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# FOCUS

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Homestead's two downtowns

## Waterfront booming, main street decaying

It is a Friday night at the Waterfront and nearly all 7,000-plus parking spaces are full. The wait for tables is three hours at Bravo and two hours at P.F. Chang's. At both restaurants, people cluster by the entrance and wait for their pagers to vibrate and red lights to flash, notifying them that their table is ready.

Music from Bar Louie turns the heads of teenagers who are on their way to shop at one of the 43 stores after taking in a movie at the 22-screen Loew's Theater. Newlyweds and empty-nesters walk across the parking lot from one of the 235 recently completed riverside townhouses to get a midnight snack from the 83,000 square foot, 24-hour Giant Eagle. The Waterfront, the newest entertainment complex in Pittsburgh, is buzzing alive in a big way.

But past the Waterfront exit off of the Homestead Grays Bridge, better known as the Hi-Level Bridge, lies a street that most Carnegie Mellon students have never gotten far enough to see. Running parallel to the popular Waterfront, it is Eighth Avenue, the main thoroughfare of Homestead for more than a century.

There on that same Friday night, this street lies barren, quiet and desolate — a stark difference from the weekly 11 p.m. traffic jam just two blocks away as the movie lets out. The only activity on Eighth Avenue is at Chiodo's and a few other local bars that are left standing. No parked cars line the streets and the only traffic is just passing through, as quickly as possible.

At the Waterfront, mall-starved students from Carnegie Mellon and Pitt arrive by car or via the 61C bus. Shoppers come from West Mifflin, Shadyside, Squirrel Hill, the South Hills, the North Hills, Monroeville and beyond. In fact, according to Bruce Englehardt, general manager of the Waterfront and a vice president at Continental Real Estate, they are able to "draw in people from up to a 70-mile radius."

Yet there are two main problems here; the first is with the town and the second is with its people. While the Waterfront flourishes, Eighth Avenue remains stagnant with little hope in the near future for revitalization. Once a vibrant strips of shops, restaurants,

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Eighth Avenue Photo: Leah Messina



Carnegie Mellon player Merry McConnochie after the ball Photo: Dave Miller

## Equity rules in athletics

For the practice of awarding fewer sports scholarships to women than to men, 30 U.S. colleges were recently criticized by the Women's Law Center for athletic scholarship violations under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Carnegie Mellon doesn't award athletic scholarships, but it does actively recruit athletes to a large number of varsity sports. So how does CMU fare in its support for athletes, and do the women enjoy equality in the field?

About 9 percent of the undergraduates here participate in one of the university's 17 varsity teams — eight for women and nine for men. The teams compete in the Division III University Athletic Association (UAA) with seven other urban research universities: Brandeis, Case Western Reserve, Emory, New York University, Chicago, Rochester and Washington University in St. Louis.

Carnegie Mellon has been gradually adding more women since 1960, when it became a co-ed university. Since joining the NCAA in 1986, it has made a large effort to increase its number of women athletes.

For the past three years, the athletics department has been required to file a report on its participating male and female athletes to the NCAA research department. Under

the federal Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act of 1984, the report must be available to the public by Oct. 15 of each year. The percentage of women athletes supported by a given college must equal the percentage of women enrolled, plus or minus 5 percent. The Office of Civil Rights investigates colleges that violate this requirement.

I obtained a copy of the 2000-01 report from John Harvey, director of Athletics and Physical Education, which showed women were 36 percent of the undergraduate students and 31 percent of the athletes. The difference is attributable to the football team, which accounted for 29 percent of the total number of athletes.

Joan Maser, associate director of Athletics, said the current ratio of women to men athletes is much higher than it was in the early 1980s, when she came to CMU as head women's field hockey coach. Now, as associate director, Maser fulfills the NCAA requirement for a senior women's administrator whose role is to ensure representation of women's interests. By all accounts, she has played a key role in raising the number of women athletes at CMU.

The university did this partly by gradually increasing the size of its track and field teams, and by adding a women's soccer

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## Student visas hitting a snag after Sept. 11

Each year, Carnegie Mellon accepts a wide range of students from across the country and around the world. But unlike students who reside in the U.S., foreign nationals must acquire an F-1 student visa before they can enter the country.

To do so, students must bring the completed I-20 form (provided by the U.S. university) and passport to the American consulate in their home country. Acceptance or rejection of the visa application by the U.S. consular officer depends on a number of factors, including knowledge of English. To establish their proficiency, students are required to take the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and, if necessary, appear for an oral interview with a U.S. consular officer. In addition, students and families also need to prove that they have the financial means to pay for their educational costs.

Students usually do not have a problem acquiring visas, but in an extreme case that made headlines early in the school year, the Malaysian American Commission of Educational Exchange (MACCEE) delayed visas to eight students who expected to join Carnegie Mellon's Class of 2006 in late August.

Wong Yew Choe, a civil engineering major, is one of the eight students who was accepted into Carnegie Mellon, but is still in Malaysia due to the delay. Choe said, through an online conversation, that "The sudden change in immigration policy and procedure frustrated us, as the time from the date we received our I-20 to the date we must enroll at CMU was less than three months."

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## Linux O/S: now running at a cluster near you

Once upon a time, there was a computer operating system (OS) that was used only by geeks and computer enthusiasts. Its mascot was a slightly overweight penguin named Tux, and its mere mention was enough to inspire awe and fear in those who lacked experience with it.

Its name was Linux, and it no longer belongs to a select group of enthusiasts. Today, Carnegie Mellon embraces it.

Linux usage on campus is high in comparison to most universities, with several Wean clusters devoted entirely to it. Worldwide, only 1.7 percent of new desktop computers run Linux, but at CMU the usage soars to nearly half the student population. A majority of Computer Science professors run Linux on their office computers.

The Computer Science department is running Linux or another Unix-based OS on 32

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## Amazon's dog years

Mike Daisy has held many jobs. High school teacher. Night janitor. Cow innards remover. But it was his experience at Amazon.com that drew a full house in McConomy Auditorium on Nov. 11.

Daisy brought his one-man show "21 Dog Years: Doing Time @ Amazon.com" directly from Off-Broadway to CMU as part of the University Lecture Series. Audience members lined the hallway of the University Center before being allowed into the auditorium 20 minutes before show time. Once the doors opened, seats filled quickly, and latecomers were left standing in the aisles.

Daisy's 90-minute show drew laughs immediately, as he began describing why his "stinking drunkenness" didn't fit into Amazon.com's world of perfectly pleated khakis and exposed ductwork. Walking into work at Amazon, Daisy said, was like "a Mountain Dew ad turned into real life."

Around his neck, Daisy wore his Amazon employee identification badge, which he kept after Human Resources failed to appear at his exit interview. The badge allowed him to crash parties at Amazon four months after he stopped working there.

Daisy never aspired to work at Amazon.com. He had been temping in Seattle when he developed a small cavity. Convinced the cavity would mutate into a brain infection, Daisy began looking for a job that offered dental insurance. He landed in the customer service department of Amazon, knowing only that his job was to resolve customer calls as quickly as possible.

"Customer service is this nation's religion and birthright," he said. "But I couldn't keep the hatred out of my voice, which makes me a terrible customer service rep."

At a performance review, Daisy learned he ranked 167 of 178 among his co-workers. No longer able to convince himself that he was competent at his job, Daisy found other ways to improve his performance. To reduce his average call resolution time, Daisy said he began hanging up on every third caller after a few seconds.

Unsatisfied with answering phones, Daisy decided to interview for a promotion with the business development department. While Daisy described the interview process, the lights dimmed and a voice sounded questions over the sound system, questions like "Describe the feminine side of God using only verbs." The solution to questions like these? Just keep talking, Daisy said.

The philosophy must have worked. Daisy got the promotion and began work in business development. There, he was even more unclear about what he was meant to do. At the most basic level, his function was to decide what companies would be best for Amazon to enter into partnerships with. Many, like the collaboration with Pets.com, fell through, because, as Daisy says, "Most individuals, unlike corporations, are not insane."

While in business development, Daisy worked under the fifth employee hired at Amazon, a vice president worth \$300 million. Daisy found that the man was spending six to eight hours a day playing "Dungeons and Dragons." Convinced he had found the key to success, Daisy approached the man about joining in on the game.

After that, Daisy said he experienced "the best work environment of my life. I didn't know what my department did. I had run out of work to do. And the only person who could give me more work, the VP, wouldn't talk to me anymore."

The possibility of stock market riches enticed Daisy to stay on at Amazon while he spent his time playing Tetris and Minesweeper. But eventually he left, against the feeling of all of his friends and relatives.

Job offers rolled in and Daisy couldn't turn them down because, he said, it would have been ridiculous to say, "No. I'm sorry. I can't be your VP. I have to sit on this couch and watch 'Who's the Boss.'" Daisy accepted 11 jobs before sinking into depression.

With all the money he had accumulated from working at Amazon, Daisy bought two tickets to Spain, where he and his wife spent

several weeks. There, Daisy said he was made whole again because "Spain is home to the laziest people in the world."

In Spain, Daisy's wife asked him what he planned to do about the 11 job offers waiting at home. Looking her in the eye, Daisy said he wanted to do something that would ensure no one would ever hire him again.

Besides fulfilling this promise through his one-man show, Daisy has appeared on David Letterman and is creating a series an HBO series based on his life.

The audience frequently laughed enough to drown out Daisy's monologue. Ninety minutes without intermission proved too long for some, though, as people quietly began leaving after the first hour.

KATIE BAILEY

## Design for pleasure

In his lecture, "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness: Design that Makes a Difference," international design and marketing consultant Pat Jordan spoke about the how good design affects society, noting the role that man's natural pursuit of pleasure plays in successful design.

Speaking to about 40 people on Nov. 4 in the Adamson Wing, Jordan began by saying, "People spend more time in their lives pursuing happiness than doing anything else."

What follows from this principle are a few questions: If we spend all of our time seeking out happiness, then why not maximize that time by making the time you spend with your products just as enjoyable? Why not design for practicality and pleasure?

Jordan defined pleasure as anything that is good for a person, physiologically, socially, psychologically or ideally. He organized his lecture around products that please physically, products that please psychologically, socially and ideally.

He bases this design philosophy on the work of several writers, including Lionel Tiger, author of "The Pursuit of Pleasure" (1992). Tiger says man's pursuit of pleasure is biological, and that evolution programmed it into activities necessary for survival.

Jordan said he strives to keep Tiger's philosophy in mind when designing. Outlining Tiger's four basic types of pleasure, Jordan gave examples of products that satisfy these needs and therefore become ultimately more pleasurable — and useful — to the consumer. Throughout the lecture he repeated the phrase "pleasure with products," something, he said, that all designers should strive for.

First to be considered, Jordan said, is design that physiologically satisfies the user. Jordan showed a picture of a kettle designed for those who have severe arthritis, a perfect example of molding purpose and design.

Next, addressing the sociology of good design, Jordan used the example of the cell phone to illustrate the paradigm shift that resulted from phones becoming mass-market items rather than signs of economic status.

Jordan talked about the psychological aspect of design, addressing the fact that consumers like to feel part of something bigger — some group, some cause or some idea. He said that a goal of successful design allows a consumer to feel part of something greater.

People tend to attach emotion to the products that they buy, Jordan noted. For example, consumers of Harley-Davidson motorcycles often associate the emotion of liberty and freedom with the physical product.

Finally, Jordan dealt with the ideology of a successful design. A well-designed product can allow a person to feel comfortable using it and can "speak to" the user, allowing her to feel a greater sense of identity. It's "a matter of getting inside people's minds," Jordan said. Ideologically conscious design will understand what the consumer is thinking in order to appeal to them.

"I'm hoping to show the importance of design to society and economy, and [also] to show that quality of life and economic success are not incompatible."

Jordan's professional career includes marketing and design consulting for companies including — but not limited to — Microsoft, Starbucks, BMW, Mercedes, Fiat and Philips

Electronics. He is also a traveling lecturer at both companies and colleges, and has authored about 80 articles and six books, including, most recently, a book entitled "How to Make Brilliant Stuff That People Love."

Jordan also taught a design class here in spring 2002 as a distinguished Nierenberg visiting professor. He is the founder and CEO of the Contemporary Trends Institute, which offers design and marketing consulting to companies, among other services.

SONNI ABATTA

## Covering Clinton

As a reporter for the Associated Press, Beth Harpaz is accustomed to a fast-paced, bare-fact style of journalism that leaves little room for personal reflection. That's why at the end of her coverage of Hillary Clinton's 2000 Senate campaign, Harpaz felt that she had "missed the big picture."

Addressing an audience of about 50 in the Adamson Wing on Nov. 7, Harpaz explained that "The Boys on the Bus" — journalist Timothy Crouse's memoir about the 1972 presidential race campaign — inspired her to write an "updated" campaign chronicle, "The Girls in the Van: Covering Hillary."

"In other political arenas, I would have been the only woman," said Harpaz. But in the traditionally male-dominated realm of politics, the Clinton team not only depended upon women to organize, run and win the campaign, but also to report upon it.

As she traveled by van with a group of journalists across New York, Harpaz observed the unique way Clinton connected with her female voters. Clinton often visited non-partisan organizations "where she was bound to encounter people who didn't like her." Harpaz would approach five or six audience members to gauge their opinion on Clinton, and the majority would claim that they did not like the candidate. Yet after delivering a speech on issues like day care, education and health care, Clinton would have won over the audience. "In person, she's very impressive," said Harpaz.

Clinton's emphasis on issues concerning female voters ultimately made her an appealing candidate.

"Hillary won because of women," said Harpaz, noting that exit polls showed 60 percent of all women had voted for Clinton, with many crossing party lines in rural, conservative areas of the state.

The campaign did not always lend itself to exciting news reports; Clinton repeated her speeches many times, to the point that Harpaz and her fellow reporters were able to recite the words. Harpaz faced the challenge of deciding what the voters needed to learn about each seemingly tedious day of the campaign. Harpaz described an incident at a panel discussion when Clinton mistakenly referred to a panel member's "deceased" son during her standard speech on gun control. The panel member quickly pointed out that her son was not only alive, but was sitting in the audience.

Harpaz decided to focus her AP report on Clinton's embarrassing blunder, to the dismay of the campaign's public relations team.

"In a way, I feel like it's our job to air all the dirty laundry, and then let the voters decide what to think," explained Harpaz. "It's not so much that you put your own opinions aside, but when you're writing about the candidate, you must cover both sides."

SARA HENNEBERGER

## Cesar Chavez legacy

About 20 members of the Carnegie Mellon community met in the basement of Henderson Hall on Oct. 15 for a diversity discussion titled "United Farm Workers: A Decade Since Chavez." The participants, comfortably seated on lounge furniture and enjoying free food from Mad Mex, included students, faculty and retirees.

The meeting was part of the university series called Speak Your Mind, in which participants meet in an informal roundtable format to discuss issues of diversity that affect the campus, the region and the nation.

The discussion revolved around the status of Chicano/a farm workers since the death of Cesar Chavez nearly 10 years ago. Some of the topics for the evening included immigration and the border patrol, the impact Chavez has had on Chicano/as, the role of education in the living situation of farm workers and ethnic diversity at Carnegie Mellon.

John Soluri, assistant professor of History, facilitated the discussion. He opened with the background of the farm workers movement and the role of Chavez.

"The legacy of Cesar Chavez is important not just to farm workers, but more figuratively for Chicanos and Chicanas as a whole," said Soluri.

Chavez (1927-93) understood firsthand the plight of the farm worker. He became a migrant worker as a young man when his family lost its farm. Chavez later founded the UFW and spent his remaining years advocating the civil rights of farm workers.

Soluri also introduced the issue of ethnic diversity at CMU. "We should examine whether Chicanos and Chicanas have access to the same education opportunities as the rest of the population. They are a growing ethnic group in the nation, which begs the question — why aren't there more Chicano faculty and students at CMU?"

Responses to Soluri's question varied widely. Participants pointed out that Pennsylvania and bordering states, from which many CMU students originate, do not boast a significant population of Chicano/as. Others argued that CMU should more closely resemble the ethnic makeup of the nation, since the university seeks to be a national rather than regional school.

DENISE CULVER

FOCUS — in seven issues a year — is a publication of the faculty and staff of Carnegie Mellon University. Many of the articles in FOCUS express the opinions of individual members of the Carnegie Mellon community; unless so indicated, they should not be construed as reflecting university policy. In the spirit of the fairness doctrine, FOCUS seeks a variety of opinions.  
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## Letters

### Passed up with a bus pass

When I saw ace FOCUS photographer Brian Connelly taking photographs at the Forbes bus stop for the Oct. story "Riders feel bus route cutbacks," I thought now some attention will be given to the "pass the CM\* students and staff problem." This has been going on for 30 years. Bus leaves town, bus passes 5 hospitals 3 colleges and/or universities and uncountable businesses, bus fills up. If bus lands on CM bus stop "go directly to destination, do not stop, do not pick up commuters." (Optional rule driver may at his or her discretion use thumb to give false impression that another bus is imminent.) I appreciate very much the university picking up my bus fare, but I expect a fair shot at getting home like everyone else in town or Oakland. Is there no way at all that a shuttle can run from CM to Squirrel Hill? I would pay for that service, it's worth a \$2 a ride for me to get to my second bus on time.

The guy in the dark glasses in the middle of the picture,

FRANK A. REYNOLDS

\*The university formerly known as CMU.

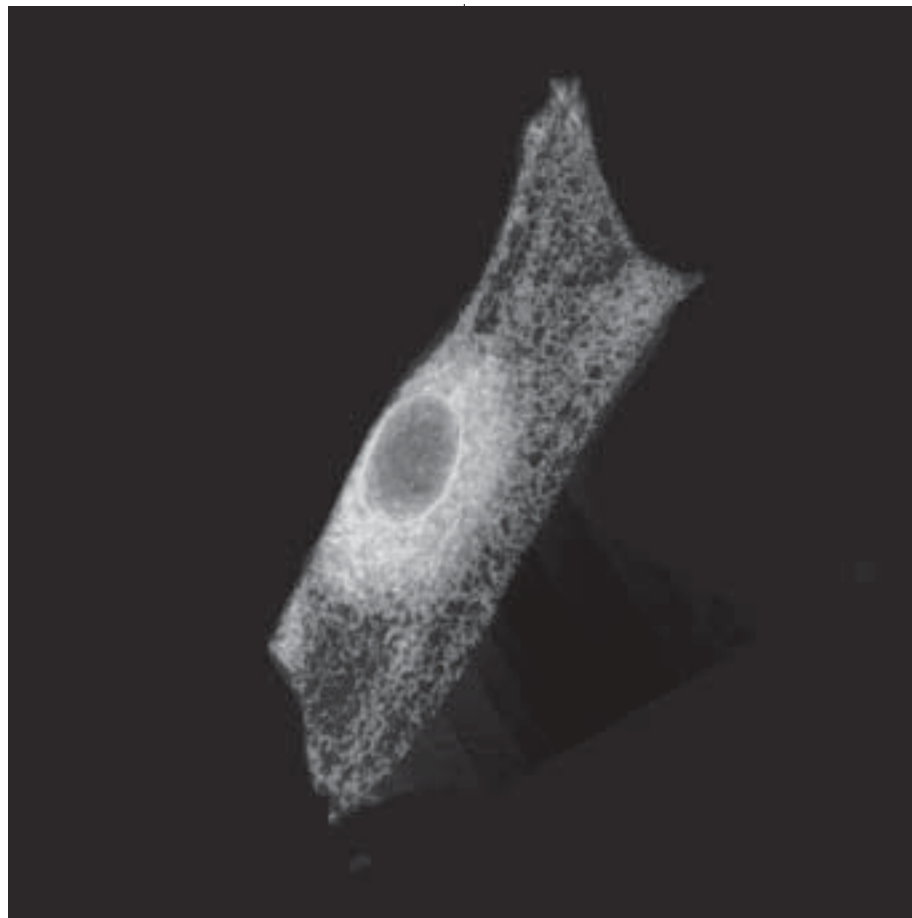
# CD-tagging technique allows tracking of cell activity

Using an innovative technique called CD-tagging, an interdisciplinary team of Carnegie Mellon molecular, cell and computational biologists can alter a mouse cell's genetic information so that its proteins emit a fluorescent green light. The technique, developed at Carnegie Mellon four years ago, allows researchers in the Mellon Institute to easily recognize cellular proteins and to observe their movement inside the cell. Their work was showcased on the cover of the October issue of "Biotechniques," a peer-reviewed international journal that provides state-of-the-art information about laboratory techniques.

Humans have tens of thousands of proteins, each with its own structure, function and location. Only a handful of these proteins are understood by scientists.

"For some genes we know what the protein product is and where it's located in the cell," explains Peter Berget, associate professor of Biological Sciences. "There are many instances where we know the DNA sequence associated with a particular gene, but we don't know the protein. CD-tagging technology, which allows us to trace the flow of information from DNA to RNA to protein, will play its major role in making the connection between genomic and proteomic information," Berget said.

During the CD-tagging process, researchers insert a gene for green fluorescent protein (GFP) into the DNA sequence of a mouse cell. They are able to do this without disrupting the normal regulation of the mouse gene. Once the GFP "tag" has been added, the mouse gene produces its protein, but now the protein includes the GFP portion that fluoresces. Using fluorescence microscopy, researchers can locate the particular protein within the cell.



A tagged calnexin gene. From "Biotechniques," with permission Eaton Publishing

"We do this one gene at a time so only one protein species in the cell is fluorescent. It's sort of like giving each protein a flashlight name tag to wave at us while we're looking at the cell," explains Berget.

CD-tagging was developed by researchers in the lab of Jonathan Jarvik, associate professor of Biological Sciences. Currently, Jarvik, Berget and Robert Murphy, also an associate professor of Biological Sciences,

are working on tagging a sampling of NIH 3T3 mouse fibroblast genes. Their work is supported by a National Institutes of Health grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) that encourages the development and study of innovative technologies for the molecular analysis of cancer.

The research team has submitted a renewal grant with the NCI so that they can tag the entire mouse genome instead of a lim-

ited number of genes. A possible application of such research would be to isolate a cancer cell line, generate CD-tagged cells and then compare the cancerous cells to CD-tagged normal cells. CD-tagging may enable researchers to visualize and perhaps explain any differences between cancerous and normal cells, leading to novel therapeutic developments.

In order to take on a research project of this magnitude, the lab plans to automate all phases of the CD-tagging process, which will involve the addition of robotic workstations, as well as automated microscopes and luminometers. Such a large-scale CD-tagging operation will generate thousands of images in a relatively short amount of time, which can be catalogued in a database. The researchers are currently collaborating with the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center, which is helping them to process and store the vast amounts of data they are generating.

CD-tagging technology not only offers the potential to discover and understand previously unknown proteins, but it also has intrinsic educational value. Because CD-tagged cells retain their normal function after the tag has been added, these cells are alive, functioning and expressing the fluorescent protein. Time lapse photography can capture images of a tagged cellular protein, in effect producing movies of cells undergoing mitosis and other cellular processes.

The green glow of CD-tagged cellular proteins provides a stunning image of proteins in the nuclear membrane, the cytoplasm, the endoplasmic reticulum and the nucleus. These images can be viewed online at: <http://cdtag.bio.cmu.edu>.

AMY PAVLAK

## Attorney takes charge as general counsel for Carnegie Mellon

The new face in Warner Hall is Mary Jo Dively, who started work Sept. 2 as vice president and general counsel for the university's legal affairs. Dively is the first to fill the position in more than a decade.

Prior to Dively's arrival, Carnegie Mellon's legal needs were served by an outside law firm, DeForest Koscelnik & Yokitis. Dively sees her position as long overdue, particularly because the university's peer institutions have internal general counsel.

Dively said, "I think it's different to have somebody on the inside whose concerns involve only the university — especially with the volume of research and government requirements that we need to meet here."

Dively said her main goal is to create a general counsel's office that is "user-



Mary Jo Dively

friendly" and able to serve the legal needs of the university while protecting its assets and endowment.

Already, Dively said she has been impressed with the friendliness of her colleagues at CMU, and the excitement with which they approach their work. "In some ways, I think that my heart is in the work — and I feel that my brain is exploding from all the groundbreaking things that we do here."

Dively has an interest in electronic commerce. A graduate of Vanderbilt Law School who spent 19 years in private practice, she has represented technology and Internet companies, as well as traditional companies adapting to the effects of e-commerce. She participated in the drafting of two cornerstone laws in the field: the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, and the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act. As a partner at Reed Smith Shaw McClay, a Pittsburgh-based national law firm, she served as head of its Technology, Media and

Communications Group. Today, she speaks and writes frequently about the legal issues affecting e-commerce nationwide.

She said, "It seems to me that Carnegie Mellon has the potential to play a key role and add our voice to the national debate — and the time is absolutely right for us to be involved."

Outside of CMU, Dively is a member of the American Law Institute, co-chairs the Information Transactions Committee of the American Bar Association and is a former director of the Pittsburgh Technology Council. Currently, she is chair of the Board of Trustees of the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the UPMC Health System. Dively lives in Fox Chapel with her husband, Lane, and their 7-year-old triplet sons.

AIMEE PI

## Grads clarifying career choices with two years of volunteer service

Even after switching her major from voice to mechanical engineering, Ellie Moore still didn't know what she wanted to do after graduation. "Nothing looked right," said Moore, a fifth-year senior. "I didn't find anything that just said, 'A-ha!'"

Then a friend suggested that she look into the Peace Corps as a post-graduate plan. Moore was impressed with the program and began the arduous application process in August. After several lengthy interviews, detailed medical examinations and legal background checks, Moore received a nomination to serve as an agricultural advisor in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Although the country has yet to be determined, Moore will travel to Africa after her December graduation for three months of intensive language and culture training followed by two years of service. Her duties will include working with at least one other Peace Corps volunteer to build an aqueduct for a farming village.

Among Carnegie Mellon students, Moore is not alone in her desire to spend time in a volunteer organization before joining the work force.

"There has been an increased interest in the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps and Teach for

America this year," said Renee Starek, career consultant in the Mellon College of Science, estimating that recent graduation classes have contributed one to three MCS graduates to national service groups. "Students are much more open to exploring all the options available upon graduation."

Harriet Schwartz, career consultant in the College of Fine Arts, said there is a steady interest in volunteer organizations. CFA students have shown a particular interest in Teach For America, a program where graduates teach in poor schools for two years.

"It seems that each year, a small number of CFA students realize they have an interest in teaching," said Schwartz. "It's a terrific opportunity for them to try out the field and get certified in the process."

Humanities and Social Sciences yields the highest number of volunteers, with an average of five students joining service groups upon graduation each year.

"The service organizations seem to be an overall better fit for the group of students in the college of H&SS," said Courtney Little, career consultant for the college. "However, I believe that this is more of an individual preference."

"I don't believe that college and major

predicts what type of student will join service organizations," agreed Starek. "It is rooted more in their individual interests and philosophies."

The participation of Carnegie Institute of Technology students in national volunteer programs remains low, said Lisa Dickter, career consultant for the college. Only two CIT students have joined the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps in the past four years.

The difference in volunteer rates between students with technical versus liberal arts degrees reflects a larger trend, said Moore, who feels that her background in engineering made her an unusual and appealing candidate for the Peace Corps.

"They don't get a lot of technical majors," she said. Moore believes that the high-paying, competitive nature of technical jobs often dissuades graduates from sacrificing one or two years to volunteerism. "If you step out of the [job field], you may have trouble stepping back in."

Moore said that the professional risks are worth the benefits. "I want to learn another language, experience another country and gain another perspective." Noting that the Peace Corps "looks good on a resume," Moore hopes the skills she will gain during

her time in Africa will help her find employment in a variety of fields once she returns.

Service in Teach For America helped Becca Albrecht to clarify her career choice. After graduating with a BHA in architecture and human behavior studies in 1996, Albrecht spent two years teaching a fifth-grade class at a bilingual elementary school in Houston, Texas.

"There were certainly tough days when I would drive home in tears trying to figure out what I could have done differently to relate to this student or teach this lesson," said Albrecht. "I gained a great deal of insight about myself, including a better understanding of my patience levels and creativity, and my ability to stick with something, even when it's challenging."

Albrecht now works as the coordinator of student development at Carnegie Mellon. She hopes to return to teaching and is interested in public education administration.

Teach for America "has had a significant impact on my professional and personal path," Albrecht said. "I am absolutely confident that I am committed to the field of education."

SARA HENNEBERGER

# Heinz School project encourages Internet democracy

The explosion of the Internet and the web in the last 10 years has been responsible for spreading all types of things, from news and games to fan clubs to pornography. A group of Carnegie Mellon researchers is examining its potential to spread something radically different: democracy.

Led by professors Peter Shane and Peter Muhlberger of the Heinz School, researchers are systematically examining the concept of "deliberative democracy": What it means, who participates in it and how to use the Internet to systematically foster it.

Shane, a constitutional lawyer and former dean of Pitt's law school, has long held an interest in fostering citizen participation in government. While at Pitt, he saw the Internet as having the potential to increase participation, but any meaningful study of the subject would need to proceed from expertise in instructional technology and social science as well as law. These needs led him to Carnegie Mellon and the Heinz School, where in April 2001 he founded InSITEs, the Institute for the Study of Information Technology and Society, to provide a base for examining how technology can be and is

used in society.

Deliberative democracy, which Muhlberger defines as "an attempt to get people to learn about and discuss political issues," is not a new concept; promoting it on the Internet is. One way this is being done within InSITEs is the Community Connections project. The main goals of Community Connections are to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue on the impact of IT on society, to develop frameworks for constructive civic debate and to educate policy makers and citizens about important issues.

This project has five main objectives: 1) to understand how and when people engage in political discussion; 2) to create a website to foster online discussion ([www.cmu.edu/cc](http://www.cmu.edu/cc)); 3) to get people to use the website; 4) to study how people use the website; and 5) to distribute tools and software.

Some of the work is taking place in classes at the university (see sidebar). The Community Connections website includes discussion boards, an online library, a search engine and a database for Allegheny County residents to find their elected representatives, from the President to the local school

## One of Muhlberger's most surprising findings was that educated homeowners participated less in online discussion than was thought.

board. Shane describes the site as "local focus, national prototype."

Carnegie Mellon hosted a landmark conference on Electronic Democracy on Sept. 20 and 21. The conference, conceived and organized by Shane, brought in speakers from different disciplines, including political science, law and communications, to discuss the effects of the Internet on public participation in civic discourse.

The conference explored a range of theoretical and practical topics, including who uses the Internet, what online democracy really means and how organizations have increased public participation in civic issues. Presenters came from academia, industry and government, and from as far away as Israel and the Netherlands. A total of 91 people from 38 organizations attended.

Muhlberger presented the results of the Community Connections study he conducted in Pittsburgh. By comparing the online versus face-to-face political discussion habits of 524 Pittsburgh residents, he found that online political discussion made up almost 10 percent of all political discussion, a "small but not negligible amount."

One issue which Muhlberger and others are looking at is the "digital divide," the possibility that access/lack of access to computer technology will widen the gaps between the haves and the have-nots.

One of Muhlberger's most surprising findings was that educated homeowners, who would normally be counted among the haves, participated less in online discussion than was thought. While the reasons for this lack of participation were not evident from the study, the implications are disturbing. While researchers want to develop systems that will mitigate the effect of the digital divide, they want to do it by increasing the participation of the underrepresented, not decreasing the participation of others.

The conference presentations were not limited to research studies or theoretical analyses. Several organizations maintain online forums, and their descriptions of the forums were intriguing.

The League of Women Voters' website is probably the best-known example. Its vision is to be the one-stop location where citizens post questions and candidates at all levels respond to those questions and to each other. While the website has not yet fully realized that goal, it remains one of the best sources for citizens seeking information about issues and candidates.

Several other groups have designed and conducted controlled on-line forums, such as [e-thePeople.org](http://e-thePeople.org), [weblab.org](http://weblab.org) and [unchat.com](http://unchat.com).

The unchat.com website was designed with the viewpoint that useful deliberation is "structured speech," not free speech. Discussion is moderated, but the moderator participates in the discussion, and all participants periodically elect a new moderator. Unchat mimics informal aspects of face-to-face discussion, such as the ability to "whisper" a comment to a single person in the forum, or "shout" comments that bypass the moderator and interrupt the discussion. The number of shouts is limited, however, and using them may negatively affect a person's chances to be elected moderator.

The benefits of the conference were far-reaching. "The people who participated now consider themselves a network on this type of information," says Shane. They are working together to establish research priorities and links between academia and organizations that will implement these activities in the "real world." One pleasant surprise, he said, was that "the general objectives of academics and practitioners are basically identical."

The conference was just the beginning. Last month, the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded a three-year, \$2.1 million grant to researchers at Carnegie Mellon to develop tools and software to help citizens use the Internet to become informed participants in community issues. They want to develop a model that can be exported to other communities and organizations. The primary investigators are Shane, Muhlberger and Robert Cavalier, senior lecturer in the Philosophy department.

The grant money will be used to develop and test software to support a virtual meeting place. There are two main areas of research. Shane explains that the first involves questions of design, including: Do you moderate discussion? If so, how? What format is best to foster interaction - text/audio/other? How do you handle identifying people, and ensuring they are who they say they are? Design questions for an interactive website are "as complicated as the architecture for a skyscraper."

The second area of research revolves around social science issues. Does on-line deliberation happen? Under what conditions? How does it compare, in quality and quantity, to face-to-face discussions? The best-designed online forum will be a failure if no one bothers to use it.

Shane sees online forums possibly transforming civic interaction. Online hearings could replace public hearings, which traditionally are poorly attended.

He says he could "imagine a world in which a governmental body sets up an online citizens jury" to discuss a public issue. He even dares to hope, as far as the level of citizen involvement, that the online could be better than the real world.

MEG PAPA

## Designing an electronic democracy

This semester, students in On-Line Information Design are addressing questions regarding the design of a website for the Heinz School project on online democracy. Typically, students in the graduate and undergraduate sections of English 76-487 and English 76-887 find a project where they define the users of the site they are designing. For the Heinz School project, "by definition, users are just about anyone," says Steve Kuhn, instructor in English and teacher of the undergraduate section of the class.

Students in the courses break into groups to address different questions of design: What should the online and printed material look like? How do you set up moderated discussion, from the viewpoint of the moderator and the participant? How do you design the survey form? How do you present the results of a deliberation to journalists and policymakers?

For example, students in the graduate section of the course taught by Christine Neuwirth, professor of English and HCII, approximated an audio-only online discussion by placing paper bags over part of the subjects' heads, restricting their vision and reducing the amount of non-verbal clues each saw.

One group in Kuhn's section observed how people read online news stories, using a process called "think-aloud": the people under observation are encouraged to vocalize their thoughts as they read a 600-word news article from either the USA Today or MSNBC websites.

The group chose six people: two each who described themselves as uninterested, somewhat interested and very interested in news issues. All six people lost interest after reading only a few paragraphs, claiming they were bored. This disconcerting finding raises questions on how information about issues can be distributed to people in an engaging way.

Another surprising finding was that people were more comfortable reading news stories written by people whose names they recognized and trusted. Since the majority of news writers, scientists and other information providers are not public personalities, this finding raises questions about how to get people to trust information given to them.

Neuwirth's class also found that more interactivity doesn't always mean quality deliberation. They approximated online deliberation with text only, audio-only, audio with still images and video. She said the studies showed that "if a video was being projected, [participants] were very self-conscious" and did not participate as much as with the other types of interaction.

The nearly 30 people in the two sections of On-Line Information Design are students majoring in information systems, design, human-computer interaction and English.

MEG PAPA

# A year later, student visas hitting snags in wake of Sept. 11 attacks

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Lisa Krieg, the director of the Office of International Education (OIE), offered an explanation for the delay: "In the post 9-11 environment, males between the age of 16 to 45 from certain countries are targeted for security check. Until the check is complete, the students' visa application will not be approved."

Shortly after the Sept. 11 event, the Bush administration tightened its policies on admitting foreign students from certain countries. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's website has a list of 26 countries that are expected to be under tight security under the U.S. government. The countries on that list are Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates,

Yemen, and the territories of Gaza and the West Bank

Choe doesn't blame the U.S. Embassy or any other parties for the delay in processing his visa, but he said, "Sufficient consideration must be given to innocent international students."

Since then, the Malaysian scholars have received their visas in mid October, when their security check was finally completed. Krieg says, however, that only five students have confirmed their intentions to study at Carnegie Mellon next semester, with one exchange student declining admission because of a problem with the sequencing of his course work. Her office was unable to reach the remaining two students.

Krieg believes the security check will continue to be an issue next year. As a response to possible future delays, Krieg said the OIE is "encouraging departments and talking with admission about letting

students know as soon as possible about their admission. We are trying to raise consciousness and awareness so that students can make timely decisions."

During the current school year, international students are 11 percent of the undergraduate population and 44 percent of graduate students, including master's and doctoral candidates.

The impact on international students has varied greatly from country to country and person to person.

Yuranan Hanlumyuang, a freshman from Thailand, received his visa without any difficulties. "I didn't have any trouble applying for the visa. I got it within a week," said the materials science major.

The situation also holds true for most Chinese students, Krieg said. "We did not see any particular rise in the numbers of denials of Chinese students. Visa denials in China for both students and scholars are an

ongoing issue."

So if a student is denied a visa, is it the end of studying in the U.S.?

Not necessarily, Krieg explained.

"In the case of visa denials, we work with the academic departments, the students and the U.S. consulate, if necessary, to counsel the student to overcome the objection which was presented by the U.S. consular officer. The U.S. consular officer is responsible for the final determination, and sometimes will not be swayed by outside comment. Students should always be told the reason for the denial and may apply again, sometimes after a designed waiting period."

The process of getting a visa to study abroad can be a difficult, especially after the Sept. 11 event. With stricter regulations and tighter securities, it is best that students work closely with their advisors to successfully secure their visas in a timely manner.

KAI WU

# Ethics course goes global, linking with Monterrey

One course, two countries and as many as 100 students hooked up via a live video feed — that's the new global dimension of Ethical Judgment in Professional Life.

"I think that it is still unique," says Peter Madsen, senior lecturer in Philosophy, who knows of no other applied ethics courses with a classroom like his. When Madsen began teaching the course in 1992, he had no idea that many of his students would be someday sitting at a university in Mexico.

Ethical Judgment in Professional Life — one of several courses with a global dimension that will be featured in upcoming issues of FOCUS — is designed to expose students both to classroom learning and a multimedia or cyberspace environment.

In 1999, Carnegie Mellon proposed using the course in a pilot program with students at the El Tec de Monterrey in Mexico, formerly known as ITESM. The Tec de Monterrey is one of the premier universities in Mexico and has several campuses, including the Virtual University where roughly 100 courses are beamed to universities throughout Latin America.

Since 1999 the program has been using live video conferencing that allows students from CMU and Tec de Monterrey to see one another via images streamed through a standard data projection. The course this fall had 25 Tec de Monterrey students and 75 CMU students in three sections.

Throughout the course, Madsen explained, students explore topics from cultural values to terrorism. Within the discussion of cultural values, the class learns



Peter Madsen and the logo of the Virtual University Photo: Brian Connelly

about cultural relativism, the idea that what is considered right and wrong is dependent upon the given culture. One way that cultural relativism is addressed is by comparing the two world views of radical Islam and capitalism. The course also promotes discussions on topics such as the Enron debacle and the maquiladoras that operate on the U.S.-Mexican border.

Brian Namey, a senior majoring in ethics, history, and public policy major said, "The multimedia course gave us students the opportunity to examine our ethical beliefs in an international context. It afforded us the chance to learn varying beliefs from those who practice them. It encourages us to think beyond what is immediately around us and to make professional decisions mindful of those far from us."

After Sept. 11, the course took on a new significance. Madsen recalled a class in which the Mexican students "expressed their very heartfelt sorrow" about what had occurred in New York. "The course sets up a world dialogue that allows for self-knowledge, which you might not have been able to get 10 to 15 years ago," Madsen said.

Madsen said the course was designed to expose students to the ethics and values of other cultures, "the real global world that we're all citizens of."

The semester course is divided into four quarters and 14 modules, and the students meet inside and outside of this virtual classroom. The fourth quarter is solely devoted to completion of a final project.

The modules contain video, text and audiotape information about ethical questions

in medicine, engineering, government, law, accounting and business. The students explore the issues through computer-mediated discussions. An example of a module is a videotaped interview of Roger Boisjoly, the Space Shuttle Challenger whistleblower. After studying the modules, students write two essays in each of the first three quarters on the various modules.

In addition, the students complete guided inquiries. "A guided inquiry is a set of interactive, web-based explorations and exercises dealing with and devoted to a particular topic," Madsen explains. "Users are provided a path — sometimes the path has signposts, sometimes it does not — through the World Wide Web that takes them on an educational journey composed of intellectual challenges and provocative reflections."

Namey says, "The beauty of the course is that these CMU and Mexican students are learning from each other. The intercultural communication helped us to see how professional decisions may change depending on time, place and cultural context."

The workload is heavy, but students here and in Monterrey are able to use Blackboard to work from their computers at home. There is a long waiting list for the course in Monterrey, even though English fluency is required.

Asked about expanding the program, Madsen replied, "It is my hope to introduce other countries into this course as well, not just Mexico. I would like to try and get the four corners of the world."

BIANCA CHANG

## Equity rules in athletics as women's participation grows

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team in 1992. The latter team instantly added 30 women to the athlete pool.

The coaching staff has also grown to meet the needs of the women's teams. Seven of the Athletics department's 11 full-time coaches are involved with women's sports.

Maser said it has been easy for her to implement these changes, and she has never had to fight for anything she wanted.

Heather Kendra, head women's soccer coach, also feels that CMU has a serious commitment to supporting women athletes. She said she has never heard any soccer player express concerns about inequity.

As budget holder for the department, Maser ensures that the women are given adequate funding for travel and equipment. The total budget for the Athletics department last year was \$2.4 million, a large proportion of which was spent on the salaries of the department's 29 staff.

Since joining the UAA, the university has incurred a large increase in game-day operating expenses, including food, travel, ac-

commodation, uniforms and equipment for both home and away games. In 2000-01 the game-day operating expenses totaled \$532,505, of which the women's teams contributed 40.3 percent. Finally, renovation plans for Skibo Gymnasium include a new women's locker room on the first floor.

Recruiting costs in 2000-01 totaled \$56,484. The department downplays recruiting, saying it recruits only to meet the current needs of the teams. About 30 percent of the 2000-01 recruiting costs went toward recruitment of women.

Asked about the impact of athletics on academic life, Harvey pointed out that varsity athletes actually receive higher grades than non-athletes. The average GPA for varsity athletes last year was 3.21, while the CMU average was 3.1. Saying the athletes' GPA scores have been consistently high for the last 10 years, Harvey explained that athletes develop time-management skills because of their busy schedules, and that their coaches encourage them to study.

Maser also pointed out that athletic

achievement gives students an advantage in the job market because employees often view athletic achievement as an indication of leadership skills and team spirit. She drew my attention to a recent article on the Women's Sports Foundation website, that described 80 percent of the female executives at Fortune 500 companies as having participated in sports as young women, ([www.womenssportsfoundation.org](http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org)).

Kendra said a good athletics program enhances life for non-athletes as well, because it instills a feeling of community and helps to establish bonds between students.

There are no minimum test scores or grade requirements for admission to CMU. Non-academic activities are taken into account along with SAT I or ACT and SAT II scores. Athletes recruited by the university must meet the same academic requirements as the non-athletic admissions, according to both Maser and Kendra.

Mike Palmer, kicker for the Tartans football team said he was recruited by coach Rich Lackner, but was not guaranteed a

place at CMU at the time of recruitment. He said his application was processed at the same time as the others.

Amanda Lowman, assistant director for Admissions, said the office makes the final decision about admitting a student, taking into account their athletic abilities as a "non-academic activity" that does not give them an advantage over other applicants of similar caliber. She said places are not reserved for athletes in general. Even though CMU pays special attention to women and minority applicants, she said, places are not reserved for women or minority athletes.

CMU's support for its women athletes is paying off on the playing field. The women's soccer team finished 11-5-2 as an ECAC Mid-Atlantic semifinalist. The women's volleyball team went to the NCAA playoffs last year, as did a woman diver, and the women's basketball team was ECAC South region champion three years ago.

KATHERINE ROBERTSON-SMITH

## Linux operating system: now running at a cluster near you

continued from page one

percent of its 4,500 computers. With only 1,475 people in the department, there is one Unix machine per person — and the computer-to-human ratio is nearly 3:1. Additional Linux clusters are housed in the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center (PSC) in Mellon Institute, which recently received a \$45 million grant for terascale computing. PSC is a joint effort of Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh and Westinghouse Electric Co.

Knowledge of Linux is a marketable skill, as 29 percent of U.S. companies are now running Linux servers. CMU's emphasis on the OS appears to be giving students an advantage over the competition. Last spring, for example, Mike Schellhase, a computer science and ECE major, was one of 25 national winners in IBM's Linux Scholar Challenge, for which he designed an application to improve software testing.

"This was a great contest to participate in," Schellhase said. "I was thrilled to offer my input as an experienced programmer since Linux is a large component of our school's technology."

Ranked the nation's "most wired" university by "Yahoo! Internet Life" for two consecutive years, Carnegie Mellon is not one to fall behind trends in technology. CMU is currently one of only 20 colleges and universities in the nation to offer Linux support, in this case for the Redhat 7.1 running on Linux machines in the clusters. The support is offered through the CS Help desk, an entirely separate entity from Computing Service's help center, which supports Windows and Macintosh.

Linux is the brainchild of Linus Torvalds, a Finnish programmer who worked on the OS for three years before releasing version 1.0 in 1994. Torvalds began the project as a hobby modeled after the proprietary Unix, never imagining that Linux would be used as widely as it is today. Aside from Torvalds, the OS is the product of programmers motivated by passion — not money — to improve the system. Linux is arguably the most widely used open source operating system. Not only is the source code available for modification, but redistribution of the software is free.

In general, Linux operates as a server OS,

rather than on a desktop computer. While more than 98 percent of Internet surfers worldwide running either a Windows or Macintosh OS, Linux users account for less than one-quarter of 1 percent. One in four new server computers, however, is currently a Linux box.

In education, many school districts use Linux as a backend to support the Web, e-mail, file servers and firewalls. Because the source code is available to the public (open source), the OS proves to be a cost-effective alternative to the heavy licensing fees that accompany Microsoft products. Additionally, the source code is accessible and modifiable, making it easy for schools to customize Linux to meet their individual needs. This is also true throughout academia, where scientific applications are being run on Unix or a Unix clone such as Linux.

Worldwide computing company Hewlett-Packard (HP) recently announced an additional HP Itanium2/Linux cluster to be built for the PSC computing environment. On Nov. 12, HP and PSC formed a strategic alliance to demonstrate the potential of the National Science Foundation's extensible

TeraGrid. This project, which is to be the nation's fastest and most powerful computing grid, aims at enabling scalable, open source, commodity computing to address real-world problems. In addition to TeraGrid, PSC will use the new Linux cluster for their high-performance computing needs.

Linux dominates in high performance clusters, where 50 percent of the machines are Linux boxes. One example is at the University at Buffalo, where Dell is currently building a Linux cluster with more than 2,000 machines that will be used for human genome research.

Although Linux is gaining ground as an operating system, it is by no means taking over the Unix world; rather, it is supplementing the proprietary Unix OS. Solaris, a Unix OS, can only be run on Sun Microsystems machines, and can be quite costly, limiting its use. Linux, on the other hand, can be run on any PC.

Some people believe that the best things in life are free. Linux may not necessarily be the best, but it's certainly establishing itself as a respected, reliable operating system.

AIMEE PI

# Looking for a few good friends in the workplace

When you consider that most people spend more than one-third of their daily lives on the job, we probably should make more of an effort to enjoy it. Right? Well, we have found that having a few good friends, or even one friend, can really make the difference in the day.

So often we come into work with home problems, lack of sleep or everyday dilemmas. We then begin to tackle the problems at the office. Sometimes we just need to be reassured that someone cares, and it's been proven that TLC is good for what ails us. Human communication soothes the soul, and psychology has proven that we need reach-out contact that is vital to emotional well-being.

So, how do you make friends at work? What do you look for in a friendship? Either question could be answered by "golden rules" from a survey conducted with grade



school kids who were queried on the subject of friendship. Thy said that to be a friend or make a friend you should:

- Keep secrets
- Listen when your friend is talking
- Try to keep your all promises
- Recognize that sharing is a magical tool and share goodies, jokes and all the parts of your life that matter most to you
- Always tell your friend the truth

How do we find a friend at work?

Everyone's busy. Well, sometimes we chat, but overall we say "Who has time for this?"

The answer is simple. We are bound by time and energy. We are here to work, and we put our energy into that, but how do we recharge? Sometimes a little on-the-job recharging — a joke, a personal story — will do us a world of good

We believe that the energy of friendship is expressed in rhythm. It's the music of the heart and soul. So, how did we connect, Jackie to Coni and Coni to Jackie?

We recall the first day that we met. There was an immediate connection. We shared a common bond, and some sort of rhythm that we still share today. We both started on campus in the same office, the exact same week. We were both open to the possibility that we could become friends.

Perhaps the reality of friendship begins with the thought, then, that rhythms can be

set into motion. Although one of us has moved on to another department, we are still friends. We go out together and chat on the phone at night while watching television. Anytime there is a university-wide event, we go together, or meet each other there. Sometimes we even participate in events together or exercise together at lunch time, just for the change of pace to the workday or if either of us has something on our minds we might need to bounce off the other. We take turns buying lunch, driving places or just calling or e-mailing to check in — but we don't keep track of whose turn it is.

There are times when people connect and there are times when they do not. Try not to let that discourage you. So don't stop reaching out. It can actually be good for productivity. Anyway, it might just be something to think about!

JACKIE JENKINS & CONI KOEPFINGER

## More Talkers

### PLO lawyer: think like a Palestinian

If the Israel versus Palestine dispute ever reaches a courtroom, Diana Buttu could be counsel for the Palestinian side. Born in Toronto to Palestinian immigrants, she has two law degrees from Stanford and one from Queen's University in Ontario, all at only 31. Buttu has worked as an adviser to the Palestine Liberation Organization since the fall of 2000, living in the West Bank city of Ramallah. She is on a speaking tour in the United States urging Americans to oppose U.S. support of Israel and elaborating Palestinian fears of ethnic cleansing carried out by Israel under the cover of a U.S. war against Iraq. She spoke Nov. 13 to a near-capacity crowd of about 300 in Doherty Hall 2210 as part of the Carnegie Mellon Activities Board political speakers series.

Buttu appears often on television and with her mid-North American neutral professional accent and lawyerly presentation, she is clearly ready for prime time. At Doherty, she addressed the crowd as she would a sympathetic jury. "I'm going to empower you a bit. At the end of this talk, you will have a sense of thinking like the Palestinians think."

What the Palestinians think, Buttu said, was that the peace process that began with the 1993 Oslo accords is a sham. "It is not about peace between equals. It is about getting rid of as many Palestinians as possible while holding on to as much of our land as possible."

Before Oslo, Buttu said, Palestinian people and goods had freedom of movement in the West Bank and Gaza. Now Israeli checkpoints surround the defined areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority (which Buttu described as "Bantustans" or "Native American reservations").

Throughout the seven years after the signing of Oslo, Buttu said, "Israel continued to colonize the area." The population of Israeli settlers doubled to 400,000, Buttu said, feeding into the Palestinians' worst fears.

Buttu was contemptuous of the "so-called generous offer" in 2000 by then-Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak at the Camp David talks hosted by a lame-duck President Clinton. "We would have been entirely surrounded and controlled by Israel," Buttu said, with Israel in charge of Palestinian life from water resources to mobile phones, with no right of refugees to return to homes in Israel. "When we reached the issue of refugees, Israel walked out of the room."

Buttu described life in Ramallah, where an Israeli curfew is enforced by U.S. supplied tanks, F-16 fighters and Apache helicopters. "If you open the door, you risk the death penalty," Buttu said, citing an Israeli human rights group's finding that 80 percent of curfew victims are children. "Nothing in Canadian or U.S. experience prepares you for an F-16. Nothing prepares you for the visual of a mother scrabbling through the rubble trying to find her baby."

Buttu said part of her hope for the future was dependent on Americans. "Press your government to stop funding Israel's war crimes." She asked the audience to sign on to a divestment campaign, reminiscent of the campaign for universities and other institutions not to invest in companies doing business in apartheid-era South Africa.

Buttu offered one eye-catching alternative to negotiations to create a Palestinian state. "Israeli colonization is increasing to the point where Palestine is not a viable state." It might by time, she said, to seek equal citizenship within Israel rather than equal statehood. After the talk, she allowed that this idea does not have much support among Palestinians.

During the question and answer session after the talk, a man in the beard, skullcap and robe of a religious Muslim offered another alternative. After pointing out that the PLO is "hand-in-hand" with Israel, he said, "No need for a solution. Let our people die with pride without negotiations."

BRIAN CONNELLY

### Pipes: militant Islam is U.S. enemy in war

No demonstrations greeted conservative anti-terrorism pundit Daniel Pipes Nov. 4 at the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall for a talk titled "Militant Islam and the War on Terror." Apart from a flier denouncing Pipes and a few ranting questions, the audience of around 300 was positively sedate, thanks in part to the no-nonsense moderating of Judy Palkovitz of the Pittsburgh United Jewish Federation, who sponsored the talk.

Head of the Middle East Forum, a Philadelphia-based think tank, Pipes was a relatively obscure figure before Sept. 11. Now his resume of television appearances is too long to count. He writes a column in the New York Post and is published regularly in conservative magazines.

Pipes began by talking about the flier that was handed out at the door, "Warning to the Academic Community: A New McCarthyism." The flier denounced Pipes' recent project "Campus Watch," a website criticizing many academics in Middle East studies as being apologists for militant Islam and anti-American views. The academics named in Campus Watch include well-known activists such as Edward Said of Columbia University, along with often-cited "mainstream" authorities like John Esposito of Georgetown.

Criticism is not the same as McCarthyism, Pipes maintained. "We're not shutting anyone down. We're just expressing ourselves. We believe that by criticizing Middle East studies, we can improve it."

Pipes said that the war on terror is off-track, because the United States has not answered two fundamental questions: "Who is the enemy? And what are the goals of the United States?"

President Bush has described the enemy as terrorists and evildoers, but Pipes main-



Daniel Pipes after the talk

tained that "there is no enemy in this description — it's like FDR declared war on surprise attacks in 1941." Similarly, ending the terrorism, Pipes said, is not a war goal.

"Vagueness is dangerous," Pipes said, and he is anything but vague. "The strategic, long-term enemy of the United States is militant Islam."

Pipes' central idea is that militant Islam is not a religious concept, but a modern ideology of radical utopian change on a par with fascism and communism. According to Pipes, an active minority, no more than 10 to 15 percent of Muslims, supports militant Islam, but that minority has an outsized influence. "It is an attempt to recreate the society that existed at the time of Muhammad, that turns a personal faith into a militant ideology."

Militant Islam, Pipes said, is a response to modern needs and pressures. Supporters do not see Islam as a competing religion with Christianity or Judaism — they see it as a competing ideology with Western democracy and capitalism.

Pointing to the educated backgrounds of the Sept. 11 hijackers, Pipes said that militant Islam is not linked to poverty. He also said it is not linked to American foreign policies, which he described as only irritants. "Imagine that the United States changed the policies," Pipes said. "Militant Islam would not go away."

Pipes laid out a series of actions fueled by militant Islam, beginning with the Iranian seizure of the American embassy in 1979 that "began the hammering away at the United States." Pipes counted 800 deaths in "a steady drumbeat of murders" before Sept. 11, including the 1983 bombing of the Marine barracks in Lebanon and the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center.

"All of these attacks were seen as crime, not as war," he said. While individuals were prosecuted, "No attempt was made to destroy the organizations that sent them out."

Having identified the enemy, Pipes offered his version of United States war goals: to defeat militant Islam and strengthen moderate Islam. This war is analogous to World War II or the Cold War, Pipes said: "We destroyed the appeal of fascism. In the Cold War, we were confronting the ideology behind the Soviet Union."

Moderate Islam is not strong now, Pipes said, and the United States must do the fighting. He offered the analogy of Germany in the middle of World War II: "The good Germans were weak. We defeated the Nazis and the democrats emerged."

BRIAN CONNELLY

### Gay Cuban writer connects spiritually

Cuban writer Christian de la Huerta kicked off the International Festival lecture series on Oct. 10 in McConomy Auditorium, addressing an audience of about 60 students, professors and community members in a comfortable, inviting voice. De la Huerta wrote "Coming Out Spiritually: The Next Step," which was rated by Publishers Weekly as one of the 10 best religious books in 1999, and was also nominated for a Lambda Award.

De la Huerta was born in Cuba in 1959, just after the communist revolution. His parents were "spiritual revolutionists," always taking the family to church every week despite the dangers of getting arrested. De la Huerta remembers from a very young age wanting to be a priest, but also realizing that he was attracted to men. This was always a major conflict for him because he knew eventually that a choice would have to be made. He made that choice in college when he kissed his first love. Being gay, he realized, could not be wrong or sinful, as he had been taught for so many years. "It changed my life forever."

He emigrated to the U.S. and in his 30s was living the "high life" in Miami. He had all of the material objects anyone could ever want, but one day he asked himself what the point of it all was. He felt vacant, unfulfilled and needed to reconnect spiritually.

This led him to organize Q-Spirit, a queer organization "catalyzing the necessary conditions for queer people to fully claim their spiritual roles of service, leadership and community enrichment in the world." Originally founded as Berdache, a spirituality group for gay men, Q-Spirit has evolved to include gays, lesbians, transsexuals and transgendered persons (GLBTs). Berdache is a name given by European explorers for Native American males who displayed feminine qualities, who are valued as a sacred trust and sent to the shaman to study the traditional work of both sexes.

In attempting to find their place in the world, GLBTs have all too often "thrown out the baby with the bath water," de la Huerta said. Because of the rejection they have received from the spiritual community, they often reject religion; this not only leaves them with a longing for something more, but deprives the spiritual community of their spiritual gifts.

Q-Spirit hopes to reclaim the age-old role of GLBTs as teachers, healers, shamans and visionaries. This national organization now sponsors a monthly e-newsletter, Techno-Rituals, informal discussion groups, a three-day Coming Out Spiritually retreat and other spiritual activities. For information on Q-Spirit, go to [www.Q-SPIRIT.org](http://www.Q-SPIRIT.org)

"It doesn't matter what's in between our legs or how we use it," de la Huerta shrugged. "It's inconsequential."

JULIA MORAN

# “Paradise Now” bridges art and biotechnology

A painting depicting a chicken with six wings, a cow with a multitude of udders, and a pig growing human lungs, kidneys and a heart is among the pieces on display in the Regina Gouger Miller Gallery's exhibition, "Paradise Now: Picturing the Genetic Revolution." The painting, Alexis Rockman's "The Farm," is part of an exhibition that uses art and visual images to encourage public discussion of advances in genetics and biotechnology, according to co-curator Marvin Heiferman.

"Paradise Now" will be on display through Dec. 15.

Heiferman was one of seven panelists who discussed key issues raised by "Paradise Now" during a panel discussion on Nov. 6. The panel included artists, a biology professor, a lawyer, a philosopher, a theologian and an art historian.

"The exhibit provokes us to see that genetics is not just a science. It has a context and a path," said Ronald Cole-Turner, an ethicist and professor of theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He went on to say that he is interested in the connections that exist between science and deeper cultural values.

Some of the pieces in the exhibit reflect artists' interpretations of this connection. Larry Miller's piece, "Genomic License No. 5 (Alison Knowles Properties)," is a collection of framed photographs and documents that identify Knowles by her genetic code. The piece includes certificates that verify that she has copyrighted her genetic code, along with a contract that details its sale. The artist identifies Knowles not only through photographs, but by blood and hair samples.

One issue raised by the piece is the "un-



*The Farm, by Alexis Rockman*

hinging of identity," said David Smith, senior vice president and general counsel at Tissue Informatics, Inc.

Several panelists agreed pieces in the exhibition reflect the public's concern about who is going to control genetic information and whether genetic identities will be kept private or used as a means of discrimination.

"The initial responses we have to these pieces of art have significance to how we feel about science," explained Lisa Parker, associate professor of human genetics and director of the master's program in bioethics at Pitt.

Jonathan Minden, associate professor of

Biological Sciences at Carnegie Mellon, said that the pieces in the exhibit "showed a lot of anxiety and nervousness."

He went on to say that this fear and anxiety comes from the general public's suspicion of scientists' motives and a general under-appreciation of what's going on underneath science.

A similar concern was voiced by Peter Johnson, CEO and chairman of Tissue Informatics, Inc., during his lecture "Transcribe, Translate, Transcend," at McConomy Auditorium on Oct. 25 as the opening event for "Paradise Now."

Johnson posed this question to the audi-

ence: "How do we deal with the inability of people to know only their limited domain and to fear what they do not do well?"

He explained that artists, including those who contributed to "Paradise Now," could play a major role in communicating science to the public. "These people have created extremely provocative interpretations of science," said Johnson.

Provocative, yes. But do these interpretations accurately communicate science?

During the panel discussion, the biologist Minden said he didn't think so.

Minden took issue with "Gastrulation," a piece by David Kremers. Minden felt that gastrulation, a stage in embryonic development, "is beautiful and mysterious, but the artist showed it as something grotesque." He told the audience that he wanted to bring a movie from his lab to "compare the reality of gastrulation with the artist's misrepresentation."

Parker had a similar response to the metaphor of the genetic alphabet. We are most familiar with a 26-letter alphabet in which the letters can be combined in many ways to create a multitude of words and meanings.

Parker pointed out that the genetic alphabet is made up of only four letters — A, G, C and T — that exist in very specific sequences in DNA.

"Where you put the genetic alphabet matters a lot," said Parker. The metaphor of the genetic alphabet is frightening and is a misrepresentation, said Parker, "but it sparks a good discussion."

Heiferman explained that he and Carole Kismaric, co-curator of the exhibit "wanted [Paradise Now] to help people think about issues art can raise."

AMY PAVLAK

## Post 9/11 language: Struggling to find the right words

Our country's leader is hip. Just like the cool guy at school that invents those great slang words to describe something trendy, someone attractive or an enemy's mother, President Bush teaches our immature population how to cope with our new feelings by making up words.

Slang words aren't just for teenagers anymore. In fact, as a country we have all learned new vocabulary over the course of the past year to describe events and emotions that wouldn't be understood using pre-9/11 language. We have created a new experience through our words to appropriate our new world.

Creating experience is a mechanism that allows us to have control over a bad situation like terrorist attacks and snipers who live next door. In fear, we can control by eliminating the unknown; in misery, we can control by causing misery; and in curiosity, we can control by creating experiences. We

call our enemies names. We embrace our friends and cast suspicion on places and people we neglected in the past.

This nation grew up confident in its power and presence over disaster, war and crisis. This confidence was shaken like no other time until a little over a year ago during the surprise terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center on Sept. 11.

The operative word here is surprise. We take pride in our intelligence and awareness of events before they happen, even to the countries of interest. The badge of American citizenship involves the 401K, Social Security, bright shiny cars, entrepreneurship that grows into CEO-ship, MTV, anti-MTV, voting, not voting and the right to recount those votes (or not).

But we are naked now and the intelligence is useless; the people aren't hearing the words, and we rush blindly to wave our flags in the foggy, still air.

Michael Witmore, assistant professor of literature and cultural studies in the English department, addressed the meaning of America's new marketing tagline, "We will always remember."

The use of such words "admits that we've forgotten other events," Witmore explains.

We've forgotten past surprise attacks, our mistake in accusing the innocent, our neglect of countries that hold to a polarized images of the U.S. We've learned that we are only human and as vulnerable to surprise as anyone else.

We were caught by surprise, so what can we do now? So uninformed and unaware is the American public that a President's slang-like vocabulary of name-

**So uninformed and unaware is the American public that a President's slang-like vocabulary of name-calling and inventive sense of vocabulary can appease them into calm. It's slick "stratergy."**

calling and inventive sense of vocabulary can appease them into calm. It's slick "stratergy."

How is the American public coping through new additions to our everyday vocabulary? Is it too traumatic and difficult to refer to the site of the terrorist attacks as "the site of the terrorist attacks" rather than the existential "ground zero"?

Ground zero suggests back to square one and starting over, insinuating that this is the place where it all began.

Witmore believes that the "militarization" of the term ground zero is used "deliberately to remind us that our world has changed." We cope with this change by creating this ceremonious title and literally conducting ceremony after ceremony. It is the "ritual that helps us to move on."

This time of terrorism has created such an upheaval of emotions, fear and suspicion that we can't even gauge how wary we should be. We now have to color-code our feelings. As of now, we are orange. Crayola will now be assessing the state of the nation.

It is difficult to cope with such a tragedy unless we can clearly define our feelings. "Black and white," "with us or against us," "evildoer," or "on our side." Gray is undesirable in politics now as the area where timid liberals and shy right-wingers live. An individual is not allowed to be wary of war, concerned about racial profiling or judgmental about American military actions.

To be unsure about the retaliation is to decline to share the pain of Sept. 11 and to reject being in misery's company.

The need to find a deeper meaning of that day has been illustrated in endless e-mails

deciphering Sept. 11 through coincidental patterns of numbers and the prophecies of Nostradamus. And of course you've tried to fold your dollar bill into origami resembling the Twin Towers.

What makes people search for the significance between the lines? It has something to do with preparing ourselves for the horrific surprise. Constant exposure to shallow news programs agitates the society into a need for action, which in our case is a war.

Witmore brought up the familiar CNN feed. "We don't want to miss anything and be taken by surprise. It defends against what images may come up." The crawling words coupled with images on the screen are our night-light and security blanket all in one.

Witmore pointed out that, however, that Sept. 11 was "not a tragedy but an attack." Using the word tragic "gives meaning to something that would have no meaning otherwise," he said.

"What is the trauma for people?" he asked. "It is the arbitrariness. Why did I survive while others did not?"

The American Heritage Dictionary defines tragedy as "a drama or literary work in which the main character is brought to ruin or suffers extreme sorrow, especially as a consequence of a tragic flaw, moral weakness, or inability to cope with unfavorable circumstances."

Webster's Revised Dictionary, meanwhile, defines tragedy as "a fatal and mournful event; any event in which human lives are lost by human violence, more especially by unauthorized violence."

In our culture violence can be understood, if not excused, if the victim was once the victimizer. Most of us cannot see the difference between the people whose lives were taken on that day and those of us who still live. So who is to say that one day we can't join those victims through another attack?

Closure is not an option for this event, so we must incorporate it in our everyday lives through words and visuals. 'Nine eleven' is now in the American Heritage College dictionary, as well as Taliban and weaponize.

That's it! You know if you can look it up, it's real.

JEANNIE KIM



Photo: Brian Connelly

**'Neath that giant Exxon sign, that brings this fair city light, patriotic words, opportunity ...**

# Homestead story

## Waterfront booming, Eighth Avenue decaying

continued from page one

and bars that catered to steelworkers and their families, it fell into disrepair as the steel industry faltered and left the area.

Second, though the Waterfront is situated in Homestead, the stores and restaurants were not built for the people who live there, but for a more upscale market. The residents of Homestead are left with few affordable options for basic needs such as a card store and dry cleaning.

One customer at Wines and Spirits, Eight Avenue's sole remaining liquor store, complained, "I went to have pants dry cleaned at Giant Eagle and they said it would cost \$15! And they wanted me to sign a release to say they are not responsible if they lose my pants. That's not right."

Rich Lyons, a copy service specialist at CMU and resident of Munhall, the borough adjacent to Homestead, just cannot understand why such a complex would be built here, in what he calls a "mill hunk town." Now that there are plans to put a Kaufmann's department store at the Waterfront, he is in disbelief. "Homestead never even had a K Mart, and now they want to put in a Kaufmann's. It doesn't make any sense," Lyons said.

But Englehardt said there were many reasons for choosing the 300-acre location. "Where else in Pittsburgh can you find flat ground to build on? Plus, it is close to main traffic arteries, like 376, and the area has a dense population." He also believes that the selection of stores and restaurants are able to cross all audiences with dining options ranging from fast food, like McDonald's to upscale choices like Mitchell's Fish Market, and shopping ranging from Target to Abercrombie & Fitch.

Life for Homestead residents certainly has changed in the last few decades. Stanley Levine of Levine Hardware, Homestead's oldest standing store since 1935, has seen many of the changes "and they have all been negative," he said. When asked what he thought about the Waterfront development



Homestead's depressed Eighth Avenue is only blocks away from the booming Waterfront development Photo: Leah Messina

he said, "I would feel more positive about it is it wasn't a thorn in my side."

Lyons, a big supporter of Levine's, refuses to shop at the Lowe's hardware store at the Waterfront. He said, "How can they do that to these mom and pop stores that have been here for ages — put them out of business like that?"

Of course, putting mom and pop stores out of business isn't the intention of the Waterfront. But the development is about money and a business opportunity.

In 1985, Kelly Park of the Park Corp. purchased the site after the United States Steel closed its doors. His original intention was to sell it back to a steel company and keep the site industrial, but it wasn't long before he envisioned a great water front entertainment complex. People thought he was crazy.

But he went ahead and found a developer, Barry Ford, and by the late '80s, they had begun cleaning out and disassembling the 410 buildings on the property. Then Park approached the Ohio-based Continental Real Estate, which was known regionally for its office, retail and apartment developments. There Park met Frank Kass, who became his partner when he matched Park's \$1 million investment.

Kass ended up buying Park's share and, in 1998, broke ground for the first Waterfront buildings. Future plans include a hotel, more office space, and even a building for the CMU Fuel Cell Division.

There have been a few benefits of the Waterfront's presence for the businesses on Eighth Avenue, however.

Vickie and Marta Garth, who run Mother's Touch Daycare and Learning Center in the basement of the old, empty Monongahela Trust Co., take the children in their program to story time at Barnes and Noble or for walks along the riverfront. Bill Caton, owner of Bill's Used Furniture said that his property value has gone back up and Don Mathews, manager of Wines and Spirits, has seen an increased demand for finer wines.

Many of them are not optimistic, however, that revitalization of the avenue will happen anytime soon.

"It probably won't happen in my lifetime," Levine said. "Revitalization is a slow process. Any time you need government money, it is it going to take a long time."

Mathews, meanwhile, doesn't expect a significant revival to happen before he retires in 20 years.

At the day care center, the Garths wish the developers would keep the Waterfront theme "continuing down the street." Vickie Garth, who enjoys going to the Waterfront because it makes her feel like she's on vacation, explained, "A lot of people walk down to the Waterfront from the hills or from the bus. They get off on Eighth and walk down the street to cross the train tracks into the shopping center. Why wouldn't they want to make the street look nice, too?"

Walking down Eighth Avenue on any given afternoon is not much different than at night, except in daylight you can why the street is so eerily quiet. Store after store has gone out of business, boarded up or condemned. Eat 'n Park has moved down to the more desirable Waterfront. The Russian Club

No. 4 has its glass block windows punched out. Though Phillip's Bar and Hotel has the official notice for a pending liquor license, another official notice reads "Danger. This structure is declared unsafe for human occupancy or use." The sidewalk is scattered with old newspapers and empty beer bottles.

"We used to have three florists in Homestead. Now we have one, and he is not on the main street, so unless you know where his store is, you don't know we have one at all," said Vickie Garth.

An entire strip of condemned stores was supposed to be torn down and replaced with a CVS, which has sparked several lawsuits between property owners and a historical society.

This is a topic of much debate among the remaining storeowners, especially those whose stores face the buildings.

Caton's store sits directly across from the condemned strip. He said, "They should have been torn down 20 years ago. They were condemned then and they are still condemned now."

Mathews agrees, "Those buildings are historical for being boarded up for 10-15 years."

Englehardt, whose company has since opened an office at the Waterfront, is consulting on the revitalization of Eighth Avenue, although he is not directly involved with the development committee.

"The community in Homestead has to figure out now what they can do now to capture the flow of traffic," he said.

LEAH MESSINA

## West campus all online all the time, with no courses or lectures

This September, 58 students began post-graduate programs at Carnegie Mellon without ever setting foot in Pittsburgh. They are the inaugural class of Carnegie Mellon West, the university's new California campus.

Built in the Shenandoah Historic District of NASA Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley, Carnegie Mellon West offers three master's programs in Information Technology. In a sharp break with academic tradition, students are not required to attend class. Ray Bareiss, director of educational programs at Carnegie Mellon West, believes in this innovative approach.

"People don't learn from traditional, lecture-based class experience," Bareiss said. "We have, essentially, an alternative for professional education that has no courses, no required lectures."

Despite this structure, Bareiss said, Carnegie Mellon West is distinct from most distance learning programs.

All students at Carnegie Mellon West are required to visit the campus at some point during their studies. While all project mate-

rial and presentations are available online, students must also collaborate through what Carnegie Mellon West calls Story-Centered Curriculum.

Story-Centered Curriculum places student teams in simulated real-world experiences, in which they are confronted with authentic issues. Each team is guided by a mentor, and learning takes place at the time it is needed. Teams collaborate both online and in-person on a series of 15-20 projects. For example, a group of students is using a fictional company called "ND Solutions" as a tool for learning software engineering project management. While situations are reality-based, faculty control tasks to ensure students experience a thorough range of issues.

During the last quarter of their programs, students move from fictional situations to real client projects. Bareiss calls this a "teaching hospital approach."

"We're very committed to the 'learn by doing' approach in the programs we develop," Bareiss said. The success of the

program, he said, emerges because "We're following a principled approach to education."

Response from students so far has been positive, but program and curricula development at Carnegie Mellon West is far from complete. Bareiss and others are looking to institute several new programs, including large-scale information systems, security and networking, and a generalist information technology degree. Developers would also like to create a transitional program for working professionals who want to re-skill.

Contrary to an August report in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Bareiss says, this program will not include students who have not received bachelor's degrees.

"At the current time and in the foreseeable future, our students have bachelor's degrees," Bareiss said.

And unlike at some distance learning programs, Bareiss said, Carnegie Mellon West students are expected to excel in all areas.

"We expect the same level of perfor-

mance as from [Pittsburgh] Carnegie Mellon students," Bareiss explained.

Three years ago when CMU introduced plans for the West Coast campus, the economy was booming. Now, Silicon Valley is feeling the impact of the recent downturn. Like the area's dot-coms, large donations to the project have slumped. The effect on Carnegie Mellon West has not been completely adverse, however.

"Education seems to be counter-cyclical," Bareiss said. "People use downtimes to re-skill."

Currently, Carnegie Mellon West offers only master's degrees, as it is not authorized in California to grant undergraduate degrees. In the immediate future, developers are not looking to pursue undergraduate programs, but instead are focused on significantly increasing enrollment and the distance-learning component on campus.

"Our educational mission is broader than formal courses," Bareiss said. "It's really to create an educational hub."

KATIE BAILEY