

**THEATRE ARTS:** *A Silver Celebration*



As Pittsburgh's presence on national lists of every sort attests, the secret is out about the city's cultural treasures and quality of life. Two recent recognitions worth noting are Pittsburgh's being named America's

most livable city by *Places Rated Almanac* and the best arts destination in the country among mid-sized cities by *AmericanStyle Magazine*.

The two designations go hand in hand, since the arts play a critical role in the vitality and appeal of any community. In fact, Allegheny County's nonprofit arts industry generates more than \$341 million annually in economic activity, according to a study conducted by Americans for the Arts in June 2007. And one of the most significant contributors to the city's vibrant arts scene has been the University of Pittsburgh Department of Theatre Arts, which this year is celebrating 25 years of offering undergraduate and graduate programs in the practical and academic aspects of theater.

Founded in 1982, the Department of Theatre Arts and its world-class programs focus on theater education within the context of the liberal arts experience at an urban university. Renowned Pitt theatre arts faculty include artists and scholars at the forefront of the theater world; they actively produce groundbreaking theory, research, criticism, and new work. Undergraduates may specialize in acting, directing, design and technical theater, theater history and criticism, or a combination of these specializations. This integrated approach allows for diverse experiences and varied opportunities for exploring every facet of theater.

"We are committed to enhancing the extensive theatrical opportunities available to our students," said Bruce McConachie, professor and chair of the Department of Theatre Arts. "Our students enjoy experiences ranging from acting and directing to exploring the history of Elizabethan theater. Theatre arts majors have tripled in the last 25 years, and as the number of majors continues to grow, we are offering more lab productions, choosing plays with large casts, and introducing new festivals where student playwrights can see their work performed."

From its inception, the Department of Theatre Arts has distinguished itself through its unparalleled student-centered programming that includes Pitt Repertory Theatre and its laboratory season. Pitt Rep brings renowned theatrical professionals to campus as artists-in-residence for four main-stage productions each year. Pitt's lab season features student-directed productions of classic, contemporary, and original works. These programs allow students to obtain hands-on experience. By the time theatre arts majors graduate, they can proudly boast a well-rounded theatrical education based in performance, design, and rigorous courses in theater history and criticism.

Just as the Department of Theatre Arts is dedicated to enhancing the Pitt community, it is also committed to taking theater education into the greater community. "Although the department has changed in many ways over the past 25 years, one thing has remained constant: We have maintained a lively and open relationship with the Pittsburgh region, our host community," said Attilio Favorini, professor and founding chair of theatre arts at Pitt. "We have consistently developed dramatic material born of the community, and we have cultivated the professional component of our program in ways that have enriched the local theater scene," Favorini said. Over the years, Pitt's Department of Theatre Arts has produced and supported works of regional importance; for example, the department gave a home to City Theatre, founded and managed the Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival, and currently hosts Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre. Theatre arts alumni have consistently played key roles—both onstage and backstage—in theater groups throughout the region and beyond.

In addition to partnering with local theater organizations, the department manages the acclaimed Shakespeare-in-the-Schools program. As the department's educational outreach initiative, Shakespeare-in-the-Schools takes Shakespeare and other classical forms of theater directly to students in school districts throughout Western Pennsylvania and the tristate area.

With an accomplished past and a promising future, the Department of Theatre Arts will commemorate its 25th anniversary with special events and activities from February 29 to March 2, 2008. Look for details in the next issue of *Pitt Pride* or go to [www.pitt.edu/~play](http://www.pitt.edu/~play).

**DID YOU KNOW?**

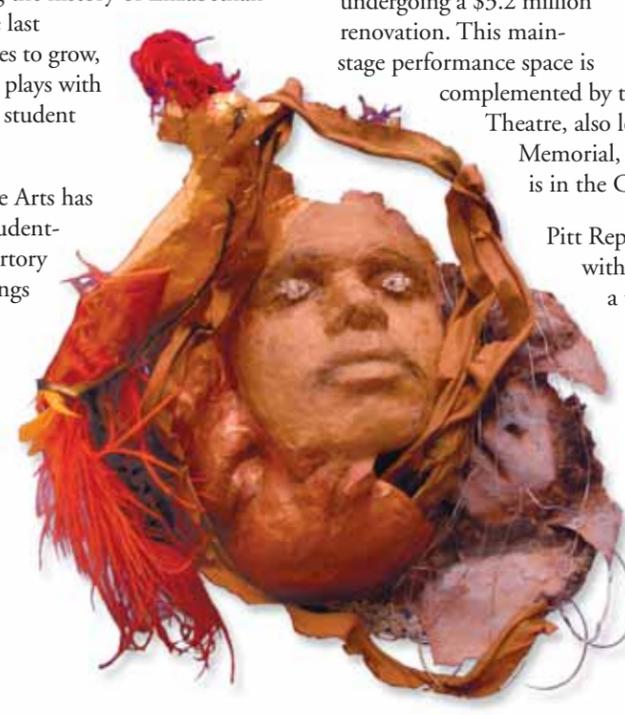
The Department of Theatre Arts boasts many accomplished alumni, including Ken Gargaro, founding director of Pittsburgh Musical Theater; Karla Boos, artistic director of Quantum Theatre; Lofty Durham, treasurer and co-artistic director of Pandora's Box; and Laura Smiley, artistic director of the Unseam'd Shakespeare Co.

The Stephen Foster Memorial, a historic landmark that houses two restored and upgraded state-of-the-art performance spaces, also is home to the Center for American Music; the Stephen Foster Memorial Museum; and a display honoring Pitt alumnus Fred Kelly, a Pittsburgh performer and brother of actor and fellow Pitt alumnus Gene Kelly.

In 2003, the Charity Randall Theatre (in the Stephen Foster Memorial) was unveiled after undergoing a \$3.2 million renovation. This main-stage performance space is

complemented by the more intimate Henry Heymann Theatre, also located in the Stephen Foster Memorial, and the Studio Theatre, which is in the Cathedral of Learning.

Pitt Repertory Theatre will partner with Theater Rampe Stuttgart, a theatrical company dedicated to German-language contemporary drama, to produce *Outside Inn*, a new play by Andreas Jungwirth—one of Germany's rising playwrights. *Outside Inn* will feature two performances in German and four performances in English, September 14–16, 2007.



**PLAYING WITH THE CLASSICS**

As part of the 25th anniversary celebration, Pitt Repertory Theatre proudly announces the commemorative 2007–08 season, *Playing With the Classics*. For more information, go to [www.play.pitt.edu](http://www.play.pitt.edu).

**The Recruiting Officer**  
 October 10–21, 2007

**Desdemona: A Play About a Handkerchief**  
 November 7–18, 2007

**The American Clock**  
 February 20–March 2, 2008

**Big Love**  
 April 2–13, 2008

**THEATRE ARTS LABORATORY SEASON 2007–08**

Student-directed productions that offer undergraduates a forum for producing classic, contemporary, and original works.

**A Memory of Two Mondays**  
 September 26–30, 2007

**Trifles**  
 October 24–28, 2007

**The Chairs**  
 November 28–December 2, 2007

**The Truth Teller and Phaedra's Love**  
 January 30–February 3, 2008

**Cymbeline**  
 April 9–13, 2008

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

### *New Beginnings*

When I first came to Pittsburgh in 1989, my wife and I planned to spend a year here before returning to my native Spain. Nearly 20 years later, we cannot imagine leaving. We discovered a city that is truly a gem. From education to culture to recreation, Pittsburgh is a vibrant and exciting place to call home. As you read this edition of *Pitt Pride*, you will see how the University of Pittsburgh has contributed to the community's notable quality of life through its world-class arts and sciences programs.

Much has happened in the nearly two decades since my arrival at Pitt. From a personal perspective, as a faculty member and chair of the Department of Mathematics in the School of Arts and Sciences, I have enjoyed diverse opportunities to engage in nationally funded research projects and to lead, with my colleague Frank Beatrous, the team that started Pitt's Calculus Project, an initiative that brought core calculus instruction into the digital age within the context of undergraduate education.

On an institutional level, the University has established itself as one of the nation's premier research institutions, boasting both Rhodes and Marshall scholars among our undergraduate students last year as well as ranking in the top 10 among all U.S. universities in terms of competitive grants awarded to members of our faculty by the National Institutes of Health. Each year, the quality of our undergraduate students continues to be impressive, attracting students from more than 100 countries—nearly 80 percent of whom place in the top fifth of their high school class. Pitt truly is moving forward in distinguished company.

As I take on my new role this academic year as associate dean for undergraduate studies, I am excited at the prospect of continuing the School of Arts and Sciences' legacy of excellence. My distinguished colleague and predecessor, Regina Schulte-Ladbeck, leaves a solid foundation upon which our undergraduate studies programs and services will continue to build in order to support our students. I look forward to working with the dedicated faculty and staff of undergraduate studies to ensure that each student achieves his or her academic potential. You and your student should always feel free to contact the team in undergraduate studies.

Whether your student begins this year as a freshman or a returning student, I hope he or she explores all that the University and the city have to offer. From cutting-edge theater productions and student art exhibitions on campus to downtown Pittsburgh's outstanding Cultural District offerings, there is much to experience outside the classroom. (In fact, Pitt students can purchase discounted tickets to Cultural District venues through PITT ARTS at [www.pittarts.pitt.edu](http://www.pittarts.pitt.edu).) I hope that you, too, will enjoy the University and "America's Most Livable City" when you visit for Homecoming/Family Weekend October 19–21 or throughout the academic year.

With best wishes for a successful academic year,

**Juan Manfredi, PhD**

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies

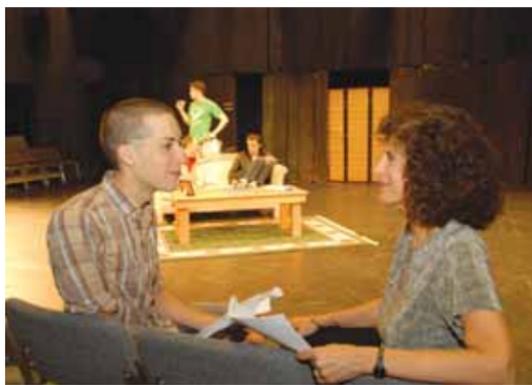


## FACULTY PROFILE

### The Magic If

Ask award-winning fiction writer Kathleen George, professor of theatre arts in the University of Pittsburgh School of Arts and Sciences, what is at the heart of good theater and her answer sounds quite simple yet hard to achieve: It's the perfect mix of "timing, rhythm, character, and movement," she says.

George, who teaches playwriting and dramatic literature courses, strives to elicit that captivating combination from undergraduate students. She finds great joy in helping them to read classic plays, critique the work of their peers, and produce finished scripts. "When I produce student work, I cajole people to get directors, actors, and even the audience—wherever I can get them," says George. "We've been known to have performances in Oakland restaurants where we knew we'd have a captive audience," she adds.



GEORGE WORKS WITH PLAYWRIGHT JUSTIN HONARD AND THEATRE ARTS STUDENTS DURING REHEARSAL OF *GLITTER AND GOOD CHEER* IN THE STUDIO THEATRE.



KATHLEEN GEORGE

One summer George found herself turning to fiction writing, an early love. To get at dramatic scenes in fiction, George found herself using theater lessons she had been teaching for years; one is Konstantin Stanislavsky's idea that the word "if" is a magic lever to the imagination. Never one to limit her pursuits, George asked herself, after publishing a collection of short fiction—*The Man in the Buick and Other Stories* (1999)—"If I wanted to write a novel, how would I proceed?" The question allowed her to feel free to play. The result was *Taken* (2001), which was followed by *Fallen* (2004) and the soon-to-be-released *Afterimage* (St. Martin's Press, December 2007). "I've used Pittsburgh as the setting, really a character, in my mysteries," muses George. "I wanted to take the reader for a ride, and what better place to do it?"

From main-stage productions and lunchtime theatre presentations in the Studio Theatre to short stories and novels, George clearly has found her own winning recipe for dramatic success.

For more information about Kathleen George and her work, go to [www.kathleengeorge.net](http://www.kathleengeorge.net) and [www.pitt.edu/~play/kathleen.george.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~play/kathleen.george.html).

## FUTURE LEADERS *Learn Today*



JOEL AMBROSE

### ONE MAN WEARS MANY HATS

For Joel Ambrose, a junior theatre arts and communication major in the University of Pittsburgh School of Arts and Sciences, all the world truly is a stage. "Theater is my passion," says Ambrose. "I started acting in high school and decided to pursue it as a double major at Pitt."

Ambrose has dabbled in every aspect of theater during his undergraduate tenure, from directing to playwriting to stage managing. But acting is his calling. "I've

always liked being the center of attention and interacting with other people. If you think about it, everyday life is drama itself," Ambrose adds.

Ambrose has landed some parts in productions, including roles in *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Calamity Jane*, and *The Proposal & The Wedding & The Bear*. He learned early on that rejection is part of the business, and he has found it to be a valuable character builder as well. "If I don't get a part, that's not going to stop me. I go to each audition and callback with enthusiasm and see myself improving with each one." The Johnstown, Pa., native has enjoyed his diverse experiences at Pitt.

"I've successfully juggled a busy theater schedule and have been able to do so many different things. Seeing one of my own plays produced through the Redeye Theatre Project was particularly cool. My goal is to take this great experience and put it to work for a local theater company after I graduate," Ambrose says.

In addition to his acting, Ambrose has played the part of public relations and marketing intern for the Department of Theatre Arts and is currently a resident advisor in Litchfield Tower A and a tour guide for Pitt's Nationality Rooms. This fall, Ambrose will serve as stage manager for Pitt Repertory Theatre's *Desdemona: A Play About a Handkerchief*. And, trouper that he is, he'll continue to answer casting calls in between.

## TINA AND DAVID BELLET TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS PRESENTED

The School of Arts and Sciences announced that Bryan K. Hanks, assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology, and Carl D. Bodenschatz, a senior lecturer in the Department of Statistics, have been named winners of the 2007 Tina and David Bellet Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Awards. The Bellet Award recipients were honored at a dinner on April 11 in the Ballroom of the William Pitt Union.

The Bellet Awards were established in 1998 with a \$200,000 donation from School of Arts and Sciences alumnus David Bellet (CAS '67) and his wife, Tina, to recognize outstanding and innovative undergraduate teaching in Arts and Sciences. A committee appointed by the Arts and Sciences associate dean for undergraduate studies evaluates teaching skills as evidenced by student and peer teaching evaluations, student testimonials, and dossiers submitted by nominees. Full-time faculty members who have taught in Arts and Sciences during the past three years are eligible. Each award recipient received a cash prize, and, for the first time this year, each honoree's department received a one-time grant as well.

For more information about the Bellet Awards, go to [www.as.pitt.edu/teaching/awards.html#bellet](http://www.as.pitt.edu/teaching/awards.html#bellet).



AT THE 2007 TINA AND DAVID BELLET ARTS AND SCIENCES TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS DINNER: (L TO R) FORMER ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES REGINA SCHULTE-LADBECK, BRYAN K. HANKS, CARL D. BODENSCHATZ, AND DEAN N. JOHN COOPER

## News

### & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### • *Dean's Stars*

Academic achievement brings many rewards—including a \$50 University of Pittsburgh Book Center gift certificate. Students who complete the fall term with a minimum of 12 credits and a term grade point average of 4.0 will receive a certificate in the mail in January. In the 2007 spring term, 447 students received certificates! If your student qualifies for a gift certificate but does not receive one, contact us at [pittpride@as.pitt.edu](mailto:pittpride@as.pitt.edu).

#### • *Biological Sciences Birthday Celebration*

The Department of Biological Sciences will host a 30th birthday celebration September 14–16, 2007. Events include a scientific symposium, social activities, and award presentations. For details and to register, visit [www.pitt.edu/~biology](http://www.pitt.edu/~biology).

#### • *Financial Aid*

To remain eligible for financial aid, students must continue to be enrolled as undergraduates on the Pittsburgh campus, complete the financial aid application process by the priority filing deadline, and continue to make satisfactory academic progress. Changes in student enrollment status (full time or part time), housing status, and residency may affect future financial aid eligibility. Students with questions are encouraged to contact the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid at 412-624-7488 or visit [www.pitt.edu/~oafa/howcont.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~oafa/howcont.html).

#### • *Academic Resource Center Programs*

If your student is looking to get an academic edge or is experiencing challenges transitioning to college-level courses, the Academic Resource Center (ARC) is a one-stop shop for comprehensive academic services at the University of Pittsburgh. From study skills workshops to peer-led study groups to tutoring, ARC can help your student achieve his or her academic goals. For more information on ARC services, go to [www.as.pitt.edu/arc](http://www.as.pitt.edu/arc).

#### • *Homecoming/Family Weekend*

Mark your calendars for Pitt's annual Homecoming/Family Weekend (October 19–21, 2007). Events

and activities will provide you with a chance to visit with your student and enjoy the University of Pittsburgh campus community. To register and for details, including hotel and game ticket information, please visit [www.pitt.edu/~ffweeknd](http://www.pitt.edu/~ffweeknd).

#### • *OEL Events*

During the week of October 15, the Office of Experiential Learning (OEL) will visit all Introduction to the Arts and Sciences' classes to introduce opportunities for undergraduates to earn credits outside the classroom through research internships, teaching, and service-learning. OEL also will host an open house/information session about the Leadership Certificate program on September 17, Room 11, Thaw Hall. Students can learn more about this interdisciplinary program that is open to Pitt students who are interested in developing core competencies that will enable them to lead in their scholarly fields, communities, and families. For more information, contact OEL at 412-624-6828.

#### • *Freshman Lectures*

The annual Freshman Lectures series, sponsored by the Office of Freshman Programs, kicks off on October 5, 2007. At each of the four listed for fall 2007 lectures, top faculty members from the School of Arts and Sciences talk about their work in an informal setting. Afterward, students are encouraged to stick around and ask questions, network with faculty and other students, and enjoy refreshments. For a list of this year's lectures, please visit [www.as.pitt.edu/fp](http://www.as.pitt.edu/fp) and click on the Freshman Lectures link.

#### • *December Graduation*

The School of Arts and Sciences will host a graduation reception and recognition ceremony on Saturday, December 15, for the Class of December 2007. An invitation will be mailed in mid-November to those Arts and Sciences undergraduates who have applied for December graduation. For more information, contact the Office of the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies at 412-624-6480.



## LEARNING TO "LET GO" OF YOUR STUDENT

By Rachel Woodson, University Counseling Center

It would be unfair to say that students are the only ones who learn to adjust to leaving home. While students are adapting to having more responsibility and independence in college and in summer and post graduation jobs away from home, parents are discovering what it means to "let go."

Letting go is important for the development of a student. Students, with guidance, need to learn to make decisions and confront related consequences. Without this development, students often have decreased coping abilities, increased anxiety, and fear about making decisions.

#### TIPS FOR PARENTS:

- **Express your feelings:** It is important to be honest with yourself regarding the emotions you feel about your adult child leaving home for school or a permanent or summer job. Talking with other parents or a professional might help.
- **Be knowledgeable about your adult child's new surroundings:** Familiarize yourself with your child's campus or new community. As your child presents you with different concerns, knowing the academic resources, counseling services, and local health services available will enable you to guide your child in the right direction.
- **Trust your parenting skills:** Parents might be surprised to know that their adult child has internalized their guidance over the years. In times of distress, adult children most often rely on what they have been taught in order to cope.
- **Don't be afraid to let your adult child make mistakes:** Potential employers look for the ability to solve problems in prospective hires. Students need to make their own decisions and learn how to deal with the consequences. Life has a natural way of being the best educator.

#### RESOURCES

"The Fine Art of Letting Go" by Barbara Kantrowitz and Peg Tyre, *Newsweek*, May 22, 2006

University Counseling Center  
334 William Pitt Union  
412-648-7930  
[www.counseling.pitt.edu](http://www.counseling.pitt.edu)





# University of Pittsburgh

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- Academic Resource Center .....412-648-7920
- Office of the Associate Dean  
for Undergraduate Studies.....412-624-6480
- Office of Freshman Programs .....412-624-6828
- Office of Experiential Learning.....412-624-6828
- Office of Student Records .....412-624-6776

[www.as.pitt.edu/undergraduate](http://www.as.pitt.edu/undergraduate)

Questions or concerns? E-mail us at [pittpride@as.pitt.edu](mailto:pittpride@as.pitt.edu)

## HITTING THE ROAD FOR THEATER

By Christopher Rawson

A member of Pitt's Department of English for 39 years specializing in satire and Shakespeare, Christopher Rawson recently has found his choice of what to teach influenced by his other job as theater critic for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

The result has led to new courses in Irish drama and the great Pittsburgh playwright August Wilson. Realizing that you cannot properly study drama without seeing at least some in the flesh, Rawson has been eager to take his students to see the real thing.

For the Irish drama course, the Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theater and others provide some good fodder right here. But in search of deeper immersion into Ireland and its theater, and drawing on his experience leading theater trips for the *Post-Gazette*, Rawson recently conducted a five-day class trip to Ireland to the Dublin Theatre Festival with the assistance of funds for international study from the University Honors College.

As to August Wilson, his works are regularly staged by Pittsburgh Public Theater, Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre, and Pitt's own Kuntu Repertory Theatre.



But last winter, there was no Wilson play in Pittsburgh. So, with the help of funds from the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Rawson and his August Wilson class piled into two Pitt vans for an exhilarating albeit exhausting 24-hour field trip to Washington, D.C., to see *Gem of the Ocean* at Arena Stage and *Jitney* at Ford's Theatre.

Leaving at 7 a.m. on a Saturday and returning about the same time the next day, they debated the plays as they drove. Meetings with two Pittsburgh actors—Leland Gantt in *Gem* and Pitt graduate KenYatta Rogers in *Jitney*—enriched the experience. Rawson is already planning another August Wilson trip for the current term, most likely to New York.

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The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. Further, the University will continue to take affirmative steps to support and advance these values consistent with the University's mission. This policy applies to admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in University programs and activities. This is a commitment made by the University and is in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations. For information on University equal opportunity and affirmative action programs and complaint/grievance procedures, please contact the University of Pittsburgh, Office of Affirmative Action, 901 William Pitt Union, 3959 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260; 412-648-7860.

## SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES • THE PITT PRIDE

Fall 2007

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September	
3	Labor Day—University closed
7	Fall term add/drop period ends
October	
19-21	Homecoming/Family Weekend activities
25	Spring term registration and add/drop period begins; first two days reserved for seniors
26	Fall term deadline for students to submit Monitored Withdrawal forms to the dean's office
November	
21-25	Thanksgiving recess for students (no classes)
22-23	Thanksgiving recess for faculty and staff—University closed
26	Classes resume

December	
7	Fall term last day for undergraduate day classes
7	Spring term deadline for continuing students to register without a penalty fee
10-15	Final examination period for undergraduate day classes
15	Fall term ends; official date for degrees awarded in fall term
16	Residence halls close
16-January 6, 2008	Winter recess for students (no classes)
19	Fall term grades must be approved by instructors by 5 p.m. before final posting can begin
24-January 1, 2008	Winter recess for faculty and staff
January	
2	All University offices and buildings reopen
4	Residence halls open
7	Spring term registration period ends for all students
7	Spring term classes begin
18	Spring term add/drop period ends
21	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday observance; University closed

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

