Financial Officer
Lily Hoy – 42
Colette Ross – 43
Marian Matecic – 44

College of General Studies
J. Timothy Carr – 41

Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Eleanor Caligiuri – 41
Andrea Fitzgerald – 41
Stanley Paul – 42
Elaine Springel – 42
Collie Henderson – 43
Carol Lynch – 43
Barbara Mowery – 44
W. Richard Howe – 46
Cathleen Barr – 48

Facilities Management
Robert Hill – 41
Gary Kozicki – 42
Richard Veitch – 42
James Eiser – 43
Floyd Clawson – 44
Ercole Muto – 44
Torrin King – 45
Vincent Mazza – 48

Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
Mary Ann Gebet – 42

Graduate School of Public Health
Donald Norrington – 44
Rosemarie Catley – 41
School of Dental Medicine
Christine Chergi – 44
Dianne Drish – 42

40 years

Bradford Campus
K. James Evans

Business Operations
Cindy Concel
Robert Gratzmiller
John Hixon
Linda Lockard
Robert Thomas

Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Leyla Hirschfeld
Nancy Kasper

Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
Joyce Valiquette

Graduate School of Public Health
Lynne Anderson
Gordon Bass
Susan Cotter

Johnstown Campus
Frank Dupnook
Patrick Picora

Katz Graduate School of Business
Gee Chin

Office of the Provost
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Elaine McDonald

School of Dental Medicine
Kim Hemby

School of Information Sciences
Carolyn Loebber

School of Medicine
Marcia Lewis
Arlene Luther
Maria Magone
Sally Tress
Diane Vaughan

Swanson School of Engineering
Chalice Zavada

University Center for Social and Urban Research
Christine Byusly

University Library System
Judith Perri
Rachel Youngman
Long-term staff celebrate milestones

30 years

Institutional Advancement
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Julie Seavy

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Judy Blackburn
Karen Citres
Craig Cresko
Richard Kestelak
Nancy Turner

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Research and Conduct Compliance
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Patricia Heckman

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Lori Burkette

School of Law
Beth Liberatoro

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Melanie Meclain
Jeanette Medew
Mary Lou Meyer
Marie Rose
Lynda Sorech
Jianhua Zhou

School of Medicine Division Administration
Julanne Dufault

School of Nursing
Kathleen Zoldris

Student Affairs
Terry Lucas

Swanson School of Engineering
John Holmes

Tinusville Campus
William Tracy

University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
Lori Miller

20 years

Athletics
Ellen Morrison

Bradford Campus
Rhett Kennedy
Cathy Reiley
Dan Songer

Business Operations
Robert Davis
Robert Emery
Holly Lamb
Kevin Medowll
David Nanz
Thomas Rahuba

Chief Financial Officer
Davinna Eisel

Howard Goodman
Michael Moran
Joanne Ross

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Melvin Watkins

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Michele Monaco
Michele Slogan

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Robert Harman
Mark Kulback
Stephen Lauvalle
Dale Mihalov
Robert O’Malley
Michael Perzel
Richard Vogel

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Darlene Kiniry
Jeffrey Martin
Debra Ralphstein

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Julie Seavy

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Lynnie Koontz
Barbara Osman
Karl Salesi

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Harold Brady
Dennis Funzi
Christina Hay
Dorothy Hollic
Ray Jones
Terrence Meconnell
Roy Raggieri
William Ryder
Curtis Schmidt

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Bruce Saltzman

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School of Nursing
Kathleen Zoldris

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John Holmes

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University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
Lori Miller

Graduate School of Public Health
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Elizabeth Lawrence
Helen Vlachos

Greensburg Campus
Patricia Burkle
Patricia Lamantia
Della Olsosky
Elizabeth Tiedemann

Institutional Advancement
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Beverly Sherwood-Burns
Christian Stumpf

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Donna Kauer
Kelly Young

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Jon Wichmann

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Lisa Bopp
Virginia Buckwalter
Dean Duncan

Colleen Farrell
Xiaoping Hu
Dianna Koomtz
Thomas Prigg
Maitreyee Sahu

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Keshia Coleman
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Selena Crawford
William Fitzgerald
Jeffrey Hoyk
Charles Mccann
Lori Pickel
Susan Stokes
Bryan Thompson
Bruce Walker

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Frank Pokrywka

Senior Vice Chancellor Health Sciences
Misti Kane

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Herbert Hamlin
William Wallace

University Center for International Studies
Michele Heryford
Stephen Lund

University Library System
Sara Herr

University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
Beatrice Kantelewicz

Among those marking their 40th anniversaries this year as Pitt staff members were, left to right: Christine Byerly; University Center for Social and Urban Research; K. James Evans, Bradford campus; and Kim Hemby, School of Dental Medicine.

Photos by Mike Drazdzinski/Photographic Services
Long-term staff celebrate milestones

10 years

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Melissa Craig
Wendy Meyers

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Tanya Ackley
Kimberly Boyer
Jessica Kramer
Donald Neel
Lindsay Retchless

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Nicole Barrett-Acre
Andy Brown
Lauren Catarinella
Russell Crawford
Jarese Dowrell
Craig Fraser
Marc Garrison
Patrick Hefley
Cynthia Hewitt
Mark Hughes
Paul Janetka
Jefferson Johnson-Bey
Leonard Lang
James Lewis
Bryan Luers
Daniel Martin
Christine Mickowski
Tracey Moir
J. Quentin Parker
John Polinsky
Justin Beck
Richard Roberts
Gary Scales
Kevin Stiles
Christine Torquato
Mark Towne

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Melanie Ash
Jodey Blevins
William Duke
Patricia Falco
Patricia Filipiak-Kirch
Robert Heoter
Margaret Jazczenko
Stephanie Jones
Lisa Joseph
Rushuna Khan
Sandra LaQuatra
Julia Manns
Peter Meyer
Tammy Murray
Barbara Turte
Thomas Youngs

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Nanjo Besagarahalli
Cranston Boyd
Sean Brooks
Catherine Collins
David Dudgeon
Sexton Hanna
Paul Strope
Timothy Williams
Barbara Zupcic

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Susan Dittrich
Elizabeth Gallick
Karen Lillie
Laura McCarthy-Blatt
Lori Nea
Corinne Schneider

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Franceski Cooper
Mark Dougherty
Wanda Dwire
James Guttridge
Karen Baum
Suzanne McIntosh
Amanda Reed
Robert Timalak
Christina Yacynych
Loretta Zerby

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Kristy Bronder
James Cronin
Jody Federley

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Nancy James
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Christopher Byland
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Emila Farmiere-Ribel
William Hinson
Paula Janikowski
Teresa Kennedy-Coak
Marjorie Martin
Cedric Narciso
Beth Nash
Lauren Panetti
John Radzilowicz
Guy Serrapere
Lisa Spano
Damon Wehrli
Alexis Wolf
Carolyn Zimmermann

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Judith Navratil

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David Hiroski
Jennifer Maurer
Michelle Regan

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Kelsey Cole
Janell Smith Jones
Kenneth Smythe Leitico

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Corinne Grubb
Jessica Maguire
Maria Michelle

School of Information Sciences
Shabana Reza
Olana Shearin

School of Law
Alexandra Linsenmeyer

School of Medicine
Timothy Bachman
Emil Bauer
Karen Baum
Lisa Basendell
Pamela Beatty
Ian Bennett
Rosemary Bolinger
Michael Burcham
Chang-Hyoock Byon
In Ja Byon
Lucy Caforo
Moya Carrier
Jeffery Cherig
Grace Crawford
Robert Crawford
Joyce D’Antonio
Katherine Davoli
Trina Dillon
Tracy Dixon
Matthew Dushan
Tammy Dsumore
Amry Farrell
Anne England
Lori Fee
Valerie Fulmer
Ryan Giedel
Franca Golfin-Bestello
Carlynn Graves
Maria Hahn
Michael Hannon
Nicole Helbling
Barbara Hilldy
Mei Huver
Janice Johnson
Scott Johnson
Paul Kana
Barbara Kambauer
Cathy Kesinger
Kristen Kindya
Melinda Kleien
Denise Kroll
Todd Langer
Samia Lopa
Annamaria Lyons
Jodi Masse
Cheryl McIntyre
Allison Mckeely
LaToya Mclee
Timothy Mcpartland
Megan Mouih
Cathy Naccarelli
Darren Neely
Gabriela Niazou
Kerry Oddis
Brad Omalley
Anne Orr
Kathy Papciak
Cynthia Pokora
Gina Preciado
Allison Raithel
Celeste Reese
Suzie Shindle
Tong Ying Shun
Jaime Sidani
Ian Smith
Carol Stasik
Mary Stefankic
Nicholas Stellia
Sharon Stover
Siddhajna Stramitnovic
Kevin Topkal
Katherine Traynor
John Trudeau
Daniel Unkel
Kate Valakovich
Mary Walsh

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Genevieve Cook
Anta Gallagher
Michael Walter

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Diane Hughes
Kari Johnson
James Vikartosky

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Heather Hastings
Diana Pappert
Denise Provost
Nadine Ryan
Jian Shu
Yongli Shuai
Melissa Yarkowski

Yujuan Wang
Annie Mae Watson
Annette Witte Cooper
Eric Yahlosky
Aarua Yates
Jianing Yin
Aiyuan Zhang

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Frank Dowling
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Joanna Geting
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Michelle Kienholz
Kellee Kriska
Roberto Santiago
Philip Schumacher
Lata Stevens
Tina Tomko
Li Wang

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Linda Holden
Sara Jo Klein
Jacqueline Simon
Daniel Stump

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Daniel Camarco

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Vincent Burns
Deborah Mock
Rachel Winters

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Brenda Scherling
Denise Thomas
Melissa Warthen
Raymond Yarnot

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Lauren Byrns
Michael McDonald
Yvette Wisher
Kelly Wozniuk

Tentative Curriculum
Tammy Carr
Lisa Maybray

UNIVERSITY TIMES
Long-term staff celebrate milestones

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Damen Ford
Calvin Goodman
Teonna Hall
Shane Hoolahan
Jason Iacono
Kelly Martin
Ernest Osborne
Rolen Taylor
S. Matthew Zaggl

Graduate School of Public Health
Matthew Borkowski
Sarah Brett
Anne Cross
Ryan Cweikus
David Givens
Jennifer Gray
Jennifer Jones
Jason Lyons
Belinda McQuaide
Sara Metz
Adam Orbell
Brandon Smith
Susan Winters

Greensburg Campus
Courtney DeCarlucci
Harry Feals
Paula Fetherlin
Daniel Kelly
Cletus McCovalle

Human Resources
Diane Barmo
Shawn Facini
Christine Ko
Cheryl Petro
Kathryn Ritter
Brook Sizer

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Frederick Retzner
Austin Crull
Amy Mcclovery
Margaret Miller

Johnstown Campus
Joseph Borow
Amy Buxbaum
Ryan Bevock
Karin Wolff

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Mary Helen Hans
Simone Jurinko
Gregory Latshaw
Joseph Piet

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Megan Koleck
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Adam McDowell
Susan Richardson
Kad Saloni III
Jennifer Zghbor

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Maria Feldt
Kelly Mannella
Courtney Wilkes

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Patricia Lehnhardt
Katrina Lootzenhiser
Kelly Maddox
Iris Winter

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Khara James
Kara Kenton

School of Law
Jantosh Gerling
Lot Mcmaster

School of Medicine
Heather Anderson
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April Arnone
Shawn Baker
Robert Barnhart
Kelcie Bornemann
Melissa Birdi
Elke Brown
Dominick Caimano
Danielle Camp
Nadiheba Cantu-Modellin
Callan Carnahan
Gabriella Castaneda
Michael Cichowicz
Paul Clough
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Kathryn Day
Jamie DeRusso
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Sherry Geis
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Christine Johnston
Allan Kapustolov
Christopher Keys
Nikola Klena
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Kara Kranckovsky
Adam Kukic
Linda Kusman
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Kelli Lange
Nicolas Leo
Pat Lewis
Fang Li
Sara Long
Janice Lorenz
Joanna Lowe
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Maureen MacAniff
Jennifer McCoy
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Russell Meyers
Edward Mokos
Nicholas Moors
Karin Murra
Kevin Ngo
Jiyung Nung
Amy Opest
Abraham Orabi
Keri Perotol
Christine Phillips
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Claudia Ramos
del Aguila de Rivers
Mary Randolph
Jonathan Ravenna
Duncan Sargent
Beverly Savage
Diane Schachtner
Janet Schaefer
Wabey Siboloven-Hopson
Katherine Smith
Michele Sobolewski
Dale Szturanski
Matthew Sundermann
Radha Uppala
Kelly Urbanbek
Callen Wallace
Sakana Washington
Torrin Weida
Brandi White
Sahawaat Westarachakht
Holly Whitlam
Charlene Xie
Chrysl Yates
Sarah Zelazny
Anneth Zervins
Toni Ann Zullo

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Theoevsa Demertzis
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Justin Patrick
Amy Perri

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Richard Bond
Andrea Brasili
R. Kenneth Czambel
Kathrine Czambel

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Leah Glaciano
Carlos Guerrero
Louis Lane
Deborah Lauro
Samantha Lauro
Samantha Mielo
Maria O'Connor
Reagan Panday
Cari Popochock
Natalie Schweitzer
Catherine Scott
Joshua Storey
Elizabeth Soble
Rebecca Whalen
Shawn Zunavotic
Delighting in the details

The delight is in the details of the University's Pittsburgh campus architecture.

When we look up — way up — to the heights of the Cathedral of Learning or the spires of Heinz Chapel, we may miss what is really in front of our eyes: the details architects both famous and obscure designed for Pittsburgh campus buildings. Whether built as part of the 1907 Henry Hornbostel 30-building Acropolis plan to create the University’s Oakland campus following its move from the North Side, or acquired later from other local institutions, campus buildings sport gems of ornamentation and construction worth noticing and appreciating.

The University Times asked Pitt photographer Mike Drzdzinski to help us see the details we’re missing in buildings throughout campus. Christopher Drew Armstrong, director of architectural studies, agreed to act as tour guide.

“These buildings incorporate the art,” Armstrong says. In fact, the architects and those who commissioned them “thought of architecture as a fine art ... to enrich your life through its visual impact. These are not architects who are thinking in purely functional terms.”

Most of the Pitt buildings shown here date from before World War II, many from the 1920s, when designers echoed classical forms of Greek and Roman antiquity, and adhered to the City Beautiful movement.

During this time period, “there’s a strong sense among elites, who can commission architecture, that it should be visually enriching,” Armstrong explains. They also hoped to bring American cities up to European standards, seeing the city itself as a work of art — an environment where citizens encounter beauty.

Looking at architecture, we shouldn’t get bogged down trying to figure out which type of plant or species of animal is part of the design, Armstrong cautions. While the creatures and vegetation depicted in stone can sometimes tell a story or prompt us to think of other, more famous structures, “it’s really the contrast in light and shadow,” the pure visual experience, that we are most meant to appreciate.

— Marty Levine

Near the roof of Alumni Hall — built as the Masonic Temple in 1915, at the height of America’s infatuation with classicism — is a design containing few shapes the non-mason is meant to recognize, apart from leaves and vines. In fact the entire building was designed to seem imperceptible and forbidding, Armstrong says, down to its lack of many visible windows. It is the work of Benno Janssen, who designed Bellefield Hall as well as the nearby Pittsburgh Athletic Association and Downtown’s Omni William Penn Hotel. The sculptor’s work is quite fine, Armstrong notes, fitting with Janssen’s application of a classical system that dictated the building’s proportions, down to the space between the column tops and the roof.

This design detail appears around the door of the addition to the Music Building. It copies ornamentation on the original structure, which was designed by H. H. Richardson in 1884 by Longfellow, Alden and Harlow as the home of William J. Holland, minister of Bellefield Presbyterian Church (the church’s original spire, 1891-1901). But Armstrong says it is the masonry around the details that Thebes impresses him. It was built in Richardson Romanesque, named for H. H. Richardson, who designed the Allegheny County Courthouse, and whose work was taken over by this architectural firm upon Richardson’s death. It uses large, roughly finished stone in irregular rectangles, with most windows and doors unframed, producing an image of massive solidity. “They were searching for a kind of American style,” reflecting the vastness of the continent, he says. The few details stand out all the more against such stone.

Arching above the entrance to Bellefield Hall — formerly the Young Men’s and Women’s Hebrew Association, designed by Benno Janssen in 1924 — is a shield with the organization’s initials, a medusa’s head and strap work resembling cut leather. Incised areas, creating shadows within the shield, are designed to create a sense of depth. But the shield and arched portal, in a dull, solid, pale limestone, make the real star of the building stand out even more, Armstrong says: the brickwork. Here, unusually thin, long bricks, ranging from beige to brown-red and grey, are used to create long horizontal visual lines. Pairs of bricks abut with no mortar at regular intervals, to give even more sense of the horizontal, with smaller bricks punctuating the surface in between. Further up, a set of bricks zigzags across the building face. Armstrong calls the effect “subtle and innovative ... I don’t know of anything like this in Pittsburgh. This is very sophisticated.”

The eagle perched atop Eberly Hall is, of course, a very powerful signal of proud Americanism amid all the classical references of this classical structure, designed as Pitt’s original Alumni Hall in 1921 by Benno Janssen. It was a response to a new influx of students being trained on university campuses during World War I, and thus reflects “a self-conscious U.S. triumphalism,” Armstrong says, similar to the Federal Reserve and other government buildings that were built over the next decade in Washington, D.C. Such structures don’t feature standalone columns, but rather more spare, column-like facades. “No finicky fooling around in these buildings,” he says.
Delighting in the details

The details near the top of Thaw Hall were never meant to be seen this close up. The Beaux Arts design of Henry Hornbostel’s 1910 structure — the only one remaining from the Acropolis plan — has details derived from ancient Roman models but which are meant to be seen as larger shapes and shadows, hence the deep undercuts in the design. “This is powerful stuff,” Armstrong says. “He’s understanding that this is a major civic building that is going to be part of a set of buildings.”

Atop Allen Hall, built in 1914, is ornamentation inspired by Roman detailing, since Roman and Greek architecture was seen as “the touchstone of sophistication, elegance and beauty,” Armstrong says. The winged griffins, curling plant tendrils and urns are in a style called the Grotesque. That doesn’t signify any lack of esthetic beauty, he says — rather, it means these images reflect artifacts found in the caves, or grottoes, of ancient Italy and Greece. This example is meant to fit in with Hornbostel’s Acropolis idea of monumental public structures.

Gardner Steel Conference Center hardly stands out at the corner of Thackeray and O’Hara streets, but Armstrong calls its details “amazing.” The building began life in 1912 as home to a German-American social and athletic club, and was designed by German-born Richard Kiehnel, who had set up shop in Morningside in the early 1900s. In contrast to Alumni Hall’s curvy design elements, here the capital ornamentation over the entrance doors is reduced to a series of blocks, resembling Frank Lloyd Wright’s detailing from the same era. Most extraordinary, Armstrong says, are the wave-like shapes repeated across the cornice, at the top of the lintel, which likely derive from the German art nouveau movement, called “jugendstil.” For its time, he says, these details represented “a renewal of design.”

This coin-like low-relief of coal magnate Henry Clay Frick is directly over the front entrance of the Frick Fine Arts Building, commissioned in 1965 as an homage to Frick’s art patronage by his daughter Helen. The portrait medallion is meant to convey the idea that the entire building is a work of art, Armstrong says. “It’s also a way of resuscitating his image, that he was not just a ruthless businessman,” he says of Henry. It was sculpted by Malvina Hoffman, a student of Auguste Rodin, which gave her the same imprimatur Hornbostel received for his Paris studies. Hoffman was later commissioned by the Field Museum of Chicago to sculpt “The Races of Mankind,” once considered a didactic illustration of immutable realities, now a curio from a different age.

Amos Hall is part of Schenley Quadrangle and dates to 1924, when it opened as apartments for the well-off who wanted to live near the city’s cultural institutions, from the Carnegie museums to Schenley Park. Apartment living was then the height of luxury, and the rooftop vase with a ram’s head and grape-leaf motif was meant to signify wine, leisure and the enjoyment of fine things. The building was designed by Hornbostel, who trained in Paris at the Ecole de Beaux-Arts, the premier place in the early 1900s for Americans hoping to become sophisticated designers. “Details like this matter to this architect, because he’s thinking of his building as a complete classical grouping” with nearby residences that also became Pitt buildings eventually, Armstrong points out. Amos Hall was built by developer Franklin Nicola, who also built the Schenley Hotel (now the William Pitt Union). “This was a tony neighborhood, so all of this architecture contributes to that high-quality environment,” Armstrong says.
NIH grants seek better evaluation of patients

Cystic fibrosis (CF) causes the accumulation of dehydrated mucus in the lungs, which can lead to chronic infection, inflammation and respiratory failure and drastically affect the lives of CF patients. These ever-changing complexities often make it difficult for doctors to decide which therapies will be most effective in treating the disease.

To develop better evaluation methods, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded a research team in the Swanson School of Engineering and the School of Medicine a $1.7 million grant to develop new mathematical models of liquid and ion transport in the human lung. These models could allow doctors to rapidly personalize interventions for patients suffering from CF and other lung diseases and administer the most effective treatment by simply studying a cell culture from the patient’s nose.

Robert Parker, chemical and petroleum engineering faculty member in the Swanson school, and Tim Corcoran, faculty member in medicine, bioengineering. Parker, a principal investigator at the School of Medicine, will lead the study as co-principal investigators. The team will investigate whether personalized medicine could be used to direct treatment of the disease.

Parker and Corcoran have been working on a process to create those sets and let us predict outcomes and design treatments for individual patients.”

improvements recommended for children with medical complexity

The study, led by Yadong Wang, the William Kepler Whitfield Professor in Bioengineering and the principal investigator of the Blood Valve Laboratory; and Houtrow, discovered that a single administration of extracellular mactones (ECM) from fetal heart valve has the potential to repair tissue that has been lost among humans and other mammals. Now, a Swanson school research team has expanded the components of the scaffold to include additional proteins, like ECM from patients with similar symptoms who are likely to respond to treatment in a similar way. The mathematical models will help us understand how cells can work together and identify new drug treatments for children with medical complexity.

Mammal hearts regenerate using zebrafish cells

Many lower forms of life on earth exhibit an extraordinary ability to regenerate tissue, limbs and even entire organs. Fish that have lost humans and other mammals. Now, a Swanson school research team has expanded the components of the scaffold to include additional proteins, like ECM from patients with similar symptoms who are likely to respond to treatment in a similar way. The mathematical models will help us understand how cells can work together and identify new drug treatments for children with medical complexity.

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Of the 17,652 study participants, a majority of caregivers were women (83 percent) and most were caring for someone in the final weeks of life (68 percent). The study found that caregivers who received support and education were more likely to report lower levels of stress and anxiety. The study was supported by NIH.

Researchers from Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, the University of Iowa, the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the Academic Pediatric Association also contributed to the study.

Antiocoagulation should be resumed after bleeding

Researchers from the pharmacy, public health and medicine schools have undertaken what they describe as the first meta-analysis of how to treat patients on anticoagulants who suffer a major bleeding event, a condition that can result in serious consequences such as death or even permanent damage. The study emphasizes the idea that anticoagulation improves quality of life for such patients, who don’t receive palliative care.

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**December**

**Thursday 8**

**FSDP Workshop**  
“Understanding Harassment: How to Recognize & Respond,” Kate Popc 342 Craig, 9 am (register: www.hr.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-alt)

**FSDP Workshop**  
“Excel 2013 Quick Start: Charts & Pivot Tables: Level 2,” Vernon Franklin, 302 Bellefield, 10 am (www.hr.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-alt)

**SAC Seminar**  
“Holiday Cultural Traditions,” WPU hallrm., noon (register: www.wpu.pitt.edu)

**Epidemiology Seminar**  
“Design & Implementation of a Sustainable Public Health Program to Combat Malnutrition in Rural Zambia,” Leah Gokte, G23 Parren, noon

**Health Services Research Seminar**  
“Northern Heart Call of Yore: Leveraging the Home in the Era of Health Care Reform,” Alex Fishman, Mt. Sinai, 305 Parkvale, noon

**Friday 9**

**Upcoming Events**  
- *Submit by Jan. 19 for publication.*

**Prower’s Inaugural Lecture**  
“Up to My Eyeballs in Alligators: Adventures in Teaching & Practicing Entrepreneurship,” Eric Buckman, engineering: 2500 Pover, 4 pm

**Bliss Furnace Demo Day**  
O’Hara Student Ctr hallrm., 5 pm

**Saturday 10**

**Pitt Campus Activities**

- **January 5-19**
  - Final exams for undergraduate classes through Jan. 3.
  - Residence halls close.
  - University Office Building closed.
  - **January 19**
    - **January 20**
      - Final exams for undergraduates and those with the last scheduled class meeting.
  - **January 26**
  - **January 30**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through Jan. 28.

**Sunday 11**

**Pitt Campus Activities**

- **January 5**
  - Noon: Classes through January 3.
  - **January 6**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 5.
  - **January 7**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 6.
  - **January 8**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 7.
  - **January 9**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 8.
  - **January 10**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 9.
  - **January 11**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 10.
  - **January 12**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 11.
  - **January 13**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 12.
  - **January 14**
  - **January 15**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 14.
  - **January 16**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 15.
  - **January 17**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 16.
  - **January 18**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 17.
  - **January 19**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 18.
  - **January 20**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 19.
  - **January 21**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 20.
  - **January 22**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 21.
  - **January 23**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 22.
  - **January 24**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 23.
  - **January 25**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 24.
  - **January 26**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 25.
  - **January 27**
  - **January 28**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 27.
  - **January 29**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 28.
  - **January 30**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 29.
  - **January 31**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 30.

**Monday 12**

**For publication**

- **January 5**
  - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 4.
  - **January 6**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 5.
  - **January 7**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 6.
  - **January 8**
    - Noon/midnight: Classes through January 7.
  - **January 9**
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  - **January 31**
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**Tuesday 13**

**FSDP Workshop**  
“Hiring & Supervising Student Employees,” Bill Chadwick, 342 Craig, 9 am (register: www.chp.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-alt)

**Health Services Research Seminar**  
“Integrating Data & Modeling: The Research Strategy of the Public Health Dynamics Laboratory,” Mark Roberts, 305 Parkvale, noon

**Teaching Ctr. Workshop**  
“Maximizing Your Inheritance: Effectively Adapting ‘Inherited’ Course Materials in Your Own Teaching,” 815 Alumni, 1 pm (www.teaching.pitt.edu/workshops/)

**Wednesday 14**

**Clinical Oncology/Hematology Grand Rounds**  
“The Myriad Machinations of Myeloproliferative Syndromes,” Mark Selbes, Cleveland Clinic, Herberman Conf. Ctr. aud. UPMC Cancer Pavillion 2nd fl. 8 am (michael.c.trapp@upmc.com)

**FSDP Workshop**  
“Solving Problems of Ethical Dilemmas,” Ben Magnani, 331 Alumni, 9 am (register: www.hr.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-alt)

**Health Services Research Seminar**  
“RenalFail: A Novel Survival Factor: Roles in Health & Disease,” Fred Gorenkie, Yale, Rangos Research Conf. Ctr., noon

**UPCI Basic & Translational Research Seminar**  
“The Hippo Pathway in Cell Growth, Organ Size Control & Tumorigenesis,” Kun-Liang Guan, UC-San Diego, Hillman Cancer Ctr., Cooper Conf. Ctr. rm. 1102 Scaife, 1 pm (pre.registrations@pitt.edu)

**UPC Alumni Ctr. Workshop**  
“Improving Your Teaching Evaluations,” 815 Alumni, 1 pm (www.teaching.pitt.edu/workshops/)

**Thursday 15**

**FSDP Workshop**  
“Export Controls Fundamentals,” Allen DiPalma, 342 Craig, 9 am (register: www.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-alt)

**SAC CUC Mgr.**  
“137 Ctr., 10 am

**Psychiatry Lecture**  
“Mental Health Problems & Gun Violence: Myths, Expert Opinion & Science,” Rolf Loeber & Liz Ahonen, WPIC asdl., noon (pre.psychoiatry.pitt.edu/events/special lecture-1)

**Friday 16**

**FSDP Workshop**  
“Expert Controls Fundamentals,” Allen DiPalma, 342 Craig, 9 am (register: www.pitt.edu/training-development/faculty-alt)

**Saturday 17**

**Sunday 18**

**Barco Law Library is exhibiting “New Works” by Jeremy Raymer through Feb. 2**
Wednesday 21
Critical Care Medicine Grand Rounds
"ICU Telemedicine," Ricardo A. Mouser; 1106SB Scalfie, noon

Tuesday 3
• All University offices & buildings reopen.

Wednesday 4
Critical Care Medicine Grand Rounds
"International Critical Care," Robert Fowlke, U of Toronto; 1106SB Scalfie, noon

Teaching Ctr. Workshop
"Help! My Blackboard Course Is a Mess," B26 Alumni; 2 pm (www.teaching.pitt.edu/workshops/)

Thursday 5
• Spring term enrollment period ends for all students.
• Spring term classes begin.

Teaching Ctr. Workshop
"Introduction to Blackboard," B26 Alumni; 10 am (www.teaching.pitt.edu/workshops/)

DEFENDERS
A&S/Hispanic Languages & Literatures
"A Drama of Violent Stories: Reading the Peninsularity of Ciudad Juarez as Narratives," Roberto Corro de Torres; Dec 8, 5:00 Simon Sq, noon

PSYCHIATRIC ANNIVERSARY LECTURES IN AUTOMATED CONTROL SYSTEMS INTERVENTION EFFECTIVENESS

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) selected industrial engineering faculty member Joel Haight of the Swanson School of Engineering as its 2016 Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) for the Engineering Practice Speciality. The SPY awards recognize ASSE members who have helped advance the occupational safety, health and environmental protection through exemplary volunteer service to the society and to their respective practice specialty during the ASSE calendar year. There are 16 categories of practice specialties for the SPY awards, including engineering, and the ASSE chooses winners from its 37,000 members nationwide. Haight has been a member of ASSE since 1985. He chairs the research committee for the ASSE Foundation and is a member of its board of trustees. He joined Pitt’s industrial engineering faculty in 2013. He previously was chief of the human factors branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Pittsburgh Office of Mine Safety and Health, where he managed 35-40 researchers in the areas of ergonomics, cognitive engineering, human behavior and training. Haight also served for nearly 10 years as a faculty member in energy and mineral engineering at Penn State and previously worked at Chevron Corp. His research interests include health and safety management systems, intervention effectiveness measurement and optimization and human performance measurement in automated control system design.

—Compiled by K. Barlow

Pitt-Bradford Police Chief Dan Songer chats with UPB student Sidney Peralta.

P E O P L E   O F   T H E   T I M E S
Swanson School of Engineering faculty members Kyle Bibby and Leanne Gilbertson, of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, were among 17 engineering and science faculty from around the world recognized with Environmental Science & Technology’s 2016 ES&T Excellence in Review Awards. Environmental Science & Technology is a biweekly peer-reviewed scientific journal of the American Chemical Society. It covers research in environmental science and technology, including environmental policy. The awards were established in 2003 to honor individual scientists who have contributed, in a substantive way, to the advancement of these areas of science. The awards were created to recognize the efforts of exceptional reviewers who somehow found time in their busy schedules to review multiple papers and share deep insights with us.

These are the people who have helped advance the occupational safety, health and environmental protection through exemplary volunteer service to the society and to their respective practice specialty during the ASSE calendar year. There are 16 categories of practice specialties for the SPY awards, including engineering, and the ASSE chooses winners from its 37,000 members nationwide.

The People of the Times column features recent news on faculty and staff, including awards and other honors, accomplishments and administrative appointments. Relevant submissions from all areas of the University should be sent via email to: utimes@pitt.edu, by fax at 412-624-4579 or by campus mail to 308 Bellefield Hall. For submission guidelines, visit www.utimes.pitt.edu/page/utcal9887.

The University Times will feature University & on-campus events of Jan 5-19. Information for events during that period must be received by 5 pm on Dec 23. Send information to utcal@pitt.edu.

DECEMBER 8, 2016

Event Deadline
The next issue of the University Times will include University & on-campus events of Jan 5-19. Information for events during that period must be received by 5 pm on Dec 23. Send information to utcal@pitt.edu.

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