

THE PITT



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

P R I D E

Dean's
Address

*Knowledge gains value
when it is shared.*

We all wear different hats in both our family lives and careers, and more often than not, doing it all means using many different skills and talents. One of my hats is that of Associate Dean, and it has been a pleasure to serve your daughters and sons. Another hat is that of educator, and to that end the faculty recently approved my new undergraduate course proposal for a Senior Leadership Seminar, offered for the first time this coming fall. Students who are interested in discussing leadership across the liberal arts and who have prior internship or service experience should consider this course, listed as ARTSC 1999.

The third hat I wear is that of researcher. As a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, I engage in the challenges of acquiring new knowledge about the universe and transmitting it to the next generation of researchers. My recent work in astrophysics has centered on ideas of how galaxies may have come into being after the Big Bang. This January, my astrophysics colleagues and I connected at the 207th meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Washington, DC. A personal highlight was that the Society asked me to turn my research paper into a press release, thereby bringing my latest research to the public. In this newsletter, we can see other scholars and researchers sharing their knowledge through their academic commitments - Professor Kathleen Allen, Professor

Franklin Toker, and Professor Rami Melhem. We may also look to our own students who are fulfilling the promise of higher education. Angela Hayes, an English writing major who is pursuing a Certificate in West European Studies, turned my press release into a wonderful Pitt News story about astronomy research. Angela, a junior and a Pitt News staff writer, is already exemplifying some of our liberal arts tenets: the ability to articulate arguments for a wide range of audiences; to use what she knows to understand what she has yet to learn; and to master a discipline. These skills will be truly helpful to her throughout her life, as they have been for me and my colleagues.

Other highlights in this Pitt Pride issue include the latest about Computer Science Day and the innovation of the new Schenley Plaza parklet complete with wireless Internet access from its lawn. It's true that technology can sometimes have its own difficulties - this fall, when Pitt implemented computer on-line grading for all courses, some grades were not immediately available. I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience that the missing grades may have caused your family.

In closing, I would like to extend my enthusiastic congratulations to all of our families whose students will graduate in April! *All my best wishes for a successful transition to the world of work, research, or graduate school.* We will see you at Commencement 2006!

Associate Dean
Regina Schulte-Ladbeck

Update on Undergraduate Research

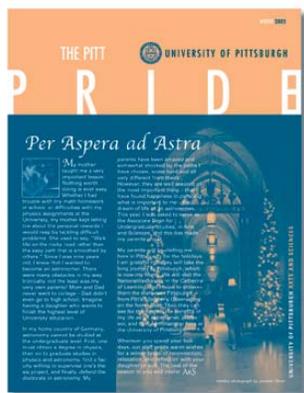
First Experiences in Research, a unique undergraduate program, affords undergraduates an opportunity to get a closer look at a particular field within the humanities, natural sciences, or social sciences by getting acquainted with the topics and inquiries pursued through research. These students work closely with a faculty member as a member of their research team, assisting in the faculty member's research project, and/or working under faculty supervision on a project of their own. Students earn either one or two academic credits and gain valuable knowledge of just how scholars actually conduct research by spending several hours a week on projects such as examining lake sediment cores for climate change, the dislocation and relocation of Hurricane Katrina victims, or the changing conceptions of the human body between the 14th and 17th centuries. In its third year, First Experiences in Research has grown to include approxi-

mately 100 undergraduates from the School of Arts and Sciences.

Throughout the course of the spring semester, **First Experiences in Research** students meet every other week with their peer researchers in a cohort to share experiences, listen to presentations, gain insights about why scholars conduct research, and learn effective ways to communicate findings. The program places emphasis on teaching students how to present their findings in the form of a poster presentation, where they hone their visual and oral presentation skills. Upon completing a semester of learning, research, and peer interaction, the student researchers present their findings in a poster presentation session. This year's presentation will take place on April 18 from 5:00 pm to 5:50 pm in the Chevron Science Center's Ashe Balcony and Lobby.

SAVE TIME. SAVE MONEY. SAVE YOUR SEAT. Summer Sessions at the School of Arts and Sciences.

Make the most of your summer by giving yourself an edge at the University of Pittsburgh's prestigious School of Arts and Sciences. Summer Sessions registration has begun! Save time by earning credits in as little as four weeks while you experience our exceptional instruction and diverse urban campus. Hundreds of courses are offered both day and evening to fit your schedule. Save money by applying for a parking scholarship (free parking!), and enter the drawing for a \$200 University Book Center gift certificate. Course selection and registration are just a click away at www.summer.pitt.edu. Save your seat and get the value of smaller, accelerated classes from over 30 renowned departments in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and the arts. We also welcome new freshmen to get their feet wet by participating in the second half of the summer to get a leg up on your first year – for more information, please visit www.summer.pitt.edu.



Last year, we created this newsletter, the Pitt Pride, to help you stay informed about the latest School-wide news and events affecting you and your son or daughter. Now that we have several issues behind us, we would like to invite you to share your thoughts about this publication.

The readership survey, located at www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB224XN6ZW7UW, will be active until April 1 and provides you with a quick, simple way to

offer feedback about the Pitt Pride Family Newsletter. All responses will be kept strictly confidential. We will use your input to find even better ways to keep you informed about the Arts and Sciences community. **As a way to thank you for your participation, we will enter your son or daughter into a drawing for a \$100 University Book Center gift certificate.** Thank you for being part of our Arts and Sciences family – we look forward to hearing from you!

Pitt Sciences



Last fall, we launched a new program, Pitt Sciences, designed to bring our students into closer contact with the sciences in the classroom and in industry. We invited them to free lectures, including a lecture by author Andrew Weil, MD.

This spring, we're providing even more opportunities for students to learn about science in action. In February, the School of Arts and Sciences sponsored a talk on "The Science of Optics" by Charles Falco, PhD. Upcoming Pitt Sciences events include a spring break day trip to tour a working steel mill, a lecture by neuroscientist Robert Sapolsky, PhD, and a nature hike at Pitt's Pymatung Laboratory of Ecology with biology professor Anthony Bledsoe, PhD.

Faculty Profile: Kathleen Allen

For a long time, Kathleen Allen thought that her life would take her from the likes of Buffalo dance studios to a New York City professional dance company. That is, until she actually visited "the city" as a University of Rochester undergraduate. She realized that a dancer's life wasn't for her - the city seemed "scary" - she took a year off from college and entered into a period of contemplation. Sound like your own son or daughter? Think again - it's the Department of Anthropology's Professor Kathleen Allen. The story continues with young Kathy returning to school, this time at the University of Buffalo, and majoring in anthropology, completing graduate work in archaeology, and the rest is history (no pun intended).

Anthropology has three major areas of research: physical, cultural, and archaeological. Professor Allen's research is in archaeology, and she states: "The detective work of piecing together the clues, the physical labor, and being outside is just enjoyable. I like the field work tremendously. I also like looking at the landscape and imagining what it would be like prior to the development of modern societies. This is probably why I ended up focusing on New York State - I know the region and the land." Professor Allen shares her research on the

Iroquois of upstate New York by leading undergraduates on a six-week summer field intensive in the form of a dig outside of Ithaca, NY. There, students learn the actual practice of archaeology by finding and characterizing pottery shards, graphing patterns of the findings, and describing them with technical writing. Students learn firsthand how to grapple with the problems of creating and analyzing data, considering different methods of analysis, and coming to conclusions about their findings.

"There is such little awareness of North America before the Europeans came, and everything that has happened to the Native Americans, and yet they are the foundation of this land." Astounded by everything that was going on in the United States prior to the arrival of Europeans, Professor Allen developed the course "Cultures and Contact," where students explore the contact between European and native North American cultures. Other courses taught by Professor Allen include Pots and People (www.pitt.edu/~pittanth/undergrad/pots.html), where students learn about other cultures by replicating authentic pottery technique, Eastern North American Archaeology, Western North American Archaeology, an undergraduate writing seminar

PittStart

PittStart sessions, where our incoming freshmen visit campus for advising, placement testing, and registration for classes, will take place over the following dates this summer. For more information and to register for a PittStart session, please visit www.pittstart.oafa.pitt.edu.

May 23, 24, 26

June 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, 27, 28, 30

July 25, 26, 28

August 8, 9, 11, 22

on the Iroquois, and Basic Laboratory Analysis.

"I feel strongly about students gaining a real sense of the time depth - things are changing so much, particularly because of technology, and it is important to realize our huge past as humanity - you're talking over 200,000 years, many migrations out of Africa, and so on. One of the things I want people to understand is that we're all related. We really do have a common origin, and I would hope that by getting a sense of this enormous time depth, that we can come to respect one another." Professor Allen is currently reading *The Long Summer* by Brian Fagan and thinking about the relationship between climate and culture. You can find out more about her teaching and methods by viewing her Classic Clips video at www.cas.pitt.edu/pitt/index.php. To find out more about the Summer Field School, visit www.pitt.edu/~pittanth/undergrad/fldsch.html.



Kathleen Allen

The Past Keeps Changing

The Associate Dean's Office sponsors class-related off-campus experiences that allow students to experience the many rich opportunities of our region, and to make connections between classroom learning and "the real world." This past fall, the Department of History of Art & Architecture's Professor Franklin Toker created a tour of the area's notable early American homes and communities. Over 30 students from the Early American Architecture class toured 18th century and early 19th century buildings, with a lecture led by Professor Toker.

"Recently, in the town of Harmony, I saw half-timbered architecture, which is medieval German and rarely seen in the United States. I was puzzled that I didn't recall seeing this twenty years ago when I was last there. It turns out that this was just discovered – found underneath conventional aluminum siding. The past just keeps changing!" Professor Toker has a real interest in sharing his passion for buildings with our students, directly showing findings that will help students form a clear understanding of the rich history of architecture.

Students began their journey with Professor Toker just a half mile from campus at the Neill Log House, dating from 1789, which sits in the middle of the Schenley Park Golf Course. From there, students visited Old Economy Village, home of a nineteenth century Christian communal group, and went on to Beaver, PA, which has an exact town square replica of Philadelphia's original plan. In Freedom, PA, students toured a house from 1826, and continued by

bus to McKees Rocks, a town that boasts the biggest and highest Native American burial mound in Pennsylvania.

The Department of History of Art & Architecture offers Bachelor of Arts degrees in the History of Art & Architecture, Architectural Studies, and a new certificate program in Historic Preservation, conveniently offered in a city dominated by historic structures and a commitment to preservation. To find out more about the new certificate, visit www.umc.pitt.edu/bulletins/undergrad/7cas-b.htm#histpre



Neill Log House, photo courtesy of Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation

Conversations with Professionals



James V. O'Rourke

To assist School of Arts and Sciences undergraduates in their efforts to answer the question, *"What do I do with my degree?"* the school sponsors opportunities to meet and talk with Arts and Sciences alumni through the Conversations with Professionals program. The program provides an informal setting where students can ask questions and discuss concerns about the working world with successful graduates. Alumni from various disciplines offer students advice on the school-to-work transition, charting a career, following a passion and pursuing a fulfilling work life. Students learn from alumni that a liberal arts education will prepare

them to think critically, and thus successfully adapt to new work situations in the 21st century. The program gives students a forum where they can talk to alumni and an opportunity to expand their employment networks and consider new career opportunities.

For example, a recent program included students talking with James V. O'Rourke, President and CEO of Verizon Pennsylvania Inc., about his work and how he achieved his goals. Mr. O'Rourke graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1979 with Bachelor of Science degrees in economics and psychology.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.0 Dean's Stars and Dean's List for Fall 2005

We are pleased to announce that 2,796 undergraduates earned a place on the Dean's List for the fall term. This list acknowledges the outstanding academic achievement of students who maintain a 3.5 or better grade point average. Of those 2,796 students, 367 earned a place on the 4.0 Dean's Stars list, having maintained a 4.0 through the end of the fall term. Each Dean's Star will receive a \$50 gift certificate to the University Book Center.

Honors Convocation

On Friday, February 24, the University of Pittsburgh honored faculty, staff, students, and alumni for their achievements at the 30th annual Honors Convocation, held in the Carnegie Music Hall. The convocation opened with an academic procession in full regalia.

Schenley Plaza

The Schenley Plaza parking lot, located between the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's main branch and the University of Pittsburgh's Hillman Library, disappeared last year in a welter of noise and dust. Rising out of the ashes this spring like the phoenix, the space will act as a town square between the two libraries. The new plaza will feature a 3-acre lawn, gardens, movable tables and chairs, food kiosks, concerts and a children's carousel.

Annual Sophomore Honor Student Reception

The School of Arts and Sciences recognized outstanding sophomores on Wednesday, February 15 at the annual Arts and Sciences Sophomore Honor Student Reception. Some 400 sophomores who have maintained a 3.50 or better grade point average were honored at the reception. Thanks to sophomore honoree Ann Pavlick, who performed a dance at the reception.



Computer Science Day

This September will see the 40th anniversary of our Department of Computer Science, making it one of the first computer science programs in the country. The world of computer science has seen vast changes over the last 40 years and continues to change at a head-spinning rate. Even students who have no interest in pursuing a degree in computer science cannot escape technology. Rami Mehlem, PhD, chair of the department, said, *"In order to educate more non-Computer Science students here at the University of Pittsburgh, the Department of Computer Science is restructuring its curriculum to include additional low-level, introductory courses appropriate for students who would like to know more about computers and technology without pursuing a Computer Science degree."*

At this year's Sixth Annual Computer Science Day, held Friday, February 17, students, alumni, educators, and industry reps gathered to celebrate the science, business, and fun of computers. Of particular interest was the debate on file sharing entitled *"Digital Media: To Share or Not to Share?"* The William Pitt Debating Union, students and faculty faced off against legal expert Charles Lee Mudd Jr. and recording industry representative Geoffrey L. Beauchamp to argue the complex issues about the digital file sharing. Students participated in a CS Bowl, a poster competition, a scavenger hunt, and networking with business and industry reps. Congratulations to the winners of this year's poster and research competitions, and to the winning CS Bowl team!

Spanish Symposium

The Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures will hold a symposium on Wednesday, March 29 in room 1228 in the Cathedral of Learning from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. The department expanded this year's symposium to include guests from the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg and from Slippery Rock University. Students can submit abstracts in either Spanish or Portuguese, no shorter than 150 words. Selected students will have the opportunity to present short talks about their abstracts and will receive certificates.

New Student Government Board

In November of 2005, undergraduates from across the schools and colleges at the University of Pittsburgh elected eight representatives to the Student Government Board. Congratulations to these School of Arts and Sciences undergraduates who will serve their fellow students in the coming year: Jennifer Anukem (political science and communications), Shady Henien (political science and cognitive neuroscience), Sheila Isong (politics and philosophy), Amy Kleeer (theatre arts and French), Joseph Leinbach (politics and philosophy), Erica Lillquist (global studies and political science), William Powers (cognitive neuroscience and Certificate in Western European Studies), and Allison Winn (English writing).



Will Powers and Shady Henien

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Movin' on Up

This April, we will bid farewell to some 1,700 undergraduates as they complete their undergraduate educations. This year's Commencement 2006 ceremony will take place in the Peterson Events Center on Sunday, April 30. Sometime in late March or early April, students who are preparing to graduate will receive information about Graduation Central - their opportunity to purchase the caps and gowns required for the commencement ceremony. Students will also have the opportunity to join the Pitt Alumni Association, their lifetime connection with the University. Many School of Arts and Sciences departments will hold graduation receptions; students should check with their major departments for details.

For those students who are looking for jobs, Career Services stands ready to help. Located in Room 224 of the William Pitt Union, Career Services offers a wide range of support like career planning, resume writing, and even mock interviews to prepare for the real thing. Career Services also provides networking opportunities for undergraduates and alumni, hosts job fairs, and maintains an online database where students can search for jobs and/or internships that suit their criteria. For more information on what Career Services can do for your son or daughter, visit www.careers.pitt.edu.

Dates to Remember

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| March 5-12 | Spring recess for students - no classes |
| 10 | Spring holiday - University closed |
| 15 | Deadline to submit monitored withdrawal forms to the dean's office |
| 16 | Fall Term (2071) registration and add/drop begin for seniors only |
| 20 | Fall term (2071) registration and add/drop begin for all degree-seeking students |
| April 21 | Last day for undergraduate classes - spring term |
| 24-29 | Final exams for undergraduate day classes |
| 30 | Residence halls close for spring term (2064), except for graduating seniors |
| May 7 | Residence halls open for summer term (2067) |
| 8 | Summer term (2067) registration ends and classes begin |
| 15 | Summer sessions 12-week, 6-week-1, and 4-week-1 registration ends and classes begin |
| 29 | Memorial Day - University closed |

Summer dates and deadlines: www.summer.pitt.edu/calendar.html