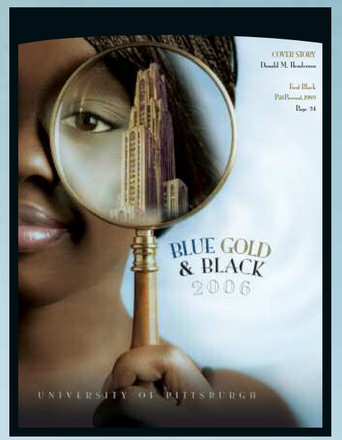
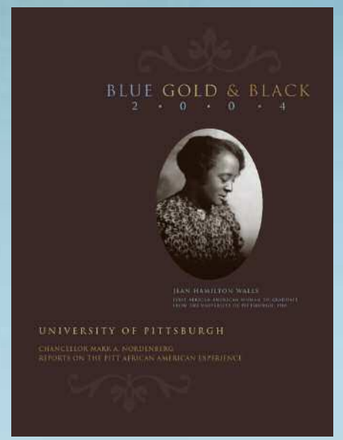
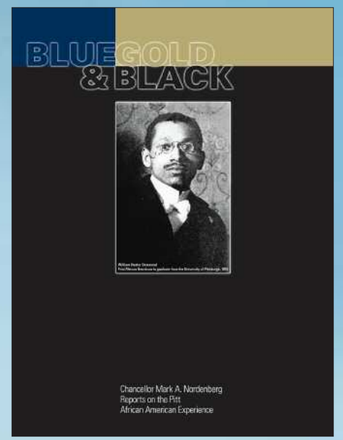
COVER STORY
Donald M. Henderson
First Black
Pitt Provost, 1989
Page 24
BLUE GOLD
& BLACK
2006
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg Reports on the Pitt African American Experience



2006



2004



2002

On the cover: Rose Afriyie graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2006 with a degree in English writing and political science. An Alpha Kappa Alpha sister, she was a Black Action Society member, *BlackLine* committee chair, *Pitt News* opinions editor, *Pitt Chronicle* contributor, and vice president of the African American Coalition for Advancement, Achievement, Success and Excellence.

Along with Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Millersville University President Francine G. McNairy (CAS '68, SOC WK '70, FAS '78), and Pitt Professor Emeritus and former Provost Donald M. Henderson (FAS '67), Afriyie presented a tribute to Jack L. Daniel (see page 48).

BLUE GOLD & BLACK 2006

Contents

CHAPTER 1 : AFRICAN AMERICAN ALUMNI COUNCIL 4

CHAPTER 2 : COVER STORY : DONALD M. HENDERSON 24

CHAPTER 3 : AWARDS, HONORS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS 30

CHAPTER 4 : PROFILES 48

CHAPTER 5 : PITT ARTS ON DISPLAY 78

CHAPTER 6 : AROUND TOWN AND GOWN 82

CHAPTER 7 : BOOKS 112

CHAPTER 8 : BLACK TALKIES 116

CHAPTER 9 : ANNIVERSARIES 118

CHAPTER 10 : WOMEN AND MEN OF INFLUENCE 162

CHAPTER 11 : BLACK HISTORY MONTH 164

CHAPTER 12 : A TIMELINE OF BLUE, GOLD, AND BLACK HISTORY 174

CHAPTER 13 : NO LONGER LIVING LEGENDS 186

CREDITS 210

Western University of Pennsylvania (WUP) Students. The Class of 1888, pictured in 1884. Chancellor M.B. Goff is standing in the back, on the left, and Professor Rohrbacker is seated in the middle front. WUP changed its name to the University of Pittsburgh in 1908. Thomas Raymond Fisher (standing, fourth from left) is the first photographed Black student from the University.

COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH ARCHIVES, ARCHIVES SERVICE CENTER

2005 Homecoming Greetings of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg

Delivered at the African American Alumni Council Sankofa banquet, Shades of Excellence ... Hues of Distinction, on October 22, 2005

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg

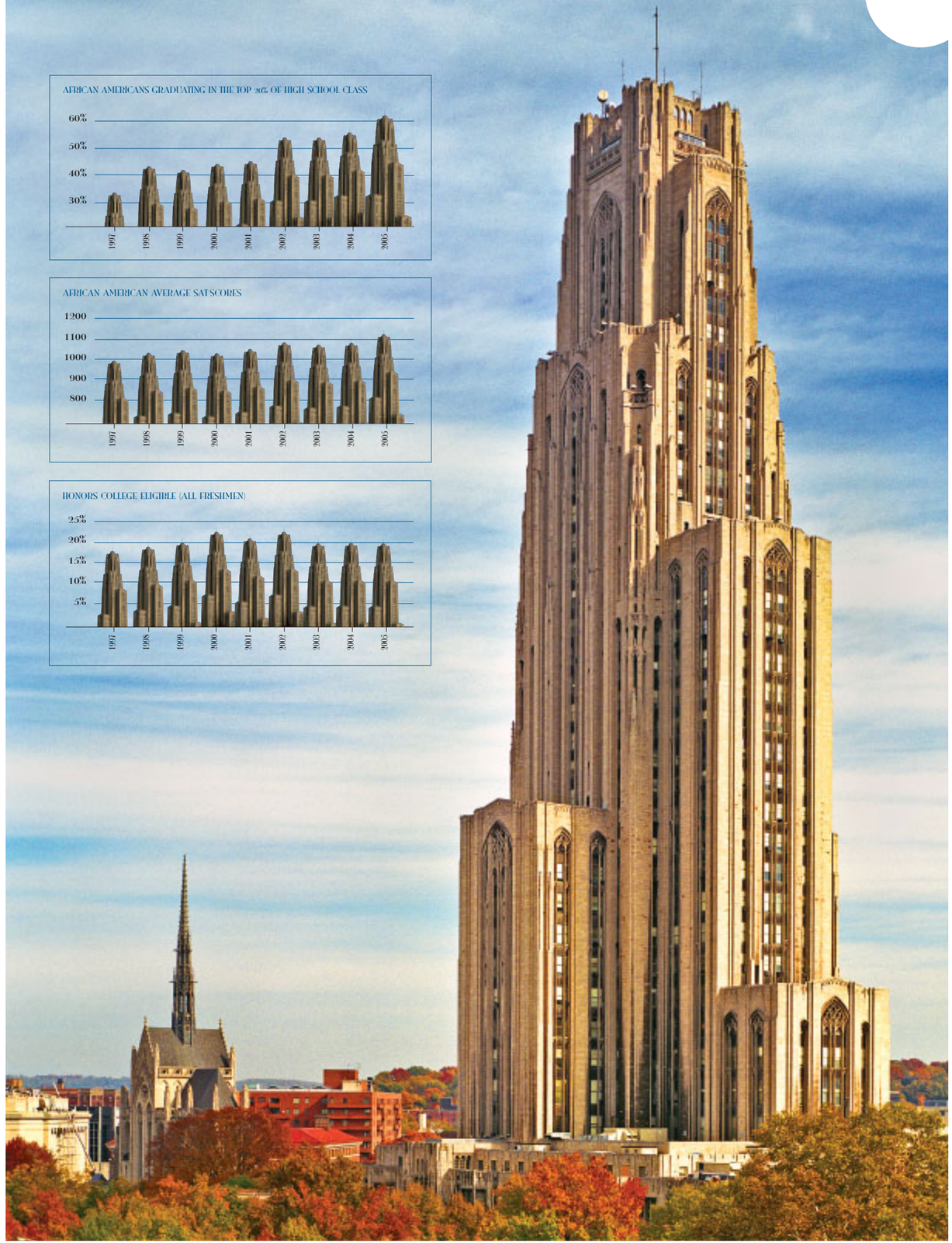
Thank you, David [Garnett], and good evening everyone. I am both delighted and honored to welcome you back to the University of Pittsburgh—to our 2005 Homecoming Weekend and to this very special African American Alumni Council awards banquet. Let me begin by expressing my deep appreciation to Linda Wharton-Boyd, to her hardworking executive committee, and to everyone who has supported them in making this event a reality.

Earlier in the week, I had a conversation with Stanley Battle, the president of Coppin State University and one of our 2005 Legacy Laureates. He had not been on campus for some time and said he found it hard to believe that this was the same place. Though we have gathered in the Golden Triangle tonight, I hope that all of you who have traveled back to Pittsburgh for this event have the chance to spend at least a little time in Oakland.

As a general matter, the campus is cleaner and prettier and better planted. In recent years, we added such important—and physically dominating—structures as the Petersen Events Center, the Sennott Square academic center, the Bouquet Gardens apartments, and the Pennsylvania Hall residence hall. Earlier this month, we dedicated our third biomedical science tower—a 300,000-square-foot, $200 million building that is the most advanced facility of its type in the world and that soon will be the new home to 50 different research groups. In the space between the Hillman Library and the Carnegie public library, a new town square park is emerging—replacing an ugly, open parking lot and adding immeasurably to the attractiveness of Oakland.

But most of the truly important building we have done in recent years has involved the minds and hearts of talented people, as opposed to concrete and steel. In the last 10 years, for example, Pitt has become a “hot” school within the pool of potential undergraduate students, with applications doubling and then rising above that. Our average SAT score has shot up from 1110 to 1231; the percentage of freshmen who graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school classes has risen from 19 percent to 46 percent; and the percentage of freshmen who graduated in the top 20 percent of their high school classes has risen from 39 to 75 percent. I do not know of another university that can claim an equivalent increase.

But we have done a lot more than just attract larger numbers of hardworking, talented students. Once they arrived, we gave each of them exceptional opportunities to learn and to grow. Many of them performed at levels that would be a source of pride at any university—among other things, claiming such honors as Goldwater and Truman and Udall and Marshall Scholarships in record numbers. In fact, as some of you know, only three universities—Yale, Cornell, and Pitt—had students compete successfully in all of this country’s major commemorative scholarship competitions in each of the last two years.



2005 Homecoming Greetings of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg *continued*

Master of Ceremonies David Garnett addresses the crowd.

Speaking more broadly, over the course of the last decade, we awarded more than 71,000 degrees. Each of them represents an individual opportunity to build a more productive and satisfying life—whether the particular student was a major scholarship winner or not.

In the last 10 years, we also boosted our annual research expenditures from $230 million to more than $600 million. These are dollars that fuel pioneering work, are an accepted sign of academic strength, and support local jobs. In fact, over the course of the past 10 years, in a region continuing to suffer from job losses, we increased our own employment base by nearly 2,500 people—almost all of that growth the product of increased research support.

If a 10-year period is too long to suit you, in a five-year period, we jumped from being the 20th-ranked American university in terms of the federal science and engineering research and development dollars attracted by our faculty to a national ranking of 10th. In the process, we joined some very distinguished company—Johns Hopkins, the University of Washington, Penn, Michigan, UCLA, Stanford, UC San Diego, UC San Francisco, and Washington University in St. Louis—in the top 10, and, by this one standard, moving ahead of Columbia, Wisconsin, Duke, Harvard, Colorado, Yale, North Carolina, Minnesota, Penn State, and Cornell, the very fine universities in the second 10.

As many of you recently have learned, over a five-year period, we also rose from 39th to 19th in the *U.S. News & World Report* national rankings of public universities. Of course, we all know that we should be ranked even higher. In fact, we always will quarrel with the *U.S. News & World Report* approach because we feel that it unduly emphasizes institutional resources, as opposed to institutional output. Even so, the trend line in those rankings is another clear reflection of our momentum.

Switching just to the last year and to another important area of activity—our development efforts—we enjoyed our best "cash in" year ever, at $103 million; we enjoyed our best fundraising (cash and pledges) year ever, at $124 million; we enjoyed our best individual giving year ever, at nearly $52 million; and we took our capital campaign—the one experts told us could not succeed when our goal was $500 million—past the $800 million mark. And every time a new dollar is contributed, we set yet another new record for the most money ever raised by any organization for any purpose in Western Pennsylvania.

As we all saw this afternoon, a university that can raise more than $800 million and is among the top 10 American universities in research support also can win some football games. That is a big relief for the person sometimes described as "Pitt's number one fan." During the first half of today's game, Donald Henderson looked at me and said that "number one worrier" might be a more apt label.

But there are a lot of things you cannot measure by annual statistics or by final scores—the excitement in the air as new students arrive on campus, the looks of satisfaction on the faces of parents as they see their kids moving through a process that is helping them become happy and productive adults, the expressions of thanks from graduates who know that their Pitt experiences have helped them successfully pursue their dreams, and the gratitude of employees, almost all of whom feel lucky to be a part of an institution with a mission, a tradition, and a trajectory like Pitt's.

And because I know that every institution of higher learning makes many of its most important contributions through the work of its graduates, events like tonight's awards banquet are, as a general matter, always very special to me. They reinforce the worth of our work—because we see in the inspiring examples of our honorees the good that can come from human talent properly developed and directed to the advancement of noble ends.

For two different reasons, though, this ceremony has special meaning for me. First, every one of our awardees presents an individual record of achievement and impact that would make him or her a deserving recipient of similar recognition by any alumni group at any university. But, in addition, they stand as a compelling collective reminder of the great benefits we all enjoy when educational opportunities are extended to everyone and when we strive to make productive use of the full range of human talent—both of which are high Pitt priorities.

Second, and speaking more personally, though I had nothing to do with the selection of tonight's honorees, I know firsthand of their many accomplishments and am lucky enough to be able to claim each of them as a friend. And so, even though Linda and Robert Hill will more formally present each of these individuals to you, I want to say just a word about each of them.

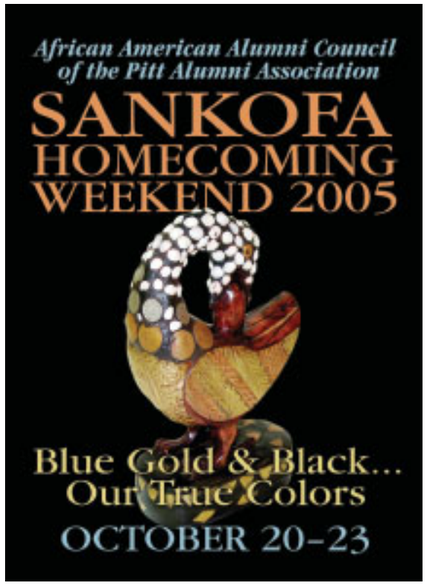
Jeannette South-Paul, the honoree I have known for the shortest period of time—a mere four years—is the pioneering chair of one of our medical school departments. She is nationally recognized for the quality and impact of her work, which also is characterized by her kind, calm, and caring manner.

Linda Wharton-Boyd, president of the African American Alumni Council, and Keith E. Schaefer, president of the Pitt Alumni Association

I first knew Jeri Daniel as the wife of my good friend Jack. Over the course of time, though, it became my good fortune to work directly with her on a project known as Pittsburgh's Early Childhood Initiative. She quickly ascended to the unofficial position of everyone's guru for that project, and having seen this talented professional in action, even though it was personally disappointing, it was not at all surprising when she was recruited away from Pitt to be executive deputy director of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Bryant Salter is the person in the group about whom I have known for the longest period of time. I was a high school senior and, by my

2005 Homecoming Greetings of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg *continued*



own admission, a pretty mediocre runner when my father was transferred to Pittsburgh. Bryant, on the other hand, was a high school track and field phenom, whose exploits were frequently featured in the newspaper. Reading his clippings, then, was our only contact until I traveled to Buenos Aires more than 30 years later. Since I was going to be in the country, I had agreed to go to the U.S. Embassy and attempt to resolve a document difficulty plaguing one of our employees. Somehow, I felt a bit better about my prospects when I walked into the consul general's office and saw Bryant's Pitt diploma hanging on the wall.

Though he is a few years older and many times wiser and more worldly than I am, Herb Douglas has become one of my very best friends. Without any real reason for doing so, he took me under his wing nearly a decade ago and has created a range of special opportunities for me. Together, we have dealt with world-class athletes, captains of industry, and international leaders, here and abroad. And together we have regularly discussed issues of race and class and what it would take to make this a better society. Herb is one of the best connected, well-liked, and highly respected people I ever have known.

And it was Herb who first connected me to Jimmie Joe Robinson—at a track dinner in Pitt's Alumni Hall. What Jimmie Joe and Herb did 60 years ago—breaking what was then called the color barrier in Pitt football—helped open the doors for countless others and made our University a far better place. But what the Reverend Robinson and his wife Betty did to change the lives of countless young people through their educational ministry on Pittsburgh's North Side also was pioneering.

My large office in the Cathedral is filled with photographs of important people, but one of them has very personal significance for me. It is a photo of Donald Henderson in academic regalia, with his arms folded across his chest and with a big smile on his face. For many years, and through some difficult times, Donald brought dignity and strength to our University. It was my good fortune that he became my mentor, my supporter, and my friend. My career has been unusually rich in rewarding relationships. With that as context, let me simply say that Donald Henderson has been one of the most important people in my long life at Pitt.

You can see, then, why I am so grateful to you for permitting me to be a part of this evening—and we have not even started talking about Jack Daniel yet. So let me again salute this extraordinary group of Pitt people and sincerely thank you for letting me join in your tribute to them.

David Garnett, Linda Wharton-Boyd, and Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and his wife, Nikki, greet (from left) Russellyn Carruth, adjunct professor in Pitt's School of Law; her husband, former Graduate School of Public Health Dean Bernard D. Goldstein; and Evelyn Alexander and her husband, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford President Livingston Alexander.

Also attending the banquet were 2005 Black Action Society members (left to right) Stephanie Lilavois, Mario Dones, Natalie Lilavois, Martens Roc, Jodie Smith, K. Chase Patterson, Brennan Rhodes, Jennifer Blemur, and Adaobi Ezedinma.

Sixty years of Pitt football (left to right): Bryant Salter, Bobby Grier, Herb Douglas, Jimmy Joe Robinson, and David Garnett

Bestselling author and Pitt Trustee Bebe Moore Campbell discusses her latest novel, 72 Hour Hold *(see page 56).*

Linda Wharton-Boyd gets a group hug from students at East Liberty's Lincoln Elementary School while volunteering with AAAC's Apple Seed Project, providing community service for the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

African American Alumni Council Distinguished Alumnus Award Winners

The following citations were read to the honorees by Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill at the African American Alumni Council Sankofa banquet Shades of Excellence ... Hues of Distinction on October 22, 2005.

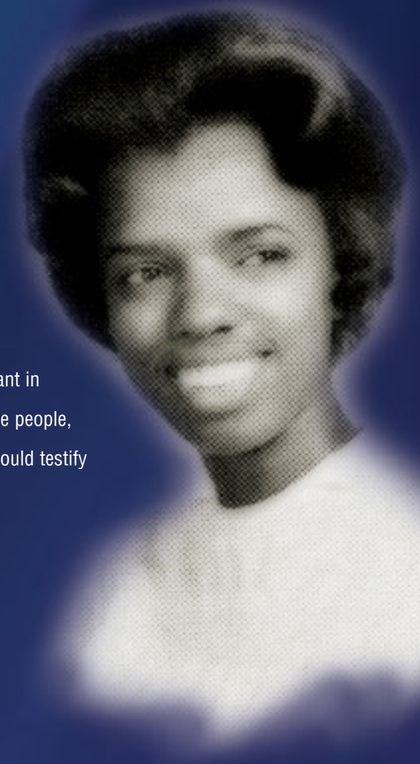
Jerlean E. Daniel (CAS '64, SHRP '72G, EDUC '75G)

For Achievement in Child Development

Jerlean E. Daniel, you are protector and guardian of America's greatest assets: our children. As one of the nation's leading child development experts, you have distinguished yourself in your life's work in every aspect of the child development movement.

After receiving the Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Arts and Sciences, Master of Arts degree from the School of Health and Related Professions, and the PhD degree from the School of Education, all at the University of Pittsburgh, you embarked upon your astonishing professional career in service to the very young. Your elegant countenance could earn you a living as a model; even so, you began at the beginning, as a preschool teacher. And today you operate at the top, as the deputy executive director of your renowned professional association, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Along the way, you, a Sacramento sister, stopped at your alma mater in Pittsburgh for 12 impactful years, serving as a Pitt professor in the child development and child care, applied developmental psychology, and psychology in education departments, and, in 2004, rising to chair of the Department of Psychology in Education, one of only two Black female department chairs at Pitt.



Continuing your journey, your golden imprimatur affected every important, pithily named agenda for America's young ones, including Jumpstart, Heads Up, and Head Start, where you were a training consultant in 1999. But by then most every big blue-chip organization interested in little people, from the Kellogg, Ford, and Danforth Foundations to Cornell University, could testify to the wise counsel with which you gifted them.

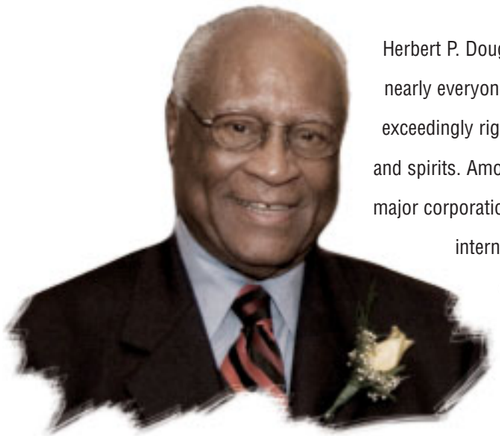
You did not neglect your scholarly calling, having presented your work in numerous publications, most notably *Young Children*, the widely respected journal of NAEYC, on whose governing board you served as a member and, for four years, as president.

Although you serve selflessly, others insist upon recognizing you. Pitt awarded you the School of Education's Distinguished Alumni Award and three times bestowed upon you the outstanding faculty award at Honors Convocation—in 1994, 1996, and 1998! The Greater Pittsburgh YWCA has presented you with its leadership award, and, for service to little boys and girls, you are a Lifetime Achievement Award honoree of the Pennsylvania Child Care Association.

Perhaps the most curious and touching tribute paid to you came from a big boy—a "very big" boy—as lifetime partner Jack publicly credited you with saving his life during his "by any means necessary" days, when you ordered him to put his "guns" away and move on.

Herbert P. Douglas Jr. (EDUC '48, '50G)

For Achievement in Business



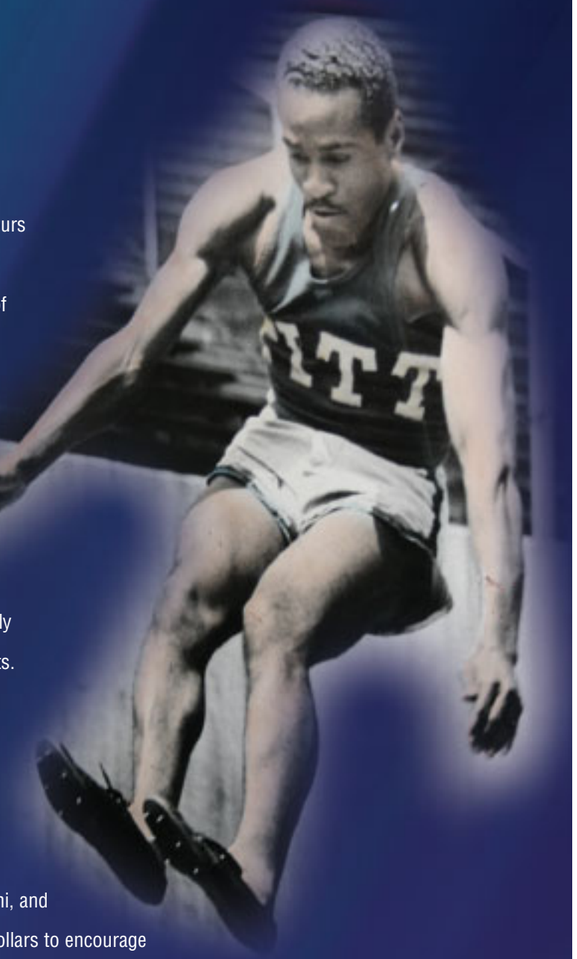
Herbert P. Douglas Jr., you are Herb to those who know, love, and respect you, which is nearly everyone on the globe who has power, had power, or will have power. Son of the exceedingly righteous Herb Senior and Ilessa, you are a man of the spirit—that is, wine and spirits. Among the first African American executives to be named vice president of a major corporation, you built your career at Schieffelin & Co.—a company now owned by international leader in luxury Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessy group—and, as you did so, you catapulted that importer of adult beverages to the top of the trés chic world of premium brands. Of course, your own unique brand of success has defined your life for most of your life.

A native of Hazelwood's Hazelwood Avenue, you graduated from Taylor Allderdice as the best and most celebrated high school athlete in Pennsylvania. Your records and letters in gymnastics, basketball, football, and track landed you in the land of the Creoles of New Orleans at Xavier University in 1940. When a failure of your industrious father's optic nerves blinded him for life, you returned home to help him run his parking garage and auto repair business in Shadyside.

In 1945, you jumped onto the campus of the University of Pittsburgh, the Panthers football and track teams, and into Pitt's—and later into the world's—history books. Now your lifelong buddy, Jimmy Joe Robinson preceded you by only weeks as you and he integrated Pitt football. In that year, you scored a Pitt touchdown against Notre Dame. Only one other Black in history had scored against the dreaded Irish. And prior to your touchdown, no football Panther had scored against Notre Dame for eight years.

Those 60 years ago you also owned the field, winning the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) broad jump. For most of the rest of the '40s you owned the track and the field, your currency earned by a total of eight AAU and intercollegiate championships, including the 100-yard dash. Your Pitt long-jump record stood for 23 years. That was just for warm-ups. In 1948, you won the bronze medal in the London International Olympic Games, thereby becoming the first Pitt athlete to both score a Panther touchdown against Notre Dame and win an Olympic medal. That same year, you received a bachelor's degree in physical education from Pitt and, two years later, a Pitt Master of Education degree.

The world of beverages, bouquets, blends, and bubbles would be yours thereafter. As a leap beyond the déclassé realm of cheap wine and gut-wrenching whiskey that defined sales to Blacks in the first half of the 20th century, in the 1950s and '60s you almost single-handedly created the premium Black consumer market in America, granting the wholesalers and retailers permission to promote brands such as Hennessy Cognac, Moët et Chandon champagne, and the trio of colors of Johnny Walker to the growing Black middle class and its aspirants. By then an affable raconteur, bon vivant, and Beau Brummel, endowed with savoir-faire and other hard-to-pronounce qualities, you graciously vowed to give service to the world that crowned you with its own gifts.



You founded the International Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA), the Jesse Owens International Trophy Award, and the Jesse Owens Global Award. They have honored or been supported by Nelson Mandela, George H.W. Bush, Muhammad Ali, Ted Turner, Marion Jones, Henry Kissinger, Serena and Venus Williams, Rudolph Giuliani, and Mark Nordenberg, among others. And IAAA has raised millions of dollars to encourage and nurture gifted amateur athletes.

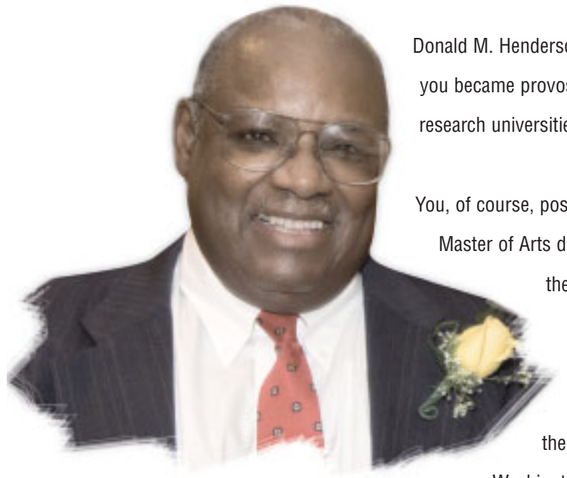
Your own awards include the NAACP and Urban League corporate awards, the Pitt Legacy Laureate, and, 25 years ago this week, the Pitt Letter Winner of Distinction at Homecoming 1980. Your Olympic leap is commemorated in the Pittsburgh Sports Museum, and in 2005, you were inducted into the New York Athletic Club Hall of Fame.

Thousands cheered you and Jimmy Joe as you stepped onto the field at the 2005 Notre Dame game, 60 years after that storied touchdown. It was as if you had suited up, ready for business, which would not have been a bad idea in any event.

You hold international Olympic bronze; you've marketed imported Johnny Walker Blue, Red, and Black. But at Pitt you will always be homegrown Blue, Gold, and Black.

Donald M. Henderson (FAS '67)

For Achievement in Education



Donald M. Henderson, at a time when most Americans possessed no college degree, you became provost, the chief academic officer, of one of the most prestigious research universities in America, the University of Pittsburgh.

You, of course, possess three college degrees. After earning Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees at Kent State University in neighboring Ohio, you followed the light of the East and crossed the border into Pennsylvania to receive your PhD in sociology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1967. You have crossed many other borders, serving at Case Western Reserve, Kent State, and Southern Illinois Universities, the University of Akron, and the United Planning Organization in Washington, D.C., where you were director of the research division.

But you returned to your Pittsburgh base to join the Office of the Provost at Pitt—and did not leave for the remainder of your astounding career.

When you re-emerged at Pitt in 1970 as associate provost, you came with a warning. You were not coming as a mere sycophantic helper in the fashion of so many others—even today. Rather, bold, barrel-chested, Black, you presciently re-engaged at this alma mater with an expectation that its leadership would partner in the preparation of your own leadership.

In 1989, when you were named provost at Pitt slightly more than 200 years after its founding, you and the University changed the course of Blue and Gold history—indeed, Blue, Gold, and Black history. And like the new sheriff brought in to stabilize the town, you never sought a shoot-out, yet rarely lost one.

During your remarkable Pitt tenure, your leadership contributed to an improved budget process, the establishment of the University Center for Social and Urban Research, and the launch of the University Library System, which you initially headed. The groundwork for major improvements in the undergraduate experience dates to your inspired leadership.

Your scholarship drew you squarely into the discourse on Black issues and how to effectively grapple with them, focusing on race and culture in education.

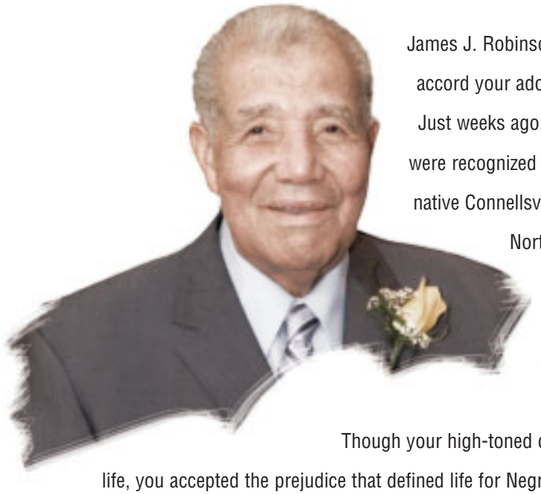
The most powerful organizations sought your wisdom, including the Educational Testing Service and the U.S. Office of Education. And then there is the matter of the money. You are so wise and trustworthy that your diverse colleagues across America entrusted you to nominate with others the officers of TIAA/CREF, the largest pension fund in the world, when most Black folks had no money.

With a perspicacious talent for identifying promising wunderkinder, you mentored, nurtured, and supported countless future movers who shook our world in many respects. Those we can count include Pitt Jazz Studies Program Director Nathan Davis, who shook our world with music; Vice Provost Jack Daniel, who shook our world with diversity; and Chancellor Mark Nordenberg, who just shook our world, and with your blessing succeeded you as provost before becoming chancellor.

In recognition and gratitude, in 2001, the University of Pittsburgh established the Donald M. Henderson Chair to memorialize your rich legacy for now and for the ages.

James J. Robinson (CAS '51)

For Achievement in Community Development



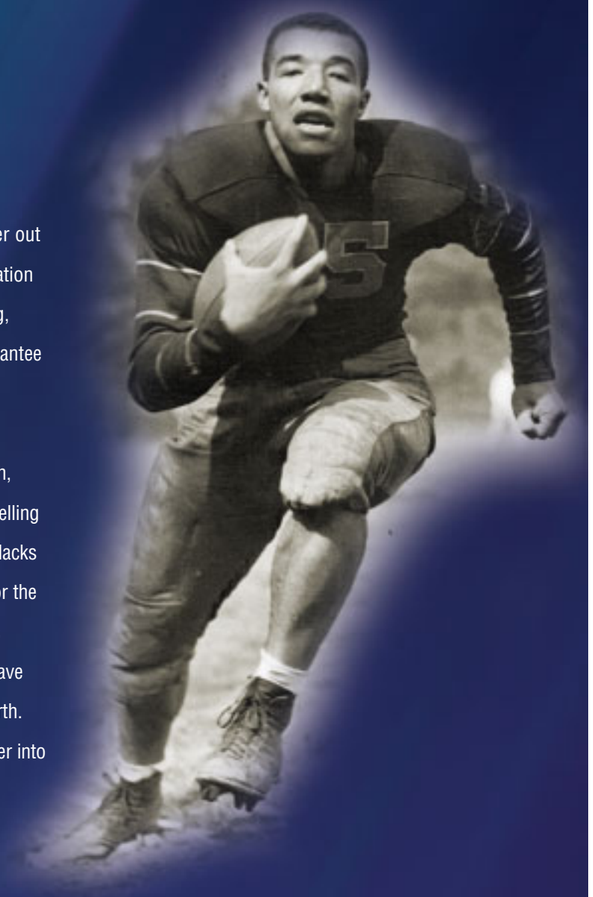
James J. Robinson, your alliterative and inviting name announces the easy access you accord your adoring fans, of which, after more than 60 years, there are thousands. Just weeks ago, a throng at Heinz Field cheered wildly as you and pal Herb Douglas were recognized for integrating Pitt's varsity gridiron in 1945. But the road from your native Connellsville in the depression-era Mon Valley to that magical moment in the North Shore's 21st-century football fiefdom carried much grief after stunning triumph. It was your belief in yourself, your partnership with wife Betty, and, ultimately, your discovery of your Maker that snatched you from the gaping grasp of doom—repeatedly.

Though your high-toned complexion and lovable grin could have eased your circumstances in life, you accepted the prejudice that defined life for Negroes in the valley of the 1930s. Yet at Connellsville High, you were not merely the upper class or even the ruling class; you were royalty, graduating as one of the greatest football players in Pennsylvania history.

At the University of Pittsburgh, where you enrolled in 1945, you proved to be the absolute monarchy, running back a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown; you led in rushing and you led in receiving, and that was in your freshman year! By 1949, you led in scoring, and you lettered for three seasons of your benign dictatorship. When you received your Bachelor of Arts degree in 1951 from the College of Arts and Sciences, the whole world was yours. Or was it?

Yes, there was Army football. Yes, there was that Cleveland Browns draft pick, and there were Canadian possibilities. However, there was by the mid-1950s more football behind you than ahead.

But then the King of all kings called you, and you enrolled in the Western Theological Seminary—where you earned the Master of Divinity degree—and the renowned Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School, where you earned the Doctor of Ministry degree. You were ordained. Now the Reverend Dr. Jimmy Joe, you needed a ministry, and you ultimately found it—not in the urban-chic Manchester of townhouses, ceramics, and jazz of today, but in the mean Sodom and Gomorrah Manchester streets of vice, violence, and godlessness. You were home.



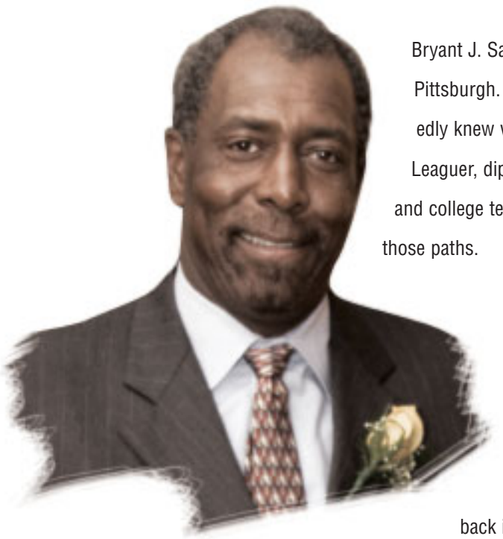
You became pastor of Bidwell Presbyterian Church. You and Betty established what is now the Manchester Youth Development Center out of an old plumbing factory. You established educational and recreation programs and a school there. Extending from that original building, you have built wings, edifices of learning and beauty that will guarantee your own wings in a higher place.

You exported your community ministry to other streets in Pittsburgh, demanding construction jobs at its highest-profile building sites, quelling riots, and insisting on a myriad of improvements for Blacks, from Blacks and Whites alike. In Mississippi, you demanded voter registration for the dispossessed. And, unjustly, you were beaten and jailed more times than Mike Tyson. Coming out of one Mississippi jail, you were in grave danger, as the murderous racists and rednecks lay in wait to the north. For one more time the Panther of yore reemerged, and you cut deeper into enemy territory to the south and lived to fight and pray another day.

Already a *Pittsburgh* magazine Pittsburgher of the Century and Pitt Letter Winner of Distinction when you retired in 2004, you experienced the love of the whole town afresh as Franco Harris and Mark Nordenberg led the well-wishers who are now forever fans of Jimmy Joe.

Bryant J. Salter (CAS '71)

For Achievement in International Affairs



Bryant J. Salter, you are aptly named. For you are the salt of the earth and a son of Pittsburgh. Unlike many youngsters uncertain of the path before them, you undoubtedly knew what you wanted to be when you grew up: track star, football player, Ivy Leaguer, diplomat, businessman, trade representative, economic development czar, and college teacher. Therefore, your wonderfully eclectic career has followed all of those paths.

After graduating from South Hills High School, where you won five letters in football and track, you prepared for your professional march of triumph at the University of Pittsburgh, where you earned the Bachelor of Science degree in 1971. And, in fact, you were a Pitt track and football Panther, as well as a professional football defensive back in the NFL. At Pitt, you were a fine defensive back and interceptor of enemy passes, holding the 1970 record for interceptions and lettering three times, a track star of legendary leaps, as you established Panther records in the high jump and triple jump, lettered four years, were team captain, and were selected as an All-American. You were considered one of the nation's finest track performers. Your alma mater recognized these achievements by awarding you Pitt's Letter Winner of Distinction honor in 2003. Professionally, you have been inducted into the San Diego Chargers Hall of Fame.

And, in fact, you are an Ivy Leaguer, having received your master's degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

It is also a fact that you became an important, respected, and peripatetic U.S. Foreign Service officer, with posts at America's missions in Ethiopia, Kenya, Cameroon, and South Africa. In service to our nation's cause, you also served at the Horn of Africa, in North Africa, and in West Africa. Perhaps no one else could keep up, so Muhammad Ali traveled with you on a tour of five African nations. In the hemisphere of your birth, you served as Uncle Sam's permanent chargé d'affaires in Antigua, as consul in Mexico, and as consul general in Argentina.

Back on U.S. soil, you began your service to the state of Florida as the governor's liaison to the U.S. state department in preparation for the 1994 Summit of the Americas. You helped small and medium businesses expand their export capacities and led two successful trade missions to Haiti.

Transferring your knowledge to others as a college professor, you teach international business and conduct international trade seminars at the University of Miami, for which Pitt has accorded you special dispensation.

Today, you are CEO of Business Diplomacy Consulting. In Florida you are Mr. Africa, and in Africa you are Mr. Sunshine State. The two-way traffic you conduct between the two worlds creates mutually beneficial investment and trade possibilities, contributing to a better Florida, America, Africa, and, therefore, a better world. In fact, no youngster could have mapped out a more magnificent and purposeful life.

Jeannette South-Paul (MED '79)

For Achievement in Medicine

Jeannette South-Paul, medicine woman, is a mere beginning for the many titles, ranks, and honorifics that you so deservedly bear. Ivy Leaguer, doctor, department chair, professor, scholar, director, chair, cochair, ... and that's just in Pennsylvania.

When you migrated to Pitt for the second time, in 2002, your already remarkable career earned you an admiring salute—figuratively and literally, for you had achieved the rank of colonel, serving your country in the U.S. Army. You marched into a 21st-century University of Pittsburgh from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, where you had served as vice president, chair of family medicine, and professor.

Born to a sainted missionary immigrant mother who was denied the right to deliver you in a Jim Crow Alabama hospital, your life is a testimonial to the possibilities that are actualized at the intersection of intellect, industry, and access. You graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1975 and—as Pitt's founder had done more than 200 years earlier—traveled westward from Philadelphia over the Alleghenies to Pittsburgh and to your destiny at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, where you graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1979, having overwhelmed the challenges that confronted a Black woman studying medicine at late-20th-century Pitt.

Upon your triumphant return to the medical alma mater that launched you into your sterling achievements in the healing arts, you immediately assumed leadership. You were appointed chair—the first female chair of a permanent Pitt medical department and the first Black female chair in a non-Historically Black College and University (HBCU) medical school—and professor of family medicine in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. In service to your high purpose, you have chaired the minority affairs section of the Association of American Medical Colleges. You are a fellow of the American Academy of Physicians and diplomat of the American Board of Family Medicine. And you have spoken and published extensively on race, culture, and health issues.

But the worlds of scholarship, academic medicine, and teaching, in which you excel, are too remote for your brand of people's health care. Therefore, you also bring the professionals to the community, serving as physician at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Mathilda Theiss Health Center and medical director of its community health services division. In those selfless capacities, you serve the people of the Oak Hill Housing Project, the larger Hill District, and other underserved communities. By cochairing the Community Research Advisory Board of the Center for Minority Health, you are a leader in the movement to eliminate racial and racist health disparities, engage Black folks in clinical trials, and raise the level of respect between the researchers and the researched.

Oblivious of your outer beauty but admired for your inner beauty and excellence, you have been accorded many honors; among them is the $150,000 Joy McCann prize for mentorship, and the *New Pittsburgh Courier* newspaper twice named you one of Pittsburgh's 50 Women of Influence. This year you were featured as one of the preeminent women doctors in U.S. history when the National Library of Medicine included you in its multimedia exhibition, "Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians," which told the story of your professional achievements. It made the first stop of its national tour here at Pitt this fall. Also in 2005, you were named the UPMC Drew Mathieson Chair, making you the only Black woman at Pitt to hold a named professorship. But then, big names have become your middle name.

Dilinus Harris, 2005 Homecoming King

2005 Homecoming King Dilinus Harris and Queen Brittany Taylor

I am a junior from Elkton, Md., majoring in marketing. I was community outreach chair for the Black Action Society and a Jumpstart corps member and volunteer coordinator, helping to create the Jumpstart Readers Program and registering the most volunteers for outside community service projects in the country. I also just ended my term as a Student Government Board member, planning both last fall's and spring's Pitt Project Oakland clean-up event. I am also a proud brother of Lambda Chi Alpha and serve on the Senate Antidiscriminatory Policy Committee.

—Dilinus Harris

African American Alumni Council (AAAC) of the Pitt Alumni Association

Mission Statement

The mission of the African American Alumni Council is to support African American alumni, students, faculty, staff, and administrators and to strengthen their connection to the University of Pittsburgh through its various programs and activities.

Executive Board, 2005–07

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AAAC at a Glance : Baltimore/Washington, D.C.

Stephanie Gregg and Malcolm Watson at the reception hosted by Nate and Robin Dove

During the weekend of January 27–28, 2005, at the Radisson at Cross Keys in Baltimore, Md., the Pitt AAAC hosted a conference designed to encourage the local African American alumni community to reconnect to the University of Pittsburgh and to work toward a unified voice for the Pitt African American alumni community.

The meetings explored the African American community's current state of affairs at the University and addressed concerns raised about the amount of African American leadership at the senior administrative level at the University—concerns triggered by the resignation of Jack L. Daniel from the position of vice provost for undergraduate studies. These discussions were aimed at creating recommendations to be delivered to University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.

Washington, D.C., affiliates Nate and Robin Dove invited members of the AAAC to a wine, cheese, and dessert reception at their home in Glenn Dale, Md., to reconnect with the University and one another in a less formal atmosphere.

"Individually," their invitation states, "our accomplishments have been many. Collectively, we can harness those accomplishments coupled with our skills, our talents, and our energy to build a network that will positively impact the African American community at Pitt. Together, we can inspire students to achieve their greatest potential."

Donald M. Henderson : Teacher, Trailblazer, Provost

Donald M. Henderson

Donald M. Henderson came to the University of Pittsburgh in 1970 as an associate provost. His arrival marked the beginning of a new and more inclusive era at Pitt.

Jack L. Daniel, formerly vice provost for undergraduate studies, met Henderson at that time and soon realized the two of them had similar goals.

"I was involved in trying to get access programs for disadvantaged students at Pitt," Daniel says. "We also had intellectual interests in common. Although my focus was on communication and his was sociology, we had overlapping interests in the culture of African American people, cognitive development, and interracial communication.

"The human side of him is the thing that a lot of people love," Daniel adds. "He has the ability to cross so many barriers—religious, international, and cross-racial. He has a way of putting people psychologically at ease."

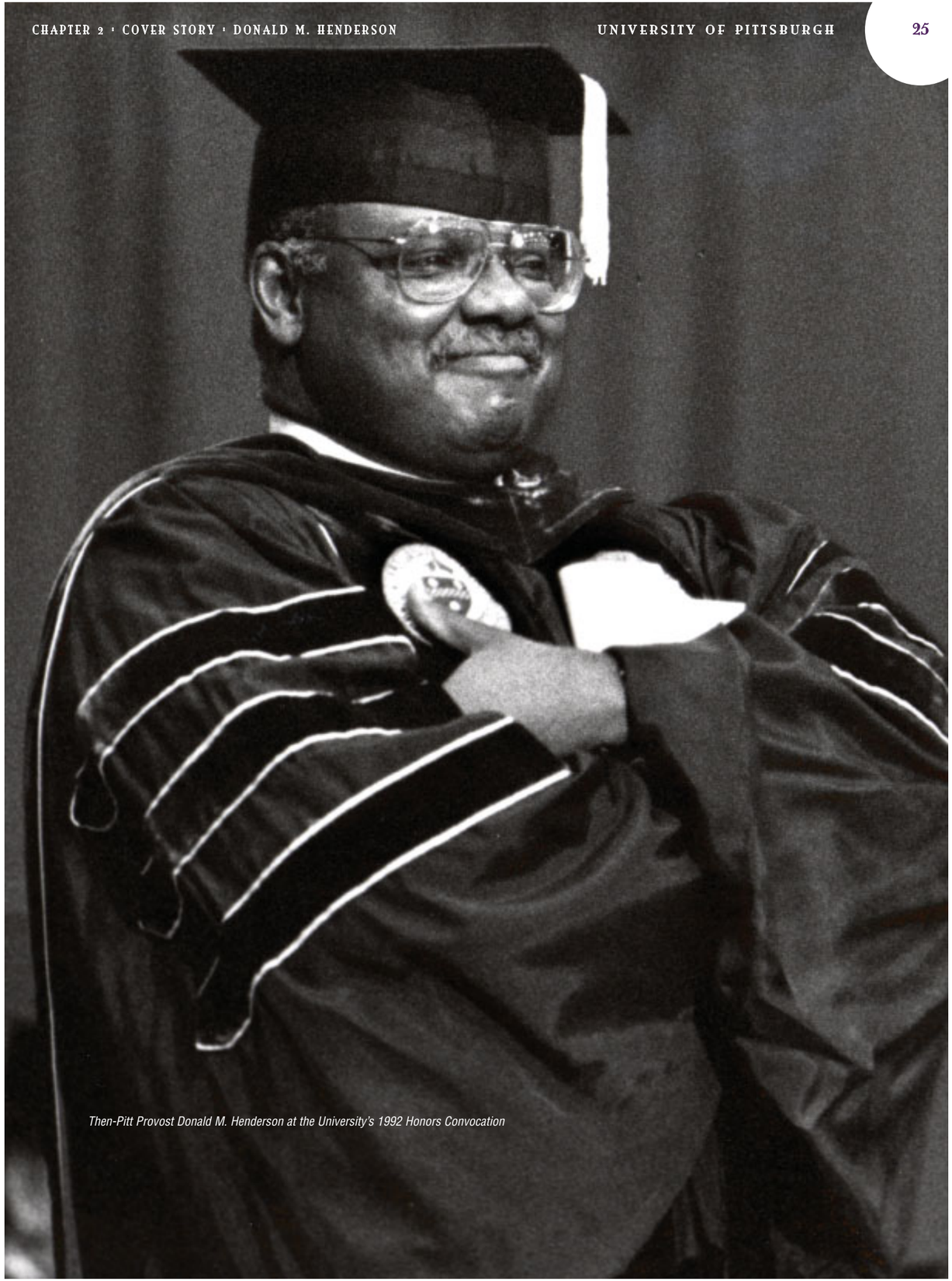
After becoming associate provost, Henderson took on the monumental task of reorganizing Pitt's scattered collections of books and research resources into what would become the University Library System. He later helped establish the University Center for Social and Urban Research.

Also during his tenure, Henderson worked closely with law school dean Mark A. Nordenberg, who is now Pitt's chancellor. They developed plans for the infusion of University-based and outside support for the law school and the law library.

"Probably the most important feature of the partnership, and one that made it valuable for both of us, was the respect we developed for each other," says Nordenberg. "I knew when I needed to seek his approval, but he also gave me quite a bit of freedom. We both loved the University of Pittsburgh and valued Pitt's mission."

That mission matched Henderson's personal one, which was to make education user-friendly and accessible. Much of the thinking that motivated this work came from Henderson's own experience as a student, which began with many false starts, wrong turns, and dead ends.

Henderson admits that becoming a college student and pursuing an academic career were not his original goals. Born the second of six children, Henderson spent his formative years in Youngstown, Ohio.



Then-Pitt Provost Donald M. Henderson at the University's 1992 Honors Convocation

Donald M. Henderson : Teacher, Trailblazer, Provost *continued*

Donald M. Henderson (far right) during his early days at Pitt

His high school football coach arranged for friends at Ohio University to recruit the young athlete, but an ankle injury thwarted Henderson's plans to play for the school. The following year, an acquaintance of his father's asked if the boy could play for Central State University. The elder Henderson was a railroad worker, described by his son as "an enormously bright man" who lacked even a high school education. Eager to see his second child educated, he pushed his son toward college.

But homesickness intervened, and Henderson was soon back in Youngstown.

He was later drafted into the U.S. Army, serving briefly in Korea during the conflict in the early 1950s. Frustrated with military life, he once again looked to his athletic ability for a way out. This time he aimed for Bluffton College, a Mennonite-run school in northeastern Ohio.

Henderson was accepted at Bluffton but didn't enroll at first. Much to his father's chagrin, he went back to biding his time at home and eventually got into trouble. When he finally started attending classes at Bluffton, he was amazed at his abilities as a student.

"My first term there I got a 3.87," he says. "I had never paid attention to the scholastic side of things, so this surprised me and everyone else."

He found the atmosphere at the school stifling, however.

"I couldn't conform to their social codes," he says. "They didn't smoke or dance or play cards, and I liked all those things. From their point of view, I was disruptive, and sometimes deliberately so. They ultimately kicked me out."

But not before Henderson had developed greater confidence in his academic ability and a desire to see how far he could take it. He transferred to Kent State University. There he met sociology professor Oscar Richey, who continually encouraged him toward higher educational goals and was the reason he became interested in the social sciences.

"He was the first Black teacher I'd ever had in my life," Henderson says. "For whatever reason, he took an interest in and a liking to me. He became a guide, or a mentor, for me. And it was just an incredible experience. I had never had a teacher as engaging and as knowledgeable as he was. I took every class I could from him."

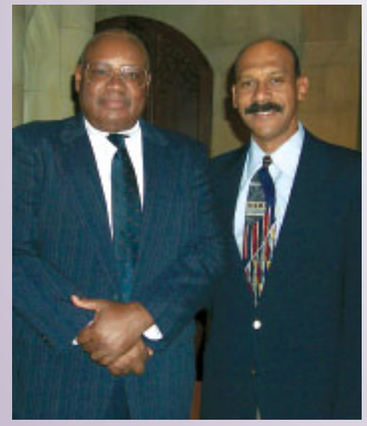
Henderson earned both his undergraduate and master's degrees in sociology from Kent State. As he completed his graduate work, he looked forward to working in the field.

Then Richey stepped in, asking Henderson to consider getting a doctorate, bringing him applications to several programs, including Pitt's.

He was accepted at all of the schools, but Pitt was close to his family. In addition, Henderson's grades in graduate school earned him $500 as an incentive for coming to Pitt for a graduate assistantship. Pitt also promised that his wife would have a job waiting for her in the Department of Anthropology, a promise that almost didn't materialize.

Settling in Pittsburgh proved to be challenging. The Hendersons were repeatedly refused apartments all over the city, even as those same rentals were offered to their White friends. Segregation kept the newly married couple out of graduate student housing, as most of it was in sections of the city reserved for White residents. They eventually moved in among Black families in housing projects.

Racism marred his doctoral work at Pitt as well.



Donald M. Henderson (left) and School of Social Work Dean Larry E. Davis attend the announcement of the professorship honoring the former provost on September 26, 2001. Davis was installed as the inaugural Donald M. Henderson Professor.

"I was the only Black grad student in the sociology department, and there were not very many Black graduate students at Pitt in those days. A colleague said to me that it was a good thing that I hadn't sent a picture with my application, because if I had, the likelihood was great that I wouldn't have even been considered for a graduate assistantship."

Henderson also faced discrimination in the classroom as an instructor. Yet despite these hardships, he remains more than satisfied with his Pitt education.

"My educational experience was outstanding," he says. "The people that I studied with and studied under were excellent people. Some of them were giants in their fields. Pitt was spending a lot of money bringing in top scholars, and the grad students really benefited."

Taking a break from his doctoral work, Henderson taught briefly at the University of Akron. He also served as an education consultant for Akron's Urban League branch and later worked for the United Planning Organization

Donald M. Henderson : Teacher, Trailblazer, Provost *continued*

in Washington, D.C. It was the 1960s, and Henderson was very aware of the civil rights struggle and its implications for education. The issues of the time and his studies in sociology had put him more closely in touch with issues that had resonated with him personally.

"It made me very conscious of the failings of the educational system, for urban Black youngsters in particular," he says. "And I started thinking about my own experiences in school. My work had broadened from education to community service."

Henderson and a friend created a program in which university students tutored schoolchildren in Akron. The program began with two White students volunteering to work with the mostly Black children of Akron's public schools. The success of that program encouraged Henderson to go further.

Donald M. Henderson and Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg

From these ideas came the Experiment in Higher Education (EHE), an academic program created by Henderson and four of his Kent State classmates to prepare high school students from poor, urban areas for college. After rounding up some funding and shopping the program around, they landed in East St. Louis, Ill., in 1966.

Henderson earned his PhD from Pitt in 1967 and eventually became director of the EHE.

EHE used daily small group seminars, research projects, and close relationships between the project's teacher-counselors and students.

Today, 84 of the 101 students who went through EHE have received bacalaureate degrees, and some have gone on to further studies at Pitt, where they remained in touch with their mentor.

"It made a difference in the lives of a large number of students," Henderson says. "A lot of those kids went on to PhDs. And ordinarily, they would have been the kids we'd throw away."

Henderson spent the rest of his career at Pitt, becoming provost in 1989 after 19 years at the University. As chief academic officer, he had principal responsibility for all academic programs outside the health sciences.

"He got the University to be more sophisticated in planning, budgeting, and making difficult decisions," says Daniel.

Henderson says he had a lot of support.

"Universities are strange creatures," he says. "I had the benefit of some really bright, creative, intellectually courageous people who made the job not just easier, but more enjoyable."

He also credits late Pitt chancellor Wesley W. Posvar.

"What made me proud was the extent to which we were able to bring about diversity," he says. "Posvar was very involved with and committed to that."

Mildred Posvar says her husband also spoke highly of Henderson.

"My husband had total respect for his intellect," she says. "[Posvar] was very proud of the Black people he had in key positions and often spoke of how truly capable they were."

Henderson led Pitt's academic programs at a pivotal time in Pittsburgh and in American higher education. Colleagues credit him with bringing new ideas to the education of undergraduate students, while at the same time encouraging their sense of independence and responsibility.

Retired since 1993, Henderson hopes he can continue to influence the way in which educational institutions serve students, particularly those whose lack of confidence, support, or resources makes them vulnerable. He has at least one opportunity with the creation of the Donald M. Henderson Professorship in 2001.

Henderson believes that even as he and his colleagues organized and tweaked academic programs to make them better fit the needs of students, it was important to develop meaningful support for them as well.

"The kinds of programs I supported at Pitt were about the business of rethinking the early education of undergraduate students, particularly in the areas of humanities and social studies," he says. "We saw education as a cooperative, collective undertaking. We fought for the academic enterprise, and we did that collectively."

Awards, Honors, and Scholarships

Derricotte Wins 2004 Guggenheim Fellowship

Toi Derricotte

Renowned poet and University of Pittsburgh English Professor Toi Derricotte received a 2004 Guggenheim Fellowship. A prestigious annual competition among applicants from throughout the United States and Canada, the fellowships are awarded by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation to individuals on the basis of distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment.

A Pitt faculty member since 1998, Derricotte has written four books of poetry and the memoir *The Black Notebooks: An Interior Journey*, which was a *New York Times* Book Review Notable Book of the Year in 1997.

Derricotte has won several awards and has had more than a thousand poems published in anthologies, journals, and magazines. She is the cofounder of the Cave Canem Foundation, an organization that has been offering workshops and retreats for African American poets since 1996. The workshops, which take place throughout the eastern United States, have opened the door to publishing opportunities and funding sources, resulting in a larger community of African American writers.

South-Paul a 2004 McCann Scholar

Jeannette South-Paul (MED '79), professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine in the Pitt School of Medicine, was named a 2004 McCann Scholar, a national award of $150,000 by the Joy McCann Foundation recognizing outstanding mentors in medicine, nursing, and science.

South-Paul is nationally recognized for her expertise in culturally competent medical education, clinical practice, and work on minority and women's issues in medicine. She mentors undergraduate students, medical students, resident fellows, and junior fellows.

Also the medical director of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Division of Community Health Services, South-Paul was named an African American Alumni Council Distinguished Alumnus in 2005 (see page 20).

Jeannette South-Paul

Lillie Receives 2005 Drum Major for Justice Award

Vernell Lillie

Vernell Lillie, chair of Pitt's Department of Africana Studies and artistic director of Kuntu Repertory Theatre (KRT), was selected by the Homer S. Brown Law Association as the 2005 recipient of the Drum Major for Justice Award. Lillie was honored during the association's sixth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast, January 17, 2005, at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church in the Larimer section of Pittsburgh. The award recognizes those who work to uphold the ideals that King exemplified: equality, justice, racial harmony, civil rights, and peace.

Lillie founded KRT with the late Robert Lee "Rob" Penny, Pitt associate professor of Africana studies and KRT's playwright-in-residence, nearly 30 years ago.

Battle and Davenport Named Legacy Laureates in 2005/Black Legacy Laureates

Legacy Laureates

Stanley Battle

On October 20, 2005, the University of Pittsburgh honored 13 new Legacy Laureates at a by-invitation-only dinner. The Legacy Laureate program was launched in 2000 to recognize alumni for their outstanding personal and professional accomplishments. Stanley Battle and Judith Davenport were both honored in 2005.

Battle, an internationally recognized leader in social work and higher education, is president of Coppin State University in Baltimore, Md. Among his many accomplishments is a collaboration with a public elementary school, which Coppin State managed and eventually raised its level of achievement to the ranks of the very best.

In his multifaceted career as a social worker, educator, researcher, and university administrator, Battle has created countless education opportunities for students, including the Presidential Scholars/Leadership Program, which annually provides a free education to five outstanding high school students. Described as brilliant, dedicated, and committed to the best social work values, Battle earned the Master of Public Health degree and the PhD in social work at Pitt.

Judith Davenport

A practicing dentist for 20 years, Davenport long championed the elimination of healthcare disparities. She appeared in Fred Rogers' award-winning book, *Going to the Dentist*, and cofounded Sheridan Broadcasting Corp., the nation's largest Black-owned-and-operated radio network.

Davenport earned the Master of Public Health and Doctor of Dental Medicine degrees at Pitt. She is a member of the University's Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) Board of Visitors and Center for Minority Health Advisory Board, and she chairs GSPH's Porter Prize Committee. She became the first Black woman to chair the Carlow University Board of Trustees. A board member of such organizations as the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Public Theater, Davenport is a community leader whose service extends to promotion of the arts.

Black Legacy Laureates

2000
K. Leroy Irvis (LAW '54)
Valerie A. McDonald (SHRP '77, FAS '79)
Herbert P. Douglas Jr. (EDUC '48, '50G)
Helen S. Faison (EDUC '46, '55G, '75G)
William Strickland Jr. (CAS '70)

2002
Cecile M. Springer (GSPIA '71)

2004
William Trice (CAS '51, DEN '52)

2005
Stanley Battle (GSPH '79, SOC WK '80G)
Judith Davenport (GSPH '74, DEN '79)

McNairy is a Distinguished Alumna/ Black Distinguished Alumni Fellows

Distinguished Alumni Fellows

Francine G. McNairy

Three Pitt alumni were honored as Distinguished Alumni during Pitt's 29th Annual Honors Convocation on February 28, 2005. Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and Pitt Alumni Association President Keith E. Schaefer (CAS '71) presented the awards—recognizing outstanding achievement in the alumni's respective professions and service to the community—to Carlos Angulo-Galvis, Henry J. Mankin, and Francine G. McNairy.

McNairy, Millersville University of Pennsylvania's president and a member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education, became provost and vice president for academic affairs at Millersville in 1994. She received a BA in sociology in 1968, an MSW in 1970, and a PhD in speech rhetoric/communication in 1978, all from Pitt. Prior to her appointment at Millersville, McNairy was associate provost at West Chester University of Pennsylvania and dean of academic support services and assistant to the vice president for academic affairs at Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

McNairy's scholarship consists of publications, presentations, and consultations focusing on retention, the freshman seminar program, outcomes assessment, Black student retention, minority curriculum development, and academic support services. Recently, she was named Outstanding First Year Advocate by the National Resource Center for First-Year Experience and Students in Transition.

Black Distinguished Alumni Fellows

1993
K. Leroy Irvis (LAW '54)

1994
Donald Henderson (FAS '67)

1997
William Strickland Jr. (CAS '70)

1998
Frank E. Bolden (EDUC '34)

1999
Herbert P. Douglas Jr. (EDUC '48, '50G)

2000
Lucile Adams-Campbell (GSPH '83)

2002
Betty Hord Robinson (EDUC '51, '70G, '74G)

2005
Francine McNairy (CAS '68, SOC WK '70G, FAS '78)

Hill is the 2006 PRSA Communicator of the Year

Robert Hill, Pitt vice chancellor for public affairs, has been named the 2005 Renaissance Communicator of the Year by the Pittsburgh chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). The award, which honors a practitioner for excellence in communications, was presented at the January 26, 2006, Renaissance Awards Dinner at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh.

Introduction of University of Pittsburgh Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill by University of Pittsburgh Associate Vice Chancellor for University News and Magazines John Harvith at January 26, 2006, PRSA Awards Presentation

John Harvith

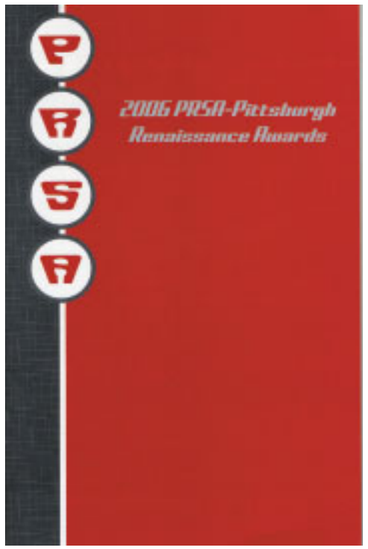
As someone who has known University of Pittsburgh Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill for more than 16 years, I can tell you that Robert is a person of uncommon personal and intellectual stature. He also is the most brilliant public relations practitioner I've encountered during my nearly 30 years in this business, a man with unimpeachable integrity and remarkable political savvy who'll go to any length to discover the truth in any given situation and sift through the information he has gathered with a steel-trap mind.

Robert possesses a quality we all aspire to and few attain: true wisdom, something that goes far beyond mere knowledge, which he also has in abundance. It's that rare ability to absorb a vast quantity of information, distill it on the spot, and come up with the nub of an issue and with it, the solution to a problem, the strategic plan to achieve that solution, and the steps necessary to implement that plan. And with all of this comes meticulousness, a rabid attention to detail, a manic drive for absolute perfection, and a strict ethical code that demands telling the truth whether his audience wishes to hear it or not—truth despite the consequences. Robert has the determination to defend unpopular decisions, stand up for the underdog, and do all in his power to provide opportunities to the underrepresented in our society. That is why he has devoted countless hours providing area community organizations with the communications power they need to reach their target audiences.

In short, we're here tonight to salute one of the brightest lights of our profession. I thank the Pittsburgh chapter of PRSA for honoring someone so eminently deserving of being named 2006 Renaissance Communicator of the Year, Robert Hill.

2006 PRSA Renaissance Communicator of the Year Robert Hill has been Pitt's vice chancellor for public affairs since 2001.

University of Pittsburgh Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill's acceptance remarks for the PRSA Renaissance Communicator of the Year Award



I know, I know, after that eloquent introduction by John Harvith, you expected someone who at least looks plausible; instead, I ask you to accept that the poor boy from Harlem standing before you is the one John just elegantly introduced. It's really okay. I scarcely believe it either. I would pinch myself but the new harassment rules preclude even self-abuse while on the case.

Instead, I reflect tonight on two sets of dissimilar realities that bring us to the irony that informs this selection of me as the Renaissance Communicator of the Year.

By the way, one of them is not the curious fact that my superb staff, whom I drive to near collapse on every project, would reinforce that maniacal behavior by convincing perspicacious judges that I should be selected. Whatever the wisdom of their public display of the Stockholm Syndrome on steroids, I shall always be grateful to the brilliant staffs of the departments of University Marketing Communications, News and Magazines, National Media Relations, and Executive Communications in Pitt's Office of Public Affairs, aided and abetted by that great emerita lady of American public relations, Mary Ann Aug, for nominating me to receive this honor.

But the first set of ironic realities is that I was born in a "Negroes-only" hospital, my grandmother never went to fifth grade, and folks around my childhood environs declared the male possessive form to be "hisn" as in "John's wife ain't really hisn!"

When asked by his teacher to use the words deduct, defense, and detail in a sentence, I am told, one young scholar in my world volunteered, "De duck jumped over de fence, de head before de tail."

I had started the fourth grade when I first entered a classroom with the greatest communicators of American English: White people.

In third grade I went to speech therapy to overcome my challenge in uttering sibilant sounds. It worked for seven years. Then in 10th grade the communications flaw returned, so now, determined to show the honeys I could do better than, "Thay thister, come and thit by thlick Rob," I went back to speech therapy. It worked for good that time. But the irrationally exuberant teacher also taught me not to say paper, father, and meager, but papah, fathah, and meagah.

When I got to the Stern School of Business at New York University, one marketing professor volunteered the following: "The Black students do not do as well as the Whites." My business communications professor had not gotten that memo when he assigned the only A in the class to me. Oh brothah! There is a fathah!

The second set of ironic realities—here in Pittsburgh—is that truly outstanding communicators have won the Renaissance Communicator of the Year Award after many years, indeed decades, of laboring in these vineyards. One of my Pitt colleagues, the aforementioned Dr. Aug, even won a position in the Hall of Fame.

So, as a poor boy from Harlem and a Pittsburgh upstart, I feel less like a Communicator of the Year than an imposter—uh—communicator of the moment. Nonetheless, when I leave this podium I am taking this classy bauble with me.

It is fortunate for me that I came into the reputational management business at the end of the information age. Nothing is more thrilling than to move beyond the connectors, cybernoise, and jangle of abbreviations, symbols, and icons that that era produced. We public relations professionals can now divine, define, and refine the messages, images, prose, and media that organize that cacophony of information into symphonic advocacy—communications for the benefit of our clients. And if they are good clients—such as my beloved Pitt and its inspired chancellor—for the benefit of humankind.

And to the greatest chaptah of the Public Relations Society of America, I say thank you tho much.

Pitt People Honored as Trailblazers

Three Pitt affiliates were honored at the 20th Black Extravaganza and Trailblazer Awards ceremony hosted by Pittsburgh's Renaissance Publications on March 19, 2005. Winners of 2005 Black Trailblazer Awards included Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill and Pitt alumni Robert O. Agbede (ENGR '79, '81G) and Alexander Wilson (CAS '72, SOC WK '74G). Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew (NURS '76, MED '94), a faculty member in Pitt's School of Medicine, received a KDKA-TV Lift Up Award during the ceremony.

2004 and 2005 YWCA Racial Justice Awards

The following article ran in the November 15, 2004, Pitt Chronicle.

Pitt winners of 2004 YWCA Racial Justice Awards (from right to left) are Kathleen Blee, Stephen B. Thomas, and Jack L. Daniel. Also participating in the event were (left to right) Margaret White Cloud Martin, Cecilia Griffin Golden, LaVerne Baker Hotep, Ed Abes, and Diane Hernon Chavis, now Pitt's assistant vice chancellor for executive communications who served on the awards selection committee. Chavis is holding one of the original framed batiks that the YWCA commissioned from Pittsburgh artist Saihou Njie for presentation to 2004 Racial Justice Award winners.

2004 YWCA Racial Justice Awards Go to Pitt's Blee, Daniel, and Center for Minority Health

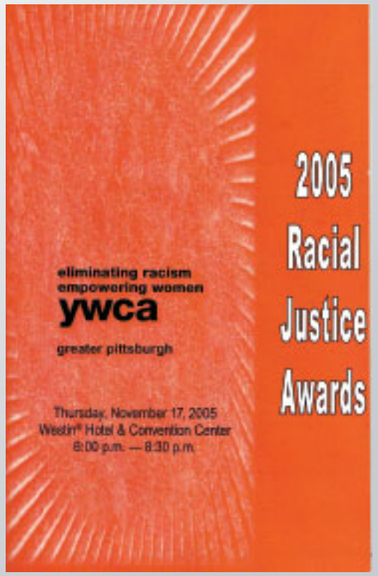
By Bruce Steele

Kathleen Blee, a Pitt sociology professor, Jack L. Daniel, former Pitt vice provost, and the University's Center for Minority Health (CMH) received 2004 YWCA Racial Justice Awards during the organization's annual members meeting on November 4, 2004.

Unsatisfied with superficial media coverage of hate groups, Blee has devoted much of her research career to understanding the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups from the inside, investigating women's roles in organized hate movements, racial hate crimes, and racial harassment. Her latest book, *Inside Organized Racism: Women in the Hate Movement* (University of California Press, 2002), has been featured in *The New York Times* and other leading publications, and an earlier book, *Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920s* (University of California Press, 1991), was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

CMH, part of Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health, received a Racial Justice Award for "translating evidence-based research into community-based interventions and deploying innovative outreach and diffusion strategies designed to establish community trust," YWCA officials stated. Accepting the award was Stephen B. Thomas, CMH director and Philip Hallen Professor of Community Health and Social Justice in GSPH and Pitt's School of Social Work.

Daniel, formerly vice provost for undergraduate studies and dean of students, was recognized for "seeking to effect change from a position of strength" within the University administration, according to YWCA officials. "Because he is responsible for improving undergraduate education, Dr. Daniel is better positioned to contribute to the provision of equal education opportunities for historically underrepresented students, particularly African Americans," they said.



Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Hill Receives 2005 YWCA Racial Justice Award; Alumna McKenzie Posthumously Honored at Event

YWCA Racial Justice Awards, given annually, recognize individuals, corporations, and organizations that have demonstrated a sustained commitment to racial justice.

Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill and the late Edna Chappelle McKenzie (EDUC '68, FAS '71, '73) were among the five individuals who received 2005 Racial Justice Awards from the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh.

Hill is the primary spokesperson for Pitt and its chief communications official. He is responsible for the University's Web presence, advertising, marketing, video communications, news, local and national media relations, and publications. He is publisher of the *Pitt Chronicle*, *Pitt Magazine*, and *Blue Gold & Black*, which pays tribute to the University's African American community. Hill conceived, narrated, and was executive producer of *A New Way of Thinking*, a documentary video on the Black student heritage at Pitt. He was also executive producer of *K. Leroy Irvis: The Lion of Pennsylvania*, an award-winning video about the legendary African American legislator and Pitt alumnus.

McKenzie was an emerita professor at Community College of Allegheny County's Allegheny campus, where she established the Department of Ethnic and Minority Studies and served as its chair for 23 years. Also during her career, McKenzie (1923–2005) was an award-winning journalist, researcher, and public servant. She was an investigative reporter for the *Pittsburgh Courier*, documenting discrimination in public accommodations in Western Pennsylvania. McKenzie was the first Black woman to receive the PhD degree in history from Pitt, and she later served as a trustee of the University.

Edna Chappelle McKenzie

2005 YWCA Racial Justice Essay Award: First Place Awarded to Harold Rosemond, Seventh Grade, St. Agnes School

Harold Rosemond's winning seventh-grade essay addresses the 2005 Racial Justice Awards question: "If you were in charge of a media outlet, what would you do to eliminate racism?"

2005 YWCA Racial Justice Essay Award winner Harold Rosemond, a seventh grader at St. Agnes School in Oakland, and fellow honoree Robert Hill

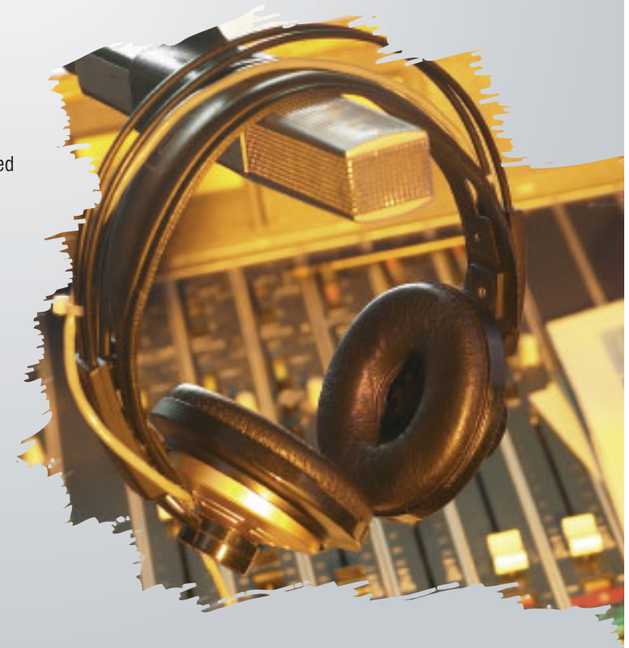
As the head of a major radio station, I will make it my mission to educate youth about how negative stereotypes fuel racism. I will show the youth clear examples of negative stereotypes. I will expose the youth to positive examples of African Americans. Additionally, I will only promote positive messages.

I will show the youth clear examples of negative stereotypes. The media show us images of rappers as uneducated, young Black men who promote violence in music and only strive to own expensive cars and jewelry. Rap music is banned from a lot of arenas and is not promoted as an art form. What the media does not tell you is that there are rappers such as Jay-Z, who has an MBA and invests his money in businesses like restaurants, sports teams, and clothing lines, as well as giving hundreds of thousands of dollars to programs for youth in the community.

To expose youth to positive examples of African Americans, I would air an hour-long show daily that would highlight and answer questions about accomplishments of people like Oprah Winfrey, Martin Luther King Jr., and Michael Jordan. All of these people are African Americans who have contributed to society in a positive way.

Finally, I will only promote positive messages. By refusing to be a part of the problem, no matter how much money is at stake, I will send a message to youth that we have to stand up for ourselves and educate people by example.

Racism and prejudice are about ignorance, and ignorance means "not knowing." If I can educate people, then I will be helping to eliminate racism.



Comments in honor of Edna Chappelle McKenzie at the 2005 YWCA Racial Justice Awards Banquet by Larry Glasco

(Left to right) Edward Rhymes, then-director of the YWCA Center for Race Relations; Associate Professor of History Larry Glasco; and Cecilia Griffin Golden, president and CEO of YWCA Greater Pittsburgh

It is altogether fitting that Edna be recognized by the YWCA, for her life represented the ideals of this organization—fighting for racial justice and for the empowerment of women. She carried out these fights with energy and enthusiasm, with a sort of life force that inspired those around her. Her smile and her enthusiasm could indeed light up a room.

I met Edna when I first came to the history department at the University of Pittsburgh in 1969. She was an older student, and I can assure you that her energy and enthusiasm and smile lit up that department.

I remember Edna as a student committed to studying not history for history's sake, but for the purpose of finding a usable past, a past that would provide inspiration for today's struggles and that carried lessons for today. Edna's dissertation illustrated those goals. Published as "Freedom in the Midst of Slavery," it highlighted a little-known practice by which slaves persuaded their masters to allow them to work after regular hours, and to do so on their own behalf. Believe me, that was not easy, for the regular working hours of a slave were enormous. But nonetheless they persuaded their masters to allow them to do so and to be able to apply their earnings toward purchasing their own freedom. A surprising number of slaves did this, particularly in states like Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and North Carolina, and after purchasing their own freedom in this way, they devoted the rest of their lives working to purchase the freedom of their families and relatives. This was an aspect of history that said, "Never accept oppression, but struggle against it; look for a way out on your own behalf and find it. It can be done." It was an inspiring message, one of the struggle for racial justice and empowerment.

Edna carried on that message in her professional career, particularly in her energizing leadership in the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. She worked tirelessly to keep that organization going through lean years as well as rich years. Edna also carried that message in her efforts toward public history, in her op-ed pieces, and in letters to the editors of local newspapers, which often drew upon historical examples that had lessons for contemporary issues.

Edna Chappelle McKenzie

Edna also was dedicated to empowering women. As a reporter for the *Pittsburgher Courier* in the 1940s, she was assigned to the typical women's role as society editor. I can remember her telling me how one day she had stormed into the editor's office, and, shaking her finger at him, said she was not interested in society news, that she wanted to do regular reporting, that in fact she insisted on doing such reporting.

The editor relented and gave her one tough assignment—going with photographer Teenie Harris to document racial discrimination at restaurants, coffee shops, and other places of public accommodation in the Pittsburgh area. This was a very tough, often embarrassing, and humiliating assignment. The editor no doubt thought it would send Edna running back to the society pages. Of course she did not, and for the rest of her life, by both example and exhortation, Edna encouraged young women to assert themselves, to empower themselves.

So for both these reasons, and for many others, I am pleased to accept this award and recognition of Edna on behalf of the many people whose lives and hearts she has touched.

Thank you.

Physician of the Year : Morris Turner

Morris Turner (MED '73) was named Physician of the Year and honored at the Gateway Medical Society's Physician of the Year Scholarship Banquet on October 29, 2005, at Pittsburgh's Omni William Penn Hotel. The New Pittsburgh Courier *featured Turner in the following November 23, 2005, article.*

Turner Named 2005 Gateway Medical Society Physician of the Year

By Debbie Norrell

How often does one get an opportunity to celebrate the life and accomplishments of his or her doctor? It happens once a year for the Gateway Medical Society at its annual Physician of the Year Scholarship Banquet.

On October 29, 2005, at the Omni William Penn Hotel, more than 250 joined to celebrate the life and times of obstetrician-gynecologist Morris Turner, MD.

The evening was one of African elegance. Drummers played traditional African music during the reception while guests shopped the art of the Zimbabwe Gallery (Oxford, Pa.) and made their bids on silent auction items.

The Gateway Medical Society is a nonprofit organization striving to eliminate racial disparities in medical treatment through healthcare education and greater access to health-related services.

Morris Turner

Its annual fundraiser serves as a tool to recruit, educate, and retain local minority medical students. Organized in 1963, the Gateway Medical Society is composed of African American physicians serving the Pittsburgh area.

The centerpiece of the evening was a video produced by Margaret Larkins- Pettigrew, MD, and narrated by Andrew Carey Ja-Ja, MD.

For Turner, it all began in 1948 in Barney, Ga., a small farming community in the south central part of the state, where his parents lived and survived as sharecroppers.

Turner's early education included the challenge of early mornings and bus rides of more than 60 miles of travel each day. The payoff was a tuition scholarship to Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., and recruitment by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, from which he graduated in 1973.

Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC is where he chose to refine his obstetrics and gynecological specialty and subsequently joined into private practice with the late Dr. Robert G. Kisner, with whom he practiced for 26 years.

Turner presently serves as medical director for the outreach sites sponsored by Magee-Womens Hospital at Wilkinsburg and Monroeville. He currently is medical director for the Family Health Council of Western Pennsylvania and chief of service for obstetrics and gynecology at UPMC McKeesport. Turner has been married to his wife, Verena, since 1968, and they have three sons and one daughter.

Of course, the other purpose of the dinner is to award scholarships. The 2005 recipients were Martell Covington, Stephanie Robinson, Barrett Woods, and Yetunde Olutunmdi.

In the Gateway Medical Society's scholarship dinner tradition, unique fashions from Panache and Abyssinnia were featured in a mini fashion show during dinner.

This year's dinner was emceed by Lynne Hayes Freeland and chaired by Sheryl Bennett and Esther Bush. Anita Edwards, MD, is president-elect. Jan Madison, MD, is the current president.

Another First for Faison

The following article was originally published in the February 27, 2006, issue of the Pitt Chronicle.

Dr. Helen S. Faison Chair in Urban Education Created in Pitt's School of Education

By John Harvith

Attendees of the February 24 Board of Trustees meeting acknowledge Helen S. Faison upon the announcement of the first fully endowed chair in the School of Education, created in her honor.

In a surprise announcement, Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg told the University's Board of Trustees on February 24, 2006, that Pitt alumna, emerita trustee, and trailblazing educator Helen S. Faison (EDUC '46, '55G, '75G) is being honored through the creation of the Dr. Helen S. Faison Chair in Urban Education, the first fully endowed chair in the 96-year history of Pitt's School of Education, where Faison earned her BS, MEd, and PhD degrees.

The holder of the new Faison Chair will direct the School of Education's recently established Center for Urban Education and serve as an important school liaison to the regional K–12 educational community, leading the school's initiatives in urban education research, training, and practice. The center's mission is to research and disseminate methods for improving urban education in the Pittsburgh region and nationally.

"For Helen Faison, education not only has been a career, it also has been a calling," said Nordenberg. "The forms of recognition she has won are many, and a number of them have come from within this University: receipt of an honorary doctorate, selection as a Legacy Laureate, and designation as a Distinguished Alumna by both the African American Alumni Council and the School of Education. Her career also includes a list of very notable 'firsts'—including the Pittsburgh Public Schools' first female and first African American academic high school principal and its first African American superintendent. Today, we add both to Helen's list of honors and to that impressive list of firsts.

"The creation of this chair will help advance the priorities of the school and also will better position the school to make important contributions in this community and in other urban centers," the chancellor added. "Linking Helen's name to the chair not only is a well-deserved tribute to her many unique and pioneering contributions, but also will be an inspiration to the faculty members who hold the chair over the years."

Faison receives a congratulatory hug from WQED Multimedia president and CEO George Miles and School of Education Dean Alan Lesgold.

Three Pittsburgh foundations were the lead donors in creating the Faison Chair, each contributing $500,000: the Buhl Foundation, the Grable Foundation, and the Richard King Mellon Foundation. The Maurice Falk Fund stepped forward as a partner donor.

"All of us here in Pitt's School of Education are extremely grateful to the foundations that endowed the Helen Faison Chair," commented School of Education Dean Alan M. Lesgold. "By connecting us to Dr. Faison, the chair constitutes a continual reminder of everything that she represents: concern for every child, absolute integrity, courage, and selflessness. Dr. Faison is the personification of education and public service at its best.

"The chair also reminds us of the legacy of pioneering Pitt education professor E.B. Huey," Lesgold added. "Close to the time of the school's founding in 1910, he published the first body of research specifically targeted at the teaching of a particular subject—his work on how one learns to read remains a classic. Just as Huey addressed a central issue of American education then, the Faison Chair will allow us to address the central problem of American education today—how to ensure a strong educational foundation for every child, one that will truly give all an equal opportunity to achieve the American dream."

Mentor, Scholar : Jack L. Daniel

The following article was adapted from the August 24, 2005, issue of Pitt Chronicle.

Daniel Resigns as Undergraduate Studies Vice Provost

By John Harvith

(Left to right) Serwah "Rose" Afriyie, Jack L. Daniel, and Brennan Rhodes at the October 22, 2005, African American Alumni Council Sankofa banquet, a tribute to Daniel

Jack L. Daniel has resigned as Pitt's vice provost for undergraduate studies effective December 31, 2005, Pitt Provost James V. Maher has announced. A member of the provost's senior staff since 1984, Daniel will remain a professor of communication in the University's School of Arts and Sciences.

"Few people have cared about Pitt as deeply or contributed as much to its progress as Jack Daniel," said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "He and I have worked closely together, on a wide range of matters, for the last 20 years. I have long considered him to be a particularly capable colleague, astute advisor, and good friend. It is our shared hope to stay connected, both professionally and personally, as he moves into this new and exciting chapter of his life."

Maher said, "It is with deep regret that I have accepted the resignation of Dr. Daniel, who wishes to focus his considerable energies on his scholarship and other special assignments. His decision to step down from his current administrative position will conclude almost four decades of successful administrative leadership and service to the University.

"Throughout his career, Dr. Daniel has concentrated on continuous improvement of undergraduate education, facilitating efforts to provide students with exemplary educational opportunities both inside and outside the classroom," Maher added. "He entered the world of academic administration because of an abiding interest in effecting social change, committed to working from a position of strength to encourage success for all students. In recent years, Dr. Daniel helped to build upon and solidify the necessary connections between student and academic life, a lasting and significant contribution to our educational mission."

Daniel earned the Bachelor of Science degree in psychology at Pitt's Johnstown campus in 1963 and the Master of Arts and PhD degrees in communication at the Pittsburgh campus in 1965 and 1968, respectively. He was an American Council on Education Fellow at Stanford University in 1973–74 and is a 1986 alumnus of Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management. He began his Pitt career as assistant professor of communication in 1968 and was promoted to associate professor a year later, serving as chair of the Department of Black Studies from 1969 to 1974, associate dean of the College

of Arts and Sciences from 1974 to 1978, associate dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences from 1978 to 1984, assistant provost for undergraduate programs from 1984 to 1987, associate provost for undergraduate programs from 1987 to 1992, and vice provost for academic affairs from 1992 to 2002. Promoted to professor of communication in 1999, he was named vice provost for undergraduate studies in 2002, and he added the role of dean of students to his responsibilities from September 2002 through June 2005. He also served as interim dean of the College of General Studies from 1997 to 1999 and was interim dean of students in 2001–02.

Daniel teaches in the area of African American communication, and his current research and writing interests include African American family communication. In his administrative role, Daniel has served as chair of the Enrollment Management Steering Committee, coordinating a number of campuswide activities related to student recruitment, retention, satisfaction, graduation, and placement. Also among his responsibilities have been new undergraduate academic programs and work with the Chancellor's Diversity Task Force and Equipoise on issues relating to diversity.

An active member of the National Communication Association (NCA), Daniel has served as secretary, vice president, and president of the NCA's Black Caucus. He is or has been a member of the Governing Board of the College Board; the Commission on Human Resources and Social Change; the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators; the Florida Education Fund's Council of Elders; and the boards of directors of INROADS/Pittsburgh, INVESTING NOW, and the Hill House Association.

Among Daniel's honors and recognitions are NCA's Spotlight Program on the Contributions of Jack L. Daniel in 1995, NCA's Presidential Award for Contribution to the Black Caucus in 1997, and delivery of a Baldwin-Wallace College Marting Endowed Lecture in 1998.

We Fish: The Journey to Fatherhood (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003), a memoir that Daniel coauthored with his son, Omari, was praised as a "fascinating and selective autobiography that focuses on a father-son relationship over three generations" by Robert L. Tener in the summer-fall 2003 issue of *African American Review*. Tener called the book "wonderful" and "an excellent and delightful autobiography, a book any man, White or Black, who is concerned about being a father and who likes to fish, write poetry, or hunt could learn from. Like Langston Hughes' *The Big Sea*, Dr. Daniel's book captures one with its humor, honesty, and depth of understanding."

Daniel's TV appearances have included a feature segment with his son discussing *We Fish* on the Spike TV network program *True Dads with Bruce Willis* and an interview segment on ABC-TV's *20/20* with his wife, Jerlean E. Daniel (CAS '64, SHRP '72G, EDUC '75G), former Pitt associate professor and chair of the Pitt School of Education's Department of Psychology in Education. Jerlean is executive deputy director of the National Association for the Education of Young Children in Washington, D.C. The Daniels were interviewed on *20/20* in the context of a story that explored the bias that job applicants with "Black-sounding" names face from prospective employers; they discussed the findings of a names study they did involving 4- and 5-year-old children.

Mentor, Scholar : Jack L. Daniel *continued*

Taken from Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg's remarks in recognition of Jack L. Daniel at the October 22, 2005, African American Alumni Council Sankofa banquet

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg delivers his Sankofa banquet speech in honor of Jack L. Daniel.

… And so, Jack, when you ask yourself today, as I know you sometimes do, "How did a radical, African American academic from Johnstown get hooked up with this Swedish American establishment figure from Minnesota?" my answer is, "You started it, and it all started right there." … For the last 10 years, though Jack has not been a part of my own office, we have continued to tackle challenges together, and he has remained a reliable source of wise counsel, which includes well-developed abilities to encourage and occasionally to poke and prod.

Speaking in very personal terms, if Donald Henderson—largely because of the very wide gap in our experience levels and the nature of the positions we held back in the 1980s—became something of a professional father figure for me, then Jack became a brother. Among the many things that I deeply admire about him are his uncompromising commitment to quality, in his own work and in the programs of his University; his willingness, in the quest of a noble goal, to personally shoulder a very heavy load; and his polite impatience with those who would settle for superficial successes.

To give perhaps the most obvious example of that last trait, it is not enough for a university like Pitt to recruit respectable numbers of African American students, as desirable as that may be. It is far more important, in fact, that those who enroll persist to graduation, perform at high levels academically, and leave the institution as well positioned to seize all of the special opportunities that await young people in the real world as any of their classmates.

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and Jack Daniel enjoy a personal and professional relationship that spans two decades.

I can tell you this: Because of Jack Daniel, our University is a much, much better place, in a broad range of ways. And, again speaking more personally, Jack even has enjoyed some modest success in making Pitt's current chancellor a better person and more effective leader. I am deeply grateful for his contributions on both fronts and do feel privileged to join with you in honoring and thanking him tonight.

Mentor, Scholar : Jack L. Daniel *continued*

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg's speech at the reception for Jack L. Daniel, Connolly Ballroom, Alumni Hall, December 12, 2005

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Jack Daniel, Jerlean Daniel, and Pitt Provost James V. Maher

It has been said that, "Few men of action have been able to make a graceful exit at an appropriate time." This afternoon, we have gathered to honor a man who is in the midst of a studied attempt not to exit but to gracefully reshape his portfolio of responsibilities as he moves into another chapter of his life. Jack has served as an exemplar among us, from a range of important positions, for longer than any could have reasonably expected. But his impact and influence have been so profound that the thought of any shift is unsettling to many. Because Jack and I have tackled so many things together over a long period of time, there are moments when, despite my desire to be understanding, I find myself in that company.

It was almost exactly 20 years ago that I first met Jack. In November of 1985, under challenging circumstances and with no real administrative experience, I became the interim dean of our law school. One of my first responsibilities was to represent the school in a budget hearing conducted in the provost's office. When that session was over, I returned directly to my office, which was just a couple of blocks away, but a telephone message beat me. Vice Provost Daniel had called to invite me to join a special Universitywide committee examining the status and recognition of teaching.

That was the beginning of both a close personal friendship and a committed professional partnership that not only have extended beyond two decades but have grown stronger with each passing year. When I was dean of the School of Law, Jack was my contact person in the provost's office. During my year as interim provost, I worked with him literally on a daily basis. And for the last 10 years, though we have been separated by eight Cathedral of Learning floors and our names now appear on different pages of the University's organization chart, a very special bond between us has remained.

As you all know, Jack's contributions to the progress of the University of Pittsburgh are so extensive that they could never be effectively catalogued. And rather than struggling to provide you with even a partial list today, I want, instead, to comment briefly on some of the qualities that have made Jack such a respected and beloved member of this community.

First, Jack never expected anyone else to do more than he was willing to do himself. His capacity for hard work is enormous. His ability to effectively tackle widely divergent tasks, often simultaneously, is remarkable. And, from what I have seen while watching Jack in action, the more daunting the challenge, the more formidable he becomes. In addition to everything that he accomplished himself, then, it is impossible to overvalue the power of his positive example.

Second, Jack never has believed that any of his students should settle for a less satisfying and rewarding life than the one he has created for himself. I cannot tell you the number of times the two of us, in walking across the campus, have been approached by a student who proudly proclaimed, "I got a 3.5 last semester, Dr. Daniel!" His response, invariably, was something like, "That's great … and you're going to get that up to a 4.0 next semester, aren't you?" (This, I suspect, is a form of dialogue with which his own children are familiar.) But Jack always understood, in particular, that the admission of a diverse group of students was just the start of a process that also needed to include high rates of retention and graduation, high levels of academic performance, high rates of job placement, and high levels of impact in the "real world."

Third, even on days of deep disappointment—and Jack has seen more than a few of them—his efforts always have been anchored in a strong belief in the basic goodness of people. Of course, as even Jack would acknowledge, there are exceptions, and even good people can have bad days. But particularly in a setting in which the advancement of noble goals is tied almost exclusively to the power of persuasion, the belief that you can reach and touch and move people is essential to sustained success.

One of the things of which I am the most proud is that Jack permitted me to be one of the early readers of the manuscript that became that absolutely outstanding book *We Fish: The Journey to Fatherhood*. The book ends with a letter from Jack Daniel to Omari Daniel, his son and co-author, and it deals with the life that lies ahead for Omari's son Javon. This is the last paragraph of that letter:

"'When the storms of life are raging,' as they surely will throughout Javon's life and the lives of other African American youth, your son and all the others will need love to help them find their way. For example, the day will come when Javon learns the terrible lesson that, for some, his race and gender count not as two things in his favor but as three strikes against him. Then, because of what your love will have done for him, he will wade through that quagmire as easily as you made your way across the river last week. So, fish often with him. He just might return the love by writing with you one day."

The letter is signed, "Love, The Bassman." And, though I have read that paragraph a dozen times, I still find the expression of the lesson and the accompanying emotion to be moving.

Jack, a lot of us feel as if, in our own way, we have been fishing with you—often and over an extended period of time. Our fishing experiences, like those within your family, have been touched by your love—for your students and for your colleagues. They have been shaped by your respect for this University and for the processes and products of education. And they have been driven by your belief in a future that is fair and just and bright—and that includes special opportunities for all who seek them and are willing to do the work required to attain them.

Today, we gather to thank you for letting us be a part of those academic fishing expeditions. And we commit to honor your rich legacy, Dr. Bassman, by applying the lessons you have taught us and by following the example you have set for us. We hope, in turn, that you will continue to be our guide and that, when we need you, you will be there to help us "land yet another big one."

Jack L. Daniel's Farewell Speech : An Open Letter to My Great and Dear Mother

Jack L. Daniel

December 12, 2005

My Dear Great Mother:

Alma Mater, wise and glorious, I thank you for admitting me to your bosom when no other college in the country would admit me. Thank you for nurturing me throughout my career with you, even though I often failed to heed your wise counsel. Believing that I knew best, I often dared to chastise you, my Alma Mater, wise and glorious, but still you kept me as a family member.

My great mother, **child of light and bride of truth**, I am so glad that you decided to let your light be generated by truths emanating from sources in addition to those of Western Europe. Thank you also for acknowledging that truth is a function of whatever is, as well as whomever makes the observations and how they observe.

Mama, **over fate and foe victorious** has been your legacy. You overcame the fate of a tiny log cabin school and became internationally recognized for the excellence of your work. Mama, my great mother, my Alma Mater, you know how much I want you to now overcome the foes of racism, sexism, religious bias and dogma, neo-colonialism, and other 21st-century humanly engineered forms of transgressions against our souls. Mama, please convince our distinguished scholars that there is a myth in measurement; that when all of their best quantitative measures reveal how the world happens to be, we still must determine how the world ought to be. As you know, Mama, we must be forever cognizant of our core values since there are so many aspects of our world that are not as they ought to be.

Great mother, you have been blessed to be **dowered with eternal youth, crowned with love of son and daughter**. Mama, please grow deeper in your understanding of your beige, brown, and black sons and daughters. Do all that you can to help them receive the nourishment that you provided for your other sons and daughters. America is browning in keeping with the rainbow of people throughout our often-referenced global village. If you, my great mother, will do your part for making better this diverse world order, **thou shall conquer as of yore**.

Dear old Pittsburgh, my **Alma Mater**, I do hope **God preserve thee evermore** for I am truly of you.

Before closing, Mama, I need you to know that there is so much more that I need you to do for my people. Mama, listen to Margaret Walker, who wrote:

Their dirges and their ditties and their blues and their jubilees,
Praying their prayers nightly to an unknown god,
Bending their knees humbly to an unseen power.

For my people lending their strength to the years,
to the gone years and the now years and the maybe years,
Washing, ironing, cooking, scrubbing, sewing, mending, hoeing,
Plowing, digging, planting, pruning, patching, dragging along, never gaining, never reaping, never knowing, and never understanding.

... in memory of the bitter hours when we discovered we were black and poor and small and different and nobody cared and nobody wondered

And nobody understood.

For the boys and girls who grew in spite of these things to be Man and Woman ...

Mama, my great mother, my Alma Mater, please do as Margaret Walker wrote and for my people and all other people, please do your part to

Let a new earth rise. Let another world be born. ...
Let a second generation full of courage issue forth;
Let a people loving freedom come to growth.
Let a beauty full of healing add a strength of final clenching be the pulsing in our spirit and our blood.

Mama, please do for my children and my children's children all of the good that you did for me. Mama, my Alma Mater, I will always love you, and I look forward to continued work with you to address these and other concerns.

Thank you,

Your Son
JLD

Alma Mater wise and glorious
Child of light and bride of truth
Over fate and foe victorious
Dowered with eternal youth.

Crowned with love of son and daughter
Thou shall conquer as of yore.
Dear old Pittsburgh, Alma Mater
God preserve thee evermore.

Trustee Take: Bebe Moore Campbell

The following biographical information is from a June 20, 2005, Pitt Chronicle *article concerning the nomination of Bebe Moore Campbell and three others to the Board of Trustees. On June 24, 2005, Campbell was elected to serve on the board.*

Bebe Moore Campbell is a bestselling author and journalist who has won numerous awards, including a National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Literature Award, the NAACP Image Award for Literature, the New York Times *Notable Book of the Year award, a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Grant, the University of Pittsburgh's Distinguished Alumni Award, and, most recently, was acknowledged as one of* Essence *magazine's 25 World's Most Inspiring Women.*

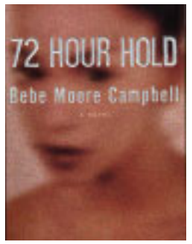
Novelist Bebe Moore Campbell is the author of three *New York Times* bestsellers—*Brothers and Sisters* (Gale Group, 1995), *Singing in the Comeback Choir* (Penguin Group, 1998), and *What You Owe Me* (Penguin Group, 2001), which also was a *Los Angeles Times* Best Book of 2001. Her new novel, *72 Hour Hold*, the story of a mother struggling to cope with her daughter's bipolar disorder, is scheduled for release by Knopf June 28.

Campbell's interest in mental health also was the catalyst for her first children's book, *Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry* (Penguin Group, 2003), which tells the story of a little girl reared by a mentally ill mother; it won the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Outstanding Literature Award for 2003. Campbell's book *Your Blues Ain't Like Mine* (Ballentine Books Inc., 1992) was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year and the winner of the NAACP Image Award for Literature. Her first play, *Even with the Madness*, which debuted in New York City in June 2003, revisited the theme of mental illness and the family.

Campbell's journalistic articles have appeared in numerous national publications, and her essays, articles, and book excerpts appear in many anthologies. She is a regular commentator on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition*.

Campbell earned the Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education at Pitt in 1971. The University's African American Alumni Council honored her with its Distinguished Alumnus Award in October 2003.

72 Hour Hold, by Bebe Moore Campbell



New York Times bestselling author and Pitt Trustee Bebe Moore Campbell (EDUC '71) has drawn from her own deep emotions and African American heritage to craft her new novel, a tale of a mother's battle to free her daughter from the chains of bipolar disorder.

Eighteen-year-old Trina has become violent, wild, and paranoid. Keri, her mother, watching her spiraling descent, attempts to help her daughter through traditional channels within the mental health system. Keri learns, however, that after only three days, Trina, who is legally an adult, can arrange for her own immediate release from any facility.

Unwilling to accept the red-tape runarounds that seem endemic to the mental health community, Keri discovers the Program, a radical alternative. It short circuits psychiatric systems and instead follows the tracks laid down by the Underground Railroad. Keri will need to turn away from the mental health bureaucrats and seek the courage of Harriet Tubman as she entrusts the Program with the fate of her daughter.

Inevitably, Keri discovers that her daughter's future is intertwined with her own past, and in order to secure her daughter's safe passage, Keri must bring to the surface what she might otherwise have buried.

University of Pittsburgh's Current and Former Black Trustees

Campbell, Bebe Moore (EDUC '71)
Alumni Trustee: June 2005–present

Barnes, Francis V. (EDUC '83, '86)
Ex Officio (Secretary of Education, Commonwealth of PA): July 2004–September 2005

Hill, Frederick Wells (CGS '75, LAW '78)
Special Trustee: June 2003–present

Trueheart, William
Special Trustee: June 2002–present

Miles Jr., George L.
Term Trustee: October 2000–present

Douglas Jr., Herbert (EDUC '48, '50)
Special Trustee: February 1999–June 2002
Emeritus Trustee: October 2002–present

Strickland Jr., William (CAS '70)
Special Trustee: June 1997–February 2002
Term Trustee: February 2002–present

Moyé, Alfred L. (FAS '68)
Special Trustee: February 1996–present

Hord, Earl F. (KGSB '77)
Special Trustee: June 1994–February 1996
Term Trustee: February 1996–June 2005

Wilson, August
Term Trustee: June 1992–June 1995
d. October 2005

Ware, Carl (GSPIA '68, '73)
Special Trustee: June 1992–June 1995

Humphries, Frederick (FAS '65)
Term Trustee: June 1992–June 1996

Robinson, William R.
Commonwealth Trustee: February 1990–February 1998

Freeland, Wendell G.
Commonwealth Trustee: November 1988–November 1992

McKenzie, Edna C. (EDUC '68, FAS '71, '73)
Commonwealth Trustee: April 1987–February 1991
d. June 2005

Page, Mary-Jane M. (EDUC '48, '53)
Commonwealth Trustee: January 1984–January 1992

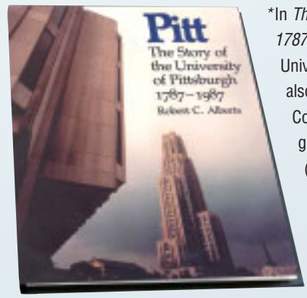
Williams, Elmer L.
Commonwealth Trustee: November 1978–November 1982
d. January 1990

McNairy, Gladys B.
Commonwealth Trustee: November 1977–November 1981
d. April 2004

Faison, Helen S. (EDUC '46, '55, '75)
Term Trustee: May 1976–May 1982
Emeritus Trustee: June 1990–present

Irvis, K. Leroy (LAW '54)
Commonwealth Trustee: January 1970–November 1988
Emeritus Trustee: June 1993–March 2006
d. March 2006

Utterback, Everett E.* (KGSB '32)
Commonwealth Trustee: October 1966–May 1969
Term Trustee: May 1969–May 1974
Emeritus Trustee: May 1974–March 1992
d. March 1992



*In *The Story of the University of Pittsburgh, 1787–1987* (p. 344), Robert Alberts' report on the University becoming a state-related institution also discussed the appointment of the new Commonwealth Trustees, including a distinguished lawyer who had been a track star at Pitt (the first Black trustee). The minutes of the October 25, 1966, fall meeting of the Board of Trustees confirmed the appointment of the first Commonwealth Trustees. Everett E. Utterback was among that first class of Commonwealth Trustees.

Lending a Hand for Healthy Families : The Center for Minority Health

The following November 1, 2004, Pitt Chronicle *article reported on the Pitt Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) Center for Minority Health's launch of the Healthy Black Family Project.*

GSPH Center for Minority Health Launches Healthy Black Family Project—Effort Aimed at Decreasing Diabetes, Hypertension in Pittsburgh Neighborhoods

By Alan Aldinger and Serwah "Rose" Afriyie

The Healthy Black Family Project sponsors activities that help individuals and families prevent diabetes and high blood pressure.

The GSPH Center for Minority Health has taken its public health campaign to city neighborhoods by launching the Healthy Black Family Project (HBFP), aimed at preventing diabetes and hypertension in African American neighborhoods in Pittsburgh's East End.

The program was announced October 26, 2004, during a news conference at the Kingsley Association Community Center in East Liberty.

"Today we plant the flag of health promotion and disease prevention by opening a field office right here in the Kingsley Association's new facility," said Stephen Thomas, Center for Minority Health director and Philip Hallen Professor of Community Health and Social Justice in GSPH and Pitt's School of Social Work.

Also participating in the news conference were Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg; Kenneth Melani, chief executive officer of Highmark Blue Cross-Blue Shield; and William Trueheart, president and chief executive officer of The Pittsburgh Foundation.

With funding support from The Pittsburgh Foundation, DSF Charitable Foundation, and Highmark Foundation, the HBFP team will conduct door-to-door recruitment of Black families to join in a multiyear effort to improve diet, increase physical activity, and reduce stress as a way of translating the best public health and medical science into practical steps people can take to control their health.

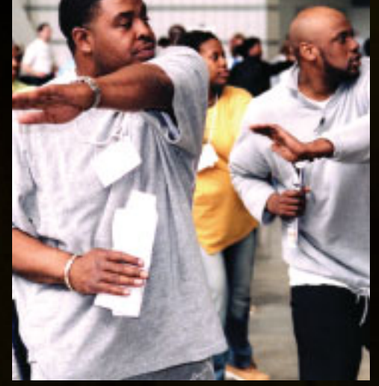
With more than 18 million Americans living with diabetes and another 16 million ages 40–74 with a condition called pre-diabetes (blood glucose levels higher than normal but not high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes), the Center for Minority Health has assembled a team of community-based organizations—including the Centers for Healthy Hearts and Souls, the Kingsley Association, and Hosanna House along with medical experts from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Healthy Lifestyle program and computer technology specialists from Carnegie Mellon University. They are all focused on breaking the

cycle of heart disease and diabetes through lifestyle behavior change, chronic disease management, access to medical care, access to preventive services, and the elimination of exposure to environmental toxins in homes and neighborhoods.

Additionally, the Baptist Temple Church Center in Homewood will provide linkages to church partners and other community-based organizations focused on making health and wellness a priority. The HBFP also will engage public housing communities in partnership with the Family Resources' Beverly J. Wall-Lovelace Children's Program.

"It is critical that we accept the evidence and begin to act on what we know," Thomas said. "For example, disparities between the health status of Blacks and Whites were well-documented in the 2002 publication of the *Black Papers on Health Status of African Americans in Allegheny County* by the University of Pittsburgh Center on Social and Urban Research and the Urban League of Pittsburgh."

He noted that diabetes death rates for Black females and males are about twice the rate for Whites. Also, in 2002, the Pennsylvania Department of Health released a report that examined Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey data for Pennsylvania that identified racial disparities in risk factors for diabetes and heart disease. The state reported that significantly higher percentages of African American adults and children were overweight, and only 20 percent reported eating at least two servings of vegetables a day. Additionally, 31 percent of African American adults were smokers.



Studies show that people at high risk for type 2 diabetes can prevent or delay getting the disease by eating healthier and increasing physical activity to lose weight.

"Further, at the neighborhood level, a Homewood-Brushton community needs assessment, funded by The Pittsburgh Foundation, examined social conditions and reported that between 1995 and 1999, heart disease accounted for the highest mortality rate (20.7 percent) in persons younger than 65 years of age," Thomas pointed out.

"Cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes are preventable, and we aim to ensure that culturally appropriate and scientifically sound health promotion and disease prevention efforts reach Pittsburgh's African American community. The evidence is clear that risk factors for chronic disease are concentrated in African American communities, and we must reach them where they live," said Thomas.

"Pittsburgh, with world-renowned hospitals and universities, houses many centers of excellence in biomedical research, clinical care, and public health, yet paradoxically the Black residents who live in the communities surrounding these institutions bear a disproportionate burden of health problems," noted Thomas, adding: "We believe it is in the best interest of insurance companies, like Highmark, to invest in programs like the Healthy Black Family Project as one way to engage the African American community in disease prevention."

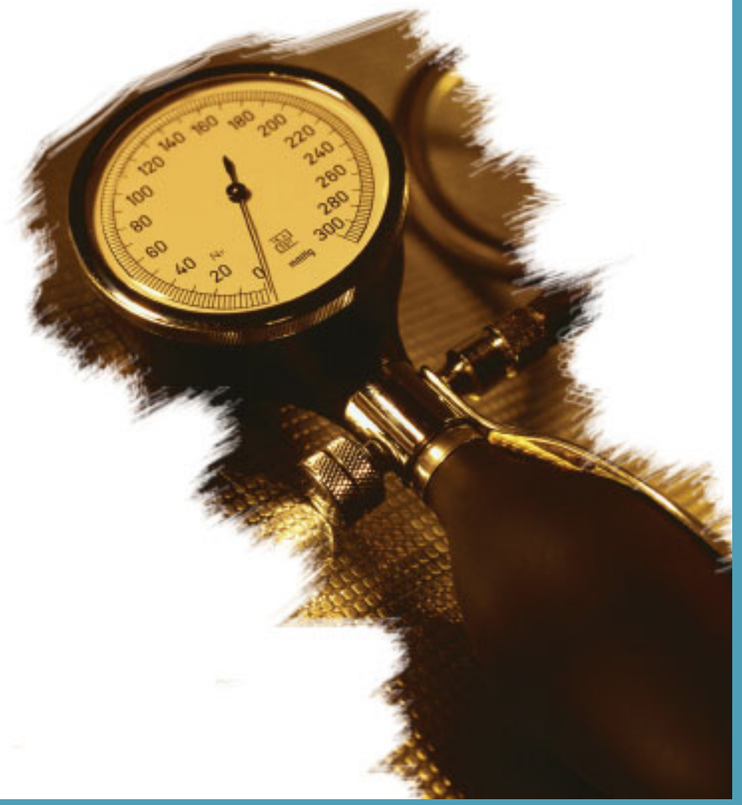
Healthy Black Family Project *continued*

One of the keys to breaking the cycle of heart disease and diabetes in the Black community is lifestyle behavior change, including regular exercise.

With analytic support from the Allegheny County Health Department, Pittsburgh's East End has been designated a "Health Empowerment Zone" for the project, with its neighborhoods consisting of 80 percent African American residents and approximately 26 percent of the people in them living below the federal poverty line. The priority neighborhoods include, but are not limited to, the East Hills, East Liberty, Homewood North, Homewood South, Homewood West, Larimer, Lincoln-Larimer, and Wilkinsburg.

Another goal of the project is to engage at least 10 percent of the 47,519 residents of these neighborhoods in nutrition and exercise programs, support groups, or health ministries. With Blacks being twice as likely to develop diabetes as Whites and the leading cause of death among people who have diabetes being heart disease or stroke, there is a proven need to inform Blacks of the risks and prevention methods for both diabetes and hypertension, HBFP leaders said.

According to the American Diabetes Association, research shows that if individuals take action to control their blood glucose levels when they have prediabetes, or lower blood pressure levels when they are prehypertensive, they can delay or even prevent type 2 diabetes and other chronic conditions from ever developing.



Engineering Better Futures

Karl Lewis

Karl Lewis and IMPACT

The University of Pittsburgh Engineering Impact Program (IMPACT) was started in 1971 by Karl Lewis, associate professor emeritus of civil and environmental engineering.

IMPACT recruits, retains, and helps underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students graduate. It begins with an intensive six-week precollege program during the summer to prepare students for the transition from high school to college by teaching study methods and time management skills, as well as offering courses in calculus, physics, chemistry, engineering, computer science, research methods, and technical writing.

It also provides subject and academic tutoring, academic and career advising, scholarship search, and financial assistance, as well as help securing summer internships.

During Homecoming Weekend 2004, the African American Engineering Alumni gave a special presentation in honor of Lewis, which included announcing the establishment of the $50,000 Karl H. Lewis Impact Alumni Endowment Fund. A year later, the group followed up on its commitment, dedicating a plaque to Dean Gerald D. Holder and the School of Engineering in Lewis' honor during Homecoming 2005.

Lewis, who was a strong supporter of the student-run National Society of Black Engineers while he was at Pitt, received the organization's Torch Award for Lifetime Achievement in Academia at its national convention in Pittsburgh on March 30, 2006. (See page 108.)

Leslie V. Horne

Leslie Horne and INVESTING NOW

INVESTING NOW is a program through the Pitt Engineering Career Access Program (PECAP) precollege component. Activities are designed to stimulate, support, and reward the high academic performance of high school students who are underrepresented in engineering, math, and science careers. Approximately 200 students participate in INVESTING NOW activities annually, focusing on six areas: (1) student support, (2) academic enrichment, (3) college planning, (4) career awareness, (5) cultural awareness, and (6) parental involvement.

The Class of 2003 was the ninth student cohort to participate in INVESTING NOW from ninth through 12th grades. Significant statistics for this group include the following: 100 percent enrolled in college; 62 percent were honor or high honor graduates; 46 percent chose an engineering, mathematics, or science major; 22 percent enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh. During the past five years, 100 percent of INVESTING NOW graduates have enrolled in college and 48 percent have chosen an engineering, mathematics, or science major.

PECAP precollege component Director Leslie V. Horne was honored as one of 50 Women of Influence in the April 11, 2004, issue of the *New Pittsburgh Courier*. The list showcased women from the Pittsburgh region who have had a positive influence in business, health care, education, and community service. Horne was acknowledged for her service "as a teacher, advisor, mentor, surrogate mom, and friend to more than 800 students" through her early work with INROADS Pittsburgh and her current oversight of the Critical and Analytical Reasoning Enrichment and INVESTING NOW programs.

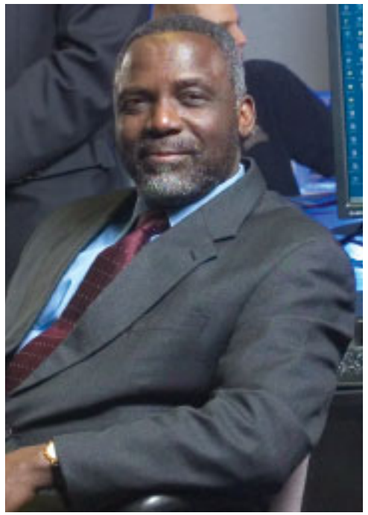
Horne also received a 2003 Gold Star Award from the Pittsburgh Council on Public Education for her focus on achievement and excellence in preparing African American students for college and beyond.

Honored by His Homeland : Bartholomew O. Nnaji

The September 15, 2003, issue of the Pitt Chronicle *profiled the Center for e-Design and Realization of Engineered Products and Systems and its director, Bartholomew Okechukwu Nnaji, William Kepler Whiteford Professor in the School of Engineering. A leading world authority in robotics engineering, Nnaji is also pioneering the establishment of independent power projects in his native Nigeria.*

Pitt, UMass Launch NSF e-Design Center: First Center of Its Kind Could Revolutionize Product Design

By John Fedele



Bartholomew O. Nnaji, winner of the Nigerian National Merit Award in 2005

Just as the Internet revolutionized advertising and marketing, a new National Science Foundation (NSF) research center based at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Massachusetts Amherst promises to revolutionize product design by making consumers and manufacturers part of the design process.

The Center for e-Design and Realization of Engineered Products and Systems is an NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Center, merging the strengths of the two universities with a dozen industry partners. The NSF, member companies, government agencies, and the universities are providing $3 million in cash over the first five years of the project, in addition to contributing in-kind support in the form of personnel, space, software, and hardware to run the center. More universities and companies are expected to join the center as it grows.

According to the center's director, Bartholomew O. Nnaji, then Alcoa Foundation Professor of Manufacturing Engineering in Pitt's School of Engineering, "The center will revolutionize the ways products are conceived, designed, realized, and serviced in the world and spread this new knowledge through programs and training of a new breed of product design engineers."

The center will first focus on the aerospace, automotive, and medical device industries, according to Nnaji. A dozen companies already have agreed to become corporate partners in the center: Wright Patterson Air Force Research Laboratory, General Electric Aircraft Engine, Alcoa, Ford Motor Co., ANSYS, Respironics, Lockheed Martin, IBM, Pratt & Whitney, Raytheon, BAE Systems, and Parametric Technology.

"It's well established that more than 70 percent of a product's life-cycle costs are committed at the conceptual design phase," said Nnaji. "Industries are now beginning to realize that the best way to reduce life-cycle costs is to evolve a more effective product design paradigm using the Internet and Web-based technologies."

"Continuing the current design processes poses significant risks to our country's long-term competitive advantage," said Janis P. Terpenny, codirector of the center and a professor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. "These processes are simply too costly and unacceptable to compete in the fast-paced global market place."

Among the most significant problems the e-Design center hopes to ameliorate, Terpenny stated, are development times prolonged by redesign and rework, unacceptably long break-even periods in new design profitability, the recurrence of earlier design problems in later designs, and lost expertise owing to highly mobile careers.

As partners in this new design paradigm, consumers can express their opinions as to what components and features are most useful and important to them, and manufacturers can point out potential problems, suggest ways to reduce costs, or improve the functionality of products.

For example, a consumer might suggest that reducing the weight of a product could improve its performance; a manufacturer could then suggest viable alternative materials with which to assemble the product.

"One of the major issues which industry members usually want to address is being able to assure that proprietary information from all partners—consumers, designers, and manufacturers—is protected, while sharing enough information to make the design viable," said Nnaji. "Fortunately, the National Science Foundation has worked out an acceptable formula for industry over the last 30 years, of setting up such centers of excellence."

Update

- On September 26, 2005, Nnaji was recognized as a Pitt Innovator, one of 47 faculty, staff, and students whose innovations led to licensing agreements or start-up companies. The Office of the Provost and Technology Commercialization Alliance honored the innovators at a Celebration of Innovation reception in Alumni Hall.

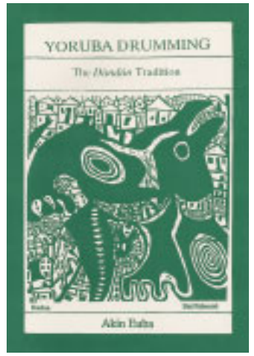
- On December 15, 2004, the president of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, presented Nnaji and three others with the prestigious Nigerian National Merit Award "in recognition of their pioneering efforts and research activities in the pursuit of academic excellence." Commenting on the achievements of the laureates, Obasanjo noted that residing in the United States had not prevented them from making tremendous contributions toward Nigeria's development. Established in 1979, the award recognizes outstanding contribution by individual Nigerians in specific areas such as science, technology, law, medicine, the humanities, arts, and culture.

- In July 2004, ANSYS announced an alliance with the Center for e-Design. The goal for both ANSYS and the Center for e-Design is to provide, through ongoing collaboration, a best-of-class environment for true, virtual simulation and prototyping tools that enable engineers to check for design problems in a secure computer-based environment.

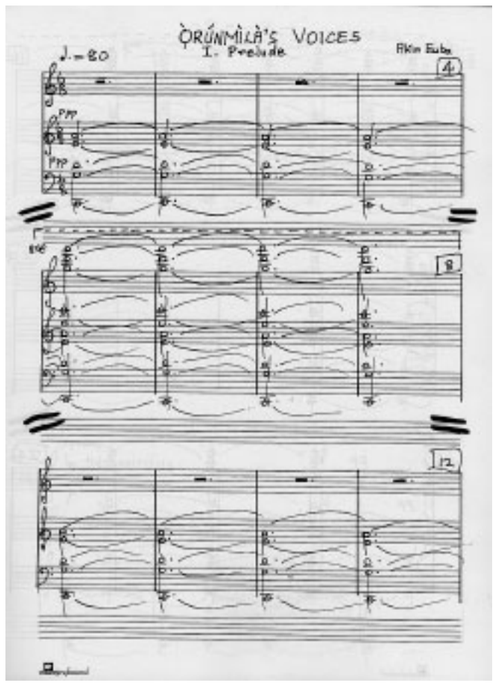
Dialogues in Music : Akin Euba

Akin Euba, Nigerian composer and internationally renowned musicologist

University of Pittsburgh Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Music Akin Euba, an internationally known composer and musicologist from Nigeria, has pioneered Dialogues in Music, a series of activities designed to bring together Africa and other regions of the world. Scholars and musicians from China, Malaysia, Korea, and India helped launch the series at the August 2003 Second Biennial International Symposium and Festival on Composition in Africa and the Diaspora at Cambridge University's Churchill College.



The Central Conservatory of Music (CCOM) in Beijing, China, hosted the first major installment in this series, Dialogue between China and Africa in Music, which was part of the Third Biennial International Symposium and Festival on Composition in Africa and the Diaspora that took place October 16–21, 2005; more than 30 participants from China and 27 participants from other countries attended. Euba co-organized the symposium and festival with colleagues from CCOM and Kent State University in Ohio.



The five-day event included the delivery of scholarly papers and lectures, workshops, and concerts featuring Daolang Muqam of Xinjiang Province, traditional music of the Yunnan minorities, a traditional Chinese ensemble from Hebei Province, and a program of modern music for traditional instruments by Chinese composers. There was a special concert devoted to the music of Halim El-Dabh and another featuring piano music by composers of Africa and the Diaspora.

The Fourth Biennial International Symposium and Festival on Composition in Africa and the Diaspora will be held at Churchill College, Cambridge, Mass., in August 2007 and feature Dialogues in Music titled "Africa Meets Asia" and "Africa Meets Latin America."

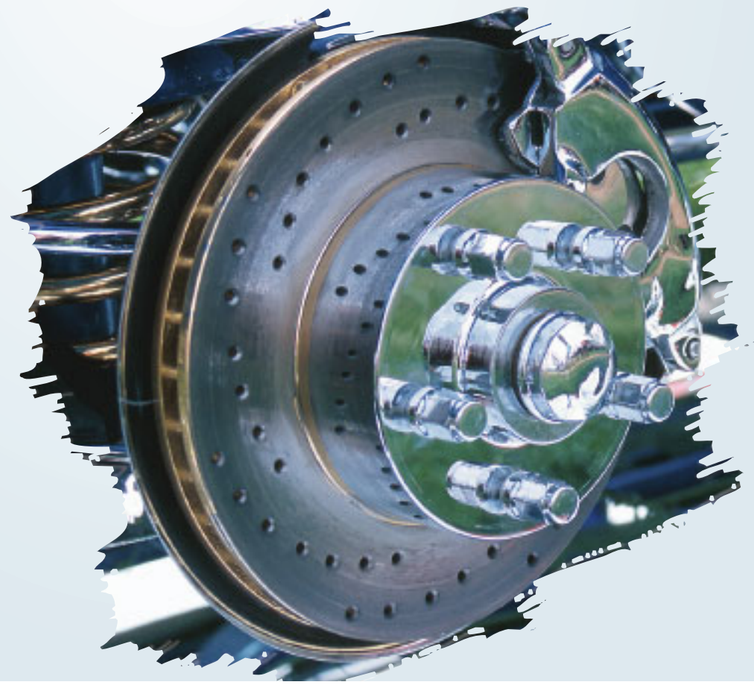
Super Scholar : Daniel Armanios

Daniel Armanios, top-notch undergraduate scholar

Daniel Armanios, an undergraduate dual major in mechanical engineering and political science, was the first student to receive both a Harry S. Truman Scholarship and a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. The Truman Scholarship is a prestigious national award that recognizes college juniors who have exceptional leadership potential and who are committed to pursuing careers in government, the nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education, or public service. The award provides financial support for graduate study, leadership training, and a fellowship with other students who are committed to making a difference through public service. In 2004–05, Armanios won a Goldwater Scholarship, which is considered to be the premier national undergraduate award in mathematics, natural science, and engineering.

A member of Pitt's Model United Nations and the student chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Armanios is also a Donald M. Henderson Scholar in engineering. He has either presented talks or published papers in four different fields, including physical chemistry, English, aerospace engineering, and mechanical/electrical engineering. Armanios is the recipient of two National Science Foundation internships, one at Cornell University and one at Washington State University, and was named to the 17th Annual All-USA College Academic Second Team.

He plans to pursue a doctoral degree specializing in mechanics of materials and hopes to become a university professor.



Like Mother, Like Son : Adam Iddriss

The following article was written for the April 24, 2006, issue of the Pitt Chronicle.

By Bruce Steele

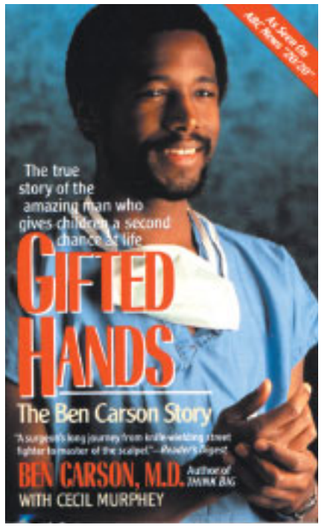
Growing up in Pittsburgh—a few miles from the university they would both go on to attend—Adam Iddriss and his older brother, Jamel, always knew what gifts they would be getting for Christmas.

Books.

"That's not saying they didn't get their toys and Nintendos, too, like their friends got. Just not at Christmas," explains their mother, Carol Iddriss, who manages the information desk in Pitt's William Pitt Union.

"Christmas is supposed to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ," she says. "It's been so commercialized, but I refused to play into that. I didn't want my boys becoming materialistic, and I also wanted them to stretch themselves intellectually. So, on Christmas and on their birthdays, Adam and Jamel would each get three or four individually wrapped books—history books, science books, art books—geared to their reading level at the time."

At least one of those books would help change Adam's life.



"It was *Gifted Hands*, the autobiography of Ben Carson, who is the director of the pediatric neurosurgery division at Johns Hopkins University," says Adam, a University Honors College junior studying bioengineering and chemistry, who recently was named a 2006 Harry S. Truman Scholarship winner for his outstanding academic and leadership abilities. *See story in the April 10* Pitt Chronicle*, available at www.umc.pitt.edu/media/pcc/scholarship_truman_2006APR10.html.*

Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story (Zondervan, 1990), by Benjamin S. Carson and Cecil Murphy, is the success story of an inner-city Detroit youth who—inspired by his religious faith and challenged by his mother to strive for excellence—overcame poverty, a violent temper, and a childhood self-image as a low-achieving "dummy" to become a world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon. Carson captured international media attention in 1987 by successfully separating conjoined twins who shared a portion of the same brain. A decade later, he led a South African medical team in the first successful separation of twins joined at the head but facing in opposite directions.

"I remember reading *Gifted Hands* when I was little. It was really an inspirational book for me, and Ben Carson was a great role model," says Adam, who today is tall, athletic, and visibly more comfortable talking about the achievements of Carson (or anyone else) than his own.

Adam and Carol Iddriss

Like Mother, Like Son: Adam Iddriss *continued*

Adam Iddriss making bookshelves in Ghana

"My mom always tried to acculturate my brother and me with positive African American role models—positive role models in general, actually—who were able to accomplish great things, whether it be in medicine or law or any other realm," Adam says.

Today, Adam's goals are to earn MD and PhD degrees and then work as a bioengineer and physician dedicated to patient care, biomedical research in tissue engineering, and advocacy work for minorities in science.

Like his love of books, public service and internationalism were instilled in Adam as a child.

He grew up savoring such West African foods as "fufu" (cassava-pounded dough) and "red-red" (plantains and black-eyed peas). During family meals, Adam's father, who immigrated to the United States from Ghana, would give him and Jamel lessons in Ghanaian history and language. The family visited Accra, Ghana's capital, where Adam met his paternal grandparents and other relatives.

"Adam saw at an early age how his relatives over there lived. He met people who had no shoes," Carol Iddriss points out. "So, it's not like he grew up thinking, 'Gee, I'm underprivileged because the neighborhood where I grew up isn't as well-off as, say, Fox Chapel.'

"The fact is, we raised Adam to view the whole world as his home and his classroom. I'd tell him, 'You're just living in one small dot on the map, and you have to make a difference. If you meet someone who doesn't have shoes, you give them yours, or at least a pair of your old shoes. You volunteer to help people less fortunate than you."

Beginning when Adam was 9 years old, his mother and grandmother would take him and his brother with them—on Christmas, among other days—to volunteer at the Jubilee Soup Kitchen, serving hot meals to homeless Pittsburghers.

Iddriss would go on to amass an impressive record of community service while attending Pitt and, before that, Oakland's Central Catholic High School. A full listing of those activities literally fills pages of Iddriss' Truman Scholarship application; some highlights follow:

- He is the president of Pitt's Golden Key International Honour Society, which, among other initiatives, does service work at Family House, a nonprofit organization that provides low-cost housing and support for critically ill patients. A grant he wrote for the organization recently was approved to coordinate a project with College After School Team, which sponsors mentoring of students at Peabody High School. In addition, he has helped to establish international service projects with sister chapters in Malaysia and the Virgin Islands. Iddriss plans to spend two months in Tanzania this summer with the Engineering World Health Summer Institute, offered through Duke University;

- Iddriss has been president of Pitt's Pre-Medical Organization for Minority Students (POMS). Under his leadership, POMS has organized anatomy labs, clinical presentations, service projects, and opportunities for minority students to "shadow" health professionals. Recognizing that certain diseases such as sickle cell anemia disproportionately strike people of color, and that such patients need transfusions that closely match their own blood types, Iddriss organized Pitt's first minority blood drive; and

- Iddriss is service chair and technology chair of Facilitating Opportunities and Climate for Underrepresented Students, which mentors freshman minority students and coordinates service projects.

Through Pitt's INVESTING NOW program, Iddriss has mentored high school students interested in math and science. Through Global Links, he has collected and packaged medical supplies for developing nations. He's been a volunteer tour guide and exhibition presenter at the Carnegie Science Center and has coordinated activities for children at the Aliquippa Terrace YWCA and the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind.

Edward Metz Barksdale (right), Pitt surgery professor and one of Adam Iddriss' mentors

Iddriss has been volunteering for so long that, even though he's just 21, he has already begun running into young adults who remember him as their tutor and mentor.

"Recently, I met a student who was enrolled in the [Pitt-hosted] Governor's School for Health Sciences, and it turned out that I had tutored him in math and science at St. Benedict the Moor elementary school. That was very satisfying to me," Iddriss says, smiling broadly, "seeing that maybe I had helped to create that spark of interest in medical science."

Iddriss is grateful to have been on the receiving end of mentoring, too. From his high school days, visiting Pitt through the Boy Scouts of America's Medical Explorers program, Iddriss fondly remembers Robert H. Connamacher—a.k.a. "Doctor Bob"— a pharmacology professor and outreach coordinator for Pitt's School of Medicine. Among the dozen or so other Pitt mentors he excitedly rattles off is surgery professor Edward Metz Barksdale.

"Dr. Barksdale let me come into his surgery to shadow him, ask him questions about his techniques, and visit his clinic," Iddriss says. "Having that kind of interaction with a surgeon who today is where I someday hope to be, career-wise—those are the things that really mean a lot when you're trying to decide whether to pursue a particular career."

Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg's first connection to the Iddriss family was through Adam's brother, Jamel, who was the doubles partner of Nordenberg's older son when the two played tennis for Central Catholic. The chancellor met Adam and Carol Iddriss a couple of years later.

"At the picnic following our Freshman Convocation in the year that Jamel came to Pitt [1998], he brought his family over to introduce them to me," Nordenberg remembers. "In the course of the conversation, Jamel's mother pointed to Adam, who would only have been about 15 years old, and said, 'In a few years, you're going to get him, too.'"

Like Mother, Like Son: Adam Iddriss *continued*

Carol Iddriss' prediction came true: Jamel graduated from Pitt in 2001 (he's now a third-year law student at George Mason University), and Adam enrolled at Pitt in fall 2002.

"Adam obviously is one of our truly outstanding and committed students, as is reflected in his selection for the Truman Scholarship," says Nordenberg, calling Carol "one of the nicest, most helpful people you ever could hope to meet."

Adam himself hasn't always described her that way.

"One day when Adam was 7, he and his brother were in the living room studying, and I was cooking dinner," Carol recalls, smiling mischievously. "One of their friends knocked on the door and asked, 'Can Adam come out and play?' I said, 'No, first he has to eat dinner and do his homework, then he can come out.'"

Adam's friend persisted, but again Carol explained that it would be hours before Adam could go out and play.

Returning to the kitchen, Carol overheard Adam tell his brother, "Our mom is mean. She makes us stay inside all the time, reading and doing homework."

"No, I'm not mean," Carol remembers telling Adam. "But you do have to eat dinner, and you do have to finish your homework."

"But can't I go out and play first?" she remembers Adam pleading.

"No."

Occasionally, Carol still teases Adam about that exchange. "I'll remind Adam: 'You said I was so mean, but now you're the one who always has his nose in a book.' I mean, when you see Adam, he's always carrying books or reading books, and some of those volumes are this thick," Carol says, holding her right thumb and forefinger a good two inches apart. "When he comes home to do his laundry, if the TV is on, he'll turn it off so he can study."

"All I can say," Adam replies, smiling sheepishly, when told what his mother said about him, "is that I have to get my work done. With a full course load and research projects, it's important for me to stay focused."

Can't afford to waste a minute, eh?

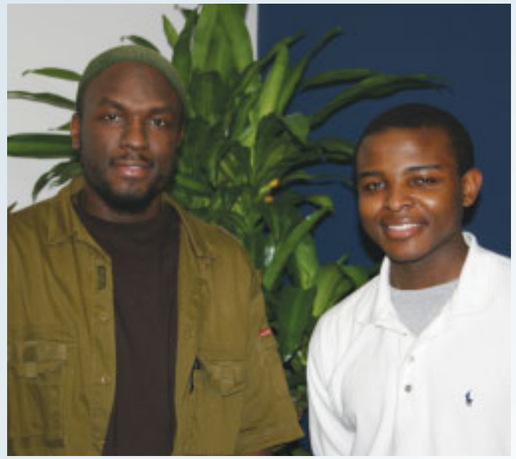
"Oh, some minutes, yeah, but…" he allows, with a laugh.

Carol continues: "At New Year's, Adam and I went to my sister's for dinner. He ate with us, but as soon as he could he pulled out a book and started reading. My sister went over and tickled him, saying, 'Come on, Adam, be one of us for a change. Put that book down.'"

And he did—for a few minutes, Carol says. Then he picked it back up.

"He's just that way," she shrugs, proudly. "And that's a good thing."

2006 International Study Awards Announced



Tahir Abdullah and Adam Iddriss

Adam Iddriss and others making shelves for the construction of a library in an elementary school in Winneba, Ghana

Adam Iddriss creating Adinkra using traditional West African symbols

The University Center for International Studies Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Program announced its summer study awards, the David L. Lawrence Memorial Grant, the Italian Room Committee Scholarship, the African Heritage Classroom Grant, and the African Heritage Classroom/Walter C. Worthington Foundation Scholarship, on April 1, 2006. Tahir Abdullah, Dartel McRae, Crystal Christophe, Raynard Washington, and Adam Iddriss won awards. These students will take part in curricula throughout Europe and Africa.

Nobel Roots : Alumna Wangari Muta Maathai

The following article, written by Leah Samuel, was originally published in the winter 2005 issue of Pitt Magazine.

Pitt alumna and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Wangari Muta Maathai

It is the 1970s, and Wangari Muta Maathai (Wahn-gahr´-ee Moó-tah Mah´-tye) has returned to the neighborhood where she grew up—except it's not a neighborhood in the American sense of the word. It's the Tetu section of the Nyeri district in Central Kenya, a region that resembled a nature reserve more than a residential area during Maathai's childhood.

But Tetu has changed in the seven years Maathai has been away. The winds of her homeland no longer carry the fresh, green smells of a fertile land blossoming with trees, plants, and flowers. Instead, she finds once-clear rivers choked with silt, and where bunches of trees once stood, she sees growing patches of barren ground, raided for timber and prepped for development or the cultivation of more lucrative crops.

Maathai had left Nyeri to study in the United States, including graduate study at the University of Pittsburgh, where she studied biology and earned a Master of Science degree in 1965. Her education was meant to prepare her for laboratories and classrooms. But when she gazed at what Nyeri had become, she wasn't happy with what she saw. She found that the future of the land was like that of the country's women—at the will of others and largely uncertain. And at that moment, in the formerly green place she would once again call home, Maathai decided that her years of learning would be used instead to take the land back to its fertile past, to create a new future for both the land and the women who traditionally tended it.

It is 1992, and Charles Ralph is in a hotel with his wife, settling in from a long day by tuning in to the news on television. They had only caught the tail end of the report, but it was enough for them to see that someone they knew had been arrested.

"That's Wangari," his wife said.

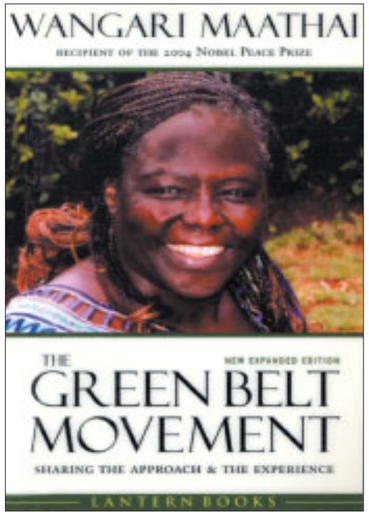
It was indeed. The features—full cheeks, narrow eyes, and a determined expression set in the round, deep-brown face—were older now but still the same as they had been more than 25 years before, when Ralph, a professor in the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Biological Sciences, served as faculty advisor to the eager, hardworking young Kenyan woman with the easy smile and easier manner.

That graduate student, with her thesis on quails, was headed for educating future scientists within the safe confines of a university, not being dragged away by police for staging a protest over the use of Kenya's land.

"As far as I knew, she was this demure, traditional graduate student," says Ralph. After seeing Maathai on the news, he realized there was much more to her. "We were dealing with a radical, very activist person."

Wangari Muta Maathai accepts the Nobel Peace Prize on December 10 in Oslo from Norwegian Nobel Committee Chair Ole Danbold Jhøs

Nobel Roots : Wangari Muta Maathai *continued*



The expanded 2003 edition of Wangari Muta Maathai's 1985 treatise, The Green Belt Movement

It is 2004, and Mary Jane Phelan is walking along the side of a road in Nairobi, trying to avoid traffic while shouting into a cell phone. "Call me back later," she says, her voice echoing from Kenya to the United States. She is preoccupied right now with finding a matatu, Nairobi's version of public transportation—a 14-seat Nissan van. Like the other employees at the Green Belt Movement office, Phelan travels by matatu. "They fill up as soon as rush hour starts," explaining why her attention must be fully devoted to her matatu search. She doesn't want to be late for work at the Green Belt Movement offices.

The movement, founded by Maathai, has planted about 20 million trees throughout Kenya and has taught and inspired other organizations to establish similar tree planting initiatives in Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, and other African countries.

Maathai bounces between the organization's office and Kenya's parliament, where she was elected as a representative of the Nyeri district in 2002 and is also the assistant minister for environment, natural resources, and wildlife. Mwai Kibaki, the president of Kenya, appointed her to that post three years ago.

"She starts early and ends late," says Phelan, an American who is living in Kenya for a year to volunteer with the Green Belt Movement. She decided to volunteer there in large part because of Maathai's reputation.

It isn't just Phelan who is impressed by the work of Maathai. Last fall, the prize committee at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo considered Maathai for the Nobel Peace Prize along with international luminaries like President George W. Bush and Pope John Paul II. The committee chose Maathai.

The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to many politicians and others actively working to stop and prevent war at all levels. However, this is the first time it has been awarded to someone who is primarily an environmentalist.

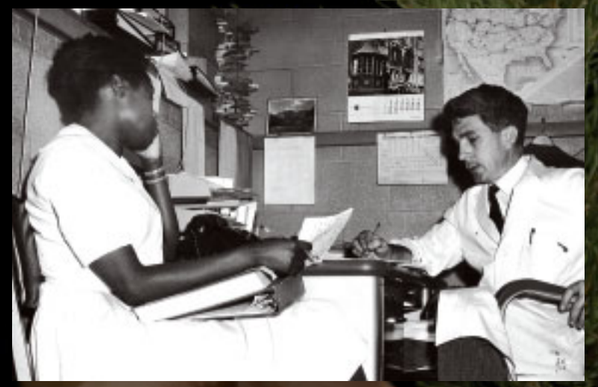
During her Nobel ceremony remarks, Maathai said, "Activities that devastate the environment and societies continue unabated. Today we are faced with a challenge that calls for a shift in our thinking, so that humanity stops threatening its life-support system. I call on leaders, especially in Africa, to expand democratic space and build fair and just societies."

It's Maathai's broader environmental stance that captured the attention of Geir Lundestad, director of the Norwegian Nobel Institute. "The Norwegian Nobel Committee believes that there are many different roads to peace," says Lundestad. "We believe there is a connection between environmental preservation and peace. Wangari is also a human rights activist," he adds. "She has fought especially for the rights of women, and that is very important within the African context."

She also serves on the United Nations' Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters and the boards of the Jane Goodall Institute, the Women's Environment and Development Organization, the National Council of Women of Kenya, and other organizations devoted to women, the environment, and peace. When she last ran for her seat in parliament, she received 98 percent of the vote.

No wonder Phelan is impressed. "Despite the [Nobel] brouhaha, she retains a complete sense of grassroots sensibility. There is no place she can go where she won't be approached by at least three complete strangers, and she finds out where they're from and talks to them," marvels Phelan, who explains that Maathai is something of a folk hero in Africa. "Even if she's tired, and someone asks a significant question, she just lights up from within. I don't know where she finds the energy and enthusiasm."

She is so committed to her work that media requests are handed off to others while she tends to her duties. She doesn't mind staying out of the spotlight and letting those close to her tell the Green Belt Movement story to *Pitt Magazine* and other publications whose requests for interviews have landed in a six-inch-deep pile that the movement's staff is "plowing through."



Wangari Muta Maathai and Pitt faculty advisor Charles Ralph during Maathai's days at Pitt

Born in Kenya in 1940, Maathai developed a relationship with the land very early. "She spent a lot of time with her mother, farming and fetching water," explains Maathai's daughter, Wanjira (One-géé-rah). "She had her own little garden."

But, like other girls and young women of that time, Maathai was destined for a life in which she would remain uneducated and have little control over her own future. Her family knew, however, that she had too brilliant a mind for that.

"Most girls didn't go to school," Wanjira says. "But she was very curious and very bright. Her oldest brother was instrumental in deciding that she would go to school."

After high school, Maathai received a rare opportunity to leave Africa and study in America. An initiative created by President John F. Kennedy allowed a number of African students to get college educations in the United States.

"She came to be included on the Kennedy list," says Wanjira. "The idea was that bright students would be educated in the West and then would return for nation-building."

Maathai majored in biological sciences at Mount St. Scholastica College in Atchison, Kan., earning a bachelor's degree there in 1964.

She then came to Pitt. Ralph, her advisor, says that she adjusted well. "Just a typical, Westernized American academic," he says. "She was very smiling, agreeable, kind of low-key, very focused, very dedicated."

Nobel Roots : Wangari Muta Maathai *continued*

Wangari Muta Maathai plants one of the Green Belt Movement's 20 million trees.

After earning her Master of Science degree from Pitt in 1965, she went on to doctoral studies in Germany and Kenya, earning a PhD in 1971 from the University of Nairobi, where she later taught veterinary anatomy. She became chair of the university's Department of Animal Physiology in 1976 and an associate professor in 1977. In both cases, she was the first woman in that part of Africa to hold those positions.

Her political activity began at the time when Maathai joined the National Council of Women of Kenya and ran unsuccessfully for parliament in 1977. That campaign ended her academic career. "She couldn't be in the university and run for office," says Wanjira. "And when the run for office didn't work, the university would not take her back."

It was while volunteering with the National Council of Women of Kenya that Maathai introduced the idea of planting trees.

"The land was dry," says Wanjira. "The results of deforestation were being felt. There was a lack of firewood and there was food insecurity. There were no building materials for huts, no plants to feed the animals."

Maathai couldn't believe what had become of Nyeri. She developed the tree-planting project into a grassroots organization, called the Green Belt Movement, whose projects find ways to protect the environment and improve women's self-sufficiency and quality of life.

Through the Green Belt Movement, women learn to support themselves with work that enhances the environment, such as beekeeping and organic farming. They are also paid for each tree they plant and keep alive. The women, in turn, use the money to buy food, supplies, and livestock so they can become more self-sufficient. Many of these same women become active in lobbying local governments to prevent deforestation and to restore areas destroyed by construction and other development projects.

Establishing the Green Belt Movement hasn't come without cost to Maathai. She was once vilified by the Kenyan government for opposing the building of a skyscraper planned for the middle of Uhuru Park, a prime green space in Nairobi. Maathai was also arrested several times during her campaigns against deforestation in Kenya. Another time, she was beaten unconscious by police at a protest. Days later, she led a hunger strike. On a personal level, her politician husband divorced her, complaining, according to several media accounts, that her education made her "too strong, too successful, too stubborn, and too hard to control."

These day-to-day challenges forced her two children to grow up quickly. Her son, Muta Maathai, a cancer researcher now living in Philadelphia, says, "We worried for her safety; sometimes she was clubbed, and we would have to go to the hospital to visit her." Muta, just a youngster during the early years of the Green Belt Movement, used to pray for her all the time. Looking back now, he understands her commitment. "I feel that when you find your passion, the last thing you want to be told is not to follow it."

Daughter Wanjira also remembers what her mom had to go through. "There was a lot of disinformation and misunderstanding about the work she was doing. It was misconstrued as political," says Wanjira, who lives in Nairobi and is the international liaison for the Green Belt Movement.

Maathai, the first woman in east and central Africa to earn a doctorate, was seen by many Kenyans as corrupted by Western education and culture. Involving women in her projects and protests brought widespread criticism, ridicule, and accusations that she and the women who worked with her were becoming like the "crazy" women of the United States. Activism in Kenya was not generally an acceptable role for women when Maathai started the Green Belt Movement.

Gender, though, has never been an issue for Maathai, says Wanjira. She believes her mother is driven by the practical needs of her country, not by feminism.

"The women are important (to focus on) because they are the family caretakers—they tend the land and fetch the water—but the underlying philosophy of the Green Belt Movement is universal."

It's universal enough to win the Nobel Prize. Maathai, after learning of the prize, wept with joy. And, just as she had done to celebrate her return to her homeland 30 years ago, she planted a tree.

Black Places and Spaces : Three Exhibitions at the Frick Fine Arts Building

The University Art Gallery in Pitt's Frick Fine Arts Building showcased three exhibitions of African American art in 2005–06.

A Sense of Place

"Recent Work by Six Contemporary African American Artists" was held from October 6 to December 9, 2005. Featuring works by Beverly Buchanan, Willie Cole, Whitfield Lovell, Betye Saar, Renee Stout, and Deborah Willis, the exhibition addressed the issue of place as conceptualized by the artists in mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical terms through media like photography, sculpture, installation, painting, and fabric. Each of the artists addressed space, time, and memory through the lens of his or her own African American experience, while the exhibition attempted to answer questions such as how the fluctuating, ever-evolving sense of place, both real and imagined, reflects the African American experience in this country. Another question was how these artists address the distinctive position of the African American in American culture and society, in all of its complexity. The African American Arts Project of the University of Pittsburgh, the Center for Minority Health, Pitt Arts, and the Offices of Affirmative Action and of Public Affairs sponsored the exhibition.

Spaces of Memory

Continuing the theme of "A Sense of Place", the gallery presented "Spaces of Memory" from February 17 to March 25, 2006. Several related events included talks by Laurence Glasco, associate professor in the Department of History and author of *The WPA History of the Negro in Pittsburgh*, who presented the lecture "The Interracial History of the Hill" and John Brewer, founder and curator of the Trolley Station Oral History Center who lectured on "The Best of Teenie Harris." Artist Monique Luck conducted an interactive painting demonstration, and mixed media artist Vanessa German emceed a spoken word open mic night. The Women of Visions—an African American women's art organization—and Pitt student Terri Bradley led children's story hours focusing on African American artists, including Romare Bearden and Jacob Lawrence.

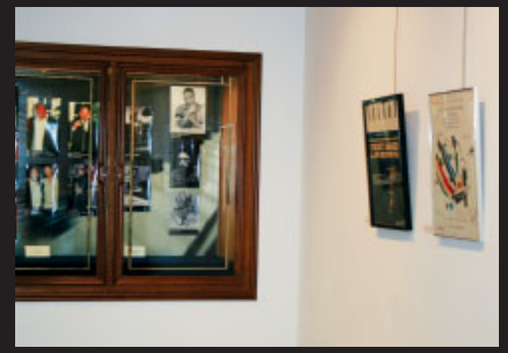
Biko at 13

"Biko at 13", an associated exhibition of Pittsburgh artist Emory Biko's collection, was on display in the gallery lobby during Spaces of Memory. Highlighting elements of the African American experience using items as diverse as slavery artifacts and 20th-century memorabilia that related to issues of culture and race, Biko's collection also was featured in an exhibit at the William Pitt Union's Connie M. Kimbo Art Gallery called "Biko and the Museum of the Africans' Experience in America."

Grace *by Whitfield Lovell from the exhibition "A Sense of Place: Contemporary African American Art" (Exhibition dates: October 6–December 9, 2005)*

All Things in Time *by Whitfield Lovell from "A Sense of Place: Contemporary African American Art"*

Photographs from the University of Pittsburgh's Sonny Rollins Jazz Archive on display as part of the exhibition "Spaces of Memory", which focused on the African American experience in Pittsburgh. (Exhibition dates: February 17–March 25, 2006)

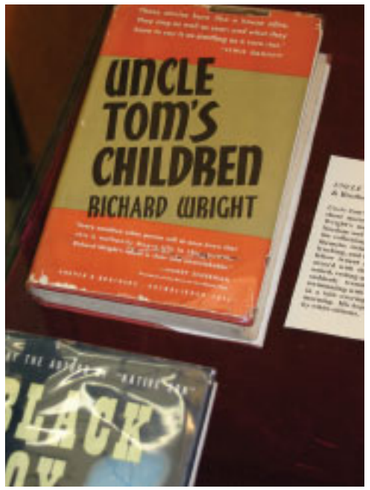


Photographs and Memorabilia from the University of Pittsburgh's Sonny Rollins Jazz Archive on display as part of "Spaces of Memory"

Sculptures by Dingbat Smith, from "Spaces of Memory"

Vintage photographs from the collection of Curtis Reaves, "Spaces of Memory"

"The Richard Wright Collection": First Editions on Display



Uncle Tom's Children, *the first edition of which is shown above, was Wright's first published book. It contains four stories whose message is that Uncle Tom is dead, and his children will fight for freedom and survival.*

"Any serious discussion of the development of Black fiction in modern American literature must include Richard Wright."
—Darren Overty, "The Richard Wright Collection"

"The Richard Wright Collection" was exhibited on the second and third floors of the Hillman Library from February 23 to April 30, 2005. Charles E. Aston, head of the special collections department for the University Library System was involved in the acquisition of the collection in 2001 and in the design of the exhibit.

The collection includes 15 first editions of Richard Wright's works and spans the length of his literary career. Items on display in the exhibit at Hillman included a 1938 first edition of Wright's *Uncle Tom's Children: Four Novellas* with its original dust jacket, a 1940 first edition of *Native Son*, and many other first editions.

Some of the 15 major works by Wright on display

Hillman Library Black Greek Exhibit

The 2006 Black History Month theme was "Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social, and Civic Institutions." The University of Pittsburgh Library System (ULS) celebrated by featuring the nine Black Greek Letter Organizations (BGLOs) at the Hillman Library. Named the "Divine Nine," these fraternities and sororities have had a long history at the University of Pittsburgh. The University of Pittsburgh has the distinction of being the home of three BGLO single letter chapters: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (Omicron Chapter, 1913), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Iota Chapter, 1917), and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (Mu Chapter, 1921).

BGLOs work together as a cohesive group through the Panhellenic Council, where they participate in joint community service projects, community outreach, and social activities throughout the academic year.

ULS also sponsored a speaker and movie series that focused on community leaders, organizations, and fraternal organizations in the Pittsburgh community.

Pitt's elite eight are: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. The Divine Nine also include Iota Phi Theta Fraternity.

Commencement 2005 : Helen S. Faison Speaks

On May 1, 2005, Helen S. Faison (EDUC '46, '55G, '75G) shared life lessons with graduating students in one of the larger "classrooms" in Pittsburgh: Pitt's Petersen Events Center on Terrace Street in Oakland. Faison spoke there for the University's 2005 commencement address and received an honorary doctoral degree from Provost James V. Maher and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.

Before Faison spoke, Nordenberg delivered the following introduction:

Nordenberg Introduces Faison

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg at Commencement Brunch with Helen S. Faison

One of the unique aspects of commencement is the opportunity to bestow the University's highest honor on an individual who embodies the ideals of the University of Pittsburgh: intellectual curiosity, superior achievement, humanitarian commitment, and engagement in a purposeful life.

Today, we are privileged to honor an individual who embodies each of these principles—Dr. Helen S. Faison.

Last fall, Dr. Faison was cited in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* as Western Pennsylvania's most influential person in education, an honor befittingly conferred by her peers. *Executive Educator* named her one of the top 100 educators in the nation.

Dr. Faison is a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania and a Carlow College Woman of Spirit. She received the Good Government Award from the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh and was inducted into the Hall of Fame of her high school alma mater—Pittsburgh's Westinghouse High.

If every good teacher deserves an apple, it might be said that Dr. Faison deserves an entire orchard! She has taught children, taught the children's teachers, and taught the educators who have trained the teachers. She is a tireless advocate of learning for all.

Dr. Faison's own learning brought her to the University of Pittsburgh in 1942. She subsequently earned the Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and PhD degrees from our School of Education. The fact that Dr. Faison built the foundation for her own life of impact by earning three Pitt degrees is a source of great pride within the University community.

Dr. Faison's distinguished career as an educator began four years before the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed segregated public schools in the 1954 landmark decision *Brown v. Board of Education*. Hired to teach social studies and English at Fifth Avenue High School, Dr. Faison was one of a handful of Black teachers employed by the Pittsburgh Public Schools in 1950.

Ten years later, she returned to the high school from which she had graduated to become the district's first Black high school counselor. One of the many students Dr. Faison counseled there was Erroll B. Davis Jr., the current chair, president, and CEO of Alliant Energy Corp., an energy services provider headquartered in Madison, Wis. When invited to reflect upon those early years, Mr. Davis recounted—and I quote—"Dr. Faison had a profound effect on my life. After my good, but not great, freshman year in high school, she took me aside and suggested in no uncertain terms that I could do much better, that I was wasting my talents, and that I should get to work now. I think I may have gotten one mark lower than A the rest of the way in high school. I am indebted to [Dr. Faison] for her caring concern and stimulating motivation."

The sentiment expressed by Mr. Davis is shared by the many whose lives Dr. Faison has touched. Throughout her years of distinguished service, Dr. Faison instilled in this community a sense of promise, a sense of hope, and a sense of destiny, thereby forever changing the lives of countless young Pittsburghers.

After serving eight years as counselor and, later, vice principal at her alma mater, Dr. Faison was named principal at Fifth Avenue High School in 1968. With this appointment, she became the Pittsburgh Public Schools' first female and first African American academic high school principal. Two years later, in 1970, Dr. Faison was selected as assistant superintendent of secondary schools. In 1983, she was promoted to deputy superintendent, the district's then-highest-ranking woman. She retired from the Pittsburgh Public Schools in 1993.

At that time, Dr. Faison joined the Chatham College faculty—first as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Education, and then as department chair. In 1999, she was named director of the Pittsburgh Teachers Institute, which is committed to enhancing teachers' training. Dr. Faison temporarily left the institute to become the interim superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools in 1999; she resumed her responsibilities as head of the institute in 2000.

Dr. Faison is a committed, long-term member of the University of Pittsburgh's Board of Trustees and currently serves as a trustee emerita. She is also a member of the Boards of Visitors of the University's School of Education and College of General Studies. Her honors include selection as a University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate and as a Distinguished Pitt Alumna, and she is a recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award presented by the Pitt African American Alumni Council. In 1993, the University established the Helen S. Faison Scholarship in the School of Education. Pitt awards these scholarships in Dr. Faison's name to outstanding undergraduate students from underserved communities.

Dr. Faison is co-chairing the search for a new, permanent superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, and I cannot think of a more qualified educator to do so. She frequently is consulted and invited to speak on educational issues.

Dr. Faison and I traded several phone messages before we actually discussed today's commencement. She confided that she was puzzled by my persistent calls, and when we eventually connected, she mischievously asked me, "So, you're interested in being superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools?"

She later said that never in a million years did she suspect that I was calling to invite her to speak at this momentous occasion. Dr. Faison said it was—and I quote—"a wonderful honor, certainly not one that I ever could have predicted back in 1942."

Dr. Faison—it is we who are honored—by your life's work and by your presence with us today.

The following speech was delivered by Helen S. Faison at 2005 Commencement Convocation. Faison is director of the Pittsburgh Teachers Institute and an emeritus trustee.

'You Can Take it With You'

As members of the Class of 2005, you have spent the last several years on this campus during a period when we have celebrated certain landmark court decisions and executive or legislative actions that have affected the development of public education in our country.

Helen S. Faison

Last year, for example, we celebrated—and we celebrated one of those days on this campus—the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision of the United States Supreme Court. Labeled a landmark decision, *Brown v. Board* overruled the *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision of 52 years before that supported the constitutionality of separate schools for White and Black children.

In the *Brown* case, on the other hand, the decision was reached that separate is not equal. That decision set in motion a series of court battles. It led to the abandonment of public schools by many White families and the establishment of a host of religious and other nonpublic schools in protest.

The jury is still out on the long-term benefits of the court decision. To the chagrin of those of us who welcomed the *Brown* decision as the beginning of a new era in the struggle for equal educational opportunity for all children in the nation, recent demographic and other changes have resulted in there being more Black children attending racially segregated schools today than were attending segregated schools in 1954.

The several years of your stay at the University were also the years during which the nation celebrated the 40th anniversary of the passage of the Elementary and Secondary School Act, better known as ESEA. This act, a product of the War on Poverty, provided for the first time in the nation's history significant federal funding for the elementary and secondary schools, which serve large numbers of poor children.

The years between 1954 and today, when we mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the federal Department of Education, have been characterized by a growing interest of our federal government in, and support of, public education. In fact, there have not only been individuals who in seeking the governorship of states have sought to become known as the "education governor" of the state, but there have also been those who in seeking the presidency aspired to become known as the "education president." And, you might ask, why?

Ralph J. Cappy, chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and chair of Pitt's Board of Trustees, officiates as Helen S. Faison receives the honorary Doctor of Public Service degree from Provost James V. Maher (conferring her doctoral hood).

In the same span of years between 1954 and today, we have become more aware of, and more seriously concerned about, the failure of our public school system to educate well large segments of our population. Until the advent of technology, and until our country became a part of the global economy and no longer independent, we had reason to be proud of our public schools.

As long as there was space in the economy for those whose formal education was very limited, we could be proud. The schools were doing well in terms of what was expected of them. Those who left the system early had mastered the three Rs. They easily found places waiting for them in the economy in which they could earn reasonably good livings and support families. Those who remained in the system until they graduated found themselves ready to move on to the colleges and universities to prepare for the professions and careers for which more formal schooling was required.

But, when it began to become clear that thousands, even millions, of those being served by our public school system were not faring well in the economy into which they were moving, many began to doubt the effectiveness of the system. Some even wondered if there was a will to educate all children well.

Concern about the adequacy of the public school system grew as the world underwent rapid change, and especially so following the period when the Russians won the race into space with the launching of Sputnik. These concerns ushered in the longest period of educational reform that this nation has ever known.

As a growing underclass out of which escape became more and more difficult to achieve began to grow, it became clear that immediate intervention was essential. Reformers, those persons with either a social conscience or political ambitions, began to look for ways to improve the schools. [This was] not surprising, as the schools were the only institutions charged with responsibility for serving all of the nation's children—all 50 million of them—between the ages of 5 and 17. It should not have been a surprise that attention was turned to the schools from which more than one-fourth of the enrollees were leaving before they graduated. And just as alarming was that among those who stayed until they graduated, many were woefully underprepared to assume the responsibilities expected of adults or serious students.

This concern led to an examination of the characteristics of our public school system in which we had taken much pride.

At the risk of modifying some of these characteristics, new directions were taken, and what began as the characteristics of public education in colonial times became subject to federal influence, with the federal government using the power of its purse to achieve compliance.

Commencement 2005 : Helen Faison Speaks *continued*

A time to celebrate!

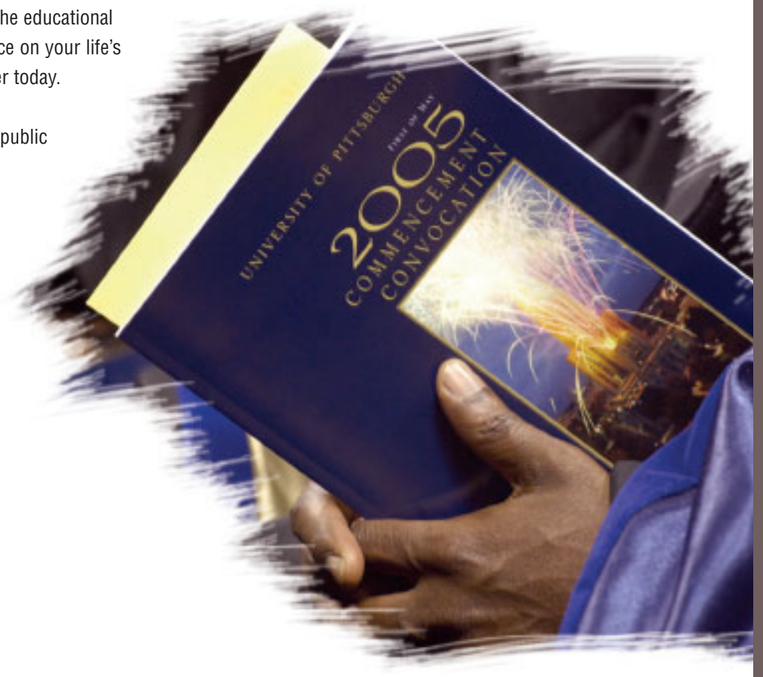
In a nation whose constitution does not even mention the word education, the federal creep into matters related to public education has grown—as the quality of public education available to all children has been shown to be highly correlated to the wealth of their families or the communities in which they live.

Among the events that signaled the growing influence of the federal government's role in public education was the convening of the first-ever governors' conference on education by the president in 1989. Out of that conference and a second such conference convened by the next president emerged eight national goals to be delivered by the year 2000.

The year 2000 came—we all know that—and while some progress had been made toward the achievement of the eight goals, none of them had been fully realized. The follow-up to the national goals was the passage by Congress of the No Child Left Behind Act in 2001—an act that has been opposed and supported with equal enthusiasm.

What you who are being graduated here today are probably asking is, "What does all of this have to do with me?" If you plan to become a teacher, or if you plan to prepare individuals for careers in education, or to administer public schools, or even to seek service on school boards, you can see the connection. But if you do not have any such plans, I still hope that the educational issues to which I have referred will find a place on your life's agenda after the University of Pittsburgh, after today.

Many of you have attended some of the best public high schools and prep schools in the nation. Some of you may be able to say—as does one of my acquaintances, whose name you would recognize if you heard it—[you] never knew a high school dropout. I wish I could say the same.



But whether you are the first member of your family to earn a college degree or if you are the product of one of the best of the high schools and are a member of a family in which everyone has had the opportunity to attend a fine college or university, we all have something in common today.

Today, you are being graduated with a first, a second, or even a third degree from a world-class university, a university of which you and I can be proud.

You are indeed ready to move on to professional schools or to embark on careers for which you have prepared. You are ready to assume the responsibilities of a world-ready person. You are ready to pass a rich legacy on to your descendants. But do not forget that you are going to live your life as we all must—in a world that is beset with all kinds of problems that cannot be confined to an area or to a certain group of people; problems such as diseases, acts of nature, violence, crime, poverty, and hopelessness from which we cannot escape. These are problems for which we as educated persons are partly responsible for finding answers. And many of us believe that a good education is a part of the solution.

John Ruskin, the noted 19th-century British author, art critic, and social reformer, summed up our responsibility as educated persons when he identified five objectives of a true education. He wrote that the true objectives of an education are:

- not to make people merely do the right things, but to enjoy doing them;
- not merely to be industrious, but to love industry;
- not merely to be learned, but to love knowledge;
- not merely to be pure, but to love purity; and
- not to be merely just, but to hunger and thirst after justice.

What, then, can you do? What should those who have invested in you expect of you?

Graduates draped in kente stoles stand for the commencement ceremony. Their stoles represent (left to right) Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

In response to those questions, I would like to share with you a little story that Marian Wright Edelman, who one day was a commencement speaker here at the University, [used to] close one chapter of her book she called *Guide My Feet*. She dedicated the book to her own three sons and to all of us who are concerned about the children in our nation.

The story is of a conversation between a mother and her son. Her son was ready to go back to college at the beginning of his senior year. The story goes something like this:

Commencement 2005 : Helen Faison Speaks *continued*

The mother reminds her son that she has been sending him off to college for six or seven years. (Note that he, too, did not graduate in four years.) She reminds him further that since he first left, she has shed many tears but has found comfort in an old saying that "sunshine comes after the storm." So she says to him as he prepares to leave, "My young man, when you finish, you just bring that college home."

The mother then reminds her son of how hard she has worked to support him in college but hastens to add that she has been patient, knowing that at the end of it all, "He's going to bring that college home."

She goes on to say that the neighbors have predicted that he is not going to finish school and he is just wasting time and her money, but she responds that those neighbors need to wait until next June, when he will bring that college home.

She admonishes her son not to let the naysayers discourage him, for that is all that they know how to do, and not to worry about her, for she has fuel for the winter and plenty of clothes to keep her warm. All he needs to do, she says, is to "next June bring that college home."

And before he finally leaves, probably a little disturbed by what she has said, she reminds him that she doesn't mean for him to bring the college buildings home, she doesn't expect him to bring back college souvenirs. Rather, she expects him to bring home the education he has acquired, the lessons he has learned, and when he gets his diploma, to take off and set out for home.

And then, she charges him to show the critics that he has taken advantage of what the college has offered by his speech and by his demeanor. She warns him not to set himself up as being above the neighbors, those who have not enjoyed the privileges that he has been given, but to settle down to be a light in his own village and to be a college right at home.

Some of you who are being graduated today may be returning to the place that you call home; others of you may be moving to new places, maybe even to places you have never seen. But may I remind you as the mother in the story just reminded her son that while you cannot take with you the Cathedral of Learning, the Commons Room, the University classrooms, or even many of the human associations that you have formed during your years at the University, you can take the University with you.

But may I implore you that no matter what educational experiences you have enjoyed, what educational or other privileges you may be able to provide for the children in your own family, that you become and remain concerned about the other children and other families in our nation. As you reach out to those for whom you will be directly responsible and those whom you love, remember to give some of your time, some of your talents, and some of your gifts to ensure that every child is given access to the best possible educational experience and—in the words of Marian Wright Edelman, words that were later coined by the Department of Education—work to ensure that no child in this nation is left behind. You can make no better investment.

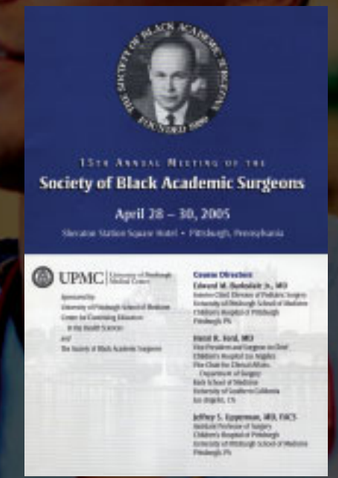
Thank you.

The Society of Black Academic Surgeons Meets in Pittsburgh

The Society of Black Academic Surgeons (SBAS) was founded in 1989 against the backdrop of a paucity of African American surgeons in academic medicine and the absence of an organized network of African American surgeons to stimulate, mentor, and inspire young surgeons and medical students to pursue academic careers.

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center hosted the 15th Annual Scientific Meeting of SBAS at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel in Pittsburgh. The meeting featured presentations by a distinguished panel of preeminent surgeons, faculty, surgical residents, and fellows. The goal was to disseminate knowledge of recent advances in basic science and clinical research in surgery.

This year, particular emphasis was placed on ethnic and racial disparities in health.



Associate Professor of Pediatric Surgery Edward Metz Barksdale with former Pittsburgh Steeler Lynn Swann

A well-attended seminar at the 15th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons

Henri Ford

Pan African Graduate and Professional Student Association's Graduation Dinner : Robert Hill Speaks

University of Pittsburgh Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill gave the following keynote address at the Pan African Graduate and Professional Student Association's April 30, 2005, graduation dinner in the William Pitt Union Assembly Room.

(Left to right) Patricia Pugh Mitchell, Robert Hill, Brenda Berrian, and Charlene Bryan

Hello, everyone.

At a moment like this, I ask that we begin at the beginning. I invite all the graduates to stand; face your parents, family, and other loved ones; and applaud them loudly for helping you get to this day.

Thank you.

I'm going to be careful about what I say today. In his 1983 address to the graduates of Polytechnic Institute of New York, then-Big Apple Mayor Ed Koch told the graduates, "The fireworks begin today. Each diploma is a lighted match. Each one of you is a fuse," whereupon a fire broke out.

So I am going to be very careful about what I say to you today. Because we gather on this day to celebrate you, the members of the Pan African Graduate and Professional Student Association who are graduating in the 2005 class of the University of Pittsburgh on Sunday, tomorrow, a great day, graduation day. In the words of U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes—that great day for which all other days were made.

Of course you've had great days before. I know, for example, those were great days when you graduated from college and joined the ranks of only 12 percent or so of Black adults in the United States who possess the bachelor's degree. That would be accomplishment enough for most—and God bless them. But your obsession with achievement is placing you among the fewer than 5 percent of us 24 million Black adults who hold master's, professional, and doctoral degrees.

And it is that obsession with achievement that has enabled you to rise above life's traumas and dramas—I know, I've been there, too—to get to the big day—commencement day! Congratulations! I couldn't be happier for you if you had hit last week's $205 million jackpot.

Of course your victory follows a remarkable Blue, Gold, and Black tradition of members of a kind of graduate and professional Pitt society of Bad Black Panthers that touches three centuries. The way was paved in 1829, when your Alma Mater was known as Western University of Pennsylvania, and a wealthy Black young man, denied full enrollment by the attitude of the White male students, was permitted to sit in the hallway in the open classroom doorway to hear the lecture catch-as-catch-can. He did not graduate, but his model should be instructive to everyone who has hidden in the back of a lecture hall!

Some 60 years later, your University enrolled William Hunter Dammond from the Hill District, who graduated with honors with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1893, becoming Pitt's first Black graduate.

In 1909, Robert Lee Vann became Pitt's first Black law school graduate; he bought the fledgling *Pittsburgh Courier* and made it America's only national Black newspaper. It survives today as the *New Pittsburgh Courier*.

Another milestone was passed in 1906 when Jean Hamilton Walls became the first African American woman to enroll. She graduated in 1910. And 28 years later—after running the YWCA in the Hill District—became the first Black woman to earn a Pitt PhD. Her dissertation examined the characteristics of the Pitt Negro graduate, 1923–33. It would be instructive even today.

In the decades following the enrollment of William, Robert, and Jean, year by year the Black graduate and professional student heroes and heroines who preceded you at the University of Pittsburgh demolished one barrier after another, no doubt propelled by that success obsession to which you and I are so sympathetic.

Consider this astounding timeline:

1913

Richard Fowler became the first Black graduate of the School of Medicine.

1923

Virginia Florence, a stunning beauty from Ohio, became the first sister in the entire United States to earn a degree in library science when she graduated from what is now the School of Information Sciences.

Members of the Pan African Graduate and Professional Student Association

1937

In 1937, Edward Lee Harris earned the PhD in chemistry and went down in history as the first African American to earn the PhD at Pitt. Later, in 1964, Frederick Humphreys, who would become the legendary president of Florida A&M University, earned his PhD in chemistry. That set in motion the department's own chemical reaction; because during the course of the next nearly 30 years, on the average of about every other year a Black man or women earned a Pitt PhD degree in chemistry!

1942

In the meantime, in 1942, a brainiac from Pittsburgh's Westinghouse High School came to Pitt to study education. And Helen Faison would go on to earn Pitt bachelor's, master's, and PhD education degrees and to become Pittsburgh's first Black and first female high school principal and—

later—Pittsburgh's favorite educator. Several of you earning PhDs in education are Faison Scholars. I won't spoil it for you today; you'll hear more about Dr. Faison tomorrow—because, of the five billion people on the globe, Pitt chose Dr. Faison to be the 2005 commencement speaker.

1945

In 1945, following Jimmy Joe Robinson by weeks, Herb Douglas, then Pennsylvania's best athlete, became one of the two first Black varsity football players at Pitt. Douglas would claim Black Panther glory by becoming the first and only Pitt football player to score a touchdown against Notre Dame and to go on to win an Olympic medal—bronze in the long jump in London in 1948. Douglas later earned a Pitt master's degree and was judged the best graduate assistant in health and physical education. In the early 1960s, he was among the first Black vice presidents in corporate America. Today he serves as a member of Pitt's Board of Trustees.

1951

In 1951, after losing his Pittsburgh Urban League job for leading a boycott against a downtown Pittsburgh department store so that sisters could try on the clothes they bought in the stores and work in those stores, an ingenious know-it-all from Albany, N.Y., named K. Leroy Irvis, had the perspicacity to enroll in Pitt's law school. He became the first brother to serve on the University of Pittsburgh Law Review, graduating in 1954, and he went on to be the first Black speaker of a state house, post-Reconstruction, when he was elected speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1976. In the history of the commonwealth, only Irvis and a guy named Benjamin Franklin were elected to the post by acclamation. In 1966, Irvis was the principal sponsor of House Bill No. 2, making then-private Pitt state related and saving it from financial ruin. Since then … Pitt has received more than $1 billion in state appropriations and has become one of the world's premiere universities. Several of you who will receive your graduate degrees tomorrow will do so as Irvis fellows.

In 2004, I was privileged to executive produce an award-winning video documentary of his life. And your reward for listening to all of this is a DVD version that I will give you tonight.

1974

In 1974, a wife and mother named Judith L. Davenport earned a Master of Public Health degree from Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health. And after earning her DDM from Pitt's dental school, she went on to become one of Pittsburgh's great dental practitioners and businesswomen. Together with her husband, she founded Sheridan Broadcasting, one of America's largest media empires, which owns Pittsburgh's beloved WAMO and American Urban Radio Network, the only Black-owned radio network in the nation. In 2003, Governor Ed Rendell named Dr. Davenport a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania.

And on and on it went through the '50s and then the '60s, when the Black Action Society was born in struggle, many of whose members earned Pitt graduate degrees; through the '70s when Martha Conley was the first Black woman to graduate from the law school, Elaine Morris became the first Black woman to earn Pitt's MD degree, and Lawrence Howard of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs became Pitt's first Black dean; right through the '80s and '90s when, in 1997, Audrey Murrell became the first Black woman professor to receive tenure in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business.

Charlene Bryan, past president of the Pan African GPSA; Jessica Robinson; Rachel Redding; David Whitted; Patricia Pugh Mitchell, current president of the Pan African GPSA; Cacie Cunningham; Brenda Berrian, professor in the Africana studies department and Pan African GSPA advisor; Denis Nkweteyim; Mark Smith; and Consuella Lewis, faculty member in the School of Education

More recently, in 2001, more Black engineers, following first graduate William Hunter Dammond's model and with the guidance of Professor Sylvanus Wosu, graduated from Pitt than from any university in Pennsylvania.

So, you see, brothers and sisters, when we reflect on diversity at Pitt, we must frame it not as a latter-day affirmative action initiative. Instead, the Black graduate and professional student experience at the University of Pittsburgh is at least a 175-year development.

And the saga continues beyond graduation because, of course, no survey of Black Pitt progress is complete without acknowledging the achievements of the 7,000 Pitt Black alumni who carry their good works to the four corners of the world.

Just last month I had the privilege of attending the installation of the new president of the Pitt African American Alumni Council, Linda Wharton Boyd. Dr. Boyd earned her bachelor's, master's, and PhD at Pitt. Her dissertation in the Department of Communication has been described as the best of its time in the department. Dr. Boyd brings a bright vision to Black alumni affairs. And tonight she leads a baccalaureate service across town for the Pitt Black seniors who will graduate tomorrow.

But Jack L. Daniel, the granddaddy of Black alumni, is also [unofficially] the dean of all of Black Pitt. His story is the story of at least the last 45 of those 175 years. He came to Pitt as a teenager, and for all practical purposes you could say he never left. He is the holder of the bachelor's degree, the master's, and the PhD in communication from Pitt. He is the first and only Black full professor in the communication department and the only African American to earn tenure. He admitted you to Pitt as undergrads. He gives many of you fellowships, advice, counsel, wisdom. He's mentor to all—from the first-semester freshman to endowed professors to rich and famous alumni. If you're Blue, Gold, and Black, you're the mentee of Jack! And he suffers no fools gladly. He is the chief undergraduate academic official at Pitt. In 2003, he was named by the *New Pittsburgh Courier* newspaper as one of the 50 Men of Influence in Pittsburgh. And no one at Pitt comes any Blacker.

As a poor Black boy from Harlem, I did not have the benefit of a Pitt education. I'm still Black, but I'm Blue and Gold now. As fellow Black Panthers in struggle, we can agree that a successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him, as the noted journalist David Brinkley once said. So now you graduate. As the Teddy Bear said, "Now there's no sleepless nights, no more arguing nor more fights, it don't hurt now, not now!" I can assure you that only your family will applaud you louder on Sunday.

For now I wish you continued success. And as always, I wish you peace, love, and soul.

Celebration Caps Off Four-Day Research Career Development Institute

Participants and faculty of the 2005 EXPORT Health Summer Research Career Development Institute (SRCDI) at the program's closing reception, in the Lower Lounge of the William Pitt Union on June 6, 2005.

The EXPORT Centers at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health and at Jackson State University's School of Public Health, in cooperation with the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, offered fellowships in 2005 for their Summer Research Career Development Institute (SRCDI) in Minority Health and Health Disparities.

SRCDI and its backers are committed to increasing the number of minority investigators who are successful in securing faculty appointments and independent funding through the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other federal agencies. SRCDI was designed to provide essential training building on the highly successful "survival skills in research" model developed at the University of Pittsburgh, and to help new investigators identify the key elements required to establish an academic research career.

Mt. Ararat Rejoices with Class of 2005

Mt. Ararat Baptist Church in Pittsburgh's East Liberty section held a baccalaureate service during commencement weekend 2005 honoring the accomplishments of 62 Pitt students. Pictured with some of the students and their family members are (in front) Reverend William H. Curtis, the church's senior pastor, and (to his right) Linda Wharton-Boyd.

Black Action Society Events Enlighten and Entertain

As part of the Pitt Black Action Society's Black Week 2004, a model displays her designer threads at a November 19 fashion show in the WPU Assembly Room.

The Black Action Society (BAS) strives to create a positive environment for the development and support of Black students at the University, to establish a sense of community, and to promote interaction among Black students at the University.

In keeping with its ideals, BAS plans a number of events—such as its annual fashion show—and brings many stars to the University's stages, including Nikki Giovanni, Krs-One, Sista Souljah, and Talib Kweli.

Poet Nikki Giovanni, in a November 18, 2004, lecture in the William Pitt Union (WPU) Lower Lounge, attacked racism, discussed space travel, and read several of her award-winning poems. Included in the advice she offered the audience: "Never let what other people think you should be doing determine what you think you should be doing," and "You may not always get the man, but you can always get the poem."

2006 Mr. and Miss Black University of Pittsburgh
Freshman Jamar Thrasher and sophomore Faith-Rebekkah I. Ilochi were crowned Mr. and Miss Black University of Pittsburgh in the annual pageant held by Pitt's Black Action Society.

Conference Center Unveiled

Bridges *magazine, a publication of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, printed the following article in spring 2006.*

School of Social Work Celebrates Conference Center Grand Opening

(Left to right) Provost James V. Maher, Dean Larry E. Davis, Professor Derrick Bell, and Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg

A grand opening celebration for the new School of Social Work Conference Center was held on October 20, 2005. Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Provost James V. Maher, and Dean Larry E. Davis gave remarks.

The festivities included Davis' introduction of a live teleconferencing session with Livingston Alexander, president of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, and Jerry Samples, vice president for academic and student affairs at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. The school has MSW extension programs at both regional campuses. Alexander and Samples congratulated the school and said they look forward to more opportunities to teleconference with the Oakland campus. Derrick Bell, visiting professor at the New York University School of Law, delivered a lecture at Pitt earlier in the day and was on hand for the celebration.

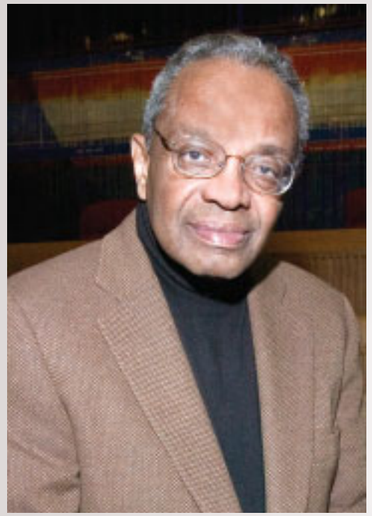
In 2017 Cathedral of Learning, the conference center fills 2,000 square feet of space, can seat approximately 90 people, and was renovated using nearly $500,000 in Pennsylvania Department of Education funds and $100,000 in University funds. It boasts advanced media technology and interactive television capacity—including the latest in Video CODEC technology for videoconferencing and multipoint conference calls. This technology will help expand the school's presence across the globe. In addition to new furnishings and room decor, there is a kitchen and a reception area.

The opening of the conference center is an important step in the dean's drive for excellence that is underscoring academic and funding development initiatives at the school, which he continues to herald at alumni gatherings throughout the region.

Faculty and students are also pleased that the school now has a space in which to host its Center on Race and Social Problems and school speaker series, as well as accommodate meetings and continuing education, distance learning, and training programs. Through events held at the center, this new technology will enable the school to advance its educational programs and its reach.

Constitutional Considerations : Derrick Bell Speaks

The following article by Peter Hart about the speech given by Derrick Bell (LAW '57) on the Constitution was published in the September 29, 2005, issue of the University Times.



Derrick Bell

Starry-eyed Americans enamored of their Constitution got a harsh dose of reality this month from a leading legal scholar.

The Constitution is a flawed document, misunderstood by historians and abused by the court system, and its selective enforcement depends not on purported individual rights but on who is in power, according to Derrick Bell, visiting professor of law at the New York University School of Law, who spoke at Pitt on September 16, 2005, as part of the inaugural, federally mandated U.S. Constitution Day.

"We here are mandated to commemorate the document that most citizenry likely believes represents the greatest expression of statesmanship and compromise ever written," Bell told a packed house in the Pitt law school's moot courtroom. "Commemorating the adoption of the nation's founding document is not inappropriate," he said.

But when hyperbole is not balanced by critique then neither the nation nor its Constitution is well served, said Bell, a Pitt law school graduate who has been an advocate for civil rights in a nearly 50-year law career.

Bell is the University of Pittsburgh School of Law Distinguished Lecturer and Scholar for 2005–06.

"Professor Bell is uniquely qualified to speak on the issue of constitutional relevance as a lawyer, teacher, activist, and preeminent scholar and author on issues of race and class in our society," said new Pitt law Dean Mary Crossley, who introduced him. "He has published widely on race, racism, and American law and helped stimulate the critical race movement in legal scholarship."

"My perspective on the document that is acclaimed as the source of liberty and justice for all is that it is more often praised than practiced," said Bell.

The framers of the Constitution, particularly in the preamble, which he read for the audience, expressed stirring sentiments for representing all of the people, for forming a more perfect union, and for propagating values of equality and justice under the law, noted Bell. "The framers were wise, but their decisions were circumscribed by political necessities. There are traceable compromises the framers made that were necessary to ensure ratification"—compromises that violate both the letter and the spirit of the document itself, he said.

Constitutional Considerations : Derrick Bell Speaks *continued*

The framers were not a representative body, and they created a nonrepresentational government, Bell maintained, despite age-old claims to the contrary.

"Those who gathered in Philadelphia in 1787 were men of wealth, with investments in land, slaves, manufacturing, and shipping," Bell said. The constitution they adopted was intended to serve their primary interest: the protection of wealth and property. "And they further realized that rights of property and liberty, which were under threat under the unworkable Articles of Confederation, might be under even greater threat from a strong central government."

So they set up structured procedures for electing officials that had the effect of excluding not only slaves, free Blacks, and women, but also most White men, Bell said. "There was no right to vote in the Constitution; voting rights were left to the states, and under the voting laws in most states only those Whites of economic stature were able to meet the property, education, and even religious standards that were prerequisite to voting and holding office."

As for serious flaws, most scholars agree that the incorporation of slavery into the Constitution was the most serious error and one whose consequences have been felt throughout American history, Bell said.

"The framers were reinforcing a long-standing policy of slavery that had been in effect for more than a century, along with all the rationales of African inferiorities that had been used to justify the institution," Bell said.

Other justifications included that many early Americans viewed slaves as their most important property; the colonies and then the states were developed and enriched either directly or indirectly on the forced labor of hundreds of thousands of human beings; the war for independence was financed in substantial part on the profits of slavery; and, perhaps most importantly, the southern states would never ratify a document that outlawed slavery.

"The framers had no answer to the admonishment that property and thus slaves would not be exposed to danger by the government instituted for the protection of property." This is clearly a paradox, Bell said.

"After slavery, the second most undemocratic provision in the Constitution was, and is, the composition of the Senate—the so-called equality of representation that gives each state two representatives regardless of population," Bell said.

Most historians view this as a necessary concession to the small states, he said. "The ones who insisted on it, however, were the slave states, to augment and protect the 3/5ths provision, enabling them to count five slaves as three persons for purposes of the proportion of population represented through this 'compromise'—so slave states had disproportionate representation in both the House and the Senate."

A third slavery-related constitutional flaw, also backed by the slave states, is the Electoral College, which adopted the same formula as representation in the House, Bell said.

"Slave states could again utilize the 3/5ths provision to have a strong hand in the selection of the chief executive," he said. "It's no accident that after Adams, the next three presidents came from the slave state of Virginia."

The "antidemocratic" Electoral College, which has survived hundreds of attempts to be eliminated by constitutional amendment, continues to confound the equality in the voting system, Bell said. It has led to anomalies such as the 1876 Hayes-Tilden presidential election that kept the winner of the popular vote out of the White House and was decided by a congressional committee. Recently, the Electoral College has forced presidential campaigns to be focused almost exclusively on "battleground states." And it led to "the Supreme Court's unprecedented exercise of raw legal power to decide the 2000 election debacle," he said.

Bell cited other examples of misunderstood tenets of the Constitution.

"The guarantee of freedom of speech in the First Amendment is probably the most honored of our civil liberties, and yet those who dare exercise that right by being critical of the government's policies, particularly during times of crisis, well, they don't fare very well," Bell said. "The protections of the Constitution that are generally present during times of peace quickly disappear during times of peril."

He cited examples where free speech was abridged legally, including the 1798 Alien Sedition Act, the suspension of habeas corpus during the Civil War, the 1917 Espionage Act and a reinforced Sedition Act passed in 1918, the internment of 110,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, the Red Scare and McCarthy's anti-Communist witch hunt in the 1940s and '50s, and the government's domestic spying abuses during the Nixon administration.

"I hope that makes you feel better about things happening today," Bell quipped, "because there are precedents throughout our history.

"Now we have the Patriot Act that smuggled into law several investigative procedures with nothing to do with fighting terrorism, with little in the way of checks and balances, and with a suspension of rights. With few exceptions, most of these measures have been approved by Congress and the courts over the strong objections of civil libertarians.

"We live in times of peril."

Those willing to speak out against these actions are branded as disloyal or enemies by the current administration; in President Bush's words "you are either with us or against us," Bell pointed out.

"It wouldn't be difficult to conclude that the Constitution means whatever those in power want it to mean and that the document offers little to no protection for nondominant classes in their everyday lives or to individuals who are critics during a time of crisis," Bell maintained.

"Liberty and justice for all was undergirded by economic policies that directly and indirectly enslaved millions," he said. "This paradox of antidemocratic functions in a supposedly democratic society—say one thing, do another—the easy explanation is that it is blatant hypocrisy. That may be accurate, but it is not analytical."

For analysis, Bell paraphrased an argument by the late law professor Arthur S. Miller, who put forward that the United States has two constitutions: one written, one unwritten.

"The formal one represents what's supposed to occur; the unwritten constitution consists of the informal understanding of what occurs in fact in society and government," Bell said. "Powerful elites control the second.

"The present government spinmeisters are able to manipulate the media and the minds of many to support policies that tax workers rather than work, that see the natural world not as a common inheritance but as an object of exploitation," and all the while they ignore or deny economic inequality, he said.

"Increasingly, our citizens are divided between those who have much and those who have all too little."

Most of the media, for their part, are beholden to their corporate owners, who favor profits over truth, he added.

If Miller is correct, and if the written Constitution magically disappeared from human history, there would not be chaos in this country; instead, very little would change, Bell said.

"A constitution is just a piece of paper, no better than the underlying consensus or lack thereof that it embodies. When consensus is lost, then you have a widespread ignoring of laws, and that becomes the norm," Bell said.

"When I was asked to share my views on the issue of constitutional relevance, I thought immediately of the great abolitionist orator Frederick Douglass" (1818–95), who was asked to speak to a Rochester, N.Y., ladies association on the anniversary of Independence Day in 1852, Bell said.

"Douglass said, 'Fellow citizens, pardon me, allow me to ask why am I called upon to speak to you today? What have I or those I represent to do with your national independence? Are the great principles of political freedom and national justice embodied in the Declaration of Independence—are they extended to us?'

" 'Your high independence only reveals the immeasurable distance between us. The rich inheritance of justice, liberty, prosperity, and independence bequeathed by your fathers is shared by you, not by me. The sunlight that brought life and healing to you has brought stripes and death to my people. This Fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice. I must mourn.' "

Bell, who is African American, added, "I stand before you as representative of a people, many of whom, while not enslaved, suffer an unacknowledged oppression whose particular measures do not even begin to delineate the devastation of their lives. Freedom and justice under the law is more a statement of aspiration than a description of our actual governmental position."

Delta Sigma Theta Meets in Pittsburgh

Marva Scott-Starks (left), Delta Sigma Theta Eastern Regional director 1970–72, and Cheryl A. Hickmon, Eastern Regional director 2001–05

Approximately 1,500 women of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority attended the 45th Eastern Regional Conference, August 11–14, 2005, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh and Erie alumnae chapters and the Mu, Theta, Rho Pi, Rho Omicron, and Tau Beta collegiate chapters hosted the conference. In addition to participating in service projects, attendees held a public discussion on Black leadership.

As part of a preconference project, members gathered 50 young students at the Carnegie Science Center for the sorority's Science and Everyday Experiences initiative to promote technology and math among Black youth. The National Science Foundation funded the program.

The sisters also held a forum on political and economic issues affecting the Black community. And Reverend Vashti McKenzie, the first female bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, led an ecumenical service.

Delta Sigma Theta is the second-oldest Black sorority in the country, having formed at Howard University in 1913. With 950 chapters worldwide, there are now more than 200,000 sisters. The Eastern Region includes members from 11 states in the northeastern United States and Washington, D.C. There are international chapters in Japan, Germany, Bermuda, Haiti, Liberia, the Bahamas, Korea, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Indicative of its focus on service and outreach at home and abroad, the sorority supports an HIV orphanage in Swaziland and a hospital in Nairobi, Kenya, in addition to mentoring young girls, working with the American Heart Association to teach Black women about heart disease, and encouraging home ownership among women.

For more information about the University of Pittsburgh's Mu Chapter, visit www.pitt.edu/~dsigt.

Delta Sigma Theta sorors Chantel Lee (left), outgoing Eastern Regional representative, and Chantel Hampton

Kwanzaa with the Pettigrews

Umoja (Unity)
To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race

Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)
To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)
To build and maintain our community together, to make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems, and to solve those problems together

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)
To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together

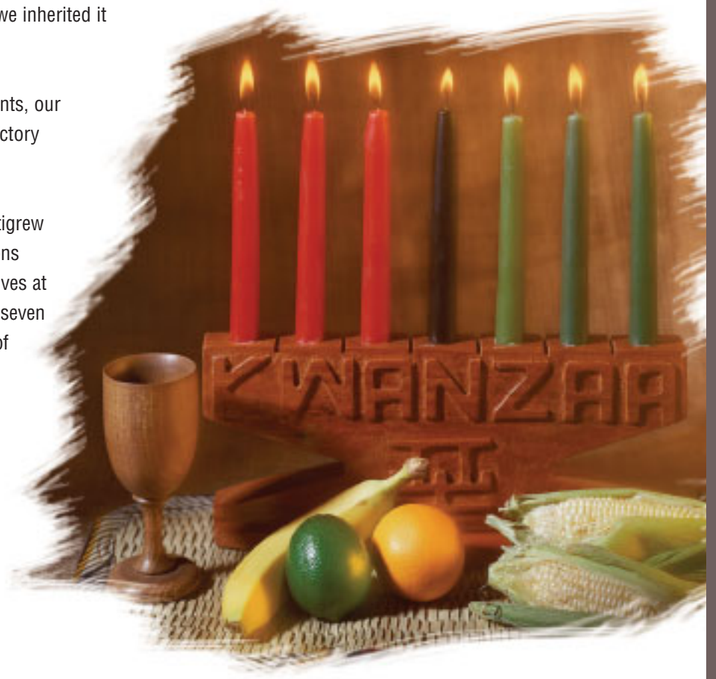
Nia (Purpose)
To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness

Kuumba (Creativity)
To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it

Imani (Faith)
To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle

Chenits and Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew and family

School of Medicine Professor Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew and Pitt School of Social Work Director of Admissions Chenits Pettigrew hosted about 40 friends and relatives at the Pittsburgh Residence Inn for the holiday. These seven principles of Kwanzaa were recorded on the inside of the program.



The Weather Outside Was Frightful : Emanon Celebrates Christmas

The Men of Emanon
(Left to right) Robert Smith, Vice President Bennie Wheeler, Joe Thomas, and Treasurer Bob Nicklos

In 1954, a motivated group of Black graduate students at the University of Pittsburgh decided that they needed their own social club. Racial discrimination prevented them from establishing social clubs through the University, but that did not prevent them from gathering on their own. The group they formed, which they called Emanon, met in the Hill District neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Many of the group's members have been doctors and school principals. Their oldest surviving charter member, William E. Green, was the assistant superintendent of Pittsburgh Public Schools from 1969 to 1985.

The following story about Emanon appeared in the Lifestyles section of the January 25–31, 2006, issue of the New Pittsburgh Courier.

What's in a Name?

By Debbie Norrell

We celebrated the holidays with a lot of organizations last year; many have become old friends and are often featured on the Lifestyle pages. We were pleased to receive a first-time invitation from a group that we knew little about.

On December 18, 2005, Emanon held its annual holiday party at the Alcoma Golf Club. According to its history, the organization began when a group of highly motivated graduate students at the University of Pittsburgh decided that their social needs were not being met.

They first gathered in the basement of Lou King's home on Herron Avenue in Schenley Heights. They rose to local prominence by hosting an annual New Year's Eve cabaret at the Royal Ball Room in Wilkinsburg in the late 1950s.

Since their inception in 1954, fewer than 50 men have been known as an Emanon members. Although their numbers are small, many members have become well known in their respective professions.

The Emanon club is second only to the F.R.O.G.S. club as the oldest Black men's social club in Pittsburgh. Bill Green, a charter member, was the club's first secretary and still holds that office today.

And like the F.R.O.G.S., these guys know how to have fun. They handed out an icebreaker at that party that had everyone talking to each other, telling jokes, and showing off their sexy legs. Big fun and gifts for all of the ladies.

And about the club name? When the letters Emanon are spelled in reverse they spell "no name."

Officers

Clarence Curry
President

Bennie Wheeler
Vice President

William E. Green
Secretary

Robert Nicklos
Treasurer

Albert Johnson
Corresponding Secretary

Egyptian Redux : Molefi Kete Asante

Molefi Kete Asante is a professor of African American studies at Temple University and the author of 61 books and more than 300 scholarly articles.

Molefi Kete Asante, professor of African American studies at Temple University, spoke in Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health Auditorium on March 2, 2006. The public lecture, titled "Black Egyptian Civilization and Culture: An Inspiration for the New Generation to Reach New Heights," was sponsored by the students of Pitt's Department of Africana Studies.

Asante has been described as the founder of the theory of Afrocentricity, a re-examination of traditional scholarship from the perspective of African and African diasporal peoples. In 1969, he was the founding editor of the *Journal of Black Studies*, a central publication for Afrocentric theory. His work on African culture and philosophy has made him one of the 10 most widely cited African Americans.

Molefi Kete Asante with Pitt Department of Africana Studies student Tamara Thompson

Enough is Enough : Pitt Student K. Chase Patterson Leads the Charge

On March 6, 2006, approximately 100 people gathered at blustery Freedom Corner in the Hill District to support the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Enough is Enough Rally. M. Gayle Moss, retired program developer in the University of Pittsburgh Office of Student Activities and recently elected president of the Pittsburgh chapter of the NAACP, called for a commitment to collective change at the rally, and she denounced the violence and other ills that beset her community. University of Pittsburgh Alpha Phi Alpha member K. Chase Patterson took the stage to join her in a call for accountability and change within the community.

Chancellor Nordenberg Greets the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)

NSBE held its annual convention in Pittsburgh, March 29–April 2, 2006, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg made the following remarks during the general session.

Sylvanus N. Wosu, assistant dean for diversity and engineering faculty member, accepting the 2004 Chancellor's Affirmative Action Award from Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg on behalf of the School of Engineering's Office of Diversity.

Good morning, everyone. My name is Mark Nordenberg. As chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, it is my great pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to each of you. By now, I hope you all have discovered that Pittsburgh is a great city. Pitt students know that well—because they are out and about, all over town, at internships, museums, ball games, concerts, plays, … and night spots that, I am sure, are unknown to me. Our students have come to learn that we really mean it when we say, "The city is our campus."

As I traveled from my office to join you this morning, I passed a public parking ramp that bears, on an otherwise nondescript corner, a plaque that has special significance for all of the people of Pitt. It marks the site of the original log cabin academy that would become the University of Pittsburgh. That academy was founded in 1787, when this city was still a town at the edge of the American frontier.

Pitt's founder, Hugh Henry Brackenridge, was a remarkable person. Widely credited with writing the first American novel while still a young man, he was trained as a Philadelphia lawyer and then traveled west, across the Allegheny Mountains to make his mark. Before his career was over, he had served with distinction in the state legislature and as a justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. But in all that he did and from every position that he held, Mr. Brackenridge was a champion of what we today would call civic improvement.

When he first viewed the settlement at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, he saw not just what was, but what could be. And his was an extraordinarily accurate vision of the future. "This must be a place of great manufactory. Indeed the greatest on the continent, or in the world," he declared. Remember, he was speaking in the 1780s—many decades before Pittsburgh's legendary manufacturing might would actually emerge. But the town of Pittsburgh did grow into a city that became "a place of great manufactory"—the heart of the American industrial revolution.

My Pitt faculty colleague, Professor Franklin Toker, in his book *Pittsburgh: An Urban Portrait*, concisely captures the impact of our proud industrial past.

"The chief distinction of Pittsburgh is work. … Pittsburgh stands for industry and production. … It was Pittsburgh that gave, or rather sold, the world its first mass-produced oil, steel, aluminum, and glass, and it perfected two other techniques that were even more critical to modern life. In Pittsburgh, Heinz created the world's first hygienically packaged food, and Westinghouse supplied AC current to supplement Edison's DC in every corner of the globe."

General session speaker Randal Pinkett, president and CEO of BCT Partners and winner of The Apprentice, *with Robert Hill*

Think for a moment, both about what you have already seen about Pittsburgh, what you may have learned in that quick summary of one dimension of its history, and what you know of its current strengths—the bridges spanning our rivers and the boats and barges transporting goods up and down them, the tunnels that take travelers through our mountains and the inclines that take travelers over them, the processes and facilities required for the mass production of oil and steel and aluminum and glass, the ingenuity that made possible the historic development of AC current and hygienically packaged food or that today provides the foundation for global excellence in biotechnology, information technology, and robotics. When Mr. Brackenridge stood near the point where our three rivers come together and said, "This must be a place of great manufactory," he might also have said, "This is a place that will need universities to train them."

By the mid-1800s, Pitt had become one of the first universities in the country to award degrees in engineering. By the 1870s, the University had adopted a formal four-year program in civil and mechanical engineering. And before the century had closed, a pioneering Pitt student had answered his own call to build a FIRE, a "foundation"—built through education and in the face of daunting challenges—for "impact," "revitalization," and "empowerment."

William Hunter Dammond, the first African American to graduate from Pitt, earned his civil engineering degree, with honors, in 1893. During the late 19th century, of course, many Americans could not read, most had not graduated from high school, only about a very small percentage of the population attended college, and the overwhelming number of these students were White. Given that context, Mr. Dammond's status as an African American college graduate, engineer, inventor, and college professor at the beginning of the 20th century was remarkable—and his engineering education empowered him to lead a remarkable life of real impact.

Young, gifted, and Black, Mr. Dammond taught mathematics at African American colleges in Texas and Ohio. He later went to work as an engineer at the Michigan Central Railroad, where he made significant contributions to railroad safety, including a signaling system he invented and patented that has been credited with saving many, many lives in this country. Later, in London, he further developed his railroad safety systems to the salvation of many travelers and workers on the British railway system.

Chancellor Nordenberg Greets the NSBE *continued*

Reaching across the arc of time from Mr. Dammond, we encounter other inspiring Pitt engineering examples.

- Wanda Austin received her Master of Science degrees in civil engineering and mathematics from Pitt in 1977. She joined the Aerospace Corp. and—after serving as a member of that corporation's technical staff for 22 years—became its first female senior vice president of a major technical unit. Today, Austin leads the National Systems Group—the firm's largest unit, with more than 1,000 scientists and engineers—and is internationally recognized for her work in systems engineering and satellite operations.

- Robert O. Agbede earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in mining engineering from Pitt in 1979 and 1981. Today, he is the president and CEO of ATS Chester Engineers, the largest municipal engineering firm in Western Pennsylvania and the largest African American-owned firm of its type in the United States. Committed to "giving back," Mr. Agbede also has funded School of Engineering initiatives for recruiting and retaining underrepresented students and faculty.

- An even more recent star in our School of Engineering's constellation is Dan Debrah, who was recognized as the NSBE Achiever's Plus Program Student of the Year in 2001. Dan also was cited in *USA Today*'s 2004 All-USA College Academic Team program for his scholarship and leadership roles, both on and off campus. Dan received his Bachelor of Science degree in bioengineering from Pitt in 2004 and, shortly thereafter, published an original research paper in the journal *Endocrinology*. Funded in part by the National Institutes of Health, Dan's research focused on the ovarian hormone relaxin and its possible uses to treat cardiovascular disease. Now, as a Pitt bioengineering PhD student, Dan works with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Clinical Artificial Heart Program and has already published four papers.

Karl Lewis, emeritus faculty member in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, received the 2006 Golden Torch Award for Lifetime Achievement in Academia during the convention. The award recognizes community and technical excellence in leadership among institutions, companies, and individuals. Lewis founded the Engineering IMPACT Program to assist with the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students in the School of Engineering.

Achievements of this type are, of course, a tribute to individual talent and effort, but they also are the product of institutional commitment and support. One of the individuals most responsible for Pitt's rich legacy of African American achievement in engineering is Professor Emeritus Karl H. Lewis. Those of you who attended last night's Golden Torch Awards ceremony witnessed Dr. Lewis receiving the NSBE's prestigious 2006 Golden Torch Award for Lifetime Achievement in Academia for his "outstanding professional achievements in the fields of engineering and science." Dr. Lewis devoted virtually his entire career at Pitt to helping African American students succeed in engineering.

When Dr. Lewis retired from full-time teaching in 1999, Gerald Holder, our dean and a speaker at this afternoon's deans forum, recruited

Professor Sylvanus N. Wosu to be his successor. The efforts led by Dr. Wosu have earned special forms of recognition—such as our University's 2004 Chancellor's Affirmative Action Award. Those efforts also have continued to produce enviable results, positioning Pitt both as a major producer of African American PhDs and as the home to high-achieving engineering undergraduates. Let me give you just two very recent and very inspiring examples.

- Daniel Armanios—a Pitt senior majoring in mechanical engineering and political science—was named a 2004 Goldwater Scholar for his innovative engineering research and a 2005 Truman Scholar for his leadership in public service. To win either of these highly competitive honors would place him among the very best students in any American university. To receive both forms of recognition puts him in a truly unique category, but those awards are a fair reflection of his breadth. Daniel already has completed three National Science Foundation summer internships and, building on his experience as a member of Pitt's Model United Nations, he founded Session: Middle East, a forum for debating the Arab-Israeli conflict.

- Following in the very large footsteps of Daniel Armanios is Adam Iddriss—a Pitt junior majoring in bioengineering and chemistry—who, just two weeks ago, was named a 2006 Truman Scholar. Adam plans to pursue the MD and PhD degrees and to work as a bioengineer and physician dedicated to patient care, biomedical research in tissue engineering, and advocacy work for minorities in science. He is the founder and president of Engineers for a Sustainable World, an organization committed to fundraising and service projects for developing nations, and will spend two months this summer in Tanzania with the Engineering World Health Summer Institute. Adam also is a member of the College After School Mentoring Team that provides tutoring in math and science for at-risk high school students.

A recent report—titled *Rising Above the Gathering Storm* and jointly released by the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine—lists the many ways in which science and technology are critical to America's prosperity in the 21st century. Among them are: ensuring economic well-being, creating new industries, promoting public health, caring for the environment, improving the standard of living, and securing the homeland. This very recent expression of value is consistent with past observations about engineering—that "the engineer is the key figure in the material progress of the world" and that "one person's magic is another person's engineering."

Certainly, no one could quarrel with the assertion that "engineering is a great profession." Engineers have made, and will continue to make, significant contributions to the greater good, and the profession of engineering provides varied and wide-ranging opportunities to lead satisfying lives of real impact. For those of you already members of this proud profession, then, let me applaud your collective contributions. For those of you now engaged in the study of engineering, I encourage you to take full advantage of your educational opportunities, confident that good things lie ahead. And for those of you still charting an educational course, I urge you to give engineering the careful look that it so clearly deserves.

And for those of you whose future plans include further education, at either the graduate or undergraduate levels—remember that there are fine universities, with strong programs, eager to welcome you into their communities, support you in your work, and help you launch careers of impact. Here in Pittsburgh, that is true of our next-door neighbor Carnegie Mellon University, and it certainly is true of Pitt. In fact, I can think of no more appropriate way to close than by quoting Professor Wosu, who leads our engineering diversity programs, and who regularly re-expresses our institutional commitment to foster "an environment in which faculty, staff, and students are valued for their unique cultures, experiences, and perspectives" and in which "each member of our community has the opportunities and the support needed to reach his or her full potential."

Black Engineers in the "Smokey City": James Wiley

COURTESY SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE

James Wiley

This image and article originally appeared in "The Smokey City, Part 2: Glimpses of Social Life" in the November 1901 issue of The Colored American Magazine.

Yet of all professions, perhaps there are none which have contributed more to the advancement of modern civilization than that of civil engineering. The engineer has built our mills and factories, has covered the earth with a great network of railroads, and connected continents by means of cables, and monstrous steamers. He is truly the "soldier of fortune."

Thus it is with pleasure that we can mention among the graduates in civil engineering in the class of 1902 of the Western University of Pennsylvania one young gentleman of color, Mr. James Wiley.

Mr. Wiley was born in Allegheny in 1881. At the age of 14 years he entered the Pittsburg [sic] Central High School, graduated in the class of '99, at which time he was honored with a place on the programme [sic] on "Class Day."

In the fall of '99, he entered the civil engineering department of the University. Throughout his school career he has shown ability in mathematics and natural science. The ease with which he masters the difficult problems in science demonstrates his ability as an engineer, and we hope that, as he has held so prominent a place with his fellow students, he will also hold a prominent place among his colleagues in the engineering profession.

Black Engineers in the "Smokey City": Howard Woodson

COURTESY SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE

Howard Dilworth Woodson

This image and article originally appeared in "The Smokey City, Part 4: Public Schools: Business and Professional Life" in the January/February 1902 issue of The Colored American Magazine.

Howard Dilworth Woodson was born in Pittsburg [sic], April 26, 1876. He entered the Pittsburg Central High School at the age of 16. From the beginning, he showed ability in mathematics and won the respect of both students and faculty.

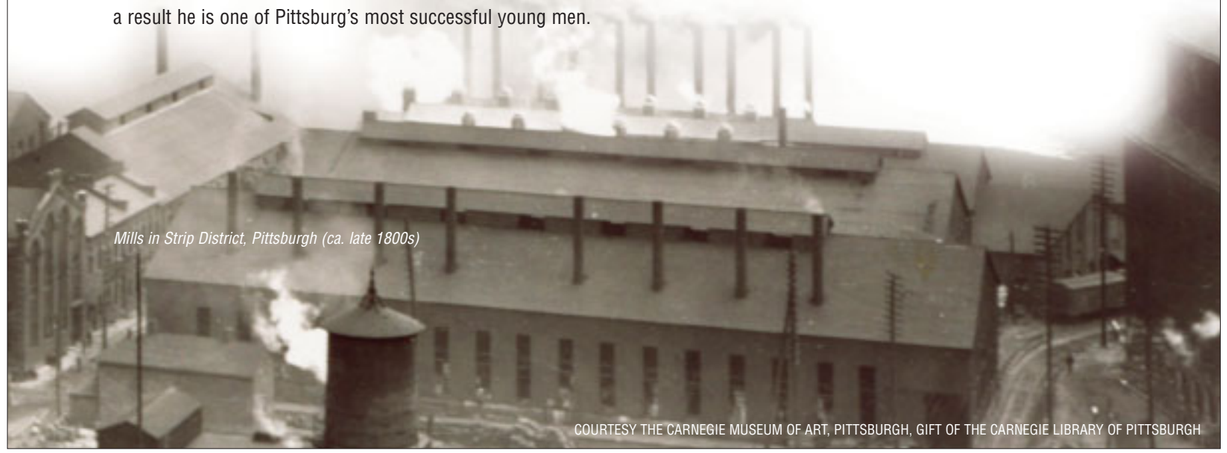
He graduated from the academical [sic] department in 1897 with high honors and entered the Western University of Pennsylvania in September of the same year, where he began the study of civil engineering. His high standing in mathematics and the natural sciences made his record one of the brightest in the annals of that proud old institution.

Where there is merit, prejudice cannot long remain. It is encouraging to note, that, although the only colored student in his class, Howard Woodson won a place among his fellow students in the Western University of Pennsylvania that few students attain. Of his text book, he was master, not the text book. Thus many were the young men who detained him in the corridor to have explained to them some difficult point in a difficult problem. His ready knowledge, at all times, indicated his ability as a mathematician.

After graduating with the degree of civil engineer, he spent several months with the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company. He filled this position with credit, until he accepted the position of transitman and assistant engineer with the Pittsburg Coal Company, where he is still engaged.

Mr. Woodson comes from one of the oldest colored families in Pittsburg and is quite a favorite in social circles. Once out of his office he is ready to assume his share of the pleasures of polite society. He appreciates, and can tell, a good joke. He is an active member of Bethel A.M.E. Church and quite a worker in the Sunday school.

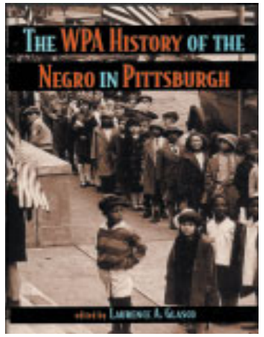
Perhaps few young men of any race are better prepared to do the work they have chosen in life than is Mr. Woodson, and as a result he is one of Pittsburg's most successful young men.



Mills in Strip District, Pittsburgh (ca. late 1800s)

COURTESY THE CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF ART, PITTSBURGH, GIFT OF THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH

The WPA History of the Negro in Pittsburgh, edited by Laurence A. Glasco



In the mid-1930s, a project called *The Negro in Pittsburgh* began documenting the experiences of Blacks in Pittsburgh. Seventy years later, the fruit of that effort is finally available. Editor Laurence A. Glasco, associate professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh and coauthor of *A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African-American Landmarks in Allegheny County*, describes *The WPA History of the Negro in Pittsburgh* as "the most complete history we have of Black Pittsburgh." This landmark volume provides a fascinating, detailed overview of life in Pittsburgh during most of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century as seen through the eyes of its African American population.

The Negro in Pittsburgh was part of the American Guide Series, published by the Federal Writers' Project (FWP). The guide series featured books on states, cities, rivers, and ethnic groups and offered an unprecedented look at the lives of Americans at the time. However, many of the projects were incomplete—*The Negro in Pittsburgh* among them—when Congress terminated FWP in 1939. The manuscript languished for decades in the Pennsylvania State Library in Harrisburg. Glasco credits—and dedicates the book to—Clarence Rollo Turner, a Black studies professor at the University of Pittsburgh, who first envisioned the publication of the manuscript.

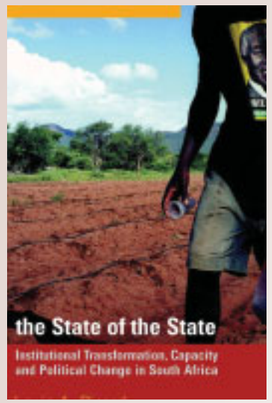
"Among the strongest chapters in *The WPA History of the Negro in Pittsburgh* is 'Abolition Years.' It includes wonderful accounts of local Black leaders … and provides an overview of Pittsburgh's antislavery movement and the Underground Railroad," Glasco says. "Folkways," a post-Civil War chapter, begins with the assertion that there exists in Pittsburgh "a Negro way of life as individual as the Italian, the Jewish, the Polish, or native White. … It colors the larger community."

In the section "The People Speak," voices echo from the past—housewives, ministers, social workers, students, the unemployed, a seamstress, an aspiring artist, a teacher. Other chapters explore such diverse topics as Black neighborhoods; business and community leaders; the fight for voting rights; Blacks' role in the industrial workforce that helped to build the city; jazz clubs, lodges, churches, and other social venues; literary clubs, drama leagues, and concert orchestras; folk medicines, superstitions, conjuring, and voodoo; and the antislavery movement and underground railroads.

Enigma's Child, by Amari Yarbrough

After performing in the first all-African American figure skating tour, Pitt English writing major Amari Yarbrough released *Enigma's Child*, a novel that explores the pains and triumphs of Jair, a 10-year-old boy living in the city. Jair must simultaneously learn to contend with the loss of a beloved family member; the dissolution of the remainder of his family; and the elitist, racist institutions that surround his chosen sport of figure skating. Through all of this, he must rise, and he refuses to leave his family behind. Throwback Publishing calls its 2005 release an exemplary instance of "Neo-Lit," a new literary genre that is characterized by "combining the best of traditional-style writing, a gritty modern-day story, and urban reality."

The State of the State : Institutional Transformation, Capacity and Political Change in South Africa, by Louis A. Picard



Pitt Professor Louis A. Picard's book points to some of the similarities between apartheid and postapartheid South Africa, such as racial inequity, high levels of corruption, and patronage. While stressing the successes of the new government, Picard's book posits that there is much to be learned about the current government and society by studying the present structural holdovers.

Picard's areas of expertise include eastern and southern African politics, development management and local politics, political constraints on rural development strategies, and transition in South Africa. He has done consulting work for the United Nations Development Programme, World Bank, the governments of Botswana and South Africa, and the Ford Foundation.

Additional publications by Picard include seven books on international development and more than 40 articles, including "Public Administration in South Africa: Provincial Capacity, Institutional Development and the Civil Service" in *Public Administration in South Africa* (Westview Press, 1999) and "Affirmative Action in South Africa: The Transition to a Non-Racial Public Service" in *Public Administration: Concepts, Theory and Practice* (Southern Publishers, 1995).

White Collar Crime : Cases, Materials, and Problems, coauthored by Sandra Jordan

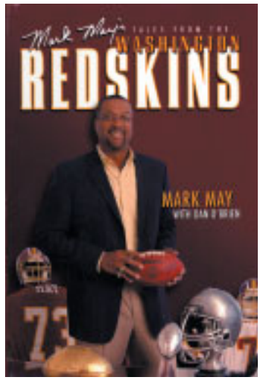
White Collar Crime: Cases, Materials, and Problems, coauthored by Sandra Jordan (LAW '79), an associate professor in Pitt's School of Law, draws on experience in the prosecution and defense of white-collar crime cases. The book also delves into the policy and theoretical concerns inherent in white-collar crime cases. Because of its dual approach, *White Collar Crime*—rich with actual case studies—stands alone among otherwise similar federal crime casebooks. While not limiting itself to cases covered by cable news, the text does not neglect the highly publicized cases against Martha Stewart, Arthur Andersen, and others.

Sandra Jordan

"The whole area of white-collar crime, to me, is so fascinating because it presents a very real dilemma," says Jordan. "If someone walks into the bank with a gun and a piece of paper that says, 'Give me your money,' that person is likely to only get a couple hundred dollars because of all the protections in place, but a person behind the counter can take millions of dollars. Yet, the robber or street criminal is often punished more harshly than the embezzler."

In addition to writing about white-collar crime, Jordan, who was honored at *Black Opinion* magazine's October 2005 Salute to Black Achievers, teaches a course on it at Pitt. When she launched the course in 1989, Pitt's law school was among only five in the country to offer a course on white-collar crime.

Mark May's Tales from the Washington Redskins, by Mark May



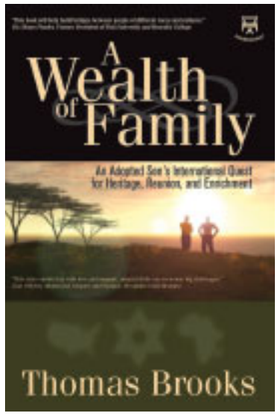
Strapped in at 30,000 feet on a flight from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C., the traveler thought it was "mayday" for May Day (his nickname). But Mark May (CAS '81), a two-time All-American offensive lineman at Pitt and first-round draft pick of the NFL's Washington Redskins in 1981, survived a lightning-filled "flight from hell" to arrive in the nation's capital, signaling an electric beginning to a successful—and often raucous—13-year playing career in which he garnered two Super Bowl rings and a wealth of stories. May, a charter member of Washington's famed group of offensive linemen known as "The Hogs," which included fellow Pitt teammate Russ Grimm (CAS '82), gives new meaning to pork and politics in *Mark May's Tales from the Washington Redskins* (Sports Publishing, 2005). The decorated Panther great—whose number 73 was retired by Pitt in 2001—recounts his time with the 'Skins, rubbing elbows with foes on the field and D.C. personalities off it. His book chronicles the resurgence of pro football in the District during the '80s while sparing no opinions on the state of the franchise today.

The 1980 Outland Trophy winner as college football's top interior lineman, May was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in December 2005.

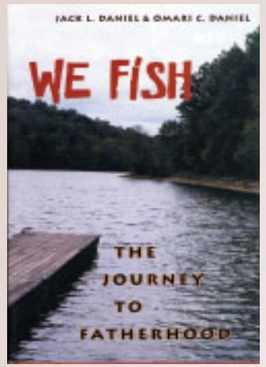
A Wealth of Family : An Adopted Son's International Quest for Heritage, Reunion, and Enrichment, by Thomas Brooks

Thomas Brooks (ENGR '88) recounts growing up in Pittsburgh's inner city as the only child of a single mother. He battled racial stereotypes as he struggled to find a place among his peers. When Brooks was 11 years old, he found out he was adopted and that he had actually been born to a White mother who descended from Lithuanian Jews and a Black Kenyan father.

Brooks escaped the ghetto years later and traveled abroad in search of his heritage. He found his biological mother in London along with his previously unknown British siblings. He then located his biological father and other extended family members in Nairobi. His international search and the resulting reunions have profoundly affected three families—in the United States, England, and Kenya.



We Fish : The Journey to Fatherhood, by Jack L. Daniel and Omari C. Daniel



The father-son team of Jack L. Daniel (CAS '63, FAS '66, '68) and Omari C. Daniel (CAS '93) coauthored *We Fish*, which was spotlighted in December 2004 on Spike TV's *True Dads with Bruce Willis*. Jack Daniel is a professor of communications in the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, and Omari Daniel is a poet and a teacher in the Montgomery County Public Schools near Washington, D.C.

This is a story so essential, so moving, it has the potential to save a younger generation from the pitfalls of today's world. The authors share a remarkable dialogue—set against the backdrop of their shared passion for fishing—which leads to the discovery of important guidelines for raising children. The Daniels' advice is conveyed through powerful prose sparked with humor and stunning, no-holds-barred poetry.

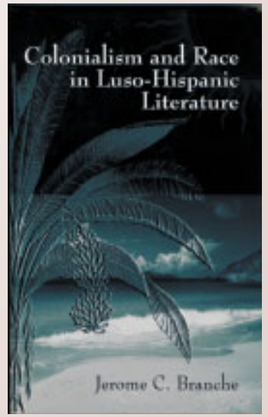
African American Review described *We Fish* as "an excellent and delightful autobiography, a book any man, White or Black, who is concerned about being a father and who likes to fish, write poetry, or hunt could learn from. Like Langston Hughes' *The Big Sea,* this book captures one with its humor, honesty, and depth of understanding."

"This is a crisp, creative, dual memoir written with purpose born of hope—that the candid story of an African American father and son coming to understand each other would instruct and perhaps inspire all fathers to take an active interest in the upbringing of their children," said the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Colonialism and Race in Luso–Hispanic Literature, by Jerome C. Branche

Jerome Branche, Pitt associate professor of Latin American and cultural studies, recently published *Colonialism and Race in Luso-Hispanic Literature* (University of Missouri Press, 2006). It explores race naming and race making during the modern period (1415–1948). Branche's main premise is that modern race making was closely tied to European expansion, the colonial enterprise, and the international development of capitalism.

Branche makes reference to the racially partisan works of the Luso-Hispanic canon to suggest how long-lasting, widespread, and deep the feelings they expressed were. He also illustrates how important race as a narrative is and continues to be. In addition, his marriage of postcolonial and cultural theory with his own close readings of related texts leads to a provocative reconsideration of how the Negro was portrayed in Latin American cultural discourse.



WQED Torchbearers

Torchbearers: The Story of Pittsburgh's Freedom Fighters, an hour-long documentary profiling Pittsburgh's civil rights pioneers—many of whom have a University of Pittsburgh connection—aired February 23, 2006, on WQED tv13. Chris Moore of WQED's *Black Horizons* and *On Q*, hosted the special, which featured the following Pitt affiliates:

The WQED documentary Torchbearers: The Story of Pittsburgh's Freedom Fighters, *which highlighted the lives of the city's civil rights pioneers, featured seven Pitt affiliates.*

- Regis Bobonis Sr. (GSPIA '61), believed to be the first African American reporter at the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, who left the paper to become editor of the *Pittsburgh Courier*
- 1948 Olympic bronze medalist Herbert P. Douglas Jr. (EDUC '48, '50G), a member of the first racially integrated Pitt football team
- Pitt Trustee Helen S. Faison (EDUC '46, '55G, '75G), the Pittsburgh Public Schools' first female academic high school principal as well as its first African American high school principal
- Wendell Freeland, attorney and former member of the Pitt Board of Trustees from 1988 to 1992
- Robert LaVelle (CBA '51, KGSB '54), president of LaVelle Real Estate Inc. and executive vice president of Dwelling House Savings and Loan Association, which has assisted numerous minority families with mortgage loans
- Thelma Lovette (SOC WK '72), regarded as Pittsburgh's grande dame of civil rights
- James J. Robinson (CAS '51), cofounder of the Manchester Youth Development Center and the first African American to play football for Pitt

Also featured were Alma Speed Fox, past president of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the NAACP; Livingstone Johnson; and the late LeRoy Patrick.

The documentary used interviews, photos, and archival footage to tell the story of Pittsburgh's struggles during what is known as the golden era of civil rights, from the 1950s through the 1970s, and featured many of the men and women who took risks for their beliefs. The University of Pittsburgh sponsored the program with additional support from the African American Chamber of Commerce.

In honor of the torchbearers and special invited guests, Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and Trustee George L. Miles Jr., president and CEO of WQED Multimedia, hosted the world premier screening at the Twentieth Century Club in Oakland.

Emmy Award–Winning Pitt Sports Historian Premieres Work at San Diego Latino Film Festival

Phillipe Alou is featured in a film cowritten and coproduced by Pitt alum and sports historian Rob Ruck.

The Republic of Baseball: The Dominican Giants of the American Game, a feature-length film cowritten and coproduced by Rob Ruck (FAS '77, '83) and Daniel Manatt, premiered March 19, 2006, between the semifinal and final games of the Baseball World Cup in San Diego, Calif., as part of the San Diego Latino Film Festival.

The film, which tells the stories of the first Dominican players to enter the major leagues, is based in part on University of Pittsburgh faculty member Ruck's award-winning book, *The Tropic of Baseball: Baseball in the Dominican Republic.*

In the documentary, such baseball greats as Pedro Martinez, Alex Rodriquez, Alfonso Soriano, and hall-of-fame members Willie McCovey, Orlando Cepeda, and Willie Mays reflect on the careers of the baseball pioneers.

In addition to his work on *Republic of Baseball*, Ruck is cowriting a biography of the late Art Rooney, Pittsburgh Steelers owner, and a history of Pittsburgh with Pitt history professor Edward Muller. Ruck also served as guest historian for sports exhibitions at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center.

Pitt Produces Virtual Tour DVD of Three Rivers Youth Exhibition

"From Colored Orphans to Youth Development: The 125-Year History of Three Rivers Youth." The exhibition featured in a six-minute video drew 7,300 visitors to the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center.

"From Colored Orphans to Youth Development: The 125-Year History of Three Rivers Youth, 1880–2005," a Pitt-produced and sponsored exhibition at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center, told the story of an institution that cares for youth and families in need (see story, page 164). The show ran from February 28 through March 5, 2006. A walk-through tour of the exhibition narrated by Pitt Associate Professor of History Laurence Glasco is available in video format. In the six-minute video, Glasco, who also wrote the introduction to the 60-page companion-piece publication, tells the story of the organization's beginning by helping one orphaned child to providing the services it does today.

The 130th Anniversary of the Avery Endowed Scholars Program

Charles Avery (1784–1858)

The White abolitionist and industrialist-turned-minister, Charles Avery, came to Pittsburgh in 1812, and he subsequently founded the Allegheny Institute and Mission Church to educate Black teachers. The North Side school was later renamed Avery College. Its hidden entrances to the basement indicated that the school also served as a station on the Underground Railroad. Prominent Pittsburgh abolitionist heroes George Vashon and Henry Highland Garnet would each one day hold the presidency of Avery College.

When Avery died in 1858, he bequeathed $150,000 to the education and advancement of African Americans. In 1875, Pitt received $25,000 from his estate to create a scholarship fund that would support the education of Black students. That fund continues to provide assistance to incoming Pitt students.

Avery Scholars, 1996–2005*

1996–97
Michael Lee

1997–98
Chris Walker

1999–2000
Markques McKnight
Jerrod Bryson
Kevin Johnson

2000–01
Jason Currie
Mick Montgomery
Patrick Harding
Brennen Jones
Ronique Carter
Damion Wilson
Bryon Jones
Nwakaego Inyamak

2001–02
Alex Bevly

2002–03
Jason Barnes
Prince Williams
Tremaine Knight
Ronald Idoko
Chris Thompson
Chris Holland
Jumoke Davis
Leon Adside

2003–04
Kevin Johnson
Obioma Nkwuo
Daniel Howard-Foo
Fred Brown

2004–05
Chester Stoney III
Malik Parkinson
Gary Wingfield
Eugene Kilpatrick

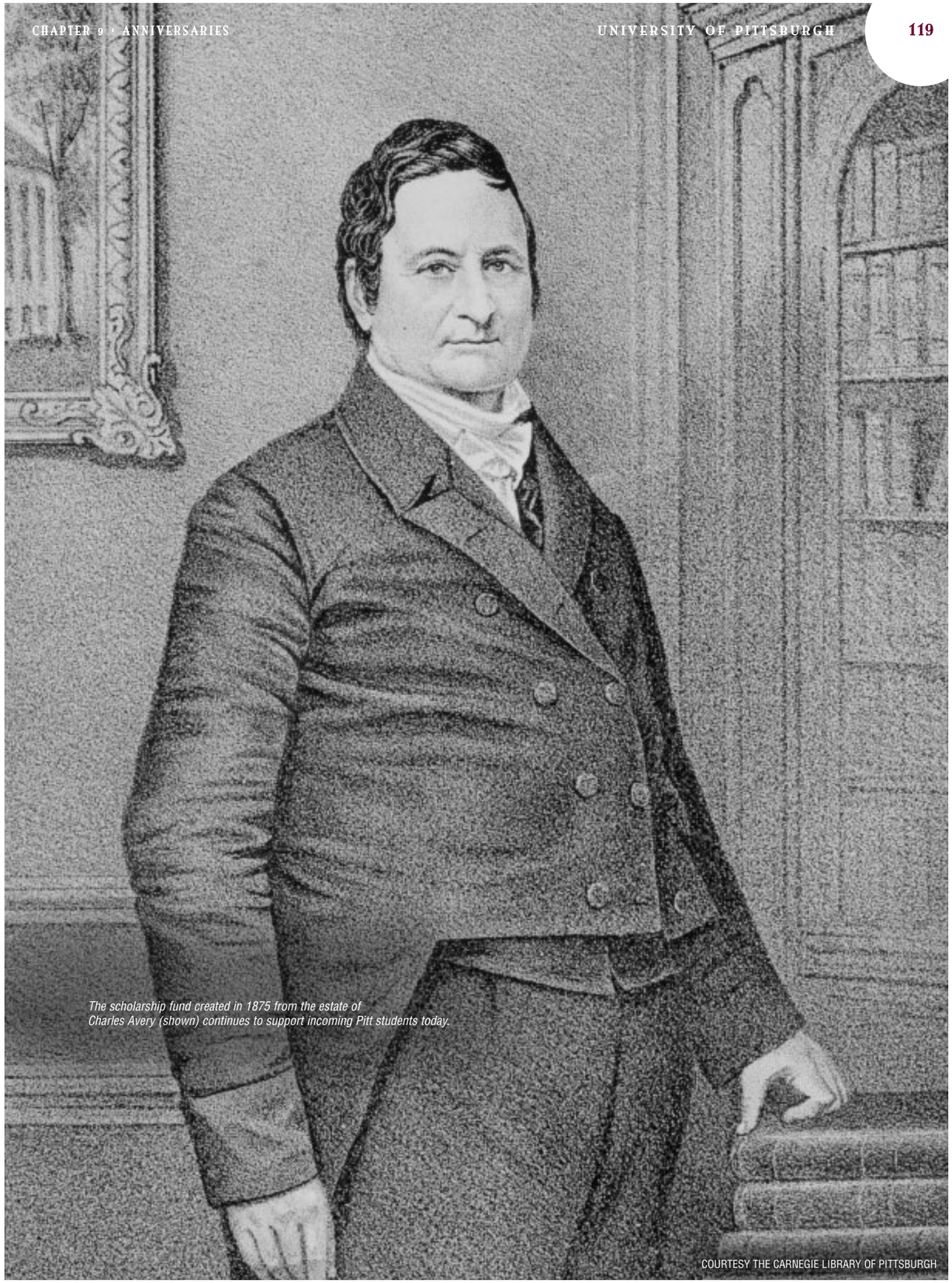
Avery Monument
Photograph by Seth V. Albee from Allegheny Cemetery: Historical Account of Incidents and Events Connected with Its Establishment … *(Pittsburgh: Bakewell & Marthens, 1873), photo courtesy of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania*

Avery Institute
Avery Institute, built 1849, Allegheny (now Pittsburgh); undated photograph courtesy of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation

** There is a much more extensive history of Avery scholars for which we have no record. If you know of an unnamed Avery scholar, please let us know about him at paffairs@pitt.edu.*

William Hunter Dammond (1863–1956) may have been one of the University's earliest Avery scholars. He was definitely the first African American to graduate from the University of Pittsburgh, earning in 1893 a degree in civil engineering with honors. He went on to become an educator and an inventor who would bring valuable technological innovations to his field.

William Hunter Dammond



The scholarship fund created in 1875 from the estate of Charles Avery (shown) continues to support incoming Pitt students today.

COURTESY THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH

The 100th Anniversary of Pitt Basketball

Ben Jinks (middle row, second from left) with the 1961 Pitt Panthers

The Pitt Panthers' rich tradition of success on the basketball court during the past half-century is highlighted by numerous contributions from African American players.

Julius Pegues (1955–58) was the first Black student-athlete to play for the Pitt basketball team, and he concluded his successful career by scoring 1,050 points and pulling down 377 rebounds. Pegues was followed by Ben Jinks (1961–63) and Calvin Sheffield (1962–64), who paved the way for some of the finest players in school history to make their marks during the next four decades.

All-Americans Billy Knight (1971–74) and Charles Smith (1984–88) both had their jerseys retired following their playing careers, two of just three players in school history to achieve this honor.

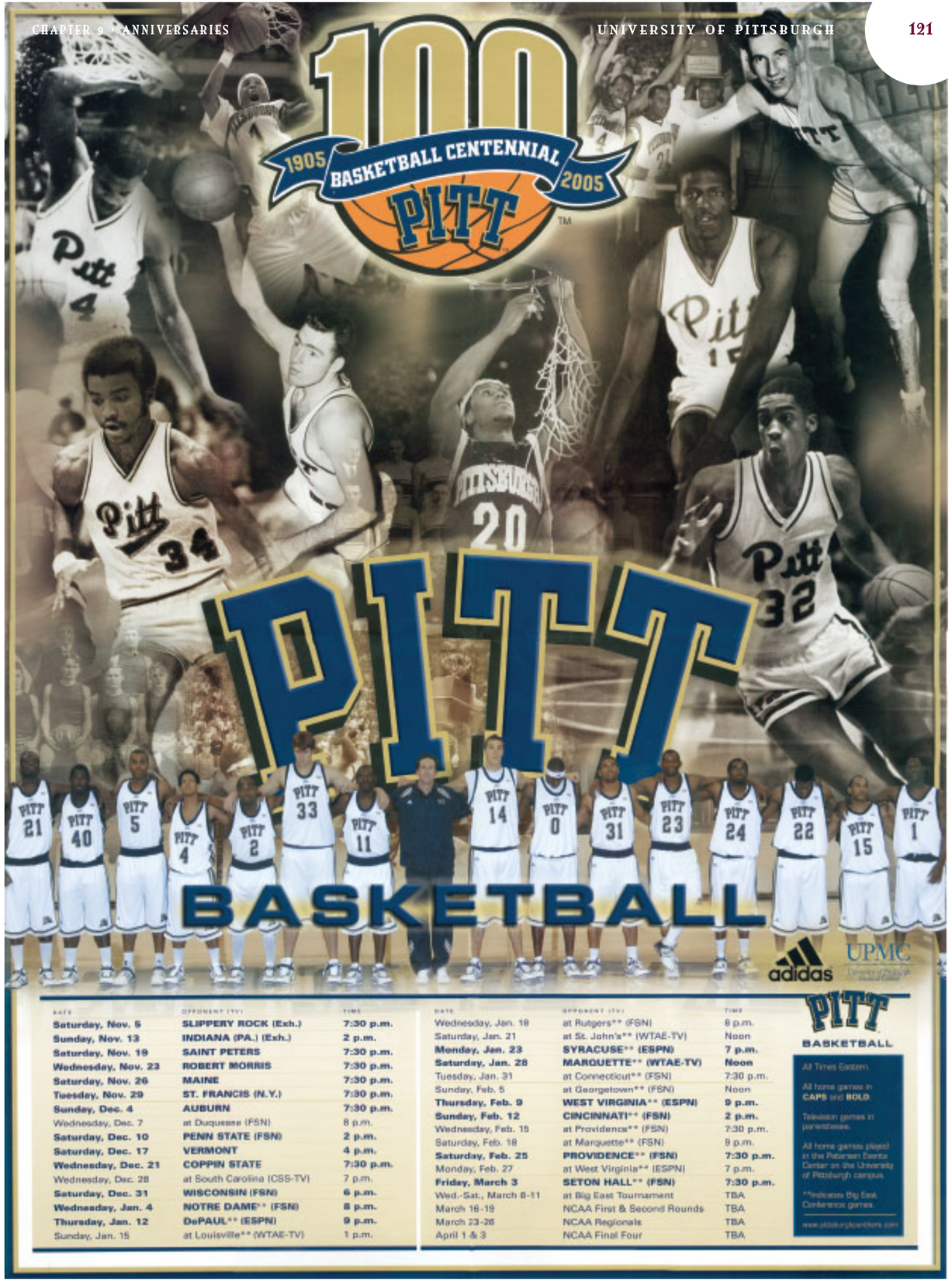
In 1973–74, Knight led the Panthers to a 25–4 record, an appearance in the NCAA Elite Eight, and a school-record 22-game winning streak, averaging 22 points and 12 rebounds per game. Knight went on to an 11-year All-Pro career in both the ABA and NBA and currently serves as the Atlanta Hawks' general manager.

Smith is Pitt's all-time leading scorer, with 2,045 career points. He guided the Panthers to four postseason appearances (three NCAA tournaments and one NIT) and two Big East regular-season titles, and he became the first Pitt player to be selected as the Big East Player of the Year. Smith was a member of the 1988 U.S. Olympic Team and was the third overall pick in the 1988 NBA draft. He played 10 seasons in the pros and is now a successful businessman.

Many other African American athletes have enjoyed great success at Pitt basketball. Jerome Lane (1985–88) and Brandin Knight (1999–2003) earned All-America honors, and 12 players have been NBA draft picks since 1980.

Players like Sam Clancy, who played in the NFL; Clyde Vaughn, the school's number two all-time scorer (2,033 points); and dozens of others have made Pitt basketball one of the most successful programs in the country today.

"Send it home, Jerome!"
An NBA veteran, Jerome Lane is shown here throwing down his backboard-shattering dunk against Providence on January 25, 1988, prompting a 30-minute delay in the game. Pitt went on to claim a 90–56 victory, then went on to capture the 1987–88 Big East regular season title. The game is forever labeled as the "Night the House Came Down."



Julius Pegues : A Panther Pioneer

Thanks to a telephone call from Tulsa oilman E. Alex Phillips to Pitt's Director of Athletics Tom Hamilton in the summer of 1954, Pitt was to welcome its first-ever African American basketball player. Pitt basketball coach Bob Timmons, however, wasn't aware of this until well after Pegues arrived on campus.

Phillips, who had attended Pitt before World War II, later served as a pilot on a Naval aircraft carrier under the command of Hamilton, who also coached the Pitt football team in 1951 and for part of the 1954 season. Pegues, who was the class valedictorian at Booker T. Washington High School, where his basketball teams lost only three times in segregated competition, had no definite plans lined up following his graduation in 1953. He took a year off from basketball, moving to Detroit, Mich., to live with an aunt who was in poor health. He took some classes at Cass Technical, as well as Wayne State, but returned to Tulsa in the summer of '54.

"That summer, Alex and I were talking, and he said, 'Jules, I'll tell you what I'm gonna do. I'm gonna call Tom Hamilton and tell him I'm sending him a basketball player.' And that's what he did."

Phillips, a White man, was a familiar sight around Tulsa athletics. He loved sports and would provide the same type of assistance to countless other Black athletes who were hopeful of attending college on a scholarship.

"Where [Phillips] grew up—Blacksburg, W.Va.—everyone was poor," said Pegues. "He wanted to help give young people a better chance in life. He had an appreciation for mankind, period. He did a lot to send Black kids to colleges all across the country."

Pegues, with the help of Phillips, had tried to earn a scholarship from Carnegie Tech, literally down the street from the Pitt campus.

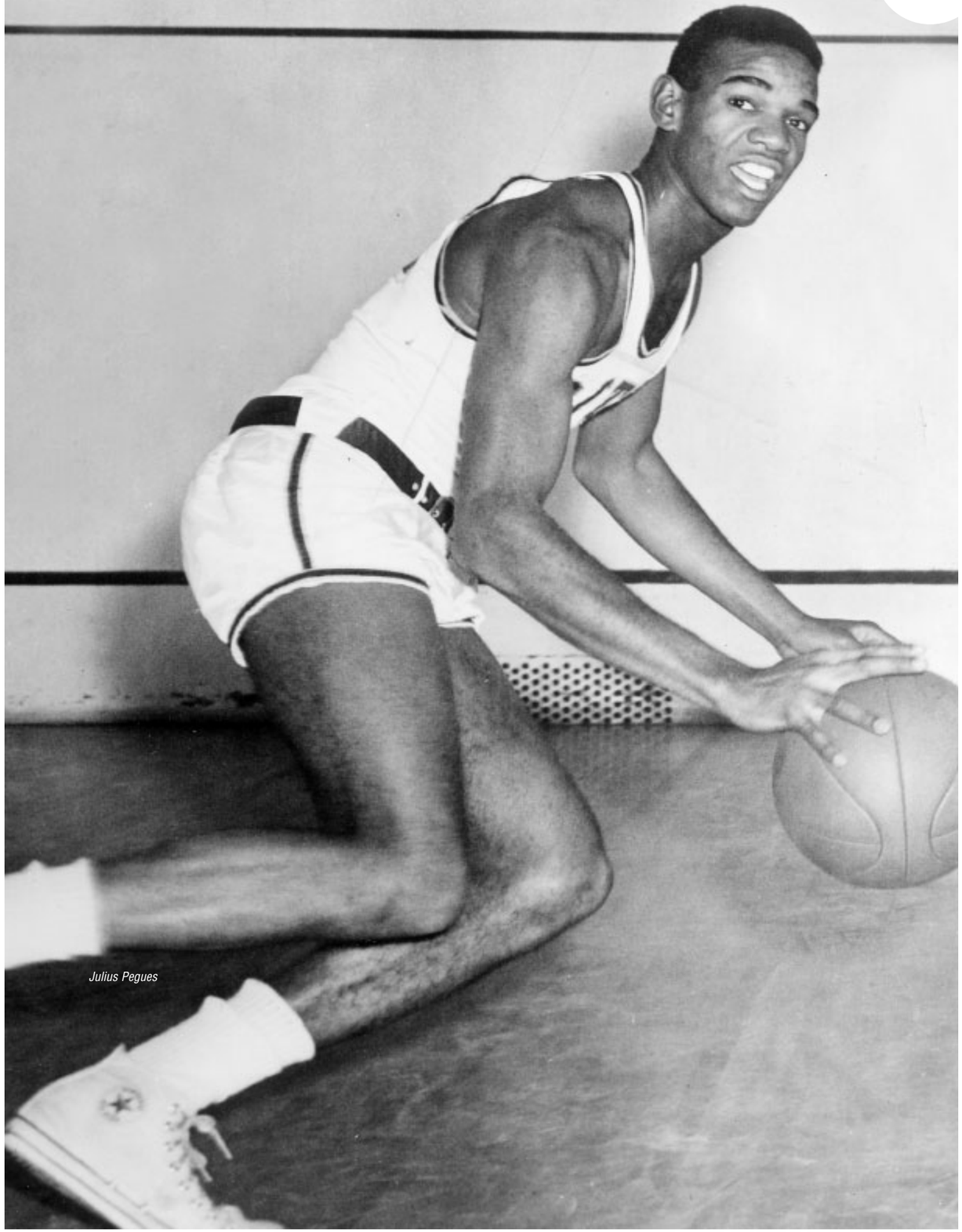
"I took a battery of tests," said Pegues. "You really had to score high for the scholarship. I did well, scoring in the 90s, but it was very competitive. I didn't get the scholarship."

Thus came the phone call to Hamilton.

"Tom Hamilton was the only person in Pittsburgh who knew I played basketball," said Pegues.

Phillips paid for Pegues' tuition during the first semester, and when Pegues reported for basketball practice with the rest of the players, he was awarded a full scholarship. His college coach had no qualms about welcoming an African American to the squad.

"Bobby Timmons just wanted to win, and he put his best players on the floor," Pegues explained. "He was a super guy. He was kind and considerate. He treated everyone fairly. He treated everyone like they were human beings."



Julius Pegues

The 100th Anniversary of Pitt Basketball *continued*

After starting every game for the Pitt freshman team in 1954–55, Pegues did the same for the varsity team for three seasons (1955–58). A six-foot-three swingman, Pegues scored 1,050 points in his college career, averaging double figures in scoring all three years—including a 17.6 point-per-game average as a senior in 1957–58. He played on two NCAA tournament teams with the Panthers. He scored 15 points in Pitt's 98–92 loss to Kentucky in the '57 NCAAs played on the Wildcats' home court.

"We could have won that game," Pegues remembered. "We knew Kentucky was going to be slow. We were taking it up and down the court on them. They had not seen a team that could run the way we could."

Although Pegues isn't inclined to discuss the difficulties he had to endure as a Black college basketball player during that era, one prominent Panther from that era remembers one incident clearly. Don Hennon began his collegiate career with a bang, scoring 34 points in a loss at North Carolina State on December 1, 1956. Another dramatic event took place about 90 minutes later.

"After the game we all went to eat at a restaurant [in Raleigh]," said Hennon. "I remember looking back, and they wouldn't let Julius into the restaurant. I can remember that very vividly."

Similar things happened a little closer to home, particularly when the Panthers were about to play, or were playing, West Virginia. "I know that when we played West Virginia, people sent hate letters and made phone calls, calling him all kinds of crap," said Hennon, "[Pegues] may have denied it, but I think they tried to scare or intimidate him. They didn't scare him, but I know they tried."

The Pitt-West Virginia rivalry was just as spirited on the court. One of Pegues' fondest memories from his playing career was the Panthers' 94–77 victory at the West Virginia Field House on February 25, 1956. The Mountaineers, who finished 21–9 that year and would win the Southern Conference Tournament a week after the loss to Pitt, had led 49–43 at halftime, but were outscored by the Panthers, 51–29, after intermission. Pegues, with 16 points and nine rebounds, was one of four Pitt players who scored in double figures. Bob Lazor had 21, followed by John Riser (19), and Joe Fenwick (16). Pegues, who usually drew the assignment of guarding the opponent's top scorer, had his hands full that night with Rod Hundley. "Hot Rod," as he came to be called, led all scorers with 40 points.

Pegues earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Pitt in 1959. He returned to Tulsa and worked in the aeronautics industry for the next 41 years.

"The time I spent at Pitt, and in Pittsburgh, were some of the best years of my life," said Pegues

Originally published in Pitt: 100 Years of Basketball *(Sports Publishing LLC, 2005)*

The 90th Anniversary of C.W. Florence's Silver Medal Accolade on the Pitt Debating Team

Debating Team
C.W. Lawrence is pictured here, middle row, second from left, along with the Debating Team of 1916.

Charles W. Florence earned a silver medal award for his performance on the debating team in 1916. By 1918, he had ascended to the rank of varsity debate captain, and he also held the office of president for Pitt Lyceum and secretary for the International Polity Club. The 1918 *Owl* offers the following prediction: "By paying some attention to the forensic ability contained here, it is pretty safe to take a bet on who the next occupant of Booker T. [Washington]'s shoes will be."

The 70th Anniversary of John Woodruff's 1936 Olympics

The following profile of Olympic Gold Medalist and Pitt alumnus John Woodruff was originally published in Pitt People, *a publication of the University of Pittsburgh.*

Historic Victory in Berlin

Woodruff's triumphant completion of the 800 meters at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany

A tree grows in Connellsville, Pa. The 60-foot tree near the football stadium there was a gift from John Woodruff (CAS '39). And while it has grown to an impressive height, it is dwarfed by the legend of the man who gave it.

The tree is from Germany's Black Forest, and every gold medal winner in the 1936 Olympics received one. That Woodruff—the grandson of slaves and a Pitt student who had just completed his freshman year—was able to win gold in the most politicized and racially charged Olympics of the 20th century was as remarkable as the effort it took to do it.

Woodruff was not the most famous member of the 1936 U.S. Olympic track and field team. That honor will always belong to Jesse Owens, who won four gold medals and personally disproved Adolf Hitler's notion of Aryan superiority. But Woodruff's victory in the 800 meters may have been the most dramatic of the Berlin Games. Certainly, it was the most unorthodox.

Despite his decided lack of experience in international competition, Woodruff's long stride was seen as an advantage he could exploit against his competitors. However, his lack of experience resulted in his being boxed in behind two runners during the final lap. Woodruff's response was to stop, fall back to last place, and then attempt to pass the leaders by going wide. He got spiked in the process, but he ignored the pain as his long strides carried him home a winner.

Woodruff is the last surviving member of the 1936 U.S. track and field team. That Olympics will always be remembered for its politics, but Woodruff never saw it that way. "We were interested in going to the Olympics in Berlin and doing the best we could and winning as many medals as we possibly could," Woodruff says.

U.S. Athletes Arriving at the Olympics in Germany
Original caption, July 31, 1936: Athletes on Uncle Sam's Olympic team are pictured aboard the S.S. Manhattan upon arrival at Hamburg. Left to right are Jimmy LuValle, Archie Williams, John Woodruff, Benjamin Johnson, and Matthew Robinson.

The 60th Anniversary of Robinson and Douglas Joining the Pitt Football Team

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Jimmy Joe Robinson, and Herb Douglas

During Pitt's September 3, 2005, home game against Notre Dame, Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg came onto the field as Pitt honored Reverend James "Jimmy Joe" Robinson (CAS '51) and Herbert P. Douglas Jr. (EDUC '48, '50G), who in fall 1945 became the first African Americans to play football for Pitt. "Among the highlights of that fall was Jimmy Joe's 90-yard punt return for a touchdown against Penn State, a game won by the Panthers 7–0," Nordenberg told fans. "And Herb, who went on to win Olympic bronze in the long jump [in 1948], remains the only Olympic medalist ever to score a touchdown against Notre Dame."

Jimmy Joe and his wife, Betty, created what is now the Manchester Youth Development Center, serving the Manchester community. Betty Robinson, an educator in the Pittsburgh Public Schools for 50 years and founder of the Manchester Academic Charter School, received Pitt's Distinguished Alumni Fellow Award in 2002. Jimmy Joe Robinson, the first African American football player at Pitt and 30-year pastor of Bidwell Presbyterian Church, helped save the North Side from riot-related damage after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. *Pittsburgh* magazine named him a Pittsburgher of the Century. The event was chaired by Nordenberg and Pro Football Hall of Famer and former Pittsburgh Steeler Franco Harris.

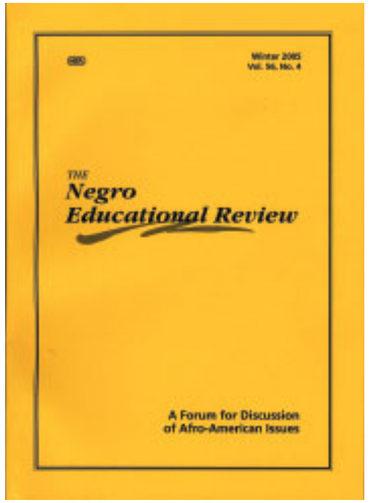
Sharing a light moment at the Omni William Penn Hotel December 8, 2004, tribute to Jimmy Joe Robinson and Betty Hord Robinson sponsored by the Manchester Youth Development Center Board of Trustees were, from left: Jimmy Joe and Betty Hord Robinson; Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg; Pitt Trustee Earl F. Hord, brother of Betty Robinson; and guest speaker Herb Douglas, Pitt trustee, president emeritus of the International Amateur Athletic Association, and 1948 Olympic long jump bronze medalist.

Football Game at Pitt Stadium (ca. 1940s)
Original caption: A field goal attempt during a Pitt football game being played at Pitt Stadium

COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH ARCHIVES, ARCHIVES SERVICE CENTER

The 55th Anniversary of the *Negro Educational Review (NER)*

Remarks of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg for the 55th anniversary meeting of the NER, *hosted by the University of Pittsburgh School of Education on April 1, 2005*



Thank you, Alice Scales, professor of education—not just for your warm introduction, but for all of the effort you have invested in ensuring that this visit to Pittsburgh of our distinguished guests is both pleasant and productive. And, of course, I do want to include Shirley Biggs, another accomplished member of our School of Education faculty and someone who also has worked long and hard to make this anniversary meeting a success, in that initial expression of thanks.

I am even more grateful, though, to all of you—members of the Board of Editors and to your chair, F.C. Richardson, in particular—for choosing to come to Pittsburgh once again. I know that you were here at Pitt on the occasion of your 45th anniversary in 1995—just a few months before I moved into the chancellor's office. I also know that was a suddenly saddened occasion because of the death, just days before the conference, of *NER*'s beloved cofounder and editor-in-chief, R. Grann Lloyd. I hope that this happier return visit to Pittsburgh sparks a renewed sense of purpose that inspires your discussions and deliberations, not only during your time here but far beyond.

Unfortunately, I was not able to be with you in Tallahassee, Fla., in 2000 for your golden anniversary, when *NER* awarded Pitt its Institutional Recognition Award. And when both Alice and Shirley warned me that there would be no such presentation today, I decided that I would simply bring that five-year-old award from my office along with me. I did that because I want you to know that whenever I read its inscription—"In appreciation for generous support provided to the Journal during 50 years of service to scholars in the academic community so their research and writings on Afro-American issues might be broadly shared through a professional publication"—I feel a deep sense of pride and a deep debt of gratitude to you for recognizing our University in such a meaningful way.

And in reflecting on the important work of the *NER* and its storied relationship to Pitt, I thought about the words of the writer Samuel Smiles, who observed, "The very greatest things—great thoughts, discoveries, inventions—have usually been nurtured in hardship, often pondered over in sorrow, and at length established with difficulty." Had Smiles, who died in 1904, actually witnessed the founding of *NER*, he could not have chosen more appropriate language to describe the conditions under which the journal was established in 1950.

In his own 1979 account of the history of *NER*, Dr. Lloyd recounted the 1948 discussion of delegates to an educational conference in Louisiana who advanced the great thought that it was important for Black educators to publish articles and research, but at the same time discussed the obstacles Blacks confronted in seeking to publish their work in scholarly journals. Not content to merely "curse the darkness," the group charged one of its members to seek the data that could document the inaccessibility of the professional journals and—an even greater thought—explore the possibility of a new publication in which those denied scholars and educators might publish. What followed was a report that found substantial discrimination in access to journals against Negroes and recommended the establishment of a first-rate journal in which "findings, proposals, and theories that would inform educators as well as society at large" could appear. Thus, in 1950, *NER* published its first issue.

(Left to right) Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg; School of Education faculty members and conference cochairs Shirley Biggs and Alice Scales; and F.C. Richardson, chancellor emeritus of Indiana University Southeast and NER chair of the board

What a great thought, discovery, and invention! In the darkness of hardship and sorrow, and the difficulty posed by a Jim Crow world of scholarly journals, through the efforts of *NER*, a candle of enlightenment was lit that has served to shed light on the African American experience in its many facets and has also illuminated a broader understanding of the human experience for 55 years.

The educational and social science research presented in its pages has solidly positioned *NER* as an important journal in service to the academy—so important, one wonders how scholars got along without it. From that first issue in January of 1950, *NER* addressed enormous questions and engaged tough matters confronting our world—as I learned from perusing some of your tables of contents spanning the decades. That inaugural issue in 1950 presented articles that included "The Teacher's Role in Developing and Maintaining Mental Health in the School Curriculum," "Status of the Natural Science Teacher in the Negro High Schools in Louisiana," and "Secondary School and the Needs of Adolescents."

A 1987 issue was built around the theme of African Culture and Psychological Assessment: Theory and Practice and contained such articles as "Psychometrics and African-American Reality," "Bias in Reading Tests for Black Language Speakers," and "College Admissions and Coaching." The status of Black males was examined in 1992 through the articles "The Plight of Black Males in American Schools: Separation May Not Be the Answer" and "The Agonies and Survival Techniques of Black Females and Their Implications for Improving the Plight of Black Males in America."

More recently, I discovered in 2001 "Frontiers in Black Diaspora Studies and Comparative Black History: Enhanced Knowledge of Our Complex Past" and—closer to my heart because my friend and mentor Jack Daniel is an author—"Building the African-American Student Base: A Matter of Higher Expectations" and "Student and Faculty Perspectives on Black Americans' Success in the White Academy."

In addition to all of you distinguished editors and authors gathered here for this year's annual meeting, scholars and leaders of national renown have been associated with *NER*. The names Darlene Clark Hine, Orlando Taylor, another friend and Pitt alumnus Fred Humphries, and Dr. Lloyd, among others, very powerfully demonstrated the point.

Attending the April 1 luncheon in the William Pitt Union were (front row, from left) Jere Gallagher, associate dean in Pitt's School of Education; Shirley Biggs; Alice Scales; (back row, from left) Jerome Taylor, Pitt associate professor of Africana studies and executive director of the Center for Family Excellence; Mac A. Stewart, vice provost of minority affairs at Ohio State University and editor in chief; F.C. Richardson; Pitt School of Education Dean Alan Lesgold; and Pitt-Bradford President Livingston Alexander.

I took special satisfaction from learning that Dr. Lloyd's cofounder of the *NER*, J. Irving E. Scott, was a Pitt graduate. Dr. Scott earned his PhD in education from the University in 1942, and he served as dean of Mississippi's Alcorn State University. Alongside his work with *NER*, Dr. Scott published, among others, two books on important topics, *Negro Students and Their Colleges* in 1949 and *Getting the Most out of High School* in 1957. I am especially pleased that he served as *NER*'s first editor-in-chief for 31 years.

During the years that Dr. Scott was earning his Pitt degree and later working to establish *NER*, the University of Pittsburgh was building on its own strong base as an institution of impact and high achievement—and because of the timing of your meeting, one example is deserving of special mention today. When the Association of American Universities—a group consisting of the top 60 or so research universities in North America—celebrated its centennial five years ago, it simultaneously launched a campaign to underscore the importance of a century of university research. The three examples it chose to highlight were space exploration, the computer revolution, and the development of the Salk polio vaccine. The first two of those achievements, of course, involved direct contributions from many campuses. But the Salk vaccine was developed in laboratories on this campus—and this month, we will celebrate the golden anniversary of the public proclamation that the vaccine was safe and effective.

During the course of the last 50 years, and particularly in the last decade, Pitt has solidified its presence and impact as a premier research university. Measured in one way, in 2004, the research support attracted by our faculty soared to well over a half-billion dollars. And according to comparative listings released by the National Science Foundation, we now rank among the top 10 universities nationally in terms of the federal science and engineering research and development grants won by our faculty.

But the impact of our faculty members' work in improving the quality of life cannot be measured by dollar totals. The outcomes of Pitt professors' research agendas are sweeping and touch everything from Alzheimer's disease, nanotechnology, organ transplantation, diabetes treatment, green steel, bioterrorism, and mental health care to philosophy of science, film studies, white-collar crime, and new drug therapies—and, of course, critical and wide-ranging topics in education.

As *NER* celebrates its 55th anniversary here at Pitt, you might like to know that in the last decade the University also has moved forward at an accelerated pace on the diversity front. In this respect, I think of the record number of African Americans enrolled at Pitt in recent years and the academic credentials they brought with them in 2004—the best of any Black freshman class in Pitt's history.

But again, those successes cannot be fully measured by numbers alone. Instead, I think, for example, of Rebecca Hubbard, an African American student from here in Pennsylvania who graduated with perfect grades in neuroscience in 2000 and went on to become a Marshall scholar. Or I think of Black Oklahoman Dan Debrah, who graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in bioengineering and, as an undergraduate, received an $8,000 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant that funded his research into the hormone relaxin's effects on cardiovascular properties. Before he even graduated, Dan's resulting paper was accepted for publication in the scholarly journal *Endocrinology*.

In the last five years Pitt has invested strategically in recruiting senior Black scholars to this campus—with almost all of them quickly exceeding our high expectations. For example, within three years of his arrival, Stephen Thomas, Philip Hallen Professor of Community Health and Social Justice and director of the Center for Minority Health, received a $6 million grant from NIH to further his work in eliminating racial disparities in health care. Within a year and a half of his arrival, Larry Davis, dean of the School of Social Work and Donald M. Henderson Professor, established the Center on Race and Social Problems, the only such research center in a school of social work. After four years at Pitt, Jeannette South-Paul, UPMC Andrew W. Mathieson Professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, won the $150,000 2004 Joy McCann Scholar award for her distinctive contributions as a mentor.

And we also have been fortunate in recruiting talented African American administrators to Pitt. Chief among them would be Robert Hill, our vice chancellor for public affairs, and Livingston Alexander, the president of our Bradford campus.

Like many urban universities, Pitt resides "cheek by jowl" with the Black community. And the University's community outreach has been vigorous. In recent years, Pitt has partnered locally on a range of initiatives with the Pittsburgh NAACP, the Urban League of Pittsburgh, and the Negro Educational Emergency Drive (NEED). This fall, Harvard, Cornell, and Penn may get one NEED-supported scholar each, but six outstanding NEED scholars will enroll as freshmen at Pitt.

Pitt also has been active nationally as a community partner. In 2003, the University was a sponsor of the annual meeting in Pittsburgh of the National Urban League. And just this past fall [2004], Pitt was the principal sponsor of the 89th Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), which was founded by visionary Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Negro History Week (now Black History Month). For the ASALH conference, members of the Pitt community turned out in force as organizers, speakers, volunteers, and honorees. Although I hope that you will return sooner, when you do return to Pittsburgh for *NER*'s 89th Annual Meeting, make sure you let me know well in advance so that we can put all hands on deck for you as well!

As I reflect on the origins of *NER*, ASALH, and the other African American organizations that have enriched the community of scholars, I am heartened. The beautiful butterflies that emerged from the stifling cocoons to which the academic establishment had consigned Black scholars not only liberated themselves, but their truths liberated us all.

Speaking of butterflies, then, let me leave you with a great thought of one man above all men who could float like a butterfly, Muhammad Ali, who has proclaimed, "It's lack of faith that makes people afraid of meeting challenges, and I believed in myself."

Thank you *NER* for believing in you. Here at Pitt, we believe in you, too, and hope you have a wonderful conference.

The 55th Anniversary of First Black Quarterback Henry "Model-T" Ford's Enrollment at Pitt

(Left to right) Bobby Epps, Henry "Model T" Ford, and Chet Rice in the 1953 Pitt football team photo

Two seasons before Pitt's Bobby Grier became the first African American to play in the Sugar Bowl, Henry Ford was one of several Panther players competing for a prominent position in the Pitt backfield—quarterback.

Prior to the 1953 football season, few Blacks played quarterback at the college level, and none had played the position in the modern era of the NFL, which excluded African Americans from 1934 to 1946.

With Pitt trailing in its first game of the '53 season against West Virginia, head coach Lowell "Red" Dawson inserted Ford into the lineup at quarterback, and Ford led Pitt to its only score of the game. Prior to the team's second game against the University of Oklahoma, Dawson told *The Pitt News* that Ford "looks to get the opening call on the QB job because of his all-around ability." Ford did indeed start the next game against Oklahoma, a 7–7 tie, and he remained the regular quarterback the rest of the season.

"I was a little nervous looking over the defense the first game I started," said Ford. "But my teammates listened to me; they understood me and respected me."

Two weeks later, on October 18, 1953, Willie Thrower of the Chicago Bears became the first African American to play solely quarterback in the modern era of the NFL (after leading Michigan State University to a share of the national championship in 1952).

Ford, who grew up in Pittsburgh's Hill District and starred at Schenley High School, moved to tailback in his senior year at Pitt. He was drafted by the Cleveland Browns in 1954 and was a member of the club's 1955 NFL championship team. He played for the Pittsburgh Steelers the following season.

Recalling his playing days at Pitt, Ford said, "Back in those days, not many Blacks were being recruited by White schools. It was rough in the '50s, being separated from your teammates when you ate; you weren't allowed to stay at the hotel together when we traveled south. You had to figure out how to survive and still play ball.

"I enjoyed playing at Pitt," Ford said. "I was a business major, and most of my friends were Jewish. I learned how to appreciate and accept different people from different cultures. It helped me playing ball and in business."

After his playing days, Ford owned and operated several businesses, including a food service corporation, a Coca-Cola bottling company, sporting goods and specialty products stores, and shopping malls. Both of his sons, Mark and Michael, played high school football—including some time at the quarterback position.

The 50th Anniversary of Cecelia Trower-Epperson Being Named Miss Pitt

The following article celebrating the accomplishments of Cecelia Trower-Epperson (EDUC '57) and Mark M. Rubenstein (CAS '57) originally appeared in the 1957 Owl*, which covers the 1956–57 academic year.*

Original Caption: CECELIA M. TROWER Treasurer of Alpha Kappa Alpha, member of Mortar Board, YWCA, Senior Court, Women's Self Government Association, Pi Tau Phi, and a Senior Mentor. Miss Trower's graduation plans call for a teaching career.

Each year the *Owl* sees fit to select from the graduating class a man and a woman student to bear the titles Mr. and Miss Pitt. In the estimation of the *Owl*, these two students typify the ideals that a student may develop who finds a keen interest in working for his school and with his fellow classmates.

Mr. and Miss Pitt are two students among many who have completed 16 years of learning—learning which is like a river. At its first rising a river is small and easily viewed, but as it flows onward it increases in breadth and depth, being fed by a thousand smaller streams flowing into it on either side until at length it pours its mighty torrent into the ocean. So learning, which seemed so small to us at the beginning—16 years ago—ever increased in its range and scope, until even today the greatest minds among us are unable to comprehend it as a whole.

Life has many turning points, and we graduating seniors are at such a turning point now. Whatever the future may hold in store for us, we can always look back, however, to our years at Pitt—to years that were filled with friendships, accomplishments, and learning.

This year of those among us, the *Owl* has singled out Mark M. Rubenstein (premedical, psychology major) and Cecelia M. Trower (elementary education major), who through their abilities, interests, and developments have shown themselves worthy of the titles Mr. and Miss Pitt. They exemplify what we believe Pitt has attempted to generate in us—personality, leadership, and humanity.

The 50th Anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*

The following excerpt was taken from the fall 2004 issue of Bridges *magazine, a publication of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work.*

A Luminous Moment in History

PHOTO COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Original caption, May 9, 1964: Mrs. Nettie Hunt, sitting on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, explains the significance of the Court's May 17th, 1954 desegregation ruling to her daughter, Nikie, 3 1/2, in this 11/19/54 photo.

It was fitting that a conference about the country's most significant step toward equal opportunity in education was a cooperative venture by the University of Pittsburgh's Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) and Duquesne University.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision, Pitt and Duquesne jointly organized two high-profile events bringing Pittsburgh into the forefront of the national discussion about what progress has been made since the ruling. The Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation supported the events and the team approach. It was the first time in anyone's recollection that Pitt and Duquesne cooperated on such a major undertaking.

"We each played to our strengths," said Ken Gormley, professor of law at Duquesne.

Having researched *Brown* and its beginnings, Gormley structured a historical retrospective held at his university. Meanwhile, Larry Davis, dean of the School of Social Work and director of CRSP, organized a program to highlight persisting educational and racial disparities 50 years after *Brown*.

The March 26, 2004, program at Duquesne University, *Brown v. Board of Education*: A Fifty-Year Commemoration, was moderated by Gormley and Julian Bond, chair of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and a civil rights activist whose father worked on the *Brown* legal brief. It featured individuals who played key roles in the dramatic events related to the decision, including Minnijean Brown Trickey, one of the "Little Rock Nine," and Vivian Malone Jones, who was barred from entering the University of Alabama by Governor George Wallace. Trickey and Jones served on a panel with Willie Shepperson, a plaintiff in the Prince Edward County, Va., component of the *Brown* litigation.

At the end of the program, Charles Hamilton Houston Jr. and John Marshall reflected on the *Brown* decision and the role their fathers played in bringing it about. The program was presented in conjunction with the *Brown v. Board of Education* National Historic Site in Topeka, Kan., and was recorded for broadcast on C-SPAN.

The CRSP event, Fifty Years after *Brown*: New Solutions for Segregation and Academic Underachievement, was held on May 7, 2004, at the University of Pittsburgh.

"We wanted to examine the effects of *Brown* on school desegregation, how student achievement has changed since *Brown*, and what can be done about the educational issues now affecting African American students," said Ralph Bangs, associate director of CRSP.

"We went after the absolutely top people who were relevant to these issues," said conference panelist Janet Ward Schofield, a psychology professor and senior scientist at the University's Learning Research and Development Center, as well as a CRSP board member. "We brought together excellent and provocative speakers who presented a balance in ideas and approaches."

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg addresses conference attendees.

"Racially based economic and educational disparities are a significant national and regional problem, but they are not easy things to talk about. At CRSP, we put it front and center," Bangs said.

About 500 people attended the conference, among them civic leaders, faculty, teachers, students, and community members.

"I was pleased that we attracted a good mix of people, a multiethnic audience," said Dean Davis.

"Presenting this type of forum is why we created the center, to address America's foremost problem—race," he said. "It's the kind of topic that no one wants to talk about, but this center is a place where people and Pittsburgh can discuss it.

"The University, the foundations, and the Pittsburgh community have been very receptive to the goals of the center. The center has a valuable role in the city and the region.

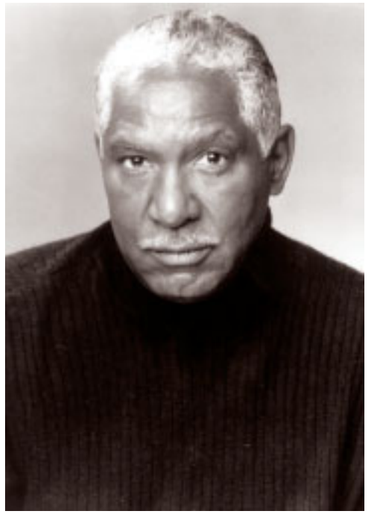
"Our overarching goal is to improve the social fabric and address intergroup relations. We not only want to improve the quality of education for Black and White students, but we also have to get along."

The 50th Anniversary of the Salk Polio Vaccine

The following excerpt opened Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg's report on the 50th anniversary celebration of the Pitt Polio Vaccine, Defeat of an Enemy.

On April 10, 2005, the University of Pittsburgh launched a three-day celebration of the 50th anniversary of the development of the Salk polio vaccine and the unique roles the University of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh community played in this medical milestone. The commemoration included a community celebration honoring Pittsburgh polio pioneers, a two-day scientific symposium, and a celebratory banquet. This publication presents the printed versions of key presentations given at the Salk anniversary events plus excerpts from, and published reports of, other presentations—all selected as representative of the many individuals and organizations that took part. All of those, in turn, commemorate the legions of polio pioneers who contributed to "one of the greatest achievements of the 20th century."

Adam Wade



Like countless others involved in the development of the polio vaccine, '60s pop star Adam Wade has a "Dr. Salk story."

Pittsburgh-born Adam Wade has played many roles during the course of his 69 years. He was the first African American to host a U.S. television game show; he acted on TV and in films, including the 1971 movie Shaft*; and he recorded several Top 40 albums. In 1961, Wade had three U.S. top 10 hits: "Take Good Care of Her," "The Writing on the Wall," and "As If I Didn't Know." But before Wade did all this, he was a glassware washer and then a blood cell counter in Jonas Salk's lab, starting in 1958, three years after the polio vaccine was approved for widespread use. As a graduate of Westinghouse High School, Wade remembers the school's champion long-distance swimmer contracting polio and developing a permanently disfigured leg. When Wade began working in Salk's lab, he was tremendously proud to be a part of this internationally celebrated research team.*

For the Pitt community celebration, Wade provided, via videotape, the following personal recollection of how Salk touched his life.

This bit of modern technology allows me to join you in celebrating a great humanitarian. I add my hoorays and hallelujahs to the 50th anniversary of the world-renowned announcement in April of 1955. A collective sigh of relief must have been heard around the world, knowing the vaccine was safe and effective. Infants the world over need never fear infantile paralysis. No more acute anterior atrophy or permanent deformities. Thanks to Dr. Salk, poliomyelitis could be expunged. From within the ranks of his friends and admirers, I'm sure there are many of you who have a Dr. Salk story. Here's mine.

I was a junior at Virginia State University the year of the announcement in 1955. Upon returning home that summer, I washed pots and pans at Kaufmann's department store. I did a two-year hitch as a sandhog, building sewage tunnels underneath the river. In 1958, one of Dr. Salk's lab workers, Rudy Riley, introduced me to Dr. Salk. I was hired, and my initial job was as a glass and bottle washer. Later I was promoted and put into a lab counting blood cells. At Westinghouse High School, one of the long-distance swimmers had his right leg permanently deformed due to polio. I was aware of the dreaded disease. After the cure, I was grateful that the smiles on my children's faces would never be interrupted by the onset of polio.

During this time, I spent my evenings at Richard Baugh's house. He was a friend, a musician, a songwriter. We would spend hours rehearsing Richard's songs. Afterwards, we would attack the fake book, which contained 1,500 melodies, lyrics, and their corresponding chords. I had a two-week vacation coming up, so Richard planned for us to go to New York, where I would sing his songs for the publishers. Everyone else was submitting demo tapes. We thought a live performance just might give us an edge. We had no luck penetrating the stone walls of the secretaries and receptionists until our last day in New York. Our funds had run out, and we were up against it. Inside the glass door of Paxton Music Co., an angel named Frances, disguised as a receptionist, acknowledged she was from Pennsylvania also. She got the publishers to listen to Richard's songs.

Negro Scientists Help Develop Polio Vaccine

"Three Negro scientists are playing an important role in what is believed to be one of the most important discoveries in the never ceasing fight to find a preventative for the dread polio virus," begins this April 4, 1953, Pittsburgh Courier *article. The article documents the contributions of research assistants Rudolph Riley (pictured at right) and Leroy Hall and laboratory assistant Estelle Jones to Jonas Salk's team at the University of Pittsburgh's Virus Research Laboratory.*

We returned to Pittsburgh. We met and rehashed our hectic days in the Big Apple. Two weeks later, the publishers called for me to return to New York and sign a record contract. I was elated and confused—and a bit intimidated by the fast-paced and fast-talking New Yorkers. I made an appointment to see Dr. Salk. He listened and then suggested that I take full advantage of this opportunity. He reassured me that if it did not work out, I could return and have my job waiting for me. He also warned me that if I chose not to pursue this opportunity, I might wonder for the rest of my life: "What if …"

That was in 1959. The man, the announcement, the cure, his humanity all influenced and changed the direction of my life and my family's life. My daughter, Patrice, as a young child and her friends were all candidates for polio, but thanks to the Salk vaccine, they did not contract the disease. That same daughter, who is now Patrice Johnson, is representing me tonight. She is a mother. She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English writing and a Master of Education degree in psychology in education. She is an assistant principal at the City Charter High School in Pittsburgh. She is an author. I am so very proud of her.

The 50th Anniversary of Bobby Grier's Sweetening the Sugar Bowl

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution *printed the following article on December 31, 2005, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Bobby Grier's historical participation in the 1956 Pitt-Georgia Tech Sugar Bowl.*

Pitt Player Defied Racism

When Georgia Tech Played Pittsburgh in 1956, Bobby Grier Became the First Black to Take the Field in a Bowl in the South

By Jack Wilkinson

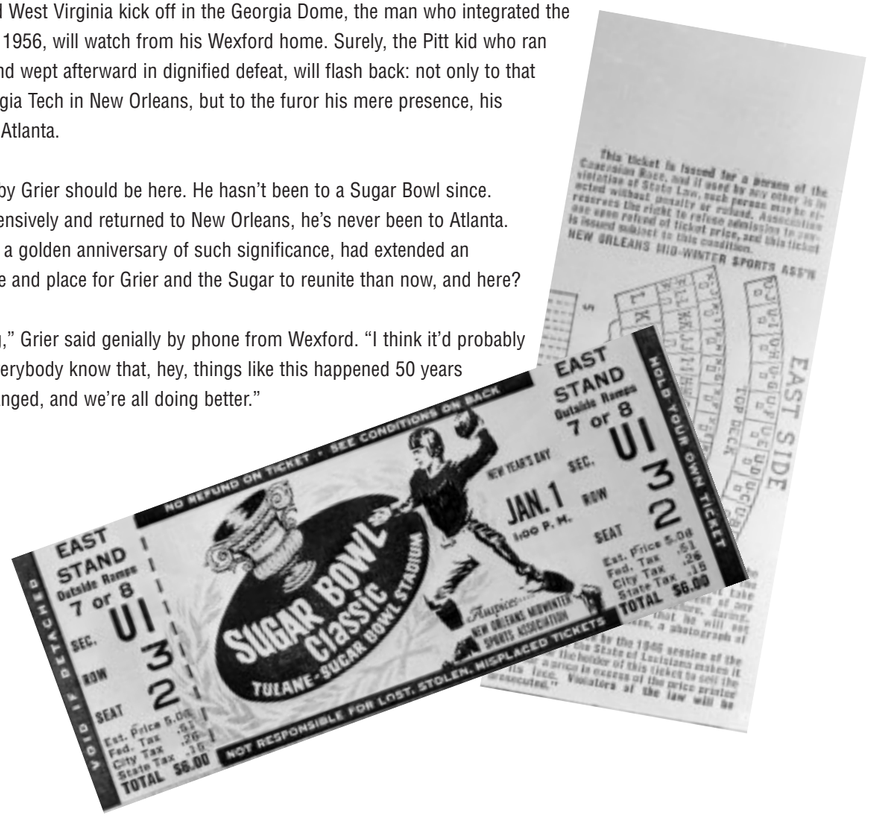
As the Sugar Bowl, that sporting institution he transformed precisely 50 years ago, unfolds here tonight, Bobby Grier will celebrate his 73rd birthday back home in suburban Pittsburgh. He'll do so in the comfort of a warm and fuzzy family embrace.

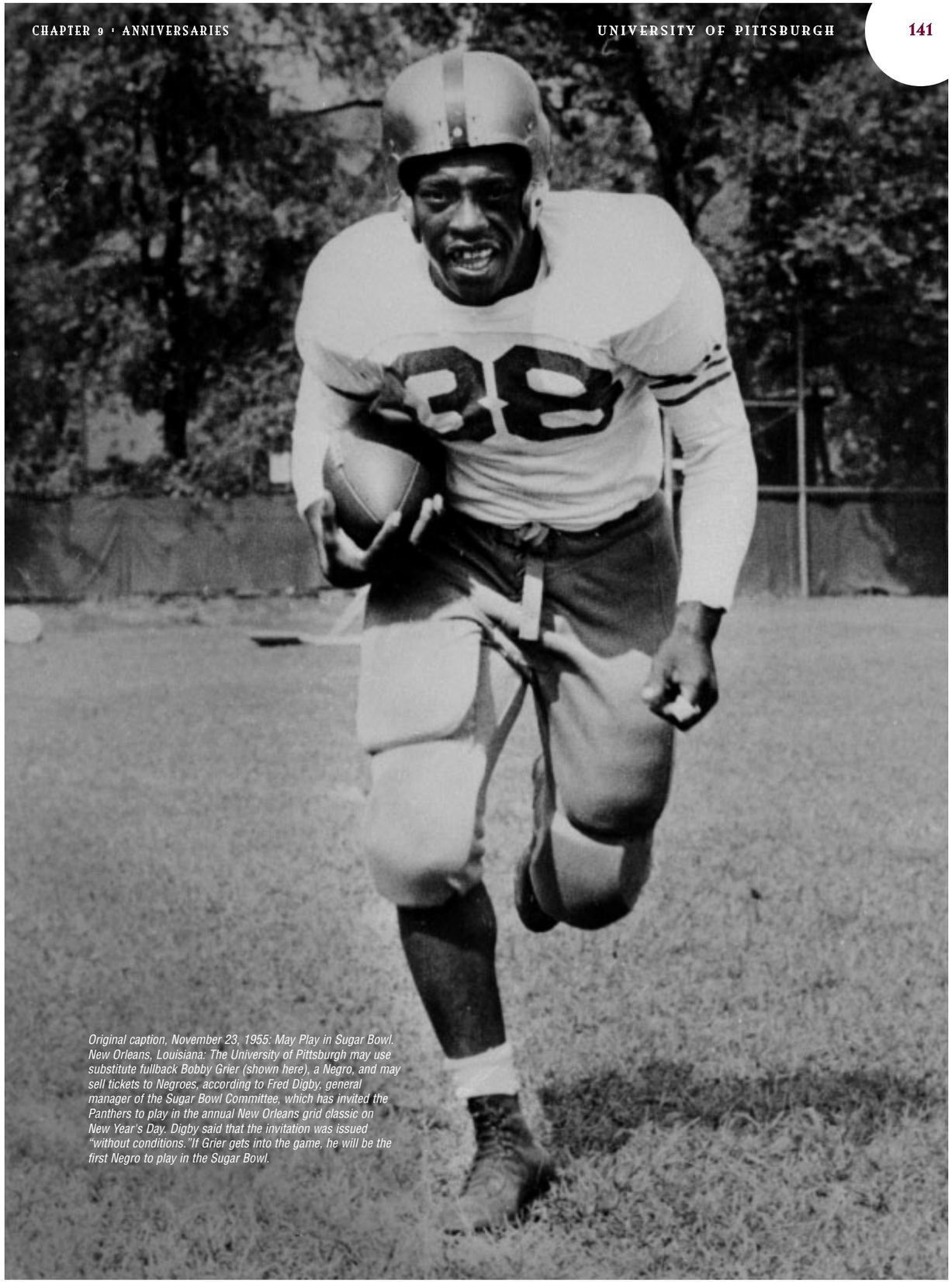
Too bad. Bobby Grier should be here.

Instead, when Georgia and West Virginia kick off in the Georgia Dome, the man who integrated the Sugar Bowl on January 2, 1956, will watch from his Wexford home. Surely, the Pitt kid who ran hard, played both ways, and wept afterward in dignified defeat, will flash back: not only to that long-ago 7–0 loss to Georgia Tech in New Orleans, but to the furor his mere presence, his blackness, caused here in Atlanta.

A half-century hence, Bobby Grier should be here. He hasn't been to a Sugar Bowl since. Although he's traveled extensively and returned to New Orleans, he's never been to Atlanta. If only the Sugar Bowl, on a golden anniversary of such significance, had extended an invitation. What better time and place for Grier and the Sugar to reunite than now, and here?

"No, nobody said anything," Grier said genially by phone from Wexford. "I think it'd probably be quite an honor to let everybody know that, hey, things like this happened 50 years ago. Now, things have changed, and we're all doing better."



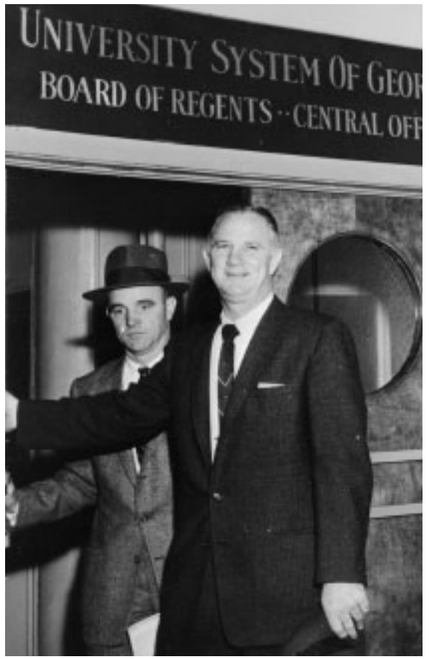


Original caption, November 23, 1955: May Play in Sugar Bowl. New Orleans, Louisiana: The University of Pittsburgh may use substitute fullback Bobby Grier (shown here), a Negro, and may sell tickets to Negroes, according to Fred Digby, general manager of the Sugar Bowl Committee, which has invited the Panthers to play in the annual New Orleans grid classic on New Year's Day. Digby said that the invitation was issued "without conditions."If Grier gets into the game, he will be the first Negro to play in the Sugar Bowl.

The 50th Anniversary of Bobby Grier's Sweetening the Sugar Bowl *continued*

Grier was an accidental activist, the only African American player on a powerful Pittsburgh team that was invited to play Bobby Dodd's Georgia Tech juggernaut. The Sugar Bowl invitation was the fifth consecutive bowl bid for Tech, back when a bowl held real meaning. This pairing prompted an uproar.

'The South Stands at Armageddon'



Bobby Dodd Standing in the Doorway of the Regents' Office
Original caption, December 9, 1955: Georgia Tech football coach Bobby Dodd smiles at the door of the Board of Regents meeting room in Atlanta after the regents gave their approval to the Sugar Bowl game participation of Tech. Georgia Gov. Marvin Griffin had urged that the regents stop participation by Tech in the game because Pittsburgh's football team has a Negro on the squad.

"Ban Interracial Sports—Griffin" cried the front-page headline in the December 2 edition of the *Atlanta Journal*. Earlier that day, Georgia Governor Marvin Griffin called for an emergency meeting of the state Board of Regents, asking the board to prohibit Georgia athletics teams from playing integrated opponents. In 1953, Tech played at Notre Dame, which had a few Black players. But this was in the segregated South, in the Sugar Bowl, and Griffin sent a telegram to Regents chairman Robert O. Arnold, seeking to ban interracial sports competition.

"The South stands at Armageddon. The battle is joined. We cannot make the slightest concession to the enemy in this dark and l amentable hour of struggle. There is no more difference in compro-mising integrity of race on the playing field than in doing so in the classrooms. One break in the dike and the relentless seas will rush in and destroy us."

A day earlier, Rosa Parks had refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Ala. Dodd had already received a telegram from Hugh C. Grant, a founder of Georgia's militantly segregationist States Rights Council, seeking Dodd's cooperation in "preventing a break-down of our laws, customs, and traditions of racial segregation."

"There was so much fussin' about the Blacks in those days by the rednecks," Dodd said in his 1987 autobiography, *Dodd's Luck*. "We wanted to go to the Sugar Bowl ... and I wanted to break the racial barrier, 'cause if we were gonna play any eastern teams, they're all gonna have Blacks. A lot of coaches told me, 'If anybody can break the racial thing, y'all can.' "

That Friday night, a crowd of about 2,000—mostly Tech students—gathered on campus and marched to the state capitol. Wade Mitchell, Tech's quarterback, looked out his window in Room 211 of Towers Dorm at the passing parade below.

"It was their first civil rights march, and my first experience with a civil rights march, that had nothing to do with civil rights," said Mitchell, a retired bank executive still living in Atlanta. "It was for football."

The students marched on the capitol, carried signs ("Griffin sits on his brain" and "We play anybody"), burned several effigies of the governor, did some minor damage to the Capitol building before heading to the Prado. They were stopped 50 feet from the governor's mansion by police.

Nationally, Griffin was vilified by newspapers as a bigot. In Pittsburgh, Grier found the Tech students' reaction "surprisingly nice" but considered Griffin's stance and the controversy "just dumb." "Being up north, we didn't expect any controversy like that," says Grier, then a senior fullback and linebacker who grew up in Massillon, Ohio, before attending Pitt.

Pittsburgh Players Backed Grier

That December 2, when reporters sought a reaction to Griffin's comments, Grier and several teammates were in a commons area in Pitt's Cathedral of Learning. A player took a sugar bowl off a table, and Grier and several teammates stuck their fingers in it. The Panthers stuck by Grier, too, voting not to go to New Orleans unless he made the trip and played. The school also insisted that the Pitt fan section at the bowl be integrated.

On Monday, Dec. 5, Tech officials met with the state Board of Regents. When Tech President Blake Van Leer vowed, "Either we're going to the Sugar Bowl, or you can find yourself another damn president of Georgia Tech," the regents relented and allowed Tech to play. But not before voting 14–1 to continue its policy of segregated athletic contests played within the state. Six weeks later, Van Leer, 60, died of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Police Removing an Effigy of Marvin Griffin
Original caption, December 8, 1955: End of the Georgia Tech student demonstration is signified as Atlanta police remove an effigy of Gov. Marvin Griffin from a traffic light in Atlanta's downtown area. Tech students engaged in an early morning march on the Capitol and the Governor's mansion following the Governor's demand that the school's football team be forbidden to play Pittsburgh in the Sugar Bowl because Pitt has a Negro player. The State Board of Regents later ruled that Tech could play in the Bowl.

In New Orleans, the teams initially roomed in dormitories on the Tulane campus where the Sugar Bowl was played. "We practiced and ate together," Grier said. "Afterward, when my teammates went out for something, a Sugar Bowl [function], they did that and I went over to Black colleges and did things there." To Dillard and Xavier, historically Black universities where Grier was welcome—unlike in many parts of then-segregated New Orleans. "That's kind of the way things were then," said Grier, who had "no problems at all" in the city. "I knew where I was. It didn't bother me. I had fun at the functions I was at.

"And I had no time limits," he said, chuckling. "If I was late for a 10 p.m. curfew a time or two, well, I was in another part of town."

The 50th Anniversary of Bobby Grier's Sweetening the Sugar Bowl *continued*

Students Holding Protest Signs on Georgia Governor's Ruling
Original caption, December 6, 1955: University of Pittsburgh students are shown holding aloft one of the signs which escaped seizure when University officials stopped a student demonstration before it got underway. Meanwhile, the State Board of Regents in Georgia adopted a policy that would allow Georgia Tech to fill its Sugar Bowl game with Pittsburgh, which had a Negro fullback, Bobby Grier, on its team. Governor Marvin Griffin of Georgia had requested that Georgia teams not be allowed to participate in games against teams which had Negro players or where spectators were not segregated.

On January 2, once Tech punted following the opening kickoff and Pitt fumbled at its 32, the Jackets ran Dodd's old "Kingsport Play." Mitchell faked a handoff to the left, bootlegged right, and, just before being hit by Pitt's Joe Walton, threw long. For right end Don Ellis, who was guarded by ... Bobby Grier, the Pitt defensive back having taken the fake. There was contact at the goal line; the pass fell incomplete in the end zone, and then came a penalty flag. Pass interference on Grier. That led to Mitchell's 1-yard touchdown, the game's only points.

"I felt, and I still feel, that he pushed me," Grier said. "He couldn't have caught the ball. It was way over his head. He wasn't my man to cover, but I was the fastest guy on the team, and I took off after him. I got there, but [Ellis] said we bumped into each other. If we bumped into each other, he'd have fallen, too. He pushed off."

Outcome Determined by Tough Call

Ellis, who still lives in his hometown of Dalton and, like Mitchell, says, "It's really important for people to understand that no one on the team had anything against playing [Grier]," still sees the play differently.

"As I was getting closer to the end zone, I was slowing down to catch the ball," he said. "Grier was catching up. He ran into me thinking I was fixing to catch the ball. He didn't look back. He went down, but I was able to go up and get one hand on the ball.

"The ref didn't blow the call," Ellis said. "There was contact. It knocked him down and nearly knocked me down. That's pass interference. It was unfortunate for him because he played a really good game."

"I just think it was a bad call," said Grier, who led all rushers with 51 yards that day but saw nothing suspicious about the call. "He just blew the call."

"I thought it was ironic, and sad, that the kid who was the focus of all the controversy before the game got involved in a controversial call that ended up costing Pitt the game," Mitchell said. "To have it end like that was sad."

"It hurt, it hurt," Grier says now, 50 years after he was in tears in the locker room. "Because of you, your team lost."

Grier Attends Dinner at Segregated Hotel

That night, both teams enjoyed the annual postgame private dinner at the segregated St. Charles Hotel. Several Tech players sought out Grier. "I sat with a bunch of them," he said, recalling what a reporter told him that evening: "That was the first time a black person had sat down and eaten at the hotel. That was a very good feeling; it's always a good feeling when you sort of start something that turns out good."

Later that night, while his teammates enjoyed the traditional ball, buffet supper, and dance before sleeping in the posh Roosevelt Hotel, Grier left for a party thrown in his honor at the Blacks-only motel where he had to stay. "It made me feel real good," he said of the party hosted by local Black business people, many of whom had attended the game.

After graduating from Pitt with a business degree, Grier served 11 years in the Air Force. He worked as an administrator for the Community College of Allegheny County from 1970 until retiring in 1998. He returned to New Orleans on business in the mid '70s and stayed at the Fairmont Hotel, a grand relic with a familiar aura.

Original caption, December 5, 1955: Bobby Grier, center of the controversy over the Georgia Tech-Pitt Sugar Bowl game, talks it over with reporters at the University of Pittsburgh, Pa. "I'm sorry about the troubles," said Grier, whose scheduled appearance with the Pitt team aroused the ire of Georgia's Governor Marvin Griffin.

"Everything was pretty well integrated down there by then," Grier said. "I walked in and thought, 'Boy, there's something familiar about this hotel.' I went into a room where they had ashtrays laying around." He turned one over. It read: Roosevelt Hotel.

"I thought, 'This is the hotel I couldn't stay in.' And I laughed," Grier said. "And I thought, 'Boy, times have changed.' "

Fifty years after Grier's Sugar Bowl, they've changed even more. "I guess it was historic, in that it was the first time an integrated team had come to the South to play in the Sugar Bowl," Mitchell said. "You look at the racial compositions of teams today and think, 'Gosh, things have changed.'

"To the extent I feel any [sense of participating in something historic], it would be inadvertent," Mitchell said. "It was just a chance for us to play another football game, in the Sugar Bowl. I certainly can't feel like Rosa Parks."

Bobby Grier doesn't, either, although his Sugar Bowl appearance at first received far more national attention than Parks' defiance that sparked the civil rights movement. But Grier's Sugar Bowl memory, its significance, warms him still.

"It's something that shouldn't have happened, but it did," he said of the controversy. "And it moved sports and the bowls along, and the schools down South [to integrate] faster, I think, than they would've.

"In that sense, I'm glad I was part of it," Grier said. "It was great it happened. And it happened at the right time."

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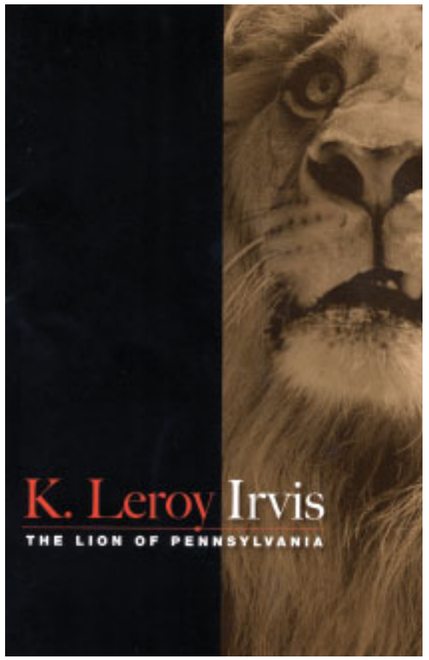
The 40th Anniversary of Pitt as a State-Related Institution

The year 2006 marks the 40th anniversary of Pitt's becoming a state-related institution. The University established its relationship with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania thanks in large part to the efforts of then-Pennsylvania Speaker of the House K. Leroy Irvis and the passage of House Bill No. 2.

The following excerpt is from "An Investment in Knowledge," the address by Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg to the February 27, 2004, meeting of the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees.



Much earlier in the month, many of us came together for the black-tie premiere of *The Lion of Pennsylvania*—a video chronicling the life of K. Leroy Irvis, the former speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and an emeritus member of this board. The life of Speaker Irvis has been a life of breadth and of impact and of accomplishment. It is a life full of the kinds of contributions and achievements that we celebrate on an occasion like Honors Convocation. And because his example is so compelling, this premiere was an especially fitting way to launch Black History Month at Pitt.

In fact—for me and, I suspect, for many others in attendance—the Irvis example provided a powerful, persuasive, and highly personal reminder of the reasons for our commitment to diversity. We recognize diversity as an educational value, essential to the education of the whole person—an education that includes an understanding of basic social institutions and processes, a sense of history, familiarity with the richness and variety of human achievement, an appreciation of other cultures, and a respect for different perspectives. We also recognize diversity as a social and economic value because we know that our responsibilities include educating students who can and will be contributing citizens in an increasingly multiracial, multilingual, and multiethnic world.

Pitt's long-standing recognition of the value of diversity is uniquely and very publicly reflected in the Nationality Rooms of the Cathedral of Learning. Pitt's continuing commitment to diversity is clearly articulated in position and mission statements adopted by this board since we began working with each other in the mid-1990s. And the products of that commitment—viewing diversity both as an educational value and as a social and economic value—are symbolized by the powerful example of Speaker Irvis. He is a person whose presence made a difference to the learning environment while he was enrolled as a student here at Pitt; and he is a person whose lifelong efforts also made a very real and very positive difference, year after year, once he had earned his Pitt diploma and moved, with the benefit of his Pitt education, into the "real world."

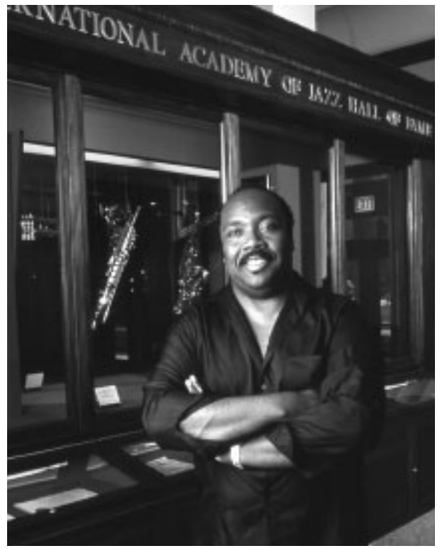
Among his many other accomplishments, Speaker Irvis forever changed the history of this University when he served as the prime sponsor of House Bill No. 2 of the Third Special Session of the 1966 Pennsylvania General Assembly. That bill was titled, "An act providing for the establishment and operation of the University of Pittsburgh as an instrumentality of the Commonwealth to serve as a state-related university in the higher education system of the Commonwealth." Building on that foundation, Pitt has become one of the top public research universities in the nation.

Under Pennsylvania's master plan for higher education, Pitt, Penn State, and Temple Universities are classified as "The Commonwealth Universities." We are expected, in the language of that plan, to provide "a broad range of baccalaureate programs for qualified students"; "carry special responsibilities for research, advanced graduate education, and for education in the professions"; and serve as "principal centers for research and development in Pennsylvania."

The life of K. Leroy Irvis, the first African American speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, poet, artist, orator, civil rights leader, and champion of education, was chronicled in the 2004 Pitt-produced video documentary K. Leroy Irvis: The Lion of Pennsylvania.

The 35th Anniversary of Pitt Jazz

Jazz Hall of Fame



Nathan Davis is professor of music and director of the Jazz Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh, as well as a multi-instrumentalist (he plays all the reed instruments and the fluegelhorn) and a prolific composer. For more than 30 years, Davis has been at the helm of Pitt jazz, including such events as the Annual Jazz Seminar and Concert.

Founded in 1977, the International Academy of Jazz Hall of Fame at the University of Pittsburgh was formally dedicated in its present home, the William Pitt Union, in 1984. It recognizes and honors jazz musicians who have made exceptional contributions to the art and was the first such hall of fame created by a major American university. Past inductees—selected by a worldwide voting committee of renowned jazz critics, writers, composers, and musicians—include Louis Armstrong, William "Count" Basie, Charlie "Bird" Parker, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, John Coltrane, Fats Waller, Miles Davis, and many others.

November 2005 Seminar and Concert

The annual Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert was the first academic jazz seminar in the country to combine legendary international artists and scholars with aspiring student musicians first in a lecture format and then as an ensemble performing together. It is a true celebration, devoted to teaching, performing, and documenting of jazz.

The 35th seminar and concert, November 1–5, 2005, was no exception, apart from adding charity to that list. Founder and director of the seminar and concert series and Pitt's own Nathan Davis worked with the appropriate agencies to ensure all the profits from concert ticket sales went toward Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in the Gulf coast. Nicholas Payton, trumpet, and Idris Muhammad, drums, both call jazz mecca New Orleans, La., home. Other guest artists who performed and conducted free on-campus seminars included Charles Tolliver, trumpet; James Spaulding, alto saxophone; James Moody, saxophone; Larry Coryell, guitar; Renee Rosnes, piano; Nestor Torres, flute; Abraham Laboriel, bass; and Davis, saxophone. The jazz programming culminated with the annual concert at Carnegie Music Hall that featured Davis' works and the presentation of the 2005 Mellon Jazz Community Award. The award is given to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to Pittsburgh's rich jazz legacy.

A concert highlight was a soulful duet by flutist and Latin Grammy Award winner Nestor Torres and electric bassist Abraham Laboriel.

Pitt in Paris, Pretty Jazzy

Jazz Meets the World Executive Producer Damien Pwono, Provost James V. Maher, Ursula Davis, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill, and Jazz Studies Program Director Nathan Davis in Paris

Provost James V. Maher, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill, and Jazz Studies Program Director Nathan Davis represented the University of Pittsburgh at an International Music Day event, October 1–2, 2004, at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) world headquarters in Paris, France.

The International Music Council (IMC) presented Jazz Meets the World: A Tribute to Jazz in Education, a two-day event consisting of a concert, lectures, and demonstrations by jazz artists and students from around the world. The event, held in the Maison des Cultures du Monde theater, was modeled after the annual Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert.

"It is very gratifying to see the legacy of the Pitt Jazz Seminar and Concert extend to Paris," said Maher. "We strongly believe the University of Pittsburgh is helping to carry out UNESCO's vision of a genuine dialogue based on respect for shared values and individual cultures. The sounds of jazz, born in the United States, have become part of this international language."

"This event further establishes Pitt as having one of the leading jazz programs in the United States," added Davis.

The 35th Anniversary of the InterCultural House

2003 ICH residents bond over a game of Monopoly.

Ronnie Baines, an African American student who had never lived with a White person, and Wendell Walls, a White student who had never lived with an African American, moved into the same room at 272 North Dithridge Street, two blocks from the Pitt campus. It was a snowy January 4, 1970, the start of a new winter trimester at Pitt. It was also the start of an experiment exploring race relations among university students. Renovations to the duplex were in progress. The room Baines and Walls moved into was not quite finished, nor was it completely furnished. But they had signed onto an innovative program that would transform the lives of some—and significantly impact most—of the almost 500 students who have since been members of the InterCultural House (ICH).

The name intercultural was based on the recognition that there are many African American cultures—just as there are many Euro (or White) American cultures. The goal of ICH was not necessarily integration, but rather mutual understanding and appreciation of cultures across racial lines.

In 1969, the University of Pittsburgh agreed to support the project. The University helped locate the property and agreed to give full tuition to all 20 students who lived in the house and a resident director. A small local foundation funded the renovation of the property, the furnishings in the house, and the expenses for the first 10 years, including resident director and staff salaries and ambitious programming.

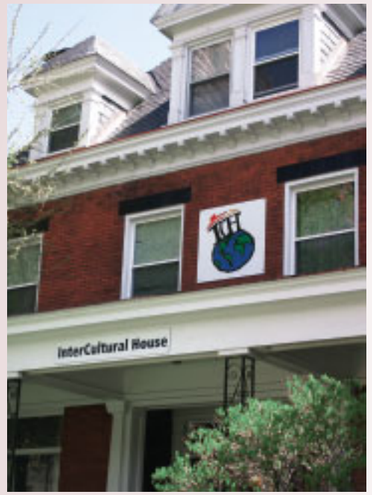
At the height of Vietnam War protests, Kent State University killings, civil rights conflicts, and the women's liberation movement, January 1970 saw 20 students move into IHC. The tension between African Americans and Whites in Pittsburgh and the nation was so high that most predicted IHC wouldn't last longer than six months before it was either firebombed or so much pressure was put on the African Americans that they would abandon ship.

But now, more than 36 years later, the ship sails on, having weathered many tide changes.

William Tiga Tita (KGSB '70, '77) was ICH's first resident director. During his tenure in the summer of 1971, members of ICH traveled to Ghana to help Ghanaians build a school in an Ashanti tribal village near Salaga. A few years later, ICH members took a similar summer trip to a traditional Muslim mountain village in Afghanistan—five years before the Soviet invasion and attempted takeover.

ICH has provided programs for its members, the University, and surrounding urban communities.

Early on, ICH had a guest room for visiting professors and speakers. Chet Huntley, Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones), Eugene McCarthy, and other visiting dignitaries used it as their home in Pittsburgh or used the house as a center for discussions after their lectures on campus.



The InterCultural House is still located at 272 North Dithridge Street.

In the late 1970s, women's organizations on campus picketed ICH, protesting its all-male membership. By 1977, ICH was half female and half male. In 1981, ICH hired its first female resident director, Cynthia Carlson, and, during that same time period, ICH started accepting graduate students.

In the course of the 1980s, ICH began several prison-related programs. One explored the need for prison reform in Pennsylvania, citing meaningful correction rather than punishment as its primary goal. Another program attempted to build bridges between incarceration and the parole/release societal reinsertion.

For a brief period in the early 1990s, ICH benefited from the resident directorship of Clair Connors. During that time, ICH worked with the Heinz Fellowship program of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Midcareer governmental officials, for the most part from sub-Saharan Africa, lived at the ICH and enriched its antiracism programs.

ICH's goals in 2006 are first, to prove that intercultural communication can take place, individually and collectively, at the most personal level; second, to radically change attitudes and eliminate racism, even on a miniature scale, among University students; and third, to stimulate others—agents of change in our community—to become more aware of and responsive to the need for proactive solutions to the problems of racism. ICH is committed to accomplishing these goals.

NBC television news coanchor Chet Huntley (seated, far left) visits ICH (ca.1970-71).

The 30th Anniversary of Kuntu Repertory Theatre

Vernell Lillie, award-winning artistic director and founder of Kuntu Repertory Theatre as well as associate professor of Africana studies, has been a faculty member at Pitt for nearly 35 years.

Pitt's Kuntu Repertory Theatre marked its 30th season in fall 2004 with musicals featuring live performances of the work of legendary jazz composers Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, Thomas Fats Waller, Jelly Roll Morton, and Eubie Blake.

"This music is unique in the sense that it flows from the deep recesses of African American originality of blues, gospel, jazz, rhythm, spirituals, and soul," said Kuntu Founder and Artistic Director Vernell Lillie, associate professor in the Pitt Department of Africana Studies.

Their anniversary season included the production of *Sophisticated Ladies* (October 21–November 6, 2004), *Bubbling Brown Sugar* (January 27–February 12, 2005), *Jelly's Last Jam* (March 24–April 9, 2005), and *Sweet Thunder: Billy Strayhorn* (May 19–June 4, 2005).

Kuntu Repertory Theatre

This season, Kuntu celebrates 30 years of Black theatre with an entire season of musicals that will make you sing, shout, and tap your feet!

SOPHISTICATED LADIES

*Tony Award Winner (1981)
Book by Donald McKayle
Music by Duke Ellington
Lyrics by Various Artists
Directed by Elizabeth Van Dyke

October 21–November 6, 2004

Take a walk back through the sounds of the Big Band Era that Duke Ellington made famous and Phyllis Hyman made us love.

Bubbling BROWN SUGAR

Vivian Reed

*Tony Award Nominee (1976)
Book by Loften Mitchell
Concept by Rosetta LeNoire
Directed by Keith Tyrone Williams
Featuring Vivian Reed

January 27–February 12, 2005

Visit the Savoy Ballroom and the Cotton Club and swing to the music of some of the great legends in jazz—including Fats Waller and Eubie Blake—in this retrospective of Harlem's golden years.

JELLY'S LAST JAM

*Tony Award Winner (1992)
Book by George C. Wolfe
Music by Jelly Roll Morton
Lyrics by Susan Birkenhead
Directed by Edward G. Smith

March 24–April 9, 2005

Relive the life and times of pioneering jazz pianist Jelly Roll Morton—a musical genius who created new Swing Era sounds and a musical legacy that lives on today.

SWEET THUNDER the Billy Strayhorn Story

Written by Ben Tyler
Production conceived and directed by Paul Carter Harrison

May 19–June 4, 2005

Explore the life of Pittsburgh native Billy Strayhorn, whose collaborations with Duke Ellington created some of the most beautiful songs in jazz.

The 30th Anniversary of Tony Dorsett's Heisman Trophy

The following profile of Tony Dorsett's time with the Panthers is excerpted from Pitt's 2004 Football Guide.

Tony Dorsett, Running Back, 1973–76

Tony Dorsett clutches the Heisman Trophy he won in 1976—he remains Pittsburgh's only Heisman winner.

In 1973, a skinny freshman tailback from Hopewell High School in Aliquippa, Pa., named Tony Dorsett began a career in Pittsburgh that would lead to a national championship, the Heisman Trophy, and individual acclaim as the greatest running back in the history of college football.

In his fabulous four-year career with the Panthers, Dorsett set or tied 18 collegiate rushing records—more than any other player in the history of college football. He established the NCAA's all-time career rushing record with 6,082 yards, a record that stood for 22 years until Ricky Williams of Texas surpassed it in 1998. (Dorsett's overall total at Pitt, including his yardage from three bowl games, was 6,526.)

Dorsett added to his list of impressive accolades by being named to both the college and pro football halls of fame.

He was the first major college back to compile four 1,000-yard seasons. He became the first freshman consensus All-American since 1944 and was the first sophomore ever named to the Playboy All-American team.

Pittsburgh had finished 1–10 in 1972, the year before Dorsett's freshman season. As a freshman in 1973, Dorsett burst onto the college scene with 100 yards rushing against Georgia in Pitt's opening game. In the 1973 regular season, he went on to rush for 1,586 yards, the most ever by a college freshman, while recording the first 1,000-yard season in Pitt history. He helped lead Pitt to a 6–5–1 record and a berth in the Fiesta Bowl.

In only his 15th game, early in his sophomore season, Dorsett broke Marshall Goldberg's Pitt career rushing record of 1,957 yards. He rushed for 1,004 yards as a sophomore.

As a junior in 1975, he rushed for 1,544 yards in the regular season, including a memorable 303-yard performance against Notre Dame.

In the final seven games of his senior season, as Pitt was charging toward the national championship, he averaged 215 yards per game en route to leading the nation in rushing with 1,948 yards. Having finished fourth in the Heisman balloting as a junior in 1975, Dorsett became Pitt's first Heisman Trophy winner in 1976. He earned 701 of a possible 842 first-place votes for an overall total of 2,357 points, finishing far ahead of second-place finisher Ricky Bell of the University of Southern California (1,346 points).

The 5-11, 192-pound Dorsett was a magical optical illusion, blending his 4.3 speed, supernatural acceleration, and Houdini-like escape artistry with open-field cutting so superbly executed it tended to escape detection by the naked eye.

As teammate Al Romano once put it, "I hate to practice against him. Trying to tackle him is like trying to catch a fly."

One revealing measure of his greatness occurred late in his senior season against Penn State. At halftime, with the game tied 7–7, Head Coach Johnny Majors decided to switch Dorsett, who despite scoring one touchdown had pretty much been held in check by the Nittany Lions in the first half, from tailback to fullback. Dorsett wound up rushing for 173 yards and scoring a touchdown in the second half as Pitt coasted to a 24–7 win. Dorsett finished with 224 yards rushing, and his two touchdowns enabled him to break a 30-year-old record set by Glenn Davis of Army. Dorsett scored 356 points in his four seasons, two more than Davis, the 1946 Heisman Trophy winner, had in his four campaigns as a cadet.

"I didn't think they could run up the gut like that on us," said Penn State Head Coach Joe Paterno. "I didn't think I'd see Dorsett at fullback. We just weren't ready for the unbalanced stuff."

Asked to describe Dorsett in more detail, Paterno simply said, "How many ways can you say great?"

Pitt Head Coach Johnny Majors said it differently.

"I could coach another 100 years and never get the opportunity to coach another back like Dorsett," he said. "I consider it an honor to be his college coach."

With Dorsett setting a Sugar Bowl record by rushing for 202 yards, Pitt went on to crush Georgia 27–3 to become the first eastern team since Syracuse in 1959 to win the national championship.

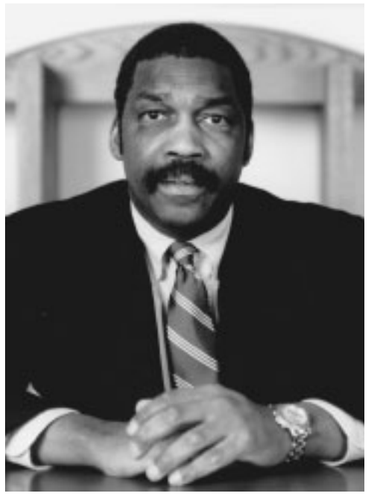
"We had accomplished our mission," Dorsett said. "I think back to those college days often, and I can't help but smile. I've never had more fun in my life. We were a part of history. We helped save Pitt football."

Sixteen years later, Anthony Dorsett Jr., son of Pittsburgh's only Heisman Trophy winner, continued the Dorsett legacy as a defensive back (1991–95).

Dorsett's number 33 Pitt jersey was retired in 1976. He received yet another honor when the Pittsburgh Sports and Exhibition Authority approved a measure to change the name of Martindale Street, which is adjacent to Heinz Field, to Tony Dorsett Drive. The street was unveiled with a ceremony prior to Pittsburgh's game with Virginia Tech on November 3, 2001.

COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH ARCHIVES, ARCHIVES SERVICE CENTER

The 20th Anniversary of Manchester Craftsmen's Guild Jazz



Manchester's own Bill Strickland is president, CEO, and founder of Manchester Bidwell Corp.; a member of the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees and the UPMC Board of Directors Executive Committee; a highly sought-after speaker, consultant, visionary, and, of course, lover of jazz.

In 1968, Pittsburgh was a city racially divided and economically distressed. One man sought to effect change by impressing the importance of art and education upon the city's youth. William E. Strickland Jr. established the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild (MCG) to help combat the economic and cultural devastation in his predominantly African American North Side neighborhood. For years, MCG was in the Mexican War Streets district of Pittsburgh and offered informal arts programs and exhibition space for inner-city children.

After much hard work, Strickland acquired the funds to build a bigger and better space for MCG. In 1987, the doors to a newly built 62,000-square-foot building opened in Manchester. Designed by a protégé of Frank Lloyd Wright, the building is structurally stunning and suited for MCG's needs. MCG also had a technically and architecturally beautiful music hall, but it was not until Marty Ashby joined the staff in mid-1987 that there was a jazz program. Ashby was the ideal candidate for the job. An active jazz guitarist with credentials that included years of performing in the United States, Europe, and Japan, Ashby was on a first-name basis with many jazz giants. He was able to convince the legendary Billy Taylor to break in the concert hall. In MCG's early years, such jazz greats as Ray Brown, Dizzy Gillespie, Herb Ellis, Max Roach, Monty Alexander, Kenny Burrell, James Moody, Emily Remler, and Betty Carter graced the MCG Jazz stage, ensuring the program's immediate success. Ashby's unique perspective of presenting jazz music in a subscription series format with multiple-day performances and residencies has enabled artists and audiences to invest in the program, making the MCG Jazz program into a dynamic force in the local and national jazz community.

By 1995, MCG Jazz was recording live albums. Its first was *A New Home*, a sampling of various artists who had performed at MCG. It included a commissioned work by well-known Pittsburgher Stanley Turrentine. The following year, MCG Jazz won its first Grammy in the Best Large Ensemble category for the Count Basie Orchestra's live performance with Pittsburgh native Grover Washington and the New York Voices. The early success of MCG Jazz paved the way for other great acts, including Joe Williams, Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, Ivan Lins, John Clayton, and countless others. MCG Jazz has earned two more Grammy awards, for *Brazilian Dreams* by Paquito D'Rivera and *R.S.V.P. (Rare Songs, Very Personal)* by Nancy Wilson. Wilson was so taken by MCG Jazz that she has dedicated many of her retired years to making more albums and live performances at MCG. Her third album with MCG Jazz was due out the summer of 2006.

At the 2006 Grammy awards, Caribbean Jazz Project received a Best Latin Jazz Album nomination for *Here and Now: Live in Concert*, and John Clayton's arrangement of "Lullaby of the Leaves" from *Live at MCG—The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra* received a nomination for Best Instrumental Arrangement. Both albums were recorded live at the MCG.

In 2006-07, MCG is recognizing its 20th anniversary with a yearlong milestone celebration through May 2007. MCG has dedicated its 20th anniversary season to inaugural act Billy Taylor. Special events during the season include:

- A kickoff performance by jazz legend Dave Brubeck on March 5, 2006, presented by Mellon Jazz
- A lineup of jazz masters and contemporary artists for each concert of the 2006–07 series
- Production of an MCG Jazz/Mellon Jazz 20th anniversary CD
- The exhibition of a photo collection that chronicles the history of MCG Jazz programming, including a Turrentine retrospective and a video display
- Outreach partnerships with Citiparks, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Jazz Society, and the Andy Warhol Museum as well as performances by the MCG Jazz Pittsburgh Jazz Legacy Program and others
- Development of the MCG Jazz Youth Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Education Program

For more information on the 20th anniversary season and MCG Jazz's other programs, please visit www.mcgjazz.org.

Nancy Wilson
Photograph by Charles Bush, courtesy of Manchester Craftsmen's Guild

The Fifth Anniversary of the *Pitt Chronicle*

By John Harvith

PITT
Chronicle Newsweekly
Discovery!
Renowned Alumni Return for Week of Student Interaction
Five Nominated to Board of Trustees

Pitt Chronicle
October 23, 2000, Vol. 1, No. 1—the first issue

When the award-winning *Pitt Chronicle* was established in October 2000, it was the first official weekly University of Pittsburgh newspaper in Pitt's long history. It was founded to provide a convenient, widely accessible method of presenting the news, announcements, and pronouncements of the University and to cover the accomplishments of faculty, staff, and students, bringing to light the University's roles as leader in education, pioneer in research, and partner in regional development.

The *Chronicle*'s primary audiences are the faculty, staff, and administrators of Pitt's five campuses. Students and Oakland-area community members also pick up the *Chronicle* at its many on- and off-campus newsstands. A small but highly influential additional audience—comprising University trustees, Pitt alumni leaders, University friends and supporters, legislators, community and business leaders, and members of the news media—receives the *Chronicle* by first-class mail. And since its inception, the *Chronicle* has been posted on the University's Web site, which has been redesigned and dramatically expanded by the University's Office of Public Affairs.

The *Chronicle* publishes a mix of official announcements, feature stories, and recurring departments (e.g., Frontiers of Science, Awards & More, Pitt in the News), as well as a weekly calendar that reflects the Pitt motto, "The city is our campus," including both on-campus events and arts and culture happenings throughout the greater Pittsburgh area. The *Chronicle* publishes expanded back-to-school and commencement issues and puts out in September and January special arts and culture issues that include full pull-out semester calendars of significant events throughout Pittsburgh and on all five campuses.

To support the University's current $2 billion Discover a World of Possibilities fundraising campaign, the *Pitt Chronicle* has published special issues devoted to the many triumphs of this largest and most successful campaign in the history of Western Pennsylvania. And to bolster the University's research goals, the *Pitt Chronicle* worked cooperatively with the Office of the Provost to publish during the course of two academic years profiles of all 16 Pitt schools and colleges and their deans and, during the course of a single calendar year, the *Research Excellence Series*, a sequence of articles that explored interdisciplinary areas representing the University's key research strengths. The latter series was later compiled as a book, *Excellence in Research, University of Pittsburgh*, for use by the University administration in promoting its message to important constituency groups and individuals, among them foundations and corporations, prospective students and faculty recruits, targeted legislative leaders, and media editors and reporters. Even the *Blue Gold & Black* book you are now reading relied heavily on *Pitt Chronicle* coverage of the Black Pitt experience for source material.

Among the annual series the *Chronicle* has published beginning in its first year is a sequence of stories celebrating Black History Month by highlighting the achievements of Black Pitt faculty, students, staff, and alumni. Among those profiled during the six years of this series are Pitt Assistant Professor of English Faith Adiele; Pitt Associate Professor of Surgery Edward Barksdale Jr.; William Hunter Dammond (ENGR 1893), Pitt's first Black graduate; Pitt alumna Jerlean Daniel (CAS '64, EDUC '72G, '75G), former Pitt associate professor of education and current deputy executive director of the National Association for the Education of Young Children; Pitt alumna Judith L. Davenport (GSPH '74, DEN '79), dentist and philanthropist; Pitt English Professor Toi Derricotte; economics researcher Michael Edeke, a junior double major in electrical engineering and political science; Pitt Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Music Akin Euba; Pitt law professor Robert Harper; Pitt Office of Facilities Management painter Morris Hundley, who had been the first African American painting apprentice hired by Pitt; Rebecca Hubbard (CAS '99), the first Black Pitt student to receive the prestigious Marshall Scholarship; E.J. Josey, professor emeritus in Pitt's School of Information Sciences; Pitt alumna Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew (NURS '76, MED '94), assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences in the Pitt School of Medicine; Sandra Murray, professor of cell biology and physiology in Pitt's School of Medicine; Bartholomew O. Nnaji, Pitt's Alcoa Foundation Professor of Manufacturing Engineering; Pitt Professor of Reading Alice Scales; former Pitt Police Officer Deborah Walker, now assistant director for community standards in Pitt's Office of Residence Life and a member of Pittsburgh's Citizen Police Review Board; and Pitt alumnus and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community and Governmental Relations John M. Wilds (CGS '67, EDUC '70G,'78G).

Among other Black members of the Pitt family or visitors to Pitt featured throughout the past five years' worth of *Chronicle* issues are University of Pittsburgh at Bradford President Livingston Alexander; U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, who received the honorary Doctor of Public and International Affairs degree from Pitt after he delivered the H.J. Heinz Company Foundation Distinguished Lecture at the University of Pittsburgh; Pitt alumnus Derrick A. Bell (LAW '57), visiting professor of law; Julian Bond, who delivered the inaugural lecture of Pitt's Center on Race and Social Problems; Pitt alumna and trustee and *New York Times* bestselling author Bebe Moore Campbell (EDUC '71); *New York Times* national correspondent and Pitt alumna Lynette Clemetson (CAS '90, FAS '94, UCIS '94), formerly national correspondent for *Newsweek*; Pitt alumnus and Professor of Communication Jack L. Daniel (CAS '63, FAS '66, '68), former Pitt vice provost for undergraduate studies and dean of students; Pitt Professor of Music and Director of the Jazz Studies Program Nathan Davis; graduating Pitt senior and biomedical researcher Dan Debrah (ENG '05); Pitt alumnus and trustee Herbert P. Douglas (EDU '48, '50G), bronze medalist in the long jump at the London Olympics in 1948 and one of the first two Black football players at Pitt; Pitt alumna Ogle Burks Duff (EDUC '74G), emerita professor in Pitt's School of Education; Pitt security guard Charmaine Dunbar, recipient in 2002 of the Most Courageous Police Act of the Year award for capturing the Pittsburgh East Side rapist after he assailed her with a rifle; retired Pitt School of Social Work Dean David Epperson; and current School of Social Work Dean Larry Davis.

Also published were Pitt alumna Helen S. Faison (EDU '46, '55G, '75G), the first Black person to lead the Pittsburgh Public Schools; All-American student-athlete Larry Fitzgerald, winner of the 2003 Biiletnikoff and Walter Camp Awards; Pitt Associate Professor of History Laurence A. Glasco; alumnus, former Pitt provost, and Pitt Professor Emeritus of Sociology Donald M. Henderson (FAS '67); Kathy W. Humphrey, Pitt vice provost and dean of students; Pitt alumnus and former Pennsylvania Speaker of the House K. Leroy Irvis (LAW '54), the first Black house speaker of any state since Reconstruction; Pitt's longest-serving female staff member, retired communications support services specialist Delores "Dee" Johnson, a professional gospel and jazz vocalist; Pitt Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences Development Clyde B. Jones III; Pitt alumna and Associate Professor of Law Sandra Jordan (LAW '79); Pitt Associate Professor of Africana Studies Vernell Lillie, founder and artistic director of the

The Fifth Anniversary of the *Pitt Chronicle* continued

University's Kuntu Repertory Theatre; Pitt graduate Wangari Muta Maathai (FAS '65), winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize; Queen Mother Molotlegi of the village kingdom of Bafokeng, South Africa; South African student Carol Mothupi, winner of Pitt's first Nelson Mandela Children's Fund Scholarship; the late Pitt Associate Professor of Africana Studies Robert Lee "Rob" Penney, who was playwright-in-residence of Pitt's Kuntu Repertory Theatre; Pitt alumnus James J. "Jimmy Joe" Robinson (CAS '51), Pitt's first Black varsity football player and pastor emeritus of Bidwell Presbyterian Church; Pitt alumnus Bryant J. Salter (CAS '71), an international business consultant, former U.S. diplomat, and Pitt Varsity Letter Club Awardee of Distinction; Pitt alumna Jeannette E. South-Paul (MED '79), medical director of the Division of Community Health Services of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), UPMC Andrew W. Mathieson Professor, and chair of the Department of Family Medicine in Pitt's School of Medicine, who is the first woman and first African American to serve as a permanent chair of a Pitt School of Medicine department; Pitt alumnus and trustee William E. Strickland Jr. (CAS '70), president and CEO of the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild and Bidwell Training Center; and Stephen Thomas, director of Pitt's Center for Minority Health and Philip Hallen Professor of Community Health and Social Justice.

Among the bylined Pitt African American writers published in the *Pitt Chronicle* during the past five years have been Glasco; alumna Cynthia Gordy (CAS '03), who wrote an award-winning series for the *Chronicle* as a student intern in the Office of Public Affairs; Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill; and Department of History graduate student Patricia Pugh Mitchell.

The *Pitt Chronicle* has won numerous awards throughout its five-plus years, among them two Awards of Excellence—one in design for *Chronicle* Art Editor Dwight A. Chambers in the Newspapers/Tabloid category, and one in the Newspaper/4+ Color category—from the Golden Triangle Awards competition of the Pittsburgh chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators; a Gold Award for the overall publication in the Magapaper category of the Accolades competition of the mid-Atlantic region of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education; a Public Relations Society of America, Pittsburgh chapter, Renaissance Award in the Nonprofit Internal Publication category; and, from Women in Communications, two Matrix Awards, one for the *Chronicle*'s Black History Month series and the other for its Research Excellence series.

February 12, 2001

January 21, 2003

February 17, 2003

August 25, 2004

October 11, 2004

November 1, 2004

February 14, 2005

April 11, 2005

May 1, 2005

January 17, 2006

February 27, 2006

April 30, 2006

Women and Men of Influence in the Media

New Pittsburgh Courier Newspaper October 31, 2004

Four of the six University of Pittsburgh faculty and staff members honored by the *New Pittsburgh Courier* in its 50 Men of Influence special supplement, published October 31, 2004, were honored for the second consecutive year. The Pitt honorees were **Jack L. Daniel**, former vice provost for undergraduate studies and professor of communication; **Larry Davis**, the Donald M. Henderson Chair, dean of the School of Social Work, and director of the Center on Race and Social Problems; **Henri Ford**, the Benjamin R. Fisher Chair of Surgery in the School of Medicine, surgeon-in-chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and codirector of Pitt's Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment Center and Children's Hospital's Benedum Trauma Program; **Robert Hill**, vice chancellor for public affairs; **Clyde Jones III**, vice chancellor for health sciences development and senior vice president of the Medical and Health Sciences Foundation; and **Stephen Thomas**, the Philip Hallen Professor of Community Health and Social Justice in the Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) and School of Social Work and director of GSPH's Center for Minority Health.

George L. Miles Jr., president and CEO of WQED Multimedia and a Pitt trustee, also was honored for the second year in a row.

Black Enterprise Magazine February 2005

The February 2005 issue of *Black Enterprise* magazine featured a special report on the 75 Most Powerful African Americans in Corporate America. Pitt Trustee **Frederick W. Hill** (CGS '75, LAW '78), executive vice president of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., was among those listed. Hill also served as director-at-large of Pitt's Alumni Association and as a member of the School of Law Board of Visitors. He was an adjunct professor at Pitt for 11 years and received multiple teaching excellence awards.

Jet Magazine January 16, 2006

Jet magazine's January 16, 2006, issue highlighted two-time Olympic gold medalist **Roger Kingdom**'s recent induction into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame. A champion in the 110-meter hurdles at the 1984 and 1988 Olympics, Kingdom is a five-time USA Outdoor champion and two-time gold medalist at the Pan American Games. As a student-athlete at Pitt, Kingdom won NCAA titles in 1983 and 1984 and won a World University Games gold medal in 1989. Kingdom and fellow inductees were honored during ceremonies in Jacksonville, Fla.

Ebony Magazine May 2005

U.S. Representative **Albert Wynn** (CAS '73) of Maryland's Fourth Congressional District is among *Ebony* magazine's 100+ Most Influential Black Americans for 2005 and 2006. A member of Congress since 1992, Wynn is a strong advocate for federal employees and small business development and has twice been awarded the Small Business Administration's Administrator's Leadership Award. Wynn is also a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Inc. Magazine September 2005

William E. Strickland Jr. (CAS '70) was featured on the cover and in an eight-page article titled "What One Man Can Do" in the September 2005 issue of *Inc.* magazine. The article chronicles Strickland's journey from growing up in the Manchester section of Pittsburgh to becoming president and CEO of Manchester Bidwell Corp. and its subsidiaries, the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild and Bidwell Training Center. After 40 years of shaping and changing lives, Strickland has a business model that works and that he believes should be "franchised" across the country. A complete transcript and slideshow are available online at www.inc.com/magazine/20050901/bill-strickland.html.

Essence Magazine May 2006

Bestselling author and Pitt Trustee **Bebe Moore Campbell** (EDUC '71) was among the Bold and Beautiful: 25 of the World's Most Inspiring Women featured in the May 2006 issue of *Essence* magazine. Campbell was honored "for shining a light on mental illness." She wrote *72-Hour Hold* (see page 56), as well as a children's book and a play about families affected by bipolar disorder after a relative was diagnosed seven years ago. She has learned about the disease and now wants to educate others to "end the stigma and denial, and be dedicated to healing."

Pitt's Top 10 Black Donors

Robert Olu Agbede (ENGR '79, '81G)
Areas of Support: student awards in the School of Engineering

Judith L. Davenport (GSPH '74, DEN '79)
Areas of Support: School of Dental Medicine; Graduate School of Public Health; Kuntu Repertory Theatre

David E. Epperson (CAS '61, SOC WK '64G, EAS '75) **& Cecelia Trower Epperson** (EDUC '57, '62G)
Areas of Support: scholarships for social work students; health sciences; University Library System

Robert Berkley Harper (EDUC '63, LAW '71)
Area of Support: financial aid for law school students

Beverly A. Harris-Schenz
Areas of Support: health sciences; fine arts; women's studies

Alfred Moyé (FAS '68)
Areas of Support: athletics; student financial aid; University Library System

Doris H. Rodman
Area of Support: financial aid for disadvantaged medical school students

Joy Starzl (SOC WK '97G)
Areas of Support: student scholarships in the School of Social Work; health sciences

William E. Strickland Jr. (CAS '70)
Areas of Support: African Heritage Classroom; student financial aid; University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute

Carl Ware (GSPIA '68)
Area of Support: scholarships for students in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Three Rivers Youth Celebrates 125 Years

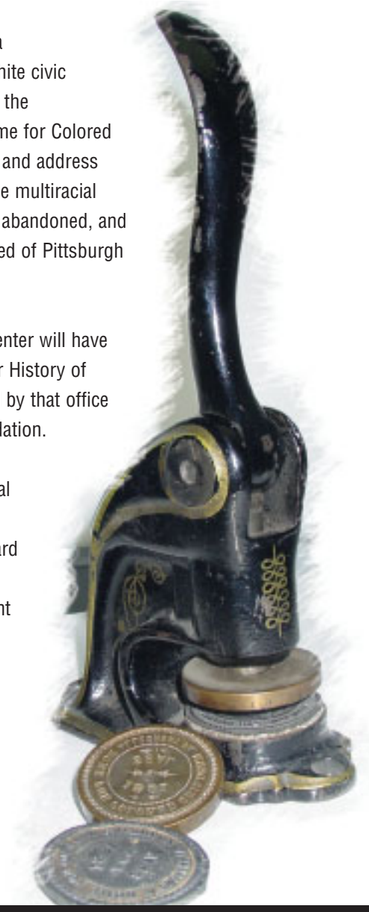
The following excerpt was taken from the January 17, 2005, issue of the Pitt Chronicle.

"From Colored Orphans to Youth Development": Pitt–Sponsored Exhibition and Publication Celebrate 125–Year History of Pittsburgh–Based Three Rivers Youth During Black History Month

By John Harvith

On a dreary, rainy day in 1880, Nellie Grant, an orphaned little Black girl no more than 4 or 5 years old, was found wandering the streets of Pittsburgh's North Side (then called Allegheny City) by Reverend J.M. Fulton, the White pastor of Fourth United Presbyterian Church.

Because no institution in the city would take in a "colored" child, Fulton turned to a prominent White civic leader, Julia Blair, who immediately worked with the Women's Christian Association to found the Home for Colored Children, which today—after a number of name and address changes and more than one set of clients—is the multiracial Three Rivers Youth (TRY). Its central mission has remained the care of neglected, abused, abandoned, and otherwise needy youth. TRY's origins in the late 19th century brought together the privileged of Pittsburgh with the least privileged in a remarkable forerunner of today's Pittsburgh philanthropy.



From January 28 to March 5, 2006, the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center will have on display an exhibition titled "From Colored Orphans to Youth Development: The 125-Year History of Three Rivers Youth, 1880–2005," produced by Pitt's Office of Public Affairs and sponsored by that office and the University's Office of the Chancellor, with additional support from the Grable Foundation.

Mounted in observance of Black History Month, the exhibition and its accompanying historical publication will tell in detail the unique story of the pathbreaking TRY—a social service organization that has persevered and then prospered through a succession of committed board members and leaders, both Black and White, from its beginnings in segregated late-19th-century America through two world wars, the Great Depression, and the civil rights movement to its present-day achievements of helping youth in need to succeed and prosper as adults.

A highlight of the exhibition was a two-dimensional replica of one of the original Home for Colored Children buildings (left), which was complemented by an original 38-star U.S. flag and a replica of a late-19th-century swing set like the ones used by the home's children.

Enlarged vintage photographs helped tell the 125-year story of TRY.

TRY is the oldest agency in Allegheny County founded to serve Black children and the second-oldest such agency in the nation. In recent years, it has been recognized nationally for innovative programs and policies and regionally as one of the most notable agencies providing comprehensive services for a wide age range of youth, without regard to race. In 2002, it was a finalist for the Forbes Fund's Wishart Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management.

"Through the exhibition and publication, the University of Pittsburgh is pleased to recognize the resolve and the inspired forces behind the longevity and success of Three Rivers Youth," said Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "By doing so, we honor the men and women who have struggled, persevered, and achieved in their efforts to advance its mission for the last 125 years. We also honor our region's age-old spirit of philanthropy that, time and again, has enabled Pittsburgh institutions such as Three Rivers Youth to serve the needs of others."

"This exhibition and publication on the history of Three Rivers Youth do more than weave the pieces together," commented TRY Chief Executive Officer Peggy B. Harris. "They remind us of a time in Pittsburgh before the turn of the century when the racial climate would not allow colored children into orphanages, and they introduce us to a group of people who were courageous enough to do something about it.

"The history, then, does more than chronicle the organization's evolution from the Home for Colored Children to today's Three Rivers Youth. It celebrates our courage, our leadership, and our resiliency," Harris added. "But perhaps the most important reason to publish this history is to remember the lives and the plight of some 300,000 youth and families who have been part of this 125-year history. This is their story. It's part of Pittsburgh's story, and it's part of America's story."

Illuminated showcases displayed memorabilia, including original photographs, ledger books, forms, letters, the children's writing, newspaper clippings, and a wooden card catalog.

Remarks of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg

Delivered February 1, 2006, at the reception for the unveiling of the exhibition and release of the publication From Colored Orphans to Youth Development: The 125-Year History of Three Rivers Youth, 1880–2005, *at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center*

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg addresses attendees of the evening reception.

Thank you, Robert [Hill], not only for your overly generous but much appreciated introduction, but for all you have done to make this special event possible. A key job of any master of ceremonies is to make certain everyone else gets proper credit. But in this case, I really need to state publicly that Robert Hill has been a driving force in the development of both the publication and the exhibition that have brought us together this evening—just as he has more generally elevated the quality of professional communication in this region. Robert, we are deeply grateful.

And now that I have properly credited my colleague, let me say good evening to all of you. Actually, though, it is a great evening when good friends can come together to kick off Black History Month in such a unique and meaningful way. Tonight, we join the yearlong celebration of the proud 125-year history of Three Rivers Youth. And, of course, there can be no better venue for sharing and saluting a seminal part of Pittsburgh history than the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. So, thanks also are due to President Andy Masich for opening the center's doors for tonight's reception and for hosting the exhibition "From Colored Orphans to Youth Development: The 125-Year History of Three Rivers Youth," which will be featured here for the duration of Black History Month.

The historical record giving rise to this exhibition is the publication of the same name. It was written by Patricia Pugh Mitchell, who is a University of Pittsburgh graduate student in history, and Margaret Albert, a distinguished Pittsburgh author. The introduction was written by Pitt history Associate Professor Laurence A. Glasco. The project was the brainchild of Three Rivers Youth CEO Peggy B. Harris and the Three Rivers Youth board and staff, and its potential was so compelling that it attracted support from the Grable Foundation, which we all deeply appreciate. Three Rivers Youth board member William Savage, another Pitt person, then enlisted the aid of [Hill] and our Office of Public Affairs in editing and publishing this triumphant chronicle.

On the last day of this month, Pitt will celebrate its 218th birthday. The preamble to the Act of 1787, chartering what was then known as the Pittsburgh Academy, declared that "the education of youth ought to be a primary object of every government." More than two centuries later, all of us, I am sure, still would subscribe to that basic proposition. I suspect we also would embrace a somewhat broader formulation—that caring for its children ought to be a primary object of every just society.

(Left to right) Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill, Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, TRY CEO Peggy Harris, and TRY Board Chair Alan Trivilino

That basic belief has fueled the inspiring journey of Three Rivers Youth since the days of its inception as the Home for Colored Children. And the overlap between that belief and the mission that led to our University's chartering helps explain telling connections between Pitt and Three Rivers Youth that long predate this evening's gathering—connections that make our participation in this celebration even more meaningful for us. For decades, philanthropists, students, professionals, and alumni formed a mutually beneficial bond—first between Pitt and the Home for Colored Children, then the Termon Avenue Home, and then Three Rivers Youth.

I think of Mary Hogg Brunot, wife of Pitt Trustee Felix Brunot, who joined the University's Board of Trustees in 1880, the year the Home for Colored Children was founded. Mary regularly provided seed money grants to the home, while Felix funded scholarships to Pitt.

And I think of Helen Glenn Tyson, whose landmark report of 1929 for the Advisory Committee on Institutional Care for Colored Children was decades ahead of its time. She earned her PhD at Pitt, was deputy secretary for welfare of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and advocated home-based rather than institutional care for children younger than 5, which was radical thinking in those days.

Orlean Ricco earned a bachelor's degree in nursing in 1929 and an MSW degree in 1944, both at Pitt. She came to the home in 1950 as the first professionally trained Black staff member. By 1954, she was director of the Termon Avenue Home. At her death, she left a substantial bequest to assist graduate students at Pitt.

Anne Jones was housemother at the home from 1948 through the early '50s, after which she cast her lot with the University, earning both the MSW and PhD degrees, and going on to spend many years as a very distinguished member of our faculty.

As the times changed, so did the home, becoming the racially integrated Three Rivers Youth in 1970 through the capable board leadership of Jane Freeland, wife of former Pitt Trustee Wendell Freeland.

And, of course, today we think of Three Rivers Youth board chair Alan Trivilino, who received his MBA from Pitt, and of Three Rivers Youth CEO Harris, who received her master's degree from Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. We believe that through Alan's and Peggy's leadership Three Rivers Youth is well positioned to continue meeting the daunting challenges of serving young people and families.

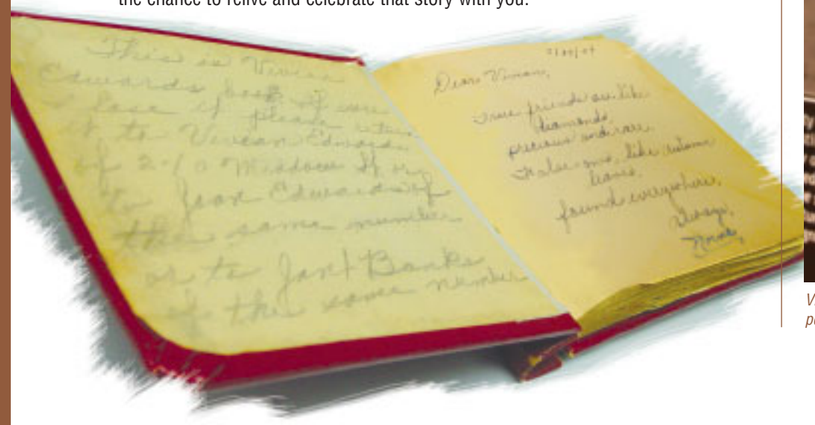
Since young people are major contributors to the traditions and are the future of both Three Rivers Youth and Pitt, I also take special satisfaction in acquainting you with Nadeen Seldon, who is with us tonight. She lived at a Three Rivers Youth facility when she was between 15 and 18 years old. Today, Nadeen is a Pitt School of Social Work junior. In the Three Rivers Youth tradition, she plans to earn a Pitt MSW degree, as well.

Three Rivers Youth Celebrates 125 Years *continued*

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, late Pittsburgh Mayor Bob O'Connor, Robert Hill, and Eric Springer

As I hope this list suggests, this is a special occasion for Pitt in part because Pitt people have played some part in many aspects of the 125-year chronicle of caring and contributing—and, so, we really are grateful to Three Rivers Youth for letting us also be a part of this inspiring celebration. And just so you know, I haven't exhausted my supply of Pitt-Three Rivers Youth connections. So when you are touring the exhibition, keep in mind other names like Herb Douglas, Bill Savage, Cecile Springer, Maurice Cohill, and Dave Droppa, because they are connected, too.

When the renowned scholar and historian Carter G. Woodson established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and Negro History Week 46 years after the Home for Colored Children was established, he almost certainly did not know of the home's existence or of its angelic works. He doubtless was unaware that hard by the north shore of the Allegheny River, in the middle of the engine that powered America's industrial might, a largely untrained but deeply committed band of lay social workers from the upper reaches of Pittsburgh society was investing heart, mind, and purse in service to the most disadvantaged of the historically disadvantaged in that society: Black orphans. But just as Woodson proclaimed that our history washes down to us like gold, the 125-year history of the Home for Colored Orphans, Termon Avenue Home, and Three Rivers Youth comes to us at once as a treasure of a Pittsburgh story, as a gem of an African American story, and, at its core, as a rich American story. It is wonderful to have the chance to relive and celebrate that story with you.



Visitors to the exhibition got an up close and personal look at the remarkable history of TRY.

Nellie Leadership Award Winners All Have Pitt Connection

Three Rivers Youth (TRY) commissioned artist and former TRY director Ruth G. Richardson to create this watercolor depiction of the life and community of a TRY resident.

As a fitting end to a yearlong commemoration of its 125th anniversary, Three Rivers Youth presented the Nellie Leadership Awards at a reception and dinner on April 7, 2006, at the Westin Convention Center Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh. The awards recognized four community leaders—all of whom have a Pitt connection—for their efforts to champion the cause of youth and families. The proceeds benefited a scholarship fund as well as programs and services. Andrew Stockey of local ABC affiliate WTAE-TV emceed the evening of inspiration, recognition, and entertainment, while Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill filled in as host. Receiving awards were Mark A. Nordenberg, chancellor, University of Pittsburgh; Cheryl Allen (LAW '75), judge, Allegheny County Criminal Court; Marc Cherna, director, Allegheny County Department of Human Services and member, Pitt School of Social Work Board of Visitors; and Jerlean E. Daniel (CAS '64, SHRP '72G, EDUC '75G), deputy executive director, National Association of Education of Young Children.

(Left to right) Elizabeth Dickey, Marc Cherna, Cheryl Allen, Jerlean Daniel, Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Peggy Harris, Donald Walko, Agnus Berenato, and Alan Trivilino

Pitt Students Celebrate Black History

Black Action Society President William "Mario" Dones at the Black Consciousness Bowl

Founded in May 1968 to address the needs of a frustrated Black student body, the Black Action Society (BAS) has a long tradition of celebrating Black History Month with colorful public events.

For Black History Month 2006, BAS hosted best-selling author and 2003 NAACP Image Award nominee E. Lynn Harris, who gave a public talk on February 15, 2006, in the William Pitt Union Ballroom. Other BAS Black History Month events included the Black Consciousness Bowl, a Jeopardy-style competition that tried contestants' knowledge of Black history, and a talk given by guest lecturer Arrin Hawkins on her October 2005 experience in Equatorial Guinea.

Students share a moment of solidarity.

Jeralyn Cave at the Black Consciousness Bowl

Bestselling author and BAS guest lecturer E. Lynn Harris

Special Sodexho Dinner Satisfies Stomachs and Souls

Fourteen-year Dining Services veteran Sybil Chapman serves up a feast at the annual Black History Dinner in Marketplace Dining Hall.

On February 23, 2005, Pitt Food Services in partnership with Sodexho Campus Services celebrated Black History Month by hosting its annual Black History Dinner in Marketplace Dining Hall. This event was the culmination of a month of Black history-themed meals offered in different dining halls every week in February.

The theme of the dinner was Diversity: Cuisine for Cultural Awareness. The menu included Jamaican jerk chicken, southern Georgia catfish, jambalaya with rice, macaroni and cheese, collard greens with smoked turkey, and potato salad. The dessert menu included sweet potato pie, banana nut bread, bread pudding, upside-down cake, Parker House rolls, and Jamaican sunsplash punch.

The evening's entertainment featured soul music, acoustic and classic rock, spoken word, and Pittsburgh's own Reggae giant, The Flow Band. Students and staffers alike took to the dance floor.

The dining hall was adorned with African art and posters, and the decorations also offered the Wall of Enlightenment, which depicted historic figures from African American history.

Students attending the Black History Dinner enjoyed delicious food and great entertainment while learning about African American history.

According to the coordinator of the event and Sodexho General Manager Abdou Cole, "The event is a vehicle to promote cultural awareness and understanding among students. It is also an opportunity to extend the Pitt campus to the local community. It is the one meal served on campus where invitations are sent out to the University and the local community. Students get to share their dinner with members of the community."

Approximately 100 guests attended the dinner.

Black History Month Celebrates American History

University of Pittsburgh Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill wrote the following op-ed article, published in the February 22, 2006, edition of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Local Heroes: In Black History Month, We Can Be Justifiably Proud of Pittsburgh Achievements in Civil Rights

This year's Black History Month celebration is an inspiring reminder that the annual February fest calls attention to path-breaking victories for all Americans, not just Black Americans. Here in Pittsburgh, 2006 marks important anniversaries that recall the milestones of progress that forged a better Western Pennsylvania.

First, there is the underpinning of all the celebrating, Black History Month itself, begun 60 years ago by historian Carter G. Woodson and his Association for the Study of Negro (now African American) Life and History as Negro History Week. During the 1970s, the week expanded to encompass the entire month of February. Pittsburgh events held all over town this month are celebrations of the African American heritage, whether through art exhibitions, plays, lectures, ceremonies, recognition and anniversary functions, or the *Post-Gazette*'s own Black History Month series chronicling the journey of African Americans in the region.

Even before Dr. Woodson noted that our "truth comes down to us from the past ... like gold washed down from the mountains," there was industrialist Charles Avery, the White abolitionist turned lay Protestant minister who made a fortune in several businesses. Arriving in Pittsburgh in 1829, he quickly prospered, establishing money, God, and colored people as his primary passions. In addition to founding Avery College for "colored" people at his estate in Allegheny City (now the North Side), Reverend Avery, as he came to be called, bequeathed $25,000 to the Western University of Pennsylvania (now the University of Pittsburgh) for the education of "colored" boys of the United States and Canada. The 130th anniversary of the Avery Endowed Scholars program at Pitt is recognized this year, as dozens of Avery alumni in all walks of life continue their contributions.

On a rainy day in 1880 in Allegheny City, little Black orphan Nellie Grant was found wandering the streets by a prominent White minister, the Reverend J.M. Fulton of the Fourth United Presbyterian Church. When she was refused shelter by the orphanages of the day, which did not admit "coloreds," the good reverend and his well-to-do Caucasian friends established the Home for Colored Children. Demonstrating private philanthropy and Christian charity at its finest, these selfless, untrained lay social workers not only managed the home, but with their personal funds ensured its financial viability with generous contributions during their lifetimes. And some bequeathed sizable estates to benefit the home after their deaths.

In a few weeks, the Home for Colored Children, now Three Rivers Youth, which to this day faithfully serves young people in need, will conclude its yearlong 125th anniversary celebration at a gala with its modern-day, racially well-integrated legion of supporters.

During the summer of 1936, the world learned of the slap in the Aryan face of racism by the triumph in Hitler's Germany of African American trackman Jesse Owens winning four Olympic gold medals. But Pittsburgh had a special reason to celebrate those Berlin games because Pitt's Johnny Woodruff won gold as well, becoming the first of three Black Pitt athletes who would win Olympic track medals during the next 50 years. On this 70th anniversary of his victory, Gold medalist Woodruff is the sole surviving member of the 1936 U.S. Olympic track team.

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of Pitt athlete Bobby Grier becoming the first Black man to play in the Sugar Bowl. For years, integrated northern schools wrestled, usually disgracing themselves by caving in—with the segregationist practices of southern schools and states that prevented Black athletes from playing for or against Jim Crow schools. But in 1956, Pitt stood steadfast, as America watched, by breaking the back of segregation in one of America's most visible football contests.

Watching college football and NFL football today, one finds it hard to imagine that in recent history an accepted American custom was to intentionally deprive schools of some of the most talented athletes because of race. What is remarkable is that Grier, his White chancellor, his White teammates, and White students at Georgia Tech (the Sugar Bowl opponent) all stood together against Georgia's then-segregationist governor to advance equality of opportunity.

The contributions of White people in the cause for civil rights is undeniable. Much of their early good work was unsolicited by civil rights leaders and organizations of the day. There is no evidence that fundraisers from Pitt initiated or closed the deal on the Reverend Avery's scholarship endowment in 1876. In 1880, there was no NAACP or Urban League when the Reverend Fulton and Julia Blair declared that colored orphans should claim benefactors' attention, time, and money. Nor did Black Pitt students sit in at Chancellor Charles Nutting's office in 1956, prompting his Sugar Bowl decision to stand up for his student-athlete. The most visible protesters in the controversy were White pro-Grier Georgia Tech students. The bases of the anniversaries commemorating Black progress required Black determination, for sure, but were historically aided by a little help from White friends.

As we have seen, the stories along the Pittsburgh paths of equality's trek are not merely Black stories. Nor is Black History Month just a Black celebration. It is an American one.

Milestones of Great Black Panthers at Pitt

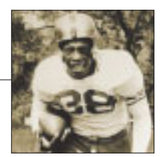
Anniversary — Athlete

75th — **Everett Utterback** (1930–31)
- Became the two-time indoor collegiate champion in the broad jump

70th — **John Woodruff** (1936)
- Won the gold medal in the 800 meters at the Berlin Olympics

65th — **Bill "Bullet" Carter** (1940–42)
- Set world record of 6.1 seconds in the 60-yard dash at the Butler Relays
- Ran on the mile-relay team that won the New York Millrose Games with a time of 3:25.5

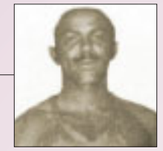
60th — **Herbert P. Douglas Jr.** and **James J. Robinson** (1945–46)
- Became the first African Americans to play football for Pitt
- Douglas established a school record in the broad jump with a mark of 24 feet and 4 7/8 inches at the IC4A Championships.



50th — **Bobby Grier** (1956)
- Integrated the Sugar Bowl as the first Black athlete to play in that classic

35th — **Kevin Love** (1971–72)
- Won wrestling's 150-pound Eastern Intercollegiate title

Anniversary — Athlete



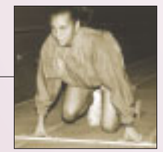
30th — **Dorel Watley** (1971)
- Won the NCAA indoor title in distance medley relay with the world-record time of 9:39.7

Tony Dorsett (1975–76)
- November 15, 1975: Rushed for school record 303 yards in Pitt's 34–20 win against Notre Dame
- November 26, 1976: Ran for 224 yards and two touchdowns in Pitt's 24–7 win against Penn State University, completing Pitt's perfect 11–0 season
- October 23, 1976: Became the NCAA's all-time rushing yardage leader on a touchdown run in Pitt's 45–0 win at Navy
- December 9, 1976: Won the Heisman Trophy

20th — **Renee Henderson** (1986)
- Captured her third consecutive Big East outdoor title in the 100 meters

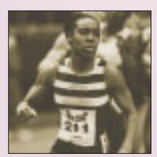
15th — **Jennifer Bruce** (1984–85)
- Scored a single-season record 681 points for Pitt women's basketball

Lorri Johnson (1991)
- Became Pitt women's basketball's all-time scoring leader in her final game as a Panther (2,312 points)



10th — **Majuma Fletcher** (1996)
- Won the NCAA indoors high jump title, earning her a third consecutive Outstanding Field Performer citation

6th — **Antonio Bryant** (2000)
- Received the Biletnikoff Award, recognizing the most outstanding wide receiver in the nation



Chantee Earl (2000)
- Earned All-America status by winning the NCAA Championships in the 800-meter run

Historical Timeline

Charles Avery

1829
The first Black student enrolls at the University of Pittsburgh. His name is unknown.

1849
Charles Avery, an abolitionist minister, founds the Allegheny Institute and Mission Church to educate Black teachers. It is later renamed Avery College and serves as a station on the Underground Railroad.

1858
Charles Avery dies. In his will, he leaves Pitt $25,000 to create scholarships for Black men. That money continues to provide scholarships to students.*

William Hunter Dammond

1893
William Hunter Dammond is the first African American to graduate from the University of Pittsburgh, earning a degree in civil engineering with honors.

1906
Jean Hamilton Walls is the first Black woman to enroll at Pitt.

1909
Robert Lee Vann becomes the first Black man to graduate from the School of Law. The *Pittsburgh Courier*, established in 1907 by Edwin Harleston, would gain national prominence after Vann would become the newspaper's editor, publisher, treasurer, and legal counsel in 1910. Vann would see the *Courier* grow to become the largest, most influential Black newspaper in the nation.*

Jean Hamilton Walls

1910
Jean Hamilton Walls becomes the first Black woman to earn a bachelor's degree from Pitt.

1916
Ella Phillips Stewart graduates from the School of Pharmacy and becomes the first Black woman licensed to practice pharmacy in the United States. She later becomes secretary of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

1923
Virginia Proctor Powell Florence becomes the first Black woman in the United States to earn a degree in library science when she graduates from the Carnegie Library School (now the School of Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh).

Herbert P. Douglas Jr.

1937
Edward Lee Harris is the first Black man to earn a PhD at Pitt. It is in chemistry.

1938
Jean Hamilton Walls is the first Black woman to earn a PhD from the University.

1948
Herbert P. Douglas wins a bronze medal in the long jump at the summer Olympics in London.

1947
Adena Johnson Davis becomes the first Black woman to graduate from Pitt's School of Nursing.

K. Leroy Irvis

1954
After becoming the first Black member of the *University of Pittsburgh Law Review*, K. Leroy Irvis becomes the first Black law clerk in Pittsburgh's Court of Common Pleas.

1956
Edgar Duncan is the first Black graduate of the Graduate School of Public Health.

Homer Sylvester Brown, who earned an bachelor of laws degree from Pitt's law school in 1923, becomes the first Black judge on the state's Court of Common Pleas.

1958
Eric Springer becomes the first Black faculty member in the Graduate School of Public Health.

1964
E.J. Josey, an emeritus professor in the School of Information Sciences, introduces a successful resolution at the annual meeting of the American Library Association (ALA) forbidding ALA officials from associating with library groups that refused membership to people of all races.

1967
Helen Lewis, secretary to Chancellor Wesley W. Posvar, becomes the first Black secretary to a Pitt chancellor. By the time she retired in 2002, she had served the University for 38 years.

Helen S. Faison

1968
Helen S. Faison (CAS '46, EDUC '55G, '75G) becomes the first Black woman to serve as an academic high school principal in the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Underrepresented students and faculty at the University of Pittsburgh form Project-A, Tri-M (Malcolm-Martin-Marcus), and Developmental Scholars. These three support programs each sought to increase the enrollment of students who had historically been denied admission to Pitt.

*The starred entries correct inaccurate presentations from *Blue Gold & Black 2004.*

Morgan Thomas

The Black Action Society (BAS) is founded. Charles Morrow is elected its first chair.

Morgan Thomas joins the University as an administrative aide to Chancellor Posvar. He was also a noted opera tenor who performed in numerous productions, including *La Traviata*, the inaugural Pittsburgh production of the National Negro Opera Co. Thomas would retire from the University in 1984.

1969

Lawrence Howard becomes Pitt's first Black dean when he is named to lead the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

Jack L. Daniel

BAS members stage a protest in the University's computer center in an attempt to urge Chancellor Posvar to "establish an institute for Black studies for research and teaching."

The Department of Black Studies is established. (It would be renamed the Department of Africana Studies in 1993.) Jack L. Daniel, former vice provost for undergraduate studies and former dean of students, was named its first director.

Having affirmed the need for programs designed to assist underrepresented undergraduates, Project A, Tri-M, and Developmental Scholars combine to form the University Community Education Program (UCEP). Edward Barnes, PhD, is named UCEP's first director.*

Nathan Davis becomes the first Black faculty member in the Department of Music. He earned tenure in 1974.

Laurence Glasco becomes the first Black history professor at Pitt. In 1975, he earned tenure.

Roland Edward Barnes becomes the first Black full professor at the University of Pittsburgh. He would go on to teach for the School of Education until his retirement in 1982.

Karl Lewis

1970

Pitt establishes an affirmative action program.

E.J. Josey becomes the first Black faculty member to receive tenure in the School of Information Sciences.

1971

Martha Richards Conley becomes the first Black woman to graduate from the School of Law.

Karl Lewis becomes the first Black tenured professor in the School of Engineering.

Edna Chapelle McKenzie

1972

David Epperson (CAS '61, SOC WK '64G, FAS '75) becomes the first Black dean of the School of Social Work. By the time he retired in 2001, he was Pitt's longest-serving dean and the longest-serving dean of a school of social work in the country. Upon his retirement, he and his wife, Cecelia (EDUC '57, '62G), established the David E. and Cecelia Trower Epperson Scholarship Fund to help students pursue a degree in social work.

Frances J. Barnes becomes first Black president of the University of Pittsburgh Women's Association. She would go on to receive a 2005 YWCA Racial Justice Award.

1973

Some of God's Children gospel choir is founded on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh. The student-run choir initially operated without the funding assistance of the University.

Alfred Moyé (FAS '68) is named Pitt's first Black vice chancellor. He is credited with establishing Pitt's Founder's Day celebration.

Vernell Lillie

Edna Chappelle McKenzie is the first Black woman to earn a PhD in history.

James Kelly becomes the first Black dean of the School of Education.

1974

The Kuntu Repertory Theatre is founded by Associate Professor Vernell Lillie to present the works of Rob Penny and other Black playwrights and authors.

Louis Williams Jr. becomes the first Black man at Pitt to earn a doctorate in medicinal chemistry.

1975

Elaine Morris becomes the first Black woman to graduate from the School of Medicine.

1976

Helen S. Faison becomes the first Black woman on the University's Board of Trustees.

K. Leroy Irvis is named the first Black speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. At the time, he was the only Black house speaker in any of the 50 states.

1981

Anthony Duncan becomes the first Black tenured professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. In 1987, he would be promoted to the rank of full professor.

*The starred entries correct inaccurate presentations from *Blue Gold & Black 2004.*

Roger Kingdom

1982

Robert Harper becomes the first Black faculty member in the School of Law to earn tenure. He would retire in 2004 as a full professor.

1984

Roger Kingdom wins a gold medal in the 110-meter hurdles at the summer Olympics in Los Angeles, Calif. Four years later, he would win another gold medal in the same event at the summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

1986

Birney Harrigan (CAS ’78, FAS ’86) becomes the first Black woman at Pitt to earn a PhD in anthropology. She would later become associate dean of student affairs and director of student activities.

1987

Sandra Murray becomes the first tenured Black female faculty member in the School of Medicine.

1988

Donald M. Henderson

Nathan Davis is the first African American to appear on the cover of *Pitt Magazine*.

William Trice (CAS ’51, DEN ’53) becomes the first African American president of the Pitt Alumni Association.

1989

Donald M. Henderson is named Pitt’s first Black provost. He would serve in that position until 1993.

Velma Scantlebury is the first Black transplant surgery faculty member.

1991

Toi Derricotte becomes the first Black woman in the Department of English to earn tenure.

Nancy Washington

Beverly Harris-Schenz becomes the first Black faculty member in Pitt’s Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures to earn tenure. In 1979, she was the first Black faculty member at Rice University.

1992

Sandra Jordan becomes the first Black female faculty member to earn tenure in the law school.

1994

Nancy Washington and Philip Hallen cofound with others the Center for Minority Health with funding from the R.K. Mellon Foundation.

Sandra Murray

1996

William E. Strickland Jr. (CAS ’70) wins the MacArthur Foundation “genius” grant in support of his work introducing urban youths to the arts through the Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild. He also wins a Grammy Award in the jazz category this same year.

1997

Audrey Murrell becomes the first Black woman to receive tenure in the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business.

Edith Singley becomes the first Black woman to earn a Pitt PhD in chemical engineering.

1999

Jack L. Daniel becomes the first Black tenured full professor in the Faculty and College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Communication.

Sandra Murray becomes the first Black woman to be named a full professor in the School of Medicine at the University.

Antonio Bryant

2000

Rebecca Hubbard, the first Black Marshall Scholar in Pitt’s history, graduates with a perfect academic record. She would go on to pursue her PhD in biostatistics at the University of Washington in Seattle, Wash.

Antonio Bryant wins the Biletnikoff Award, which is presented annually to the nation’s best wide receiver.

Sylvanus N. Wosu joins the School of Engineering as assistant dean for diversity and minority engineering programs.

2001

Sylvanus N. Wosu

Jeannette South-Paul is appointed professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, becoming the only Black female department chair in the nation at a predominantly White medical school.

Jack L. Daniel, then vice provost for academic affairs, and students Norman Randolph and Michelle Agostini are featured in *A New Way of Thinking*, a video tribute to 100 years of Black student success at the University of Pittsburgh.

Adolph Sims (A&S ’04) and DeShaun Sewell (CAS ’03) are named, respectively, the first Mr. and Miss Black University of Pittsburgh at the BAS second annual homecoming celebration.

Brandin Knight

David Epperson (CAS ’61, SOC WK ’64G, FAS ’75) retires as the longest-serving university social work dean in the country. In 2003, he was elected chair of the board of YMCA of the United States.

Pitt graduates more Black engineering students than any other institution in Pennsylvania.

Hillman Library dedicates the K. Leroy Irvis Reading Room.

2002

Brooke Monet Sealy (CAS ’02) is named the student speaker at commencement.

Brandin Knight (A&S ’04) is named the Big East Conference’s men’s basketball Player of the Year. He leads the team to its second straight Big East Championship.

Alvin Jones

The School of Social Work establishes the Center on Race and Social Problems.

K. Chase Patterson and Rhea Gray respectively are named Mr. and Miss Black University of Pittsburgh.

2003

Alvin Jones (CAS ’03) is named the student speaker for Honors Convocation. After graduation, he enrolls in Pitt’s School of Medicine.

Clyde Jones III becomes the inaugural vice chancellor for health sciences development.

Livingston Alexander becomes the first Black president of a Pitt regional campus when he is named to lead the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford.

Adam Herbert (GSPIA ’71) becomes president of Indiana University. He is the only Black male president of an American Association of Universities (AAU) member institution; the AAU is a consortium of the 62 most prestigious research universities in North America.

Larry Fitzgerald

Sophomore wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald receives the Biletnikoff Award and Player of the Year honors from the Walter Camp Football Foundation as the best football player in the nation.

Mechanical engineering student and captain of the Society of Automotive Engineers’ Formula Car Team, Derek Knight leads his team to victory in the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, earning the Caliguiri Cup.

Eighteen-year-old Courage Otaigbe earns a master’s degree from the School of Information Sciences.

Lawrence Crockett and Maria Smith, respectively, are named Mr. and Miss Black University of Pittsburgh.

Jeannette South-Paul

Paula Davis (CAS ’81, FAS ’85), assistant dean for student affairs and minority programs in the School of Medicine, is the first individual to win the Chancellor’s Affirmative Action Award.

Willa Doswell becomes the first Black woman in the School of Nursing to earn tenure.

Gregory Hicks becomes the first Black PhD graduate from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Pitt’s School of Education opens the Center for Urban Education.

2004

Jeannette South-Paul becomes the first Black female faculty member at Pitt to receive an endowed professorship. She also is awarded $150,000 as a McCann Scholar, which recognizes outstanding mentors in medicine, nursing, and science.

A plaque honoring alumna Virginia Proctor Powell Florence as the nation’s first Black professional librarian is installed in the Information Sciences Building lobby.

Dee Johnson

Tamara Mills becomes the first Black woman to receive a PhD in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Office of Public Affairs staff member Dee Johnson is the longest-serving female employee at the University of Pittsburgh, having worked at the University for more than 45 years. She would retire in 2005.

The School of Medicine holds its first Minority Alumni Reunion Weekend.

Sophomore swimmer Darryl Washington helps Pitt’s swimming and diving team win a Big East title as part of the 800-meter freestyle relay team and is selected to represent the University of Pittsburgh at the 2004 NCAA Leadership Conference.

Toi Derricotte

Francine McNairy is inaugurated as the 13th president of Millersville University of Pennsylvania. Pitt’s then Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Dean of Students Jack L. Daniel serves as the inauguration ceremony’s keynote speaker.

Toi Derricotte, a professor in the Department of English, receives a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Stephen Thomas, director of the Center for Minority Health, wins Harvard University’s Alonzo Smythe Yerby Award, which goes to a public health professional committed to community welfare and health concerns of the poor.

Mamothena Carol Mothupi

Mamothena Carol Mothupi of the Clocclan District of South Africa becomes the inaugural recipient of the University of Pittsburgh Nelson Mandela Children's Fund Scholarship. It was established by Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg during his visit with His Excellency Nelson Mandela. Nordenberg was presenting Mandela the Jesse Owens Global Peace Award, created by Herbert P. Douglas Jr. (EDUC '48, '50G).

Pitt Assistant Professor of English Faith Adiele's book *Meeting Faith: The Forest Journals of a Black Buddhist Nun* is released, and her life story is part of the PBS documentary *My Journey Home*.

2005

Daniel Armanios, a dual major in mechanical engineering and political science, becomes the first student to receive both a Harry S. Truman Scholarship (2005) and a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship (2004). These prestigious national awards recognize exceptional academic performance and leadership potential.

Daniel Armanios

Nathan James (A&S '04), a poet and actor, is ranked as one of the top-25 poets in the nation by Poetry Slam Inc. Last fall, his one-man show, Growing Pains, was staged at the Kelley-Strayhorn Theatre in Pittsburgh.

Mark May is inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. A Panther offensive tackle from 1977 to 80, May won the Outland Trophy and would go on to play for the Washington Redskins.

Herbert P. "Herb" Douglas Jr. (EDUC '48, '50G), former Panther football star and Olympic bronze medalist in the long jump, is inducted into the Hall of Fame of the New York Athletic Club.

Mark May

Clarion, Edinboro, and Slippery Rock Universities establish the Hattie Turk Scholarship for Advanced Practice Nursing Students in honor of Turk, one of the first Black graduates of the Pitt School of Nursing.

Deborah Walker (CGS '01, GSPIA '03), a 15-year veteran of the Pitt Police Department, is nominated to a four-year term on Pittsburgh's Citizen Police Review Board.

William Gaskins Jr. (EDUC '51, '70G, '73G) is named Pitt Alumni Recruitment Team Volunteer of the Year.

Bellefield Hall is transformed into a movie theater for the inaugural Francophone African Film Series, as Pitt presents Silence-on-Tourne: Cinemas of Francophone Africa.

Dee Johnson, the University's longest-serving female staff member, retires after 47 years. Johnson served in the Office of Public Affairs for more than 30 years.

Sixteen-year-old luminary Alexi Chidi enrolls for her freshman year at Pitt. The California Institute of Technology would soon reward her with a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, intended to fund her participation in an ongoing project studying the linguistic functions of the brain.

Alexi Chidi

Jeannette South-Paul (MED '79), professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine and the first woman and first African American to serve as a permanent department chair in the School of Medicine, is included in a nationwide multimedia traveling exhibition, "Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians," which chronicles two centuries' worth of the struggles of more than 300 American women to gain access to medical education and work in the medical specialty of their choice. Pitt's Falk Library is the exhibition's first stop.

Pitt undergraduates Les Scales and Ellyse M. Williams receive National Black MBA Association scholarship awards from the organization's Pittsburgh chapter.

2006

Idorenyin Jamar, a fellow in the University of Pittsburgh Learning Research and Development Center Institute for Learning, received the Gateway to Equity Award from the Pittsburgh branch of the American Association of University Women at a reception held in her honor and in recognition of National Women's Day.

David Spears

The University of Pittsburgh hosts the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) 32nd Annual National Convention at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Student managed and 10,000 members strong, NSBE is dedicated to increasing the community of academically excellent, professionally successful, and culturally responsible Black engineers.

Toi Derricotte, Pitt English professor and cofounder of Cave Canem, an African American poetry workshop, hosts "She Said …," the third annual program of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. The program, dedicated to showcasing women's poetry, features six local poets and writer Erica Jong.

Acclaimed Pittsburgh author and former Rhodes Scholar John Edgar Wideman gives a reading at the Drue Heinz Literature Prize 25. In 1992, Wideman was a Drue Heinz Literature Prize senior judge, and in 2002 he anthologized the prize's 20 winners.

Adam Iddriss

David Spears becomes graphics editor for *Panther Prints 2006* memory book.

PITT ARTS opens a dialog on race and the arts with the publication of the monograph Our Stories, Our Selves. It is the culmination of two years of research conducted through the African American Arts Project, a Heinz Endowments-funded initiative.

Engineering junior and University Honors College student Adam Iddriss, a double major in bioengineering and chemistry, is named a 2006 Harry S. Truman Scholarship winner for his outstanding academic and leadership abilities.

Did we miss a notable Black Pitt milestone?
Please let us know about it at paffairs@pitt.edu.

No Longer Living Legends

The following four obituaries from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette *honor the memories of four no-longer-living legends who have moved on to a better place: Frank Bolden (EDUC '34), LaRue Frederick (CAS '36), and Pitt Trustees Edna Chappelle McKenzie (EDUC '68, FAS '71, '73) and August Wilson. The final obituary in this section honors the memory of K. Leroy Irvis and was originally published in the* Pitt Chronicle.

Obituary

Frank Bolden : Reporter, Raconteur Dies at 90

Friday, August 29, 2003
By Cristina Rouvalis

Frank E. Bolden, a legendary reporter for the *Pittsburgh Courier* whose stories stretched from the nightclubs of Wylie Avenue to the ballfields of the National Negro League to the Black soldiers of World War II, died August 28, 2003, at the age of 90.

A street reporter in the Hill District heyday during the 1930s and '40s, Mr. Bolden shunned officialdom and instead interviewed Wylie Avenue's musicians, barbers, bartenders, gamblers, and the "sisterhood of the nocturnal order"—a Bolden-ism for prostitutes.

He earned a national reputation by becoming one of the first two accredited Black war correspondents during World War II. In the sweltering, bug-infested jungles of Burma, Mr. Bolden wrote stories about the Black engineering troops who died working on the Burma Road. He also covered the Black soldiers of the 92nd Infantry Division in Italy, debunking the claim that Blacks would flee from combat.

Mr. Bolden was a houseguest of the Indian leaders Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, who found a parallel between their struggle for independence from Britain and the civil rights struggles of Blacks in America.

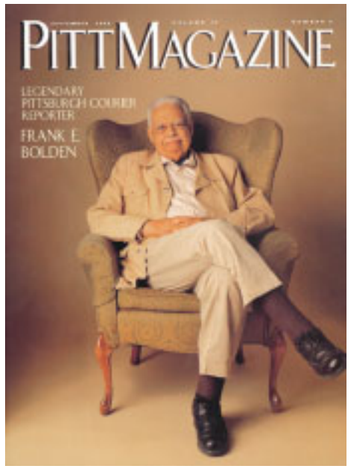
His three fingers would fly over the manual typewriter as he banged out such expressions as "from the pot liquor flats to the scotch-and-soda highlands"—references to the Lower Hill and the more affluent Upper Hill. His nickname for small music joints was "upholstered sewers."

Yet despite wide acclaim, Mr. Bolden downplayed his considerable talent.

"I wasn't the best," he said. "But I always thought I was the right fellow to be at the right spot at the right time."

As an elder statesman, he became a historian of Black Pittsburgh and would field many calls each week from reporters and scholars from around the country.

"Frank Bolden was really the living history book of Black Pittsburgh," said Laurence A. Glasco, associate professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh. "He had in his one memory bank more knowledge, understanding, and details of the history of Black Pittsburgh than anyone else will have. He was a real treasure."



COVER PHOTO COURTESY ANDREA LONDON

Frank E. Bolden on the September 1999 cover of Pitt Magazine

And the man was a talker, weaving together his stories in mesmerizing monologues that lasted for hours, rarely coming up for a breath.

"He can't stay on the topic," Glasco said. "It is like going up a tree. He will branch off and you never know where you are going to end up. He is always on a new branch. You are always exploring new parts of him. And it is always interesting. He always has a twinkle in his eye. He can always see the irony and humor in a situation."

Despite his many fans, there were some people who dismissed his stories as apocryphal. "Some people say I am lying," Mr. Bolden said. "There are people who are jealous—Whites and people of my own race."

So that is one reason he kept all his clippings and records and scattered them in piles in his living room, dining room, and every corner of his Squirrel Hill house, a messy museum of his life. "He can not throw anything out," his wife, Nancy, said.

Though Mr. Bolden wrote hundreds of stories about other people's lives, he never wrote one about his own. When asked why, he would shrug and say, "I feel like a mosquito in a nudist camp. I don't know where to begin."

Indeed, it would have been hard to get it all down.

Kept Out of Med School

Mr. Bolden didn't set out to be a famous scribe.

Born in Washington, Pa., he was the eldest of three sons of the city's first Black mail carrier, Frank Bolden Sr., who told his son, "When you're average, you are just as far from the bottom as you are from the top."

In 1930, Mr. Bolden enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh, first studying to be a lawyer and later switching to biology. He played clarinet and became the first African American in the Pittsburgh marching band, shaving $50 off his $300-a-year tuition. He also made extra money by stringing for the *Pittsburgh Courier*, then one of the most influential Black newspapers in the country.

A friend asked him to write a few sports stories for the *Courier* while he was in college. He started out at the customary pay of $3 a week, "but my writing was so good they paid me $5."

He graduated from Pitt as an A student and applied to the University's medical school, but was turned down because Pitt, like many medical schools, did not admit Blacks then. He wasn't surprised by the discrimination. At the time, he said, Blacks were commonly refused service at restaurants in Oakland and could not rent a room there.

Mr. Bolden also applied to be a public school teacher, but was turned down for that job, too. He was advised to move down South and teach.

"I was not going South behind the Cotton Curtain," he said.

So he went back to the *Courier* and became a general assignment reporter and feature writer. It was just something to do at first, but then he got hooked on being a reporter. Plus, he had a great beat: Wylie Avenue, the heart of an influential Black neighborhood with a thriving cultural and social life.

An arts writer with a column called "Orchestra Swirl," he wrote about Billy Eckstine, Sarah Vaughn, Count Basie, and other music greats.

COURTESY BOLDEN FAMILY

This photo from 1955 shows Frank Bolden during the Courier*'s 85th Anniversary commemmoration, surrounded by copies of the paper.*

"I had good habits," he said. "I didn't drink. I didn't chase women. You had a lot of sin in lower Wylie Avenue. The drinking. The place was crowded with the nocturnal sisterhood."

He befriended Whites who came to the Hill District to hang out at the music clubs, even though he wasn't allowed in their world. "You see, in the 1930s, Negroes could not go Downtown to the nightclubs. You couldn't try on clothes and you couldn't eat. Yet Whites could come up to Wylie Avenue to hear Billy Eckstine."

He also wrote about baseball stars such as Satchel Paige of the Pittsburgh Crawfords and Josh Gibson of the Homestead Grays. Of boxer Joe Louis, he wrote, "He was a mortician, and he carried a calling card in each mitt."

Perhaps his most famous articles were in a series tracing the complete histories of eight prominent African American families, including the Smith-Simmons family who had come to this country in 1728. He tracked down all their living relatives and told their stories.

"It was a magnificent piece of history," says Edna Chappelle McKenzie, a fellow *Courier* staff writer in the '40s and '50s and a retired history professor at the Community College of Allegheny County.

Reporting in Asia

When World War II broke out, Mr. Bolden wanted to tell the story of the Black soldiers.

"White America was convinced that Negro soldiers under fire would be cowards and turn and run," Mr. Bolden said. "That is why I went over."

The *Courier* submitted Mr. Bolden's name, and he was chosen as one of the first two accredited Black correspondents. He filed his dispatches for the National Negro Publishers Association, which distributed them to Black newspapers nationwide.

In 1944, he wrote about the valor of the Black soldiers of the 92d Infantry Division. "There were 12,096 citations of valor for the 92nd Infantry Division," he recalled.

The following year, he headed to the China-Burma-India theater to write about the Black troops helping to build an airstrip and doing work on the Burma Road. He watched the troops die of fever, cobra bites, and Japanese sniper fire.

In one dispatch dated May 9, 1945, he wrote, "In a remote corner of the heat-ridden and pestilential jungle now feeling the full fury of the monsoon rains, I lived awhile with the Engineer Construction Battalion, whose feats in this section of the 'green hell' earned it citations and letters of commendations."

Later, in India, Gandhi invited the young Black reporter to his house in the countryside. Mr. Bolden expected a three-hour interview, but Gandhi told him to make himself at home. He ended up staying 15 days.

Gandhi opened up, according to Mr. Bolden, after the Pittsburgh newspaperman sat cross-legged in his house, ate without silverware, and otherwise embraced his customs. During one of their daily chats after prayer, Gandhi told him, "We are going to have racial conflict for generations. Do you know why? God in his infinite wisdom made the White man a smaller race numerically but with a majority complex, which he will try to inflict on the world."

Not to be outdone by Gandhi, Nehru invited Mr. Bolden to his house in Agra, where he stayed 12 days.

The same year, Mr. Bolden also interviewed Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin, and Madam and General Chiang Kai-shek.

Mr. Bolden came home from his heady but exhausting experience in September 1945. He turned down offers from *Life* magazine and *The New York Times* and returned to the *Courier*, the pre-eminent Black paper in the country, with a circulation of 400,000. He thought he would have less impact on civil rights at a White publication than at a Black publication. Plus he felt a debt of gratitude toward the *Courier*, a weekly paper.

"Without the *Courier*, there would be no Frank Bolden," he said. "They gave me a chance to meet all those famous people." He returned to the paper as a feature writer and was city editor between 1956 and 1960. Mr. Bolden lobbied for the promotion of Black police in the Hill District who were being relegated to being beat cops. The result was a Black policeman being promoted to lieutenant.

He also started the *Junior Courier*, an insert edited by promising high school students and written by youths from all over the city. He was kind to young reporters, but tough on some of his veteran reporters, recalls Phyllis T. Garland, who worked for him first on the *Junior Courier* in the '50s and then later as a staff writer.

"He would ride his reporters at deadline time," said Garland, a professor at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. "He would prod them, like a rider with spurs on a horse. He could be very strict and insistent. Sometimes the women would cry. He almost got into a fistfight with one reporter. He said, 'You can't write anyway.' The reporter jumped out of his seat. It was never boring at deadline."

In 1962, when the *Courier* ran into financial problems, Mr. Bolden left to go to *The New York Times*, where he had a short stint as a reporter. He quickly moved on to become a reporter for NBC radio, and then NBC-TV, before joining the *Huntley-Brinkley Report* in 1962 or 1963.

Mr. Bolden reported on the Republican National Convention in San Francisco, Calif. in 1964, and he tipped a Black bellboy to lead him to the hotel room of Barry Goldwater. Mr. Bolden sat on the edge of the bathtub, scribbling away, while Goldwater talked as he shaved. The reporting coup earned him a $1,500 bonus.

He said Goldwater told him, " 'I didn't know [newspapers] hired you people.' He was a bigot through and through." But still he talked to Mr. Bolden.

Mr. Bolden returned to Pittsburgh to become assistant director of information and community relations for the Pittsburgh Board of Education under Superintendent Sidney Marland. He retired from there after 17 years.

Mr. Bolden served on the African American advisory committee of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. He was honored for his volunteer work with Cerebral Palsy Institute, Family Services of Western Pennsylvania, and the Early Learning Institute, a nonprofit agency serving special-needs children.

He received many awards including the George Polk Award, a Lifetime Achievement Golden Quill Award, a Lifetime Achievement Award of the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation, and the Legacy Award of the National Association of Black Journalists in 2003, and he was named a Distinguished Alumni Fellow by the University of Pittsburgh.

LaRue Frederick : Businesswoman, Civil Rights and Community Leader Dies at 92

Friday, April 22, 2005
By Ervin Dyer

LaRue Frederick's 1936 Owl *senior picture*

For a Black woman born in 1913, a time when many had their hopes dimmed by discrimination and limited social roles, LaRue Frederick's life was the stuff of dreams.

An avid book collector, she met many of the authors whose words she worshipped: Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Maya Angelou.

As a community leader and world traveler, she crossed paths with some giants of the 20th century: Marian Anderson, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Pope John Paul II.

As a regional leader in the nation's oldest Black sorority, she steered young lives toward social service as the country was shaken by the thunder of the civil rights era.

Racism may have closed the door on her admission to the University of Pittsburgh medical school, but Mrs. Frederick found an open window by enrolling in the Pittsburgh School of Mortuary Science, where she graduated at the head of her class. With her husband, William, she opened funeral parlors in Braddock, Homestead, Rankin, and Homewood, becoming a trailblazing female business leader.

Mrs. Frederick died of complications from Parkinson's disease at an Oakmont nursing home on April 18, 2005. She was 92.

Born and reared in McKeesport, she was the only child of Callie, a housewife, and John William Walker, a timekeeper at McKeesport's National steel mill who got the job because his employer believed he was a White man.

Inspired by renowned educator Bethune, whom she met at age 17 while attending a national meeting of colored women's clubs, Mrs. Frederick was inspired to be a teacher.

There were few Blacks hired as teachers in 1930s Pittsburgh, so she went to Pitt, aiming to be a physician, studying bacteriology and chemistry, earning a degree in 1936.

She was not admitted to the medical school and later studied mortuary science, which she taught for one year.

She soon became a licensed funeral director with her husband, who died in 2001.

Their business, Frederick Funeral Homes, became known for its restorative art, industry acumen, and fleet of white limousines. The couple sold the business when they retired in 1989.

Mrs. Frederick's parents were members of Semper Fidelis, one of the oldest African American clubs in the McKeesport area, and it nurtured a commitment to community service for the little piano player who loved books and poetry, said Madeline Hairston Giddens, a friend for 80 years.

"We were like sisters," said Giddens, of the East End. "We went to elementary and high school together and learned oratory skills at the YWCA."

As an adult, Mrs. Frederick formed the East Boroughs branch of the NAACP in 1960, launching a weekly radio broadcast on WAMO-FM with news from the civil rights organization. In 1978, she organized and became president of the Braddock NAACP.

Perhaps Mrs. Frederick's most significant service was to her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha. For four summers, beginning in 1939, she volunteered with a national health project in Mississippi and worked to bring a hospital to impoverished Black people in the bayou.

In the 1960s, through the group, she was able to present roses to noted opera singer Anderson at a Pittsburgh concert. With the civil rights movement in full bloom, she was a regional director from 1958–63 with the sorority, establishing dozens of chapters and initiating hundreds of girls into the group. And, because of her experience in the bayou, she led them to organize clinics in diabetes and heart health.

Mrs. Frederick rode with friends to the great March on Washington, D.C., in 1963 and made pilgrimages to Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Rome, where she traveled with Black Catholics and was blessed by the pope in the Sistine Chapel.

Edna Chappelle McKenzie : Pioneering Journalist and Historian Dies at 81

Tuesday, June 28, 2005
By Ervin Dyer

Edna Chappelle McKenzie

Sixty years ago, journalist Edna Chappelle McKenzie went into the cities and dales of Western Pennsylvania to battle discrimination. She walked into hotels and sat at lunch counters where she was told she didn't belong. She braved violence and intimidation. Her weapons: a tough spirit, a smile, and a pen.

Mrs. McKenzie was known for never having a harsh word against anyone, but what she wrote for the *Pittsburgh Courier* won her honors and powered the collapse of restrictive covenants in housing, employment, and public accommodations years before the rise of the civil rights movement in the South.

Mrs. McKenzie, an accomplished pianist and the first Black woman to earn a doctorate in history at the University of Pittsburgh, died of cancer June 26, 2005, at Canterbury Place in Lawrenceville. She was 81.

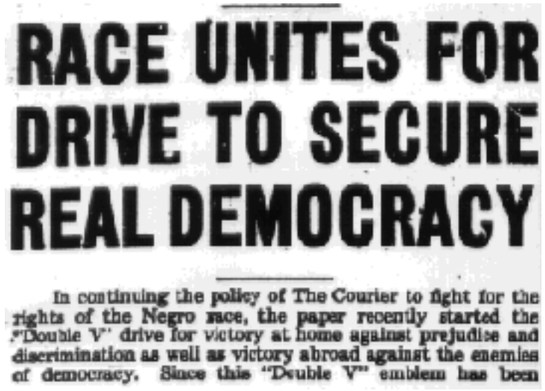
Mrs. McKenzie began at the *Courier* as a society reporter in the 1940s, but soon jumped to the news desk and covered lynchings and other hard news alongside the men.

When she went on the road for her series on discrimination, Charles "Teenie" Harris, the *Courier*'s legendary photographer, went with her to capture what happened.

At the *Courier* in the 1950s, Mrs. McKenzie met K. Leroy Irvis, a young law school graduate destined to become Pennsylvania's first Black speaker of the House of Representatives. He worked in publicity for the paper.

He admired his friend's brilliance, especially her study of Black life and culture.

"I've never known anyone—White, Black, green, or red-striped—who knew as much about humans, especially Blacks, as Edna," Irvis said.



RACE UNITES FOR DRIVE TO SECURE REAL DEMOCRACY

In continuing the policy of The Courier to fight for the rights of the Negro race, the paper recently started the "Double V" drive for victory at home against prejudice and discrimination as well as victory abroad against the enemies of democracy. Since this "Double V" emblem has been

A headline highlighting civil rights progress made by the Courier *during Edna Chappelle McKenzie's time with the paper.*

Mrs. McKenzie left the paper in the late 1950s to go to school, earning a bachelor's degree in education, a master's in fine arts and a doctorate in history—all from Pitt.

Armed with her pet phrase "tell the truth," Mrs. McKenzie was meticulous in documenting Black history, said her friend Cathy Irvis, wife of K. Leroy Irvis. She believed history could be used to empower, inform, and teach, and that Blacks should never be ashamed of their history.

"Edna was fearless," said Irvis, who for more than two decades had a standing Saturday shopping date with her friend.

"She always said, 'I just want to tell the truth, to write the truth.' That if this country knew the truth about Black history, it would change things."

Mrs. McKenzie was born in Grindstone, Fayette County, said her son Clyde Jackson Jr. of Aiken, S.C. Her father was an itinerant African Methodist Episcopal preacher and her mother a homemaker. They had seven children.

Shortly after high school, Mrs. McKenzie worked for the *Los Angeles Tribune*, a small tabloid, where she covered music, murder, and everything in between.

She came to the *Pittsburgh Courier* during its heyday, when it was not uncommon to see people like Jackie Robinson, A. Philip Randolph, and Lena Horne coming through the doors.

She started as a typist for the ailing-but-popular society columnist Julia Bumry Jones. When Jones died, Mrs. McKenzie took over "Talk of the Town," writing about teas, weddings, and parties.

She tired of the social whirl and yearned to work "over there with the fellas" covering fires and murders. At the time, she was the only female reporter at the *Courier,* and going into hard news put Mrs. McKenzie on a path to the history books.

She was part of the team that carried out *Courier* Editor Robert L. Vann's "Double V" campaign during World War II, calling for victory against U.S. racism as well as against the Axis powers.

With the war over, in one assignment, Mrs. McKenzie had to visit restaurants all over Western Pennsylvania to desegregate them and write about the treatment she received.

She endured, and Mrs. McKenzie became a longtime advocate for the Black press. What some called sensational, she called necessary.

"It was worse than fighting a war," she later said about the experience. "When I went home at night, I was just so hurt, would cry myself to sleep."

"We had to show bodies hanging from trees. [The Black press] was fighting a battle that could not be clean and pretty," she said.

In addition to her career in journalism, Mrs. McKenzie was a historian, educator, and advocate for human rights and educational opportunity. She was an emeritus professor of history at Community College of Allegheny County, where she worked on the North Side campus for 23 years, serving as chair of Black, minority, and ethnic studies.

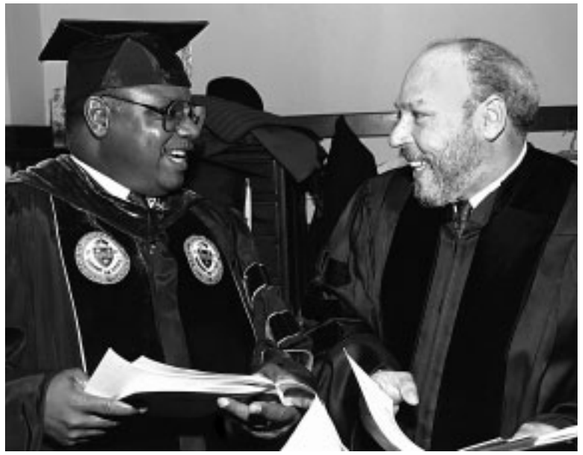
She has served on the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, which recently named a scholarship in her honor. She also was an executive council member of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

In addition to Jackson, Mrs. McKenzie is survived by son Edmond McKenzie Jr. of Penn Hills; brothers Dan Chappelle of Oakland and Settie Chappelle of Detroit; two grandsons; and a great-grandson.

August Wilson : Pittsburgh Playwright who Chronicled Black Experience; Pulitzer Prize–Winner Succumbs to Liver Cancer at 60 in Seattle, 'Surrounded by His Loved Ones'

Monday, October 3, 2005

By Christopher Rawson



August Wilson (right) with then-Pitt Provost Donald M. Henderson prior to the University's 1992 Honors Convocation.

Last December, Pittsburgh-born playwright August Wilson's thoughts turned to mortality. With his 60th birthday approaching, he said, "There's more [life] behind me than ahead. I think of dying every day. ... At a certain age, you should be prepared to go at any time."

In May, he was diagnosed with liver cancer, and the next month his doctors determined it was inoperable. But he showed that he was indeed prepared, telling the *Post-Gazette* in August, "I've lived a blessed life. I'm ready."

The end came the morning of October 2, 2005, when Mr. Wilson, 60, died in Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, "surrounded by his loved ones," said Dena Levitin, his assistant.

Mr. Wilson took a characteristically wry look at his fate, saying, "It's not like poker; you can't throw your hand in." He also noted that when his longtime friend and producer, Benjamin Mordecai, the only person to work with him on all 10 of his major plays, died this spring, the obituary in *The New York Times* included a picture of him and Mordecai together. "That's what gave God this idea," he said.

The fierce poignancy of his eulogy for Mr. Mordecai in a recent *American Theatre* magazine sounds self-reflexive: "How do we transform loss? ... Time's healing balm is essentially a hoax. ... Haunted by the specter of my own death, I find solace in Ben's life."

Mr. Wilson also told the *Post-Gazette* in August, "I'm glad I finished the cycle," referring to the unprecedented series of 10 plays with which he conquered the American theater. In the process, he opened new avenues for Black artists, changed the way theater approaches race, and changed the business of theater, too.

Often called the Pittsburgh Cycle because all but one play is set in the Hill District of Pittsburgh where Mr. Wilson spent his youth and early adulthood, this unequaled epic chronicles the tragedies and aspirations of African Americans in a play set in each decade of the 20th century.

In dramatizing the glory, anger, promise, and frustration of being Black in America, he created a world of the imagination—August Wilson's Hill District—to rank with such other transformational fictional worlds as Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha, Hardy's Wessex, or Friel's Donegal. Critics from Manhattan to Los Angeles now speak knowingly of "Pittsburgh's Hill District," not just the Hill as it is now or was when Mr. Wilson grew up in the '50s, but August Wilson Country—the archetypal northern urban Black neighborhood, a construct of frustration, nostalgia, anger, and dream.

Mr. Wilson's plays present this world as a crucible in which the identity of Black America has been shaped.

The final play in the cycle—the last written, set in the final decade—is *Radio Golf*. It premiered in March at New Haven's Yale Repertory Theatre, where the earlier plays in the cycle were first produced in the 1980s. Even while suffering from cancer and recovering from a small stroke, Mr. Wilson kept rewriting for the play's second production at Los Angeles' Mark Taper Forum, July 31–September 18, 2005.

There is talk of staging *Radio Golf* later this season on Broadway, where it would be a living memorial along with the August Wilson Theatre, formerly the Virginia, which will be formally renamed on October 17, 2005.

That is just one of many honors extended to Mr. Wilson since it was learned he was dying. Many have been testimonies to the personal impact the dramatic resonance he has found in the African American life has had on Black and White alike.

"While his death was not unexpected, it's a serious blow to the entire theatrical community in the United States and Pittsburgh in particular," said Ted Pappas, artistic and executive director of the Pittsburgh Public Theater, which has staged most of Wilson's work. "August Wilson is one of the seminal figures of 20th-century dramatic art. When we speak of Eugene O'Neill, Tennessee Williams, and Arthur Miller, we will now add the name of August Wilson to that pantheon."

August Wilson was born Frederick August Kittel on April 27, 1945; his family long called him Freddy. His mother, Daisy Wilson, whose own mother had walked north from North Carolina, raised her six children in a cold-water flat behind Bella's grocery on Bedford Avenue in the Hill. She died of lung cancer in March 1983, just before her son's first great success on Broadway.

His father, also Frederick Kittel, was a German baker who died in 1965. "My father very rarely came around," Mr. Wilson said. "I grew up in my mother's household in a cultural environment which was Black." He also had a stepfather, David Bedford, who died in 1969.

There were six children: his older sisters, Freda, Linda Jean, and Donna, and his younger brothers, Edwin and Richard, all of whom survive him. His brothers kept their father's name, but at 20, he signaled his cultural loyalty by taking his mother's, becoming August Wilson.

His sister Freda Ellis was attending St. Benedict the Moor Roman Catholic Church in the Hill District early yesterday afternoon when she learned of her brother's death.

No Longer Living Legends *continued*

"I knew he died in peace, and that's some relief for me," Mrs. Ellis said. "They told me he just couldn't hold on any longer.

"Because our family was so poor, you had to work for anything you wanted, and August worked so hard to become a writer. He deserves the success and the notice because he did work so hard."

Although Mr. Wilson was not the oldest sibling, he was "the patriarch of the family," Mrs. Ellis said.

Mr. Wilson remembered that his mother "had a very hard time feeding us all. But I had a wonderful childhood. ... As a family, we did things together. We said the rosary every night at seven o'clock. We all sat down and had dinner at a certain time. ... We didn't have a TV, so we listened to the radio."

One of his mother's enduring gifts was to teach him to read when he was 4. Mr. Wilson called it transforming: "You can unlock information, and you're better able to understand the forces that are oppressing you."

Years later he told a library celebration, "When I was 5 years old, I got my first library card from the Hill District branch on Wylie Avenue. Labor historians do not speak well of Andrew Carnegie ... [but he] will forever be for me that man who made it all possible for me to be standing here today. ... I wore out my library card and cried when I lost it."

His mother also valued education, sending him to St. Richard's parochial school in the Hill, then to Central Catholic High School in Oakland. As the only Black student in the school, he was constantly taunted and harassed, so he left just before the end of his freshman year.

He started the next year at Connelley Vo-Tech, which he found pointless, so he switched to Gladstone High School, just across the street from the Hazelwood home the family had moved to when he was 12. He was supposedly in the 10th grade but because he hadn't graduated from the ninth at Central, they had him taking ninth-grade subjects. The work was well behind what he had already done, so he was bored and didn't work at it until he decided he wanted to get into the after-school college club run by one of the teachers.

It was that teacher who, in an often-told story, doubted he'd written a 20-page paper on Napoleon he submitted. Insulted, the future August Wilson dropped out of school at 15 and for a while didn't tell his mother.

"I dropped out of school, but I didn't drop out of life," he recalled. "I would leave the house each morning and go to the main branch of the Carnegie Library in Oakland where they had all the books in the world. ... I felt suddenly liberated from the constraints of a pre-arranged curriculum that labored through one book in eight months."

The other important part of his education came on the streets of the Hill. He once told an interviewer, "Pittsburgh is a very hard city, especially if you're Black," and another, "When I was 22 years old, each day had to be continually negotiated. It was rough." As he memorably put it, "I grew up without a father. When I was 20, I went down onto Centre Avenue to learn from the community how to be a man."

That community provided many fathers—the old men chatting in Pat's Place or on street corners; the inhabitants of the diners where Wilson sat and listened; like-minded friends with artistic inclinations. His true father was both the small community that nurtured him and the larger Pittsburgh that, by opposing, stimulated and defined.

He rented a room and worked at many jobs. He discovered the blues. He followed various Black identity movements and fought for social justice. And he featured himself a poet, sitting in diners, scribbling on napkins.

"The exact day I became a poet was April 1, 1965, the day I bought my first typewriter," using $20 Freda paid him for writing a term paper for her on Robert Frost and Carl Sandburg.

Many years later he recalled, "The first time I became aware of theater was Pearl Bailey in 'Hello, Dolly,' around 1958, 1959. My mother was in New York and brought back the program, her first and only Broadway show."

In the late '60s, Mr. Wilson became part of a talented group of poets, educators, and artists of the future, young men such as Rob Penny, Nick Flournoy, and Chawley Williams, with regular haunts at the Halfway Art Gallery and the Hill Arts Society. Mr. Wilson remembered that "I always had a napkin and a pencil. That's one of the things about writing—the tools are so simple."

He was involved in the debates of the '60s and continued to consider himself "a Black nationalist and a cultural nationalist." He and his friends formed the Centre Avenue Poets Theater Workshop. Later, he and Mr. Penny started the Black Horizon Theater, which toured, and they were involved in the Kuntu Repertory Theater.

But Mr. Wilson's first brushes with theater had been off-putting. In 1965, he saw a 30-minute excerpt of *The Rhinoceros* at Fifth Avenue High School. "That was the first theater I recall, and I wasn't impressed." He met some of the actors in John Hancock's 1966 Pittsburgh Playhouse company, but he stayed for only 20 minutes of Bertolt Brecht's *A Man's a Man*. It was 1976 before Mr. Wilson saw a whole, professional play, Athol Fugard's *Sizwe Bansi Is Dead*, a comi-tragic account of life under apartheid at the Pittsburgh Public Theatre.

But in 1968, Mr. Penny wrote a play and the Tulane Drama Review had a special issue on Black theater. "That was the first time I'd seen Black plays in print—there hadn't been any plays on the Negro shelf at the library. So we did them all."

Mr. Wilson's first staged play was *Recycle*, which drew on the unhappy 1972 termination of his 1969 marriage to Brenda Burton. (A happy result was their daughter, Sakina Ansari, born in 1970.) Two other one-act plays from this time are *Homecoming* and *The Coldest Day of the Year*. Soon thereafter, his friend Claude Purdy moved to St. Paul, Minn., to work with its Black theater group, Penumbra, and he soon invited Mr. Wilson to join him.

In 1978, he went, taking with him a satirical play, *Black Bart and the Sacred Hills*, adapted from his poems at Mr. Purdy's suggestion. They did a workshop of *Black Bart* in St. Paul, and Mr. Wilson stayed. In 1981, he was married for the second time, to Judy Oliver, a friend of Mr. Purdy's wife.

Mr. Wilson once explained that St. Paul and Seattle—cool, northern, Scandinavian cities—appealed to him precisely because of their unlikeness to Pittsburgh, allowing him to look back more intently at the true material of August Wilson Country, source of his rich stream of stories, characters, images, and conflicts.

He called *Jitney*, written in St. Paul in 1979, his first real play. He submitted it twice unsuccessfully to the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference, and it was staged in Pittsburgh by the small Allegheny Repertory Theater in 1982. He unsuccessfully submitted three other early plays to the O'Neill before *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* was accepted.

At the O'Neill, Wilson met the artistic director, Lloyd Richards, dean of the Yale Drama School, head of the professional Yale Repertory Theater, and director of the breakthrough Broadway staging 25 years earlier of the most influential modern Black American play, Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*.

It was a turning point in both lives. Mr. Richards was the artistic father and collaborator Mr. Wilson needed, an experienced director who taught him stagecraft and helped him learn to rewrite. Mr. Wilson's plays were a gift to Mr. Richards, who went on to direct the first six from workshop to Broadway.

Ma Rainey went quickly from the O'Neill to its premiere at Yale Rep to Broadway. Then time sped up, often with one play in initial workshop, another on Broadway and a third midway from one point to the other, simultaneously.

In 1990, Mr. Wilson's second marriage ended, and he moved to Seattle. In 1994, he married Constanza Romero, a costume designer—his third marriage, one in each of his three home cities—and together they had a daughter, Azula Carmen Wilson, in 1997.

Even as a nonresident, Mr. Wilson remained a good Pittsburgh citizen, visiting frequently to see his family and friends. On several occasions, such as the 1988 Carnegie Institute Man and Ideas series, 1992 University of Pittsburgh Honors Convocation and 2000 Heinz Lecture Series, he delivered uplifting but accusatory addresses about the Black position in American history and culture, talking across the great national racial divide with prophetic force.

He also came to praise, as at the 1998 *Affirmation of the Blues*, a benefit for Community Media at the Carnegie Lecture Hall. Woven out of a love of African American community and art, it was shot through with threads of reminiscence over shared early struggles and joys. Honored with him that night were such "elders" as Billy Jackson of Community Media and Kuntu Repertory founder Vernell Lillie, who remembered Mr. Wilson yesterday as "a brilliant director and poet—a gentle, creative man who loved the arts."

He also came back to Pittsburgh to work. He was resident at the Pittsburgh Public Theater in 1996 to revise *Jitney* for its professional debut and again in 1999 to prepare the premiere of *King Hedley II*, which had the honor of opening the new $20 million O'Reilly Theater in the Cultural District.

In 1994, he was in Pittsburgh to coproduce the filming of *The Piano Lesson* for television, the only one of his plays so far to make it to the screen. He even came to speak of the beauty of this city which he had not always loved. In 1994, he said, "Like most people, I have this sort of love-hate relationship with Pittsburgh. This is my home, and at times I miss it and find it tremendously exciting, and other times I want to catch the first thing out that has wheels."

He had come back for six weeks earlier that year, he said, "to reconnect with Pittsburgh, do some writing here—this is fertile ground." The city remained the deep well of memory into which he kept dipping the ladle of his art.

His most popular play, *Fences*, was long ago optioned for film, but Mr. Wilson insisted on a Black director of his choice, and although he wrote several screenplays, the project is still in the offing.

But on stage, his clout is great. With his one Tony, two Pulitzers, three American Theatre Critics Awards, and seven New York Drama Critics Circle awards, he has become the flagship of contemporary Black theater. In a roundtable discussion among four Black playwrights in 1999, Marion McClinton said, "When theaters make money on August Wilson, they might say, 'Let's do two [Black plays] next year.'"

In 1996, he took on a spokesman role, proclaiming his protest against the marginalization of Black theater in a keynote address at the annual convention of professional regional theaters. This led to his very public dispute with critic/producer Robert Brustein, culminating in their January 1997 public debate in New York City that put theater back at the center of the national debate about race and culture.

He was surprised to be called "rich" in a *New Yorker* profile but agreed he was not poor. If you invested $1 in August Wilson in 1984, when *Ma Rainey* hit Broadway, he said, "You'd have gotten it back and maybe 40 cents more."

His awards were many, including more than two dozen honorary doctorates (from the University of Pittsburgh among others), Rockefeller and Guggenheim Fellowships, a National Humanities Medal, the 2003 Heinz Award in Humanities and Arts, and the only high school diploma issued by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. He was a member of both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

He also anchored his own achievements in his heritage. At the Pittsburgher of the Year ceremony in 1990, he said,

> "I was born in Pittsburgh in 1945 and for 33 years stumbled through its streets, small, narrow, crooked, cobbled, with the weight of the buildings pressing in on me and my spirit pushed into terrifying contractions. That I would stand before you today in this guise was beyond comprehension ... . I am standing here in my grandfather's shoes. ... They are the shoes of a whole generation of men who left a life of unspeakable horror in the South and came North ... searching for jobs, for the opportunity to live a life with dignity and whatever eloquence the heart could call upon. ... The cities were not then, and are not now, hospitable. There is a struggle to maintain one's dignity. But that generation of men and women stands as a testament to the resiliency of the human spirit. And they have passed on to us, their grandchildren, the greatest of gifts, the gift of hope refreshened."

Asked for his own greatest accomplishment, he said he would like to be known as "the guy who wrote these 10 plays."

More specifically, "after I wrote Loomis' speech [in *Joe Turner*] about seeing the bones" on the track of the Atlantic route of the slaver-traders, "I thought, as an artist, right there, I'd be satisfied."

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette *staff writers Nate Guidry and Bob Hoover contributed to this report.*

K. Leroy Irvis : Former Pennsylvania Speaker of the House, a University of Pittsburgh Alumnus, and Former Trustee, Died March 16, 2006

The following obituary originally appeared in the March 20, 2006, Pitt Chronicle.

By Maddy Ross

K. Leroy Irvis
Irvis was instrumental in the passage of 264 Pennsylvania bills, which then became law. One was the bill that made Pitt a state-related institution (shown at right). It was signed into law on July 28, 1966.

University of Pittsburgh alumnus and former trustee K. Leroy Irvis, whose dazzling oratory and political passion defined a 31-year career in public life, culminating in his election as the first African American speaker of a state house in the nation since Reconstruction, died this morning.

Irvis, 89, rose through the leadership ranks in the Pennsylvania General Assembly by employing the unlikely combination of fiery exhortations—against racial injustice, educational indifference, and political expedience—and tender coalition-building, sometimes employing his poetry and sculpting.

In so doing, he was instrumental in the passage of 264 Pennsylvania bills on the most contentious issues of the time, which then became law. He was a key proponent of such legislative achievements as the creation of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, the Higher Education Equal Opportunity Program, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, the community college system, and the law that made the University of Pittsburgh a state-related university in 1966, saving it from financial ruin.

"Those privileged to be in the company of Speaker Irvis always were impressed by his dignity, his strength of character, and his determination to make this world a better place," said University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. "He was an articulate and effective advocate, both because he spoke from the heart and because he addressed everyone with respect. His rich legacy of pioneering achievement and social impact will be remembered and celebrated for decades to come."

Irvis succeeded in passing civil rights reforms in human services, health care, prison conditions, and fair housing. His was a powerful voice for peace during Pittsburgh's Hill District riots after the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

In his speech on the occasion of his historic election as speaker in 1977, Irvis told the House,

"You have elected not a Black man to be speaker of the House of Representatives, but, more importantly, you have elected a man who happens to be Black, and that is the direction that this country must continue to go."

In the Name and by Authority of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Governor's Office

This is to certify that the pen hereunto affixed was used by me in approving House Bill Number 2, Printer's Number 29, introduced by Messrs. Irvis, Gallagher, Klein, R. K. Hamilton, T. F. Sullivan, Bonetto, Johnson, McNally, Leonard, Lutty, Filo, Walsh, Zemprelli, Lamb, J. F. Clarke, Fenrich, Foerster, Homer and others.

Entitled "An Act providing for the establishment and operation of the University of Pittsburgh as an instrumentality of the Commonwealth to serve as a State-related university in the higher education system of the Commonwealth; providing for change of name; providing for the composition of the board of trustees; terms of trustees, and the power and duties of such trustees; authorizing appropriations in amounts to be fixed annually by the General Assembly; providing for the auditing of accounts of expenditures from said appropriations; providing for public support and capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of bonds exempt from taxation within the Commonwealth; requiring the chancellor to make an annual report of the operations of the University of Pittsburgh."

which became a Law July 28, 1966, being Act Number 3, of the Pamphlet Laws of The Third Special Session of 1966.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth in the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-eighth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six.

William W. Scranton

By the Governor:

W. Stuart Helm
Secretary of the Commonwealth

No Longer Living Legends *continued*

When the South Office Building of the Pennsylvania Capitol Complex was renamed the Speaker K. Leroy Irvis Office Building, in his honor, Governor Ed Rendell called Irvis "one of Pennsylvania's greatest citizens and perhaps its greatest legislator." Democratic Leader H. William DeWeese called Irvis "one of the most respected and beloved legislators in state history."

Irvis was elected speaker of the House four times; the first, in 1977, was unanimous by acclamation. The only other House speaker to have received that honor was Benjamin Franklin.

K. Leroy Irvis organized the first demonstration against Pittsburgh department stores.

As a leader, Irvis pushed many reforms to promote government efficiency and fairness, such as the formation of the House Ethics Committee and the Legislative Audit Advisory Commission as well as the introduction of lobbyist registration.

Irvis, who was born in 1916 in Saugerties, N.Y., received a bachelor's degree in history and English and a master's degree in teaching from what is now the University at Albany, State University of New York.

He began his teaching career in the Baltimore, Md., public schools, interrupting it during World War II when he taught aircraft riveting for the war effort.

In 1945, he moved to Pittsburgh to work with the Urban League. While his Pittsburgh life expanded his interests—he worked as a steel chipper for Crucible Steel, [served as] a news writer and broadcaster for the *Pittsburgh Courier*, and got involved in operating a toy manufacturing company—it also strengthened his resolve in his abiding commitment to racial justice.

He organized the first demonstration against Pittsburgh department stores for their discriminatory hiring and customer service practices against Blacks. Soon afterward, the store policies were reformed.

Irvis entered Pitt's School of Law in 1951 and received his degree in 1954. He then was appointed assistant district attorney of Allegheny County, one of the first Black attorneys to hold that position. In private practice he argued cases in commonwealth, district, and federal courts.

His political career began in 1958, when he was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He served 15 consecutive terms representing the historic Hill District of Pittsburgh.

He was the first Black representative to be elected to House leadership, when he became Democratic caucus chairman, and he subsequently rose through the ranks as majority caucus chairman, minority leader, and majority leader. In 1977, he became speaker.

Numerous organizations have honored Irvis for his public service, including Clarion University of Pennsylvania, which in December 2005 bestowed upon him the honorary Doctor of Laws degree, and the University of Pittsburgh, which established the K. Leroy Irvis Fellowships for graduate students and presented him with the 2004 School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award. His archives are housed in the K. Leroy Irvis Reading Room in Pitt's Hillman Library.

Pitt also produced a 2004 video on the life of Irvis titled *K. Leroy Irvis: The Lion of Pennsylvania*, which was narrated by Julian Bond and shown on public television.

In the video, Irvis reflects not only on his public life, but also on his art, including wood sculpting, model airplane building, and poetry. Even as he physically weakened, his voice—still with his hallmark of deliberate diction in the timbre of a lion—can be heard at the end of the video reading his poetry about lions and the bronze bars that keep them in.

Irvis is survived by his wife, Cathryn L. Edwards Irvis; a son, Reginald D.; a daughter, Sherri L. Irvis-Hill; and four grandchildren.

Remarks of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg at the Funeral of Speaker K. Leroy Irvis
St. Paul's Cathedral, 10 a.m., March 21, 2006

Good morning. I am Mark Nordenberg, chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh. It is my privilege to join Bishop Wuerl, Governor Rendell, Representative DeWeese, my friend and former student Mark Schwartz, Mrs. Irvis, other members of the Irvis family, and each of you as we gather to mourn the passing and celebrate the life of K. Leroy Irvis. The speaker, of course, forged a life of pioneering impact through public service that has earned him a place on history's list of great Pennsylvanians. To many of us in Pittsburgh, particularly here in Oakland, the speaker also was a neighbor, a mentor, and a friend—a wise and encouraging presence who will be sorely missed.

Pitt, as an institution, is proud to claim Speaker Irvis as a graduate. It is an institution that benefited from his service as a trustee for more than three decades. And it is an institution that is committed to preserving and showcasing both the body of his historic work and the power of his inspiring example—through the archives we have organized, the reading room we have constructed, and the documentary we have produced.

That documentary, *K. Leroy Irvis: The Lion of Pennsylvania*, could not have been more aptly titled because it traces the life of a person characterized—like the lion—by his strength, his courage, and his almost regal bearing. Speaker Irvis, in the role of poet, also wrote about lions. This is what he said.

Lions and great bronze bars speak not the same language.
Lions are for roaming, great in their strength and freedom.
But bars are to keep lions in and to keep out all whom lions would see and possibly love.
So when bars ask: lions, what may we do to assuage your pain?
Lions weep, for lions know: bars and lions speak not the same language.

K. Leroy Irvis, on his way to the top of the Pennsylvania legislature, meeting with President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter

In a very real sense, Mr. Irvis spent his life working to get people to speak the same language—knowing that once they were speaking they would be better positioned to confront common problems and work together to create a better, more just society. He was a lifelong leader in the struggle against society's bars to equal access and opportunity. He led by publicly proclaiming his own belief in the worth of every individual and in the bonds of human fellowship. He believed in the power of education—both as a key to individual improvement and as the great equalizer in American society. His effectiveness as an advocate was enhanced by his passionate, but always well reasoned, oratory. He cared about other people, and that caring shaped both his public and his private life.

Long before he was taken from us by the ravages of cancer, the poet Irvis wrote, "I am sick of an old sickness, weary of an old pain." In yet another poem titled "A Friend Dies," he wrote,

So, let the heart be still.
Let all pain disappear.
Let fear fade and be forever gone.
Death comes always as a stillness, a quiet.
Death comes always as a friend.

It is almost as if he were reaching out through a poem written years ago to comfort us today.

In a handwritten note also penned some years ago and now a part of his archives, Speaker Irvis left a brief passage that captured much of the tenor of his expansive, committed, optimistic approach to life. "Thank you for the dawn of this new day," he said. "Make my mind open and receptive to the good that each experience and challenge holds for me. My positive attitude will make this day one of accomplishment and joy."

Those privileged to know Speaker Irvis always were impressed by his dignity, his character, and his determination. His life, marked by high achievement and broad impact, helped create for each of us the dawn of a new day. We and generations to come shall remember, continue to benefit from, and celebrate his rich and lasting legacy. Hopefully, each of us can find ways to add to that legacy, as well. In that way, we would do real honor to the life and memory of this extraordinary man.

K. Leroy Irvis (left), presents Hannibal, his sculpture evoking the timeless strength of the eponymous Carthaginian military commander, to Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill as a token of the friendship he and his wife shared with Hill.

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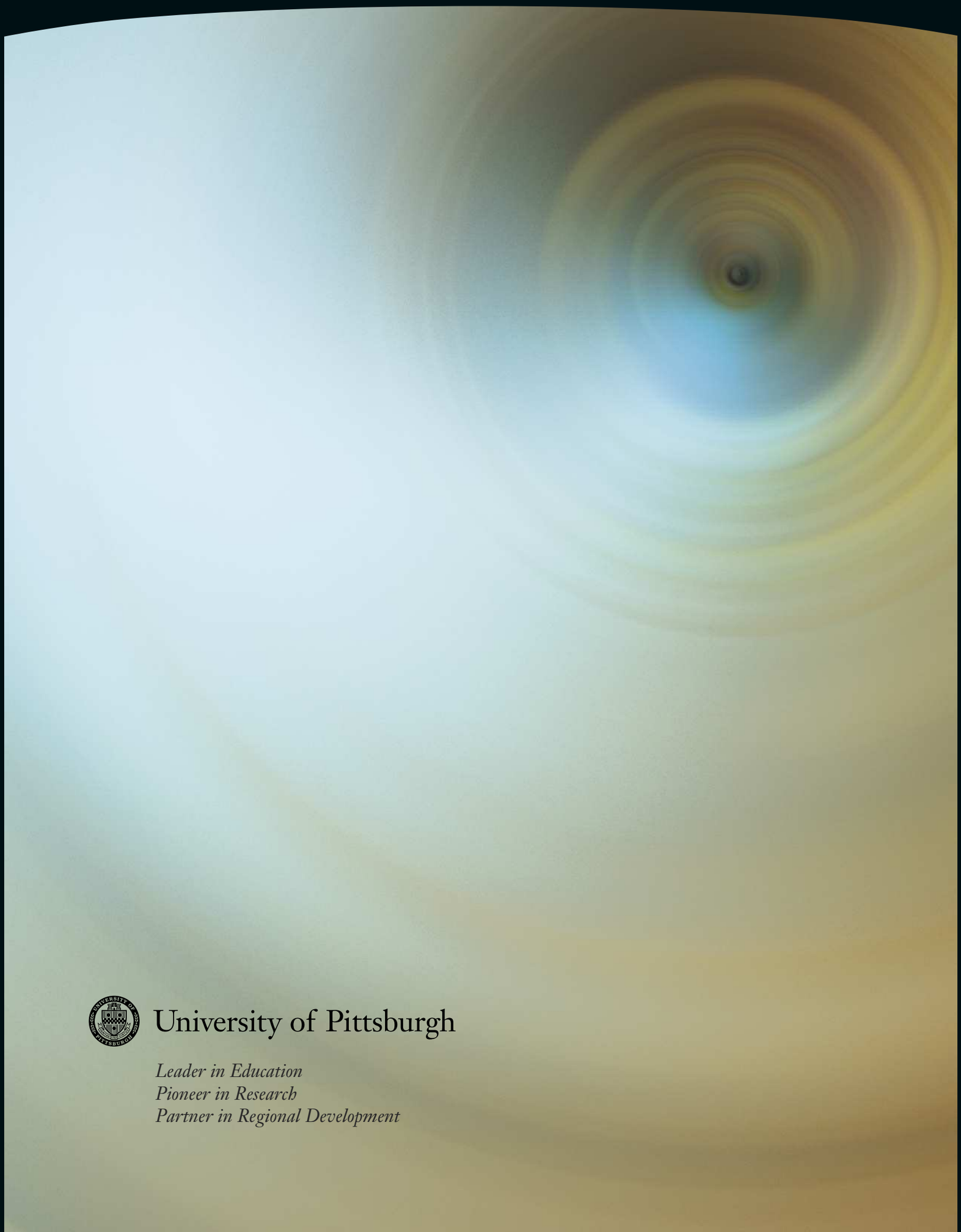
Mark A. Nordenberg, Chancellor



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