

# PITT iiii PUBLIC HEALTH

*Portraits of*  
**PUBLIC  
HEALTH**

*Building  
for a*  
**HEALTHIER  
WORLD**

*2012*  
**ALUMNI**  
*Awards*

*and  
more  
...*

“Construction like this is an indicator of the pulse of a campus and the school. It says a lot about the Graduate School of Public Health and the University.”

**Todd Reinhart**, professor, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, and director, Center for Lymphatic Immunobiology

Pitt Public Health Magazine

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# Portraits of Progress

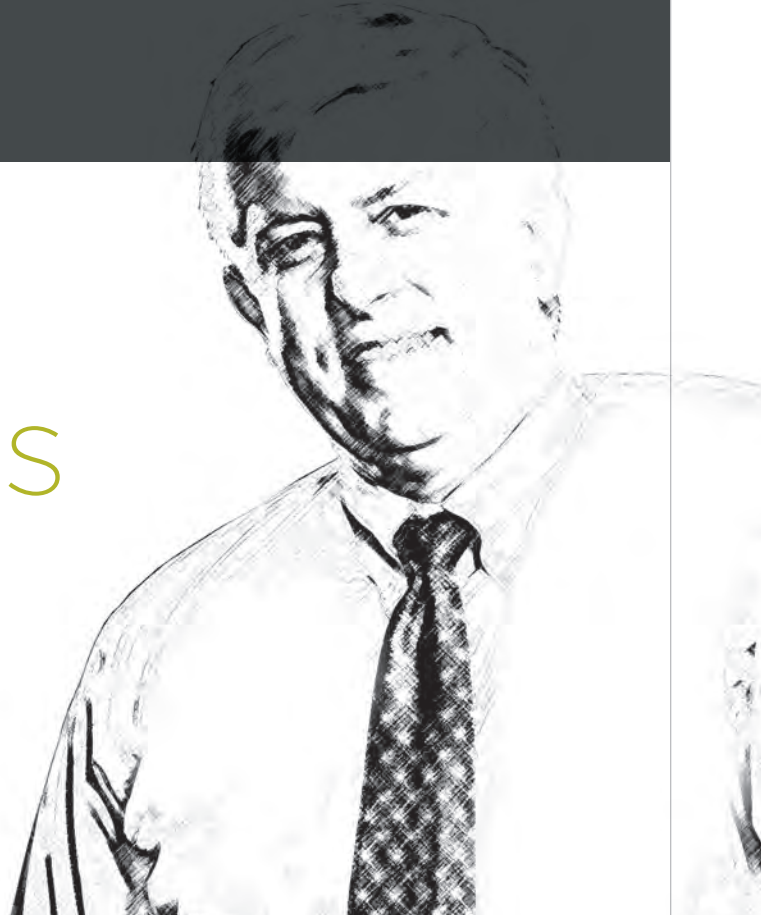
## *We made it! What a year.*

We had our share of serious challenges this year. Funding cuts imperiled higher education in Pennsylvania. A string of bomb threats disrupted the University. The directorship of the Allegheny County Health Department changed, for the first time in decades. Marcellus shale gas drilling inexorably expanded. The long hoped for prevention provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act were threatened by legal challenges. Across the planet concerns mounted about financial instability. But we made it. Everyone at Pitt Public Health pulled together with extraordinary poise and professionalism. And once again at the end of the year, the best part of being dean was being able to congratulate our new graduates!

In every challenge there is opportunity, and we at Pitt Public Health are seizing our opportunities. We continue not only to build a healthier world—figuratively—through our outstanding research and practice contributions in areas such as biostatistics, epidemiology, genetics, and infectious diseases, but I am pleased to report that we are also—literally—building and renovating our facilities. Construction and renovation of the Pitt Graduate School of Public Health is the subject of the cover story (see page 13) of this “renovated” re-launch issue of *Pitt Public Health* magazine.

The University of Pittsburgh now ranks third in the country among public institutions of higher education and fifth among all universities, public and private, in its federally financed research and development expenditures. Pitt Public Health consistently ranks in the top five among all schools of public health nationwide in National Institutes of Health funding. With the addition of a \$32 million state-of-the-art laboratory pavilion adjacent to Parran Hall (scheduled for completion in late 2013), we will become even more successful in winning research awards.

Next, major upgrades to Parran and Crabtree halls will be done in the second phase of construction (scheduled for completion



in 2015), after which the learning and work environments will be transformed so that we will be able to attract even more high-quality students and faculty researchers. We will design the renovations so as to foster interdisciplinary engagement, bringing people together across disciplinary boundaries. There will be a balance between preserving departments as important pedagogical entities and encouraging collaboration across key interdisciplinary interfaces.

On a more personal level, in this issue I give a brief tour of the dean's office suite on the sixth floor of Crabtree Hall. There, I have assembled a collection of artifacts and artwork, some with historical and some with personal significance, which I believe tell a very human story that relates to our work in public health, a “portrait of progress” if you will. You can read that story on page 10, and let us know what you think.

This issue also celebrates progress in the form of the accomplishments of Pitt Public Health faculty and students (see the School Highlights and Pitt Public Health in the World sections, page 3 and 20, respectively) and alumni, especially Pitt Legacy Laureate Robert J. Henkel (MPH '83), the school's Distinguished Alumni Award and Margaret F. Gloninger Service Award recipients, and Delta Omega initiates (see Alumni, page 18).

Finally, the Building for a Healthier World capital campaign is making progress, and I invite you to learn more about how you might become involved in it. Led by campaign chairs Bernard Goldstein and Peter Salk, the campaign recently marked a major milestone in the funding of the laboratory pavilion (see page 17), but there is still much to be done.

Even in difficult years such as this, I am proud to be dean of such an extraordinary institution. As always, I am grateful for your support of Pitt Public Health. ●

*Donald S. Burke*

Donald S. Burke, Dean



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## Pitt Public Health in the World

# School Highlights



To learn more about the achievements, news, and research of Pitt Public Health, go to [www.publichealth.pitt.edu](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu) and visit the news section.

## PNC Executive Named Head of Pitt Public Health Board of Visitors



**Eva Tansky Blum**, the senior vice president and director of community affairs for PNC Bank, a member of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., has been named the chair of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health's Board of Visitors.

Blum (A&S '70, LAW '73) brings with her decades of experience in philanthropy and community involvement. In addition to her role at PNC Bank, where she works with businesses and regional presidents in support of PNC's community initiatives, Blum is chairwoman and president of The PNC Foundation. She directs the company's philanthropic programs, including PNC Grow Up Great, a \$350 million dollar, multi-year initiative that began in 2004 to help prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and life.

"Eva will be a great asset to the board and the school. She joins the board with a thorough understanding of our mission and goals. We look forward to drawing on her vast experience with the University and with the community at large," said Dean Donald S. Burke.

Blum sits on the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees and co-chairs Pitt's \$2 billion capital campaign. She also serves on the University of Pittsburgh School of Law Board of Visitors and is the past president of the University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association.

A member of both the Pennsylvania and Allegheny County bar associations, Blum serves on the board of directors of the Business Civic Leadership Center, is a member of the honor board of WQED Multimedia, serves on the advisory board of the Carnegie Science Center, and is a board trustee for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.

Blum is taking over the chair responsibilities of Lee B. Foster II, who will remain on the Board of Visitors. Foster, chairman of the board at the L.B. Foster Company, has served as chair for four years. With members of his family, Foster established in his father's name the Jay L. Foster Memorial Lecture and Resource Fund in Alzheimer's Disease at Pitt Public Health. He also is a trustee of the Adrienne and Milton Porter Charitable Foundation, which funds the Porter Prize at Pitt Public Health; the prize was established in 1983 by Foster's aunt and late uncle, Adrienne and Milton Porter.

The Pitt Public Health Board of Visitors oversees the school's educational objectives, strategic planning, and programming. The board is composed of top experts in public health, alumni, and corporate and civic leaders. ●





## Panel Examines the Role of Literature, Film in Public Health with Community

As the 1854 cholera outbreak spread through London's Soho district, one man, John Snow, challenged the leading public health theories of the time to build the case that cholera is a water-borne illness. His theory ultimately was correct, and this milestone in public health later earned him the nickname "Father of Modern Epidemiology."

Pitt Public Health annually invites the campus and Pittsburgh community to learn about such remarkable milestones in public health through the One Book, One Community program. Now in its third year, One Book, One Community concluded this academic year by examining the work of John Snow through the free, public showing of the live-action film, *Snow*, on March 22 to more than 130 attendees.

The Pittsburgh premier of *Snow* was attended by writer and director Isaac Ergas, who introduced his film and participated on a panel of faculty members from Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health and Film Studies Program. Students, faculty, staff, and members of the Pittsburgh community were educated about the

responsibility of filmmakers to represent historical and scientific accuracy in film, the role for film and storytelling in public health, artistic decisions that need to be made in making a film about public health, and how films can be used to educate children in schools around the world.

The One Book, One Community 2011-12 program centered around the book *The Ghost Map*, by Steven Johnson, which examined in detail the cholera outbreak in London. All members of the Pitt Public Health community were invited to join together in reading this book and meet throughout the year for related events and discussions, such as the screening of the movies *Foul Water*, *Fiery Serpent*, *Flow*, and *Snow*. Several courses also integrated the book into the curriculum. ●



More information about Pitt's One Book, One Community is available online at [www.publichealth.pitt.edu/1bk1com](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/1bk1com)

## Faculty Awards in Brief

**Felicia Wu**, associate professor of environmental and occupational health, received a 2011 SCOPE-Zhongyu Young Scientist Award on Environmental Issues for her research on environmental management, through a competitive nomination and review process. The SCOPE-Zhongyu Environmental Awards recognize and encourage outstanding scientists who contribute to the improvement of the world environment through promotion of environmental sciences, technology innovation, and sustainable policy and management. Only three such awards were given in 2011.

**Jane A. Cauley**, professor of epidemiology, received the 2011 Frederic C. Barter Award from The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR). The Frederic C. Barter Award is among ASBMR's esteemed awards and is given to one member annually in recognition of outstanding clinical investigation in disorders of bone and mineral metabolism. Cauley joins 25 previous awardees. ●



**Felicia Wu**  
Associate Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health



**Jane A. Cauley**  
Professor of Epidemiology



To read more about faculty awards, please visit [www.publichealth.pitt.edu/faculty](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/faculty)



**Steve Albert**  
 Chair of the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

## Optimal Aging Expert Appointed Chair of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

**Steven M. Albert**, PhD, MSPH, has been appointed chair of the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences (BCHS). Albert's research examines how societies can ensure optimal aging. This effort includes a wide variety of topics, from how health in midlife affects prospects for old age to ways people can maintain quality of life at the end of life. Albert's efforts focus directly on physical, cognitive, and mental health, rather than primary prevention of chronic disease alone, because the changes of aging directly affect these domains.

"Steve is an outstanding scientist and researcher. He has done leading work on the functional significance of cognitive and physical impairment and its broader impact on health outcomes. He carried this exceptional research forward in the areas of Alzheimer's disease, HIV-related dementia, and in non-demented older adults," said

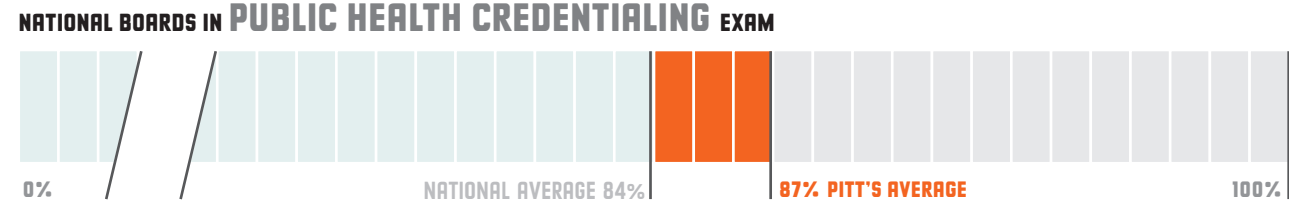
Dean Donald S. Burke. "He is also a highly respected member of our faculty and will be a dynamic leader of the department."

Previously, Albert was professor with tenure in BCHS and associate chair. He is a past fellow at the Gerontology Society of America and was an associate professor of clinical sociomedical sciences at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and College of Physicians and Surgeons. He also was assistant professor of neuropsychology in neurology at Columbia University.

Albert received a master's degree from the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago and a doctoral degree from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago. He also received a master's degree from Columbia University's Division of Epidemiology in the School of Public Health. ●

## Pitt Public Health Students Surpass National Public Health Exam Average

This year, graduating students from Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health received a special graduation gift from Dean Burke: the school sponsored any graduating student who wanted to take the new national boards in public health credentialing exam. Pitt had an 87 percent pass rate, above the national average of 84 percent. Congratulations! ●



## Expert in Aging and Public Health Named Chair of Epidemiology



An internationally renowned expert in aging and public health, **Anne B. Newman**, has been chosen to lead the Department of Epidemiology. Through research and clinical practice, Newman has shown people how to remain productive, active, and healthy as they age.

The recipient of numerous federal grants, Newman researches the medical, behavioral, and genetic determinants of healthy aging. She has found that diseases—while still in the early and asymptomatic stages—can affect physical, cognitive, and muscle function, and contribute to frailty as people age. Her work on body composition and fitness established the negative impact of high body fat on strength and walking performance, and the importance of fitness to overall function in aging.

“Dr. Newman is an outstanding medical scientist who will be taking the helm of a very successful department,” said Dean Burke. “With her exceptional track record of grants and publications and the breadth of her knowledge and expertise, she is unquestionably the best person for the job.”

Newman has been a professor of epidemiology at Pitt since 2005 and directs the school’s Center for Aging and Population Health.

Newman has published more than 300 manuscripts in major medical journals and has served on numerous advisory panels for the National Institutes of Health and other health agencies. She is associate editor of the *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Science* and a member of the American Epidemiology Society. She holds an MD and MPH from the University of Pittsburgh. ●

**Anne B. Newman**

Chair of the Department of Epidemiology

## Pitt Public Health Investigation into Rare Blood Disorder Cluster Expands to Question Family Members

An investigation into a potential cluster of a rare and mysterious blood disorder in eastern Pennsylvania has led University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health scientists to expand their questioning to next-of-kin.

Pitt Public Health investigators will visit Carbon, Luzerne, and Schuylkill counties to evaluate whether there is an abnormal incidence of a rare blood disorder that leads to blood clots, heart attacks, and strokes. This will be one of the last in a series of visits that started in 2009.

“We need to talk to all residents or surviving family members who have been diagnosed with polycythemia vera (PV) and related blood disorders known as myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs),” said Jeanine Buchanich, deputy director of epidemiology for Pitt’s Center for Occupational Biostatistics and Epidemiology. “While other studies have indicated a higher incidence of these disorders in this tri-county region, it’s important that we determine the true number of cases.”

PV is a rare illness that causes the body to produce too many red blood cells. The condition is uncomfortable and can

cause hands to become red and hot. The primary treatment is regular phlebotomy, where blood is removed from the patient and discarded. It is believed to be caused by a genetic mutation. However, patients are not born with the mutation, leading scientists to believe that environmental exposure to benzene, petroleum products, or radiation could be a factor.

MPNs include blood disorders or blood cancers, such as essential thrombocythemia (ET), primary myelofibrosis (PMF), and chronic myeloid leukemia (CML).

“If research indicates a cluster of PV or MPNs, then experts may be able to identify a common source,” said Buchanich.

Eastern Pennsylvania is home to several brownfields, including a former waste coal-fired power plant identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a superfund site.

This research study is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and is scheduled to conclude in September 2012. ●





**Nina Markovic**  
Assistant Professor of  
Epidemiology and Associate  
Professor of Dental Medicine

**Ronald Stall**  
Professor and Director

**Anthony Silvestre**  
Professor of Infectious Diseases  
and Microbiology

## Pitt Launches Unique Center for LGBT Health Research

Sexual minorities often have a greater risk for health problems but there is little research to help understand why. Pitt's new Center for LGBT Health Research, formerly the Center for Research on Health and Sexual Orientation, will work to understand and improve the health of sexual minority individuals.

Pitt's Center for LGBT Health Research is among the first of its kind as a center located in a school of public health with a focus on health disparities among LGBT populations; also, the center has launched the first LGBT health educational certificate program in the world.

The center is codirected by **Ronald Stall**, former chair of the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences,

**Anthony Silvestre**, professor of infectious diseases and microbiology, co-investigator of the Pitt Men's Study, and director of the Pennsylvania Prevention Project, and **Nina Markovic**, assistant professor of epidemiology and associate professor of dental medicine. The center combines the research efforts of more than 20 faculty members across the school who boast a strong publication record with 77 peer-reviewed publications in the past five years, invited data presentations to meetings sponsored by the U.S. Senate and White House, and a T32 Training Program in HIV research among men seeking men, the first such program funded by the National Institutes of Health. ●

## Sally Morton Appointed to Scientific Advisory Committee



The U.S. Census Bureau named 10 new members and a chairwoman to the Census Bureau's Scientific Advisory Committee, which provides advice on the design and implementation of Census Bureau programs.

Among the appointees was **Sally Morton**, chair of the Department of Biostatistics.

"We are excited to add such an array of expertise to our existing committee," said Robert Groves, director of the U.S. Census Bureau. "These are leading voices from the scientific community, offering the kind of experience and outside perspective that the Census Bureau needs as we adjust to the future of data collection while enhancing our traditional commitment to statistical quality."

*"These are leading voices from the scientific community, offering the kind of experience and outside perspective that the Census Bureau needs"*

Before joining Pitt, Morton was vice president for statistics and epidemiology at RTI International in North Carolina, head of the RAND Corporation's statistics group, and co-director of the Southern California Evidence-based Practice Center. She is chair-elect of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was the 2009 president of the American Statistical Association, and is a fellow of the ASA. She is a founding editor of *Statistics, Politics, and Policy* and has served as a member of several Institute of Medicine (IOM) committees concerning systematic reviews and comparative effectiveness. She holds a PhD in statistics from Stanford University. ●

## Drug Costs, Not Volume, Causes Regional Differences in Medicare Drug Spending

The cost of medications through Medicare's subsidized prescription drug program varies from region to region across the United States largely due to the use of more expensive brand-name drugs and not because of the amount of drugs prescribed, according to a study led by researchers from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. The authors said that more efficient prescribing practices could have saved the Medicare program and its beneficiaries \$4.5 billion.

The study results, which appeared in the February 9, 2012 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, suggest increased use of lower-cost generic medications could substantially reduce drug spending and beneficiary out-of-pocket costs without compromising quality of care or health. In addition, regional costs per prescription closely parallel the use of brand-named drugs.

The research suggests the Medicare Part D benefit design, which promotes cost-sharing and utilization management, may be an important tool for boosting the use of generic drugs in the program and saving money, particularly in high-cost regions, said Julie M. Donohue, PhD, associate professor of health policy and management and lead author of the study.

"Promoting the use of generics could greatly lower out-of-pocket costs for patients and save Medicare money. Lower costs could potentially lead to improved adherence to medication regimens, which in turn would lead to overall improvements in health," Donohue said.

Studies have shown that there are differences in Medicare drug spending across the United States, but until now the reasons behind those differences have not been well understood.

Donohue's team examined 2008 Medicare data for 4.7 million

beneficiaries. In addition to studying overall medication use, they looked at three drug categories widely prescribed to the elderly: blood pressure medications, cholesterol-lowering statins, and newer antidepressants. These data were analyzed across hospital referral regions and adjusted for demographic, socioeconomic, and health status differences.

They found that mean adjusted per capita pharmaceutical spending ranged from \$2,413 in the lowest hospital referral region to \$3,008 in the highest. More than 75 percent of that difference was due to the cost per prescription (\$53 versus \$63). However, the data indicated differences in the role of volume versus cost depending on the drug class studied. For example, the cost per prescription was the most important factor for medications used to treat hypertension and high cholesterol while the differences in volume were more important in the costs of antidepressants.

"The preference to use antidepressants among the elderly may vary by region, which may account for some of the difference the research found in this drug class compared to the other two studied," Donohue said.

Collaborators on the study included Walid F. Gellad, MD, MPH, and Joseph T. Hanlon, PharmD, MS, both of the University of Pittsburgh; and Nancy E. Morden, MD, MPH, Julie P. Bynum MD, MPH, Weiping Zhou, PhD, and Jonathan Skinner, PhD, all of Dartmouth Medical School.

The study was supported by the National Institute on Aging, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the National Institute of Nursing Research, the National Institute of Mental Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Veterans Affairs Health Services Research and Development Service. ●

POTENTIAL SAVINGS  
**\$4.5 BILLION**  
TO MEDICARE



## Student Awards Roundup

- a** **Hatem Kaseb (HUGEN PhD)**  
Fulbright Scholarship to pursue research on genetic alterations in DNA damage response pathways in malignancies such as multiple myeloma
- b** **Brett Tunno (EOH PhD)**  
Best Poster Award at the 2011 International Society for Environmental Epidemiology
- c** **Vanessa Gatskie (BCHS MPH)**  
Owens Scholarship from University of Pittsburgh for promising academic achievement
- d** **Jason Sanders (EPIDEM MD/PhD)**  
Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award from NIA
- e** **Raynard Washington (EPIDEM DrPH)**  
Emerging Health Leader Award, presented by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation



## Dean Burke Honored as Distinguished University Professor



Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg appointed Dean **Donald S. Burke** Distinguished University Professor, an accolade that recognizes eminence in several fields of study, transcending accomplishments in and contributions to a single discipline.

In addition to holding the inaugural University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-Jonas Salk Professor of Global Health chair and serving as dean of the Graduate School of Public Health, Burke is director of the University of Pittsburgh Center for Vaccine Research and serves in the newly established position of associate vice chancellor for global health, health sciences. In 2009, he was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, one of the highest honors in health and medicine. He is one of the world's foremost experts on the prevention, diagnosis, and control of infectious diseases of global concern, including HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis A, avian influenza, and emerging infectious diseases.

Before joining the University of Pittsburgh, Burke was a professor in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where he served as associate chair of the Department of International Health and director of the Center for Immunization Research. He also was principal investigator of National Institutes of Health-supported research projects on HIV vaccines, biodefense, and emerging infectious diseases.

Prior to his tenure at Johns Hopkins, Burke served 23 years on active duty in the U.S. Army, leading military infectious disease research at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C., and at the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences in Bangkok, Thailand. He retired at the rank of colonel.

Burke's career-long mission has been prevention and mitigation of the impact of epidemic infectious diseases of global importance. His research activities have spanned a wide range of science "from the bench to the bush," including development of new diagnostics, population-based field studies, clinical vaccine trials, computational modeling of epidemic control strategies, and policy analysis. He has authored or coauthored more than 200 research reports. Burke earned his MD from Harvard Medical School and his BA degree from Western Reserve University (now Case Western Reserve University). ●





# Portraits of Public Health

By Donald S. Burke

*The eclectic—OK, quirky—artwork on display in my office suite is more than just an assemblage of exotic memorabilia from my life and works. Each piece has special significance as a source of reflection on public health.*

## Masks and Models

Just outside my office the visitor sees a collection of native wooden masks from Africa, India, and Indonesia, varying in color from dull brown to multicolored and in expression from fanciful to frightening. Some might call them primitive. But to me, in some deeper sense, these masks have much in common with the scholarly research we do at Pitt Public Health: Both are efforts to understand and represent the human condition.

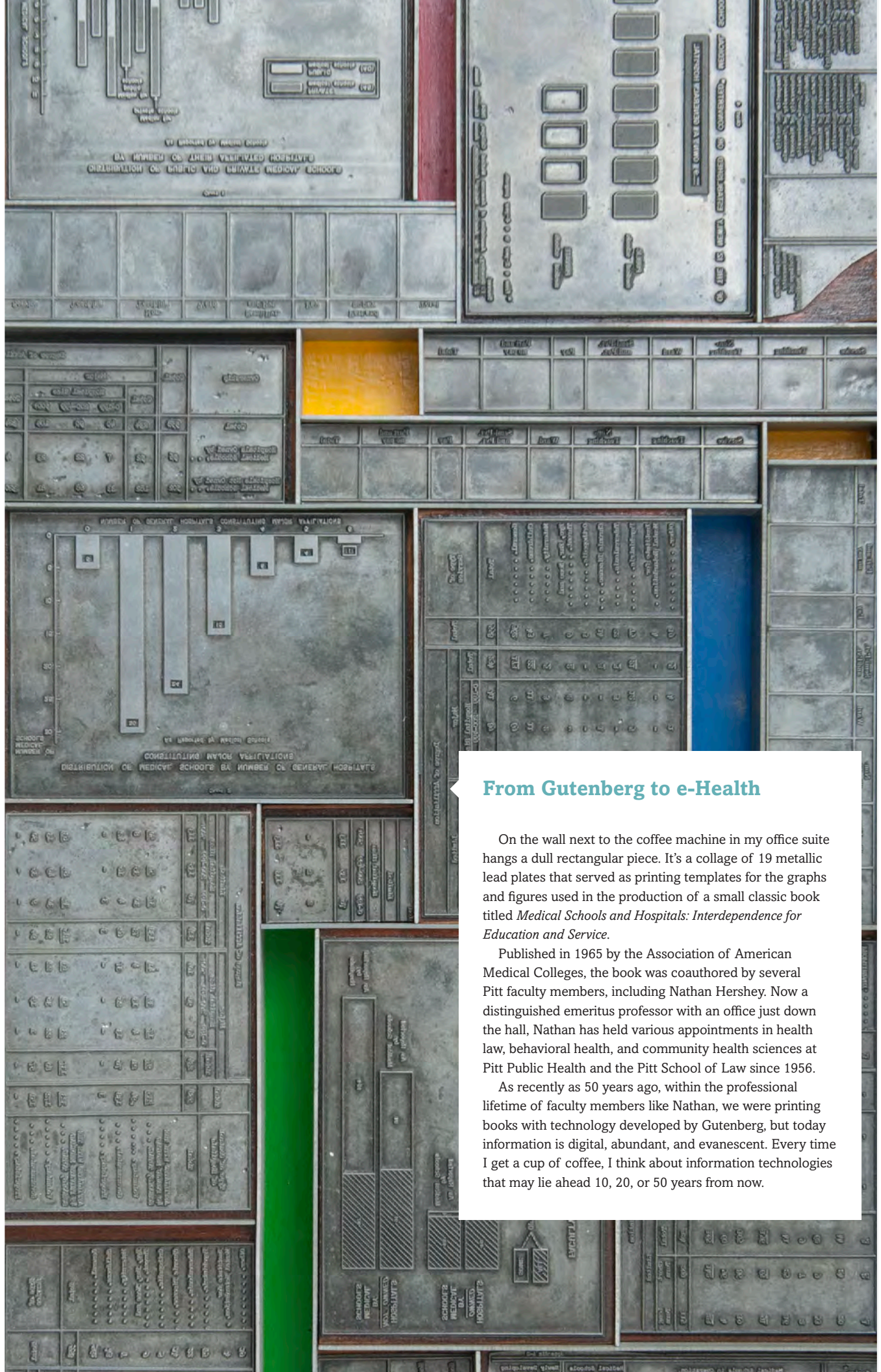
An interesting case in point is the work of the new Pitt Public Health Dynamics Laboratory, where our faculty and affiliates who hail from across campus, Carnegie Mellon University, and the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center develop computational simulations of human societies and behaviors that are used as tools for advancing public health research and analysis. These modern day computational artists are discovering new ways to analyze and display public health data; model human contact patterns and disease transmission patterns; and inform strategies for new vaccines. It is an exciting and rapidly emerging field.

But inevitably someday, like the masks, these “sophisticated” computer models will be seen as primitive. We strive to abstract and represent the human condition—particularly as it relates to health—and then use this new knowledge to promote health and well being. Computation is just another way to grapple with how to represent the human condition as we understand it.



Masks Hanging in the Dean's Office





## From Gutenberg to e-Health

On the wall next to the coffee machine in my office suite hangs a dull rectangular piece. It's a collage of 19 metallic lead plates that served as printing templates for the graphs and figures used in the production of a small classic book titled *Medical Schools and Hospitals: Interdependence for Education and Service*.

Published in 1965 by the Association of American Medical Colleges, the book was coauthored by several Pitt faculty members, including Nathan Hershey. Now a distinguished emeritus professor with an office just down the hall, Nathan has held various appointments in health law, behavioral health, and community health sciences at Pitt Public Health and the Pitt School of Law since 1956.

As recently as 50 years ago, within the professional lifetime of faculty members like Nathan, we were printing books with technology developed by Gutenberg, but today information is digital, abundant, and evanescent. Every time I get a cup of coffee, I think about information technologies that may lie ahead 10, 20, or 50 years from now.



## Epidemiology Made Simple

Atop the counter, just behind the receptionist, sits a piece that appears to be a wooden feeding trough. But it too is a historical public health artifact, another reminder of change in information technologies. It's a reproduction of a Reed-Frost Epidemic Simulator—named after the epidemiologists Lowell Reed and Wade Hampton Frost who created the model—given to me as a going-away present by my students when I left the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health to come to Pitt.

The trough, which holds different colored marbles, is a simple mechanical model of a probabilistic infectious disease transmission that was used to teach epidemiology students at Johns Hopkins in the 1940s and '50s. The simulation works by jumbling marbles in a jar then rolling them down the trough in a random fashion.

Each marble represents a person. Black marbles represent the boundaries between groups that will come into contact with each other. In between the black marbles are colored marbles representing either immune (blue) or infectious (white) persons. Every time different colored marbles come into contact, there is a potential for infection. The user replaces the newly infected marbles, repeats the steps of jumbling and rolling the marbles down the trough, and tracks the progression in the total number of infections.

We now routinely do these same simulations on supercomputers instead, but the remarkable thing is, computational representation of large stochastic public health processes was impossible just a generation ago. Today, we can instantaneously mix and analyze millions of “digital marbles” in our large-scale simulations.

## 'Big Data'

As you enter the dean's suite, a triptych of three large paintings dominate the wall, all childlike in their simplicity. On the left is a daubed cluster of flowers, on the right an abstract tree, and in between is a painted profile of an elephant head, an economic composition of only a few broad-brush strokes. But what is of interest here is not the painting, but the painter: a trained elephant.



While in Thailand with my family a few years ago, we went to a provincial village show to watch performing elephants play soccer, ring bells, and the like. The high point of the show was a display of pachyderm artistry in which the elephants held brushes in their trunks and, unaided, painted recognizable objects.

While watching one especially gifted elephant do his own self-portrait, I wondered what he could have been thinking at that moment. Surely the elephant had only the vaguest internal mental model of what it was doing! That realization led me to re-examine the epistemological validity of my own mental models. How well do I understand the limits of my own conceptualizations? So I bought the painting. I like to think that this *Self-Portrait of the Artist—By a Trained Elephant* brings a touch of humor—and humility—to the dean's office. ●





# Building for a Healthier World

By Kelly Sjol

## *With construction of the four-story, 58,000-square-foot laboratory pavilion on the former site of the Parran Hall auditorium*

now under way, years of planning have given way to progress. The \$32 million facility will feature bright, open, modern laboratory space with room for all of the lab benches and supporting labs to exist in one place. There will be enough secure, centralized freezer space to store existing biological repositories, with backup power and cooling systems. There will be a kitchenette on each floor with break space for faculty and staff. And that's just Phase I.

Phase II will focus on Parran and Crabtree halls. Built in 1957 and 1966, respectively, these buildings have not had a substantial renovation since they were built and—although they are structurally sound—are in need of an infrastructure overhaul. Mechanical, electrical, plumbing, heating, cooling, and ventilation systems will all be brought up to modern standards. When fundraising goals are met, construction of collaborative educational and meeting space will begin. Former laboratories will be reconfigured into offices, and classrooms will be consolidated.

A total of \$55 million is needed to complete Phase II of the renovations, with \$15 million coming from the Building for a Healthier World capital campaign (see page 17 for more information).

The University has high environmental and efficiency standards when it comes to constructing or upgrading facilities, and these renovations will be no different. Every effort will be made in all phases of construction to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standards. The LEED Green Building Rating System is the nationally accepted benchmark for designing, constructing, and operating high-performance green buildings.

## Lab Pavilion

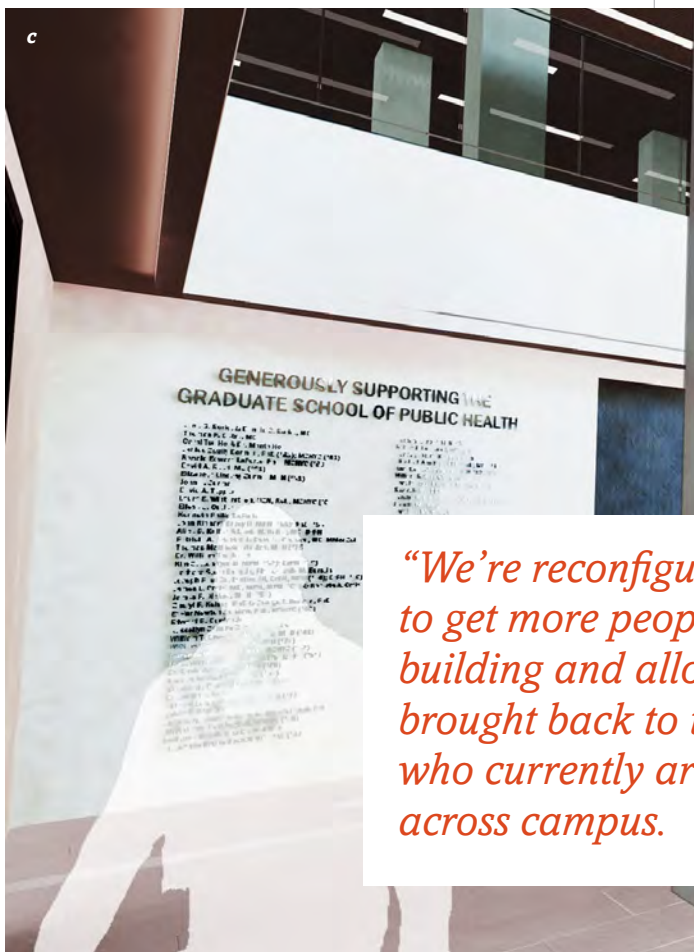
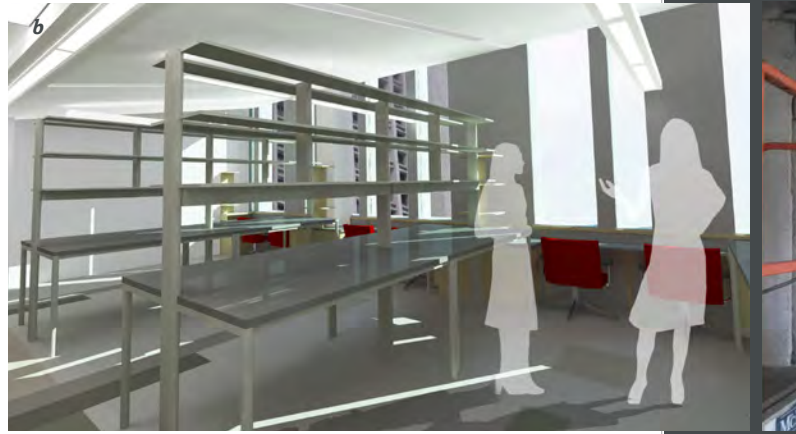
“The laboratory pavilion will provide state-of-the-art, modern lab space that will improve the quality of our research as well as our ability to recruit high-level faculty and students,” says Steve Wisniewski, associate dean for research, professor, and Epidemiology Data Center codirector. Wisniewski, who has been involved in the day-to-day operations of the construction and renovation from the beginning, serves as the school’s administrative liaison to the construction and design teams and Pitt’s Facilities Management Division.

The new pavilion will “create more of a sense of community with its open lab format,” says Todd Reinhart, professor, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, and director, Center for Lymphatic Immunobiology, who will have research space in the new lab pavilion. “This will have unintended and intended consequences—all positive of course—as new ideas often come from those interactions.”

- a** Third Floor starting to take shape
- b** Future labs
- c** Foyer
- d** View from Fifth Avenue
- e** Future equipment corridor
- f** Todd Reinhart



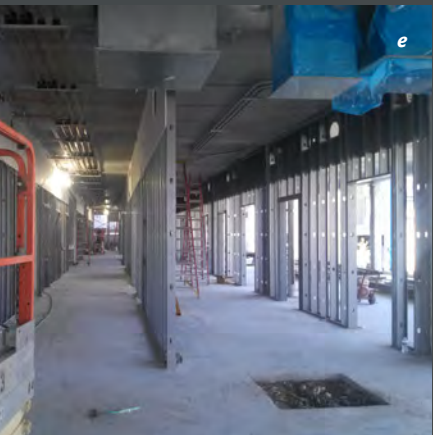
Visit our construction Webcam online at [www.publichealth.pitt.edu/webcam](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/webcam)



*“We’re reconfiguring the space to get more people into the building and allow many to be brought back to the building” who currently are scattered across campus.* —Steve Wisniewski







*The new pavilion will “create more of a sense of community with its open lab format... We already do excellent cutting-edge research; this will help us to do it even better.”* —Todd Reinhart





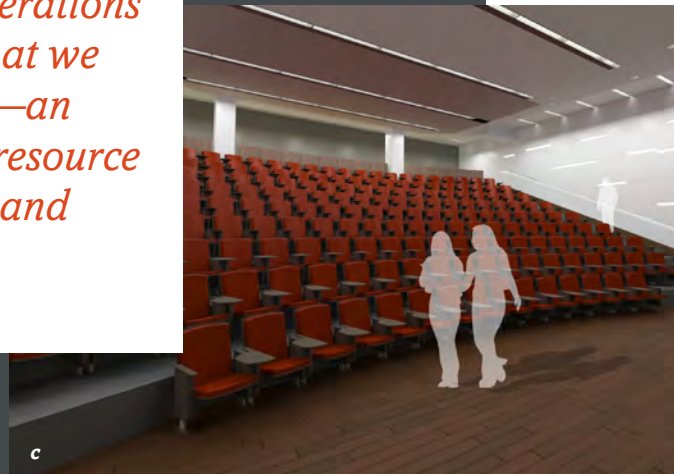
a

*“The new labs will be two generations beyond what we have now—an incredible resource for faculty and students.”*

—Eleanor Feingold



b



c



d



## History

The renovation of Parran and Crabtree halls is an endeavor approximately five years in the making. "This is our third try," says Wisniewski. While the goal was always to improve the two buildings, funds initially were allocated to completely redo the infrastructures. That project proved to be too costly when it was discovered that the old floor-to-ceiling heights would not allow for installation of a ventilation system for modern lab equipment.

Around the same time, the pharmacy and dental schools were planning an addition to Salk Hall. Pitt Public Health planners considered allocating some of their funds to add a floor to Salk Hall and use the remainder to update Parran and Crabtree, but that also would have been too expensive.

"At that time, it was decided to build the laboratory pavilion," says Wisniewski, who acknowledges the credit for the advancement of the project in its current form, including the allocation by the University of \$40 million, should go to Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Provost Patricia Beeson, Vice Chancellor for Budget and Controller Arthur Ramicone, Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences Arthur Levine, and Dean of the Graduate School of Public Health Donald Burke.

## Building for a Healthier World Capital Campaign

The construction of the laboratory pavilion and renovation of Parran and Crabtree halls is expected to cost around \$87 million. The University and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have contributed \$72 million, which will cover the laboratory pavilion and part of the building renovation project, leaving \$15 million that must still be raised.

There are many ways you can contribute. One is by supporting the work of one of the Pitt Public Health centers that will benefit from the renovations. These include the Center for Aging and Population Health, Center for Healthy Environments and Communities, Center for Health Equity, Center for Public Health Practice, Epidemiology Data Center, and Public Health Dynamics Laboratory, as well as the University of Pittsburgh Center for Global Health.

Some of these center awards will go directly toward the construction of open, common spaces with offices around the outside that are more conducive to collaborative and interdisciplinary work. They will also support things like the center directors and provide funds for pilot research projects and student activities. ●

- a** View from the Commons
- b** Eleanor Feingold
- c** Lecture hall
- d** Current state of lecture hall



*For more information about how you can contribute to the work of one of the above centers, or to find out about other gift opportunities, contact **Mike LaFrankie**, executive director, health sciences development, by phone at 412-647-9071 or e-mail to [lmichael@pmhsf.org](mailto:lmichael@pmhsf.org).*

# Topping Off Milestone Celebrated

On May 3, 2012, more than 100 distinguished guests joined University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, Senior Vice Chancellor Arthur Levine, Dean Donald Burke, and campaign co-chairs Bernard Goldstein and Peter Salk to celebrate a milestone in the Building for a Healthier World campaign. Called a "Topping Off," the milestone marks the placement of the final beam in the new lab pavilion. Guests signed the Pitt-themed beam, which was placed in the lab pavilion the following day.

▼ Chancellor **Mark A. Nordenberg**, Senior Vice Chancellor **Arthur Levine**, Provost **Patricia Beeson**, and Dean **Donald Burke** led the signing of the beam.



► Campaign Co-Chairs **Bernard Goldstein** and **Peter Salk** with **Michael Salk**, son and grandson of **Jonas Salk**, inventor of the polio vaccine.



▲ Pennsylvania Secretary of Health **Eli N. Avila**

▼ The beam was raised to the lab pavilion the morning of May 4, 2012, bearing signatures of members of the University community and Pitt Public Health Board of Visitors. Pictured here is the beam in its final resting place in the new lab pavilion.



*More photos available at [www.publichealth.pitt.edu/photogalleries](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/photogalleries)*

# Alumni

## Alumnus Robert J. Henkel, MPH '83, Named Pitt Legacy Laureate



Robert J. Henkel, MPH '83, was one of 16 named to the University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureates, alumni who are recognized for their outstanding personal and professional accomplishments. The laureates were honored during Pitt's 2011 Homecoming festivities. The Pitt Legacy Laureate program was launched in 2000.

Henkel has overseen the operation of a number of health care organizations, instituting changes to improve health, safety, and operational practices that have benefited patients across the country. He is president and CEO of Ascension Health, the nation's largest nonprofit Catholic health system.

Henkel joined Ascension Health in 1998 after holding a wide range of executive positions at health care facilities throughout the country, including the Eye & Ear Hospital in Pittsburgh; Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, Fla.; and the St. Louis Healthcare Network, where he led the discussion and process that resulted in the merger of six St. Louis, Mo., hospitals and three medical groups.

A fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), Henkel has given presentations to organizations such as the World Health Care Congress and at events such as the annual ACHE breakfast with the Healthcare Leadership Network of the Delaware Valley. In 2010, he received a Regent's Award from the ACHE.

In addition to performing his professional responsibilities, Henkel serves on the boards of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Metro St. Louis and the Marian Middle School, a St. Louis Catholic school committed to breaking the cycle of poverty by preparing disadvantaged young women for academic success.

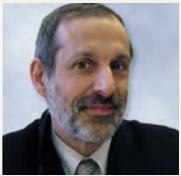
While on campus to receive the award in October, Henkel met with Pitt Public Health students in small group sessions to offer career advice, gave the presentation, "Quality and Innovation in the Era of Health Reform and Economic Chaos" to more than 100 attendees, and held an informal question and answer session for students about health care management. ●

## 2012 Alumni Awards and Ceremony

Congratulations to the 2012 University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health alumni award recipients! Awardees were honored by Dean Burke among members of the Pitt Public Health Board of Visitors, deans, faculty, and fellow alumni on May 2, 2012, at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association.

### Distinguished Alumni Awards

#### For Teaching and Dissemination



**Joel Weissfeld, MPH '82**  
Associate Professor of  
Epidemiology,  
University of Pittsburgh

#### For Research



**Edward W. Gregg, PhD '96**  
Acting Director, Division of  
Heart Disease and Stroke  
Prevention, Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

#### For Practice



**James B. Pieffer, MHA '86**  
President, Presbyterian  
Senior Care

#### The Margaret F. Gloninger Service Award



**John J. Zanardelli, MPH '79**  
President and CEO,  
United Methodist Services for  
the Aging





▲ Peter and Michael Salk of the Jonas Salk Legacy Foundation attended the awards ceremony to congratulate alumni awardees.



▲ In attendance to celebrate with awardee James and Maria Pieffer were fellow alumni Brian (MA/MPH '86, BS '82) and Jamie Jacob.



▲ Dean Burke with 2012 University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health alumni award recipients. (Unable to attend were John J. Zanardelli, Marilyn Radke, and Vincent Radke.)



View more photos from the awards at  
[www.publichealth.pitt.edu/photogalleries](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/photogalleries)

#### About the Awards

## The Distinguished Alumni Award

is the highest award given to an alumnus by the Graduate School of Public Health. Recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award are Pitt Public Health alumni who have made a significant contribution to the field of public health, to Pitt Public Health, or to both.

## The Margaret F. Gloninger Service Award

was established in honor of the late Margaret Fitzgerald Gloninger (MSHyg '66), Pitt Public Health graduate and former faculty member in maternal and child health. This award is presented annually to a Pitt Public Health alumnus who has made a significant contribution to Pitt Public Health or to the community through volunteer service.

## Delta Omega

is the national honorary society for graduate studies in public health. The society was founded in 1924, when only a few graduate schools of public health existed in the United States, and now has chapters at 38 of the accredited schools providing advanced public health degrees. Membership in Delta Omega reflects the dedication of an individual to quality in the field of public health and to protection and advancement of the health of all people. The Omicron Chapter of Delta Omega was established at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health in 1984.

#### Delta Omega Initiates



**Marilyn Radke, MD, MPH '77**  
 Medical Officer for Special Projects, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



**Vincent Radke MPH '77**  
 Sanitarian, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

In addition to these two alumni, 13 students and three faculty were also inducted into Delta Omega this year.

# Pitt Public Health in the World

**a** The Diabetes Prevention Support Center (DPSC) provided a training workshop in Guam. Funded by the Guam Healthcare & Hospital Development Foundation and the University of Guam, Andrea Kiska, professor of epidemiology, Beth Venditti, assistant professor in the School of Medicine, Kaye Kramer, assistant professor of public health practice, and Linda Semler, nutrition director, DPSC, (pictured from left to right) delivered the trademarked prevention program, Group Lifestyle Balance, to 100 health professionals and military staff from Guam and other islands in Micronesia. DPSC also presented to the governor's office, senators, and officials from the University of Guam, and to members of the media at a press conference.

**b** The 2012 Pitt Public Health Dean's Day winners are pictured here with Dean Burke, Chairman Steve Albert, and Associate Dean Maggie Potter. Now in its 14th year, Dean's Day is a competitive science poster and oral presentation competition that drew nearly 80 student participants in 2012.



*Learn about the awardees at [www.publichealth.pitt.edu/deansday](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/deansday)*

**c** Howard Degenholtz, associate professor of health policy and management, and his team are developing a mobile game to educate people about the importance of registering to be an organ and tissue donor. Funded by the Health Resources Services Administration, Doctor Transplant, coming soon for the iPhone, integrates real world information about organ transplantation into a resource management game that touches on patients' need for dialysis while waiting for a kidney transplant, and the relative prevalence of organs (heart, lung, liver, and kidney). The game links players together through Facebook, Twitter, and the Mogime social gaming network. The collage of images here are from the game's unveiling at the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco. Visit [www.doctortransplant.org](http://www.doctortransplant.org) to learn more about the game and organ donation.

**d** Peter Salk was the 2012 Pitt Public Health convocation keynote speaker, where he delivered the speech, "Perspectives on the Future," to 195 graduating students. Salk's speech touched on Pitt's public health history, including the role his father, Jonas Salk, played as developer of the polio vaccine. The speech contained excerpts from a presentation Jonas delivered called, "Are We Being Good Ancestors," presented in 1977 on his acceptance of the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding.



*To read or listen to the full speech, visit, [www.publichealth.pitt.edu/salkconvocation](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/salkconvocation)*

**e** Dean Burke spoke at the American Lung Association's Healthy Air Day press conference on March 21, hosted in the Pitt Graduate School of Public Health, to defend the Clean Air Act. Pictured here with Dean Burke is Deb Brown, CEO of the American Lung Association of the Mid Atlantic, and Julie Franks, a local mother with asthmatic children, and her son.



*Audio of the press conference is available at [www.publichealth.pitt.edu/photogalleries](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/photogalleries)*

**f** Adrienne Long, a Peace Corps Master's International Track student scheduled to graduate in 2014, has been teaching people in her Peace Corps village in Mozambique to prevent malaria infections. She has been a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mozambique since May 2011. "Malaria prevention is important because malaria is the number one killer of children under 5! Parents, especially mothers, need to realize [how vital] it is to bring their children to a health center when they develop a fever," said Long, who hails from Manheim, Pa. This photo was provided by the Peace Corps to bring attention to the importance of malaria eradication. The Peace Corps mobilizes more than 3,000 volunteers across Africa to make an impact on malaria prevention.

**g** Vincent Arena, associate professor of biostatistics, and Martha Terry, assistant professor of behavioral and community health sciences, attended the 2012 Alumni Awards Ceremony to celebrate alongside awardees. Arena inducted the 2012 Delta Omega alumni initiates.

**h** The 2011-12 Foster Lecture Series speakers were Yaakov Stern, professor of clinical neuropsychology at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Anne Basting, executive director of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Center on Age and Community. Stern presented the Jay L. Foster Memorial Scientific Lecture, titled "Cognitive Reserve: From Theory to Intervention," and Basting the Jay L. Foster Memorial Community Lecture, "Forget Memory: Try Imagination." The lecture series, established by the family of Jay L. Foster, who passed away from Alzheimer's disease after a career as director at UPMC Montefiore Hospital and vice president of L.B. Foster Co., promotes collaborations among researchers focused on Alzheimer's disease, with the goal of educating family members, caregivers, and others who are faced with the daily struggles of dealing with the illness. The Foster Lecture Series is free and open to the public.



*View the Foster Lecture Series online at [www.publichealth.pitt.edu](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu) under Publications and Lectures.*



*Interested in being featured in Pitt Public Health in the World? Send your photo to [gspcomm@pitt.edu](mailto:gspcomm@pitt.edu).*







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