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**FOCUS**

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**INSIDE: Diversity Supplement, A Special Report of the President’s Committee**

**Interview with Reinhard Schumacher, page 7**

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**Summer Leases: Whetting Your Appetite with the Pleasures of Reading**

By Elizabeth A. Bradley, Head, School of Drama, College of Fine Arts

Determined to construct a more contemplative summer than the previous one, I made a pledge. I would indulge in reading. In fact, I would read until I was transported, until my metaphorical eyeballs fell out. You get the picture. Although a casualty, and therefore not a fan, of Harold Bloom’s How To Read and Why?, I knew I wanted more than empty diversion, especially since the plan was to channel from consideration anything that could be remotely construed as professionally enriching to the less celebrated but in many ways just as important as professions. The novelist captures problems bedeviling the modern world. No textbook could give me a compass to the other books.

Deciding to read about food—a consuming passion—seemed like an excellent place to begin. I had already sampled a couple of the Ruth Reichl memories. Reichl is the current editor of Gourmet Magazine and former food critic of the New York Times. Her witty, anecdotal and amusing books, Tender at the Bone, Comfort Me with Apples, (often invoke the great food oracle M. F. K. Fisher and her classic, The Art of Eating. Fisher is invariably presented as a rather dry, dourish figure in comparison to buccaneering food writers of her era, such as James Beard. Anyone whose tasting influence had managed to persuade informed people that food, and especially fish and shellfish, were no accident, but the stuff of acknowledged art forms, deserved my attention. (And both Reichl and Laurie Colwin often refer to Fisher, as reading the master would give me a compass to the other books.)

A collection of five deliciously told Consider the Oyster. How to Cook a Whiff volumes of ruminations on the commonplace and profundity of eating. Fisher’s writing is of such quality that “everyday experiences are celebrated in prose you can wrap around your soul.” (Richard Sax, Choicemaker.) Fisher’s writing is laced with the gold standard of food writing. I flogged on over to the less celebrated but in many ways just as satisfying essays of Laurie Colwin, Home Cooking and More Home Cooking. The first volume introduces us to a warm, opinionated and quick witted chef who proclaims that “one of the delights of life is talking about food while eating with friends.” If Reichl’s books possess celebrate eating out, and Fisher ensures we can move on from the most anthropological to the meterological, Laurie Colwin keeps us at home, and allows us to believe that the best of all celebrations can be achieved in our real and present lives. The author died young, and was apparently an accomplished chef before her pen was picked up. But her knowledge seeped through these two slender volumes, which Ex- pect to read, with real enjoyment over time. (Please let me know if you are a fan of Laurie Colwin; I’d be quite curious about whether the eating is as good as the reading.)

Then, to provide some larger context, Margaret Visser’s excellent Much Depends on Dinner joined the menu. A sort of anthropological history of food and eating, the book was won the Gildedfitch Prize for Food Book of the Year, and was named one of the notable books of the year by the New York Times Book Review. As much about culture, and the frailty of a human nature, as about food and eating. Diner suggests that the course of history was dictated by getting—or not getting—what we deserve from life’s foodbasket. For anyone now determined to join me on this tour, Visser’s second book The Rituals of Dining describes table manners way the pathologist tackles a corpse, but with considerably more entertainment value. A final note of caution, reading compulsively about food does make you hungry …

Convinced an alternative in course was prudent and now seeking fare with a fanon or two thrown in for good measure, I picked up Margaret Macmillan’s Paris 1919 and paired it with Sandor Marai’s Embers. The books are loosely related by the waning years of the Austro Hungarian Empire. (Another multiple prize winner, include the NY Times Editors’ Choice; Paris 1919 has been described as a landmark work of narrative history.) We’re invited into the Byzantine world of the statesmen and pretenders negotiating the peace of Versailles; the outcome of which created new nations—Iraq, Yugoslavia and Palestine among them. Macmillan provides a wealth of human detail which leads to remarkable insights and makes the pages uneventful to read. The book with the sense that I now had a base of knowledge to better understand many of the problems bedeviling the modern world. No small accomplishment for the author of this brilliant, authoritative book.

Sandor Marai is a Hungarian author who ultimately immigrated to the United States, and died 1989. His work is currently undergoing something of a rediscovery. The novel—yes, I confess, fiction insinuated itself—is more about the nature of friendship than love, which is in itself refreshing. The novelist captures the essence of the Havilahh as ethels of last days of the Austro Hungarian Empire, but truths are grippingly revealed that transcended time and place. As disciplined as a minaret, yet almost terrifying in its intensity, Marai’s prose is exacting, sparse and mysterious. “The end of the great war”, societal decay between the wars genre represented by works like Remains of the Day and The Shooting Party have a kin-

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**What Kinda Person Needs an “Assault Weapon”?**

By Preston K. Covy, Director, Center for the Advancement of Applied Ethics and Associate Professor of Philosophy

Some are dismayed at the September 24 demise of our national “assault weapon” ban and fuss to get something stronger in place. Not me.

This little essay is kinda an Andy Rooney routine. Have you ever wondered what people mean when they ask, rhetorically, “What kinda person needs an “assault weapon”? I say: “Try this one on for size. Try a one-armed ethics professor.” In fact, this try one-armed ethics professor.” I’m one answer to that question.

I am what some would call a “gun nut.” I prefer “gunny,” can live with “firearms enthusiasts,” but, the truth of the matter is, I’m not but by me. I enjoy as well as respect guns, those nasty instruments (we are reminded by more criminologists call a “criminal identity.” Those who own guns are nei- ther among research universities, industry, and government. Many of the best ideas in combat weapons training and technology evolve from innovations in the private sector. But “practical” shooting is really a euphe-
mism that the competitive shooting fraternity devised for “combat” weaponry, referring to the sensitivities of public-opinion vigilante for whom a “sport” of combat weaponry is an ugly oxymoron. As a “cripped” or “handicapped” person comfortable with those appellations, I don’t like euphemisms. I don’t like being coy or apologetic about a sport whose social utility goes well beyond recreation to the refinement of combat arts for whose private or professional lives may depend on them. So, my sport of choice is combat weaponry. What I collect for this purpose is combat weaponry. As a one-handed shooter, I enjoy mastering these tools: the ones that some hoplophobes endow with telekinetic powers; ones deemed to instill bloodlust and move the script to laughter children’s schoolyards; ones that media moralists allege are designed only to kill—not just any mother earth’s fauna, like our so-called “sporting” firearms — but other human beings, like the weapons of war they advise resemble.

Hoplophobes seem to presume that everyone is beset by looney-toon fantasies of public-opinion vigilante threats to safety management. That most like innovations in profes-
sional firearms training, the practical shooting arts have been pioneered by private citizens. Unlike the Olympic sporting events that were abstracted from millennia-old military experi-
cence (the marathon, biathlon, discus, javelin, etc.), the practical shooting sports were devised to force modern technologies such as the rubber the meets the road with state-of-the-art combat weapons. Technique is evolved through open competition, then applied, tested, and refined in professional training and the symbolic feed loop is like that of the Olympic events; it incites artists, athletes and government. Many of the best ideas in combat weapons training and technology evolve from innovations in the private sector. But “practical” shooting is really a euphe-
mism that the competitive shooting fraternity devised for “combat” weaponry, referring to the sensitivities of public-opinion vigilante for whom a “sport” of combat weaponry is an ugly oxymoron. As a “cripped” or “handicapped” person comfortable with those appellations, I don’t like euphemisms. I don’t like being coy or apologetic about a sport whose social utility goes well beyond recreation to the refinement of combat arts for whose private or professional lives may depend on them.

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Letters and Comments

Reflections on Tenure

The letter by Lester Lave advocating abolishing tenure fails to address the major issue. The reason why tenure is ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL for universities is academic freedom. Universities play a unique role in our society in providing a center for freedom of expression. This is all the more important today when all our freedoms are under attack from Washington.

Universities are under great pressure from politicians and corporations, many of which provide financial support, to suppress unpopular ideas. In recent days professors in some universities have come under severe attack for opposing US support of Israel, for uncovering official lies, and for defying corporations that have funded research. Without academic tenure these professors would likely lose their jobs.

Faculty members are under great pressure to get funding for their research. This forces them to go into areas that are popular and to avoid exploring new fields and new ideas. Once they get tenure they have the freedom to pursue the ideas they believe are important; they may lose research funds for a while, but they are protected by academic tenure.

It is likely we will see increasing attacks against academic tenure from corporations and the media. It is important to defend academic freedom for the sake of our university and our country.

Lincoln Wolfenstein
University Professor of Physics

Special Editors Note

Bob Kraemer gets to finish his sentence!

The interview with Bob Kraemer in our last issue came to an abrupt end. What Bob actually said to our question (What would you say if you were giving your last lecture?) was simple and elegant: “Don’t count me out yet!” And we don’t.

Focus editors have been making some changes in the way design, layout and printing are handled. We have our own in-house design/layout person (JJ Soracco) and now our own copy-editor (Aprile Smith). What happened to us last time, before we had full control of all these things, was that at the very last minute an outside copy-editing led to an unexpected expansion of some acronyms. The extra space taken by this bumped some text out of the print field.

We apologize to Bob, and our readers.

Meditation Program to begin

Human Resources and Staff Council is pleased to present a free Meditation Program for Staff and Faculty, it will be held on Tuesdays starting September 6, 2005 at noon in Morewood Garden A-Tower Multipurpose Room.

Come and learn how to de-stress in the capable hands of Kevin Henry, M.Ed., L.S.W.

No special dress is required, you will be comfortably seated in a chair, so you can come and go at your leisure. Light refreshments will be provided.

Tuesday, July 19, 2005 at noon in McConomy Auditorium

Where: McConomy Auditorium, University Center

Speakers:

John C. “Jay” Marano, Jr., Chairman, Staff Council

Deborah Moon, Chief Financial Officer

Beth Meiser, Special Assistant to the CFO, Finance

Bryan Matuzoo, Parking Accountant, Parking Services

Barbara Bugosh, Staff Council Parking Committee Chair

See: http://www.cmu.edu/staff-council/

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.

Website: http://www.cmu.edu/focus

Editor: Lynn Berard
Associate Editor: Alan Kennedy
Copy Editors: Mary Martin, Apple Smith
Intern Advisor: Karen Schumacker
Layout & Design: JJ Soracco
Student Writers: Ryan Cooper

Founding Editor: David Demarest (English)
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**From the Faculty Senate Chair**

It’s my hope that, during my time as chair of the Faculty Senate, I can contribute to the things that make CMU a university, as distinguished from a place where we all pursue accomplishments specific to our individual careers.

With this article, I want to briefly describe three topics that, through university and senate committees, will be our focus for the coming year:

- CMU programs beyond Pittsburgh — We now have a large and rapidly growing number of sites around the world. Should we view them as myriad flowers blooming in off-cam- pus meadows, or as weeds sprouting up in an uncontrollable way? What university criteria and procedures govern all such operations? These questions are on the agenda of Faculty Affairs Council of the Senate.
- Federal restrictions on research — Do restrictions related to the Homeland Security Act significantly affect the nature of research we can undertake, and to what degree should we “push back” on federal agencies that impose restrictions? The University Research Council will take on these questions.
- Faculty course evaluations — To what extent and in what ways do they affect what we teach and what we ask of our students? Is the net effect upon our educational programs positive or negative? This is an agenda item for the Student Affairs Council.

All members of the Faculty Organization are welcome and are encouraged to attend Faculty Senate meetings and more generally, to get involved in discussions of university issues.

For me personally, much of what I consider to be most fulfilling and gratifying comes from stepping outside the boundaries of my technical work, by engaging in the issues I’ve described, or by initiating discussion of others.

Submitted by Jim Hoburg Chair, Faculty Senate

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**HUNTER BOTANICAL INSTITUTE PRESENTS**

**LITHOGRAPHS OF JOSEPH PRESTLE and SONS**

11 September to 22 December 2005
Pittsburgh, PA — The Hunter Institute for Botanical Documentation in collaboration with the National Agricultural Library (Beltsville, Maryland) presents the exhibition Inspiration and Translation: Botanical and Horticultural Lithographs of Joseph Prestele and Sons from 11 September to 22 December 2005.

Joseph Prestele (1796–1867) was a flower painter and a master of lithography, the technique of engraving on stone. Skilled in painting and botany, he produced work of aesthetic and scientific value. His three sons, Joseph Jr. (1824–1880s), Gottlieb (1827–1892) and William Henry (1838–1895), followed in his artistic, but not all in his religious, footsteps.

In 1843 Joseph Prestele and his family emigrated from Germany with the True Inspirationists (later the Amana Society). The Community of True Inspiration emphasized individual piety and humility within a brotherhood of believers. Prestele had joined the community in 1837, becoming a church elder. Settling with the Inspirationists in Ebenezer, New York, Prestele was assigned the task of tending the orchard for the community. At this time, Joseph Jr. returned to New York City, the first of the sons to leave the community. In 1849 Prestele was given permission to pursue botanical art, and in the following year he purchased a printing press. With his sons Gottlieb and William Henry, Prestele began producing scientific and horticultural watercolors and translating the drawings of Isaac Sprague (1811–1895) onto stone for publications by eminent botanists Asa Gray (1807–1888) and John Torrey (1796–1873) and by the Smithsonian Institution and for expedition reports by the United States government.

However, the Inspirationists were soon on the move again as the community outgrew Ebenezer and the outside world encroached. In 1858 a 62-year-old Prestele once again put aside his art to follow his community to Amana, Iowa. His son William Henry did not follow, but moved to New York City, the first of the sons to leave the community. In 1867 he worked for the F. Sprague (1811–1895) and the Cleansing (1810–1888). Gottlieb Prestele remained in Indiana, joined the community to Amana, Iowa. His son William Henry did not follow, but moved to New York City, the first of the sons to leave the community. In 1867 he worked for the F.

The exhibition will include original watercolors, lithographic prints (including nurseryman plates), account books and other ephemera from the local collection of Marcelle Konish (a descendant of the Prestele family), William Henry’s horticultural watercolors from the National Agricultural Library, artworks and books from the Hunt Institute collection, a lithographic stone from the Smithsonian Institution, and a descendant of Joseph Prestele; Lanny Haidy, Director, Museum of Amana History; and Adrian Higgins, Garden Editor, Washington Post. Assistant Curator of Art Eugene Bruno wrote additional text and designed the catalogue. Graphs Manager Frank A. Reynolds did the reproduction photography with a Nikon DIX digital camera.

The exhibition will be on display on the fifth floor of the Hunt Library building at Carnegie Mellon University. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–noon and 1 p.m.–5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.–4 p.m. The Institute will be closed 24–27 November and 16 December. The exhibition is open to the public free of charge. For further information, contact the Hunt Institute at 412-268-2474. The exhibition will be on display at the National Agricultural Library from 1 March through 31 May 2006.

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was founded in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library’s activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography, and the Library. The current collections include approximately 29,000 books; 25,000 portraits; 30,000 watercolors, drawings and prints; and 2,000 autograph letters and manuscripts. Including artworks dating from the Renaissance, the Art Department’s collection now focuses on contemporary botanical art and illustration, where the coverage is unmatched. The Art Department organizes and stages exhibitions, including the large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

The National Agricultural Library (NAL) is one of the world’s largest, most accessible botanical libraries and plays a vital role in supporting research, education, and applied agriculture. As part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), NAL’s mission is to collect, preserve, and make available to agriculture and its information. Its collections of more than four million items and its leadership role in technology applications continue to make NAL a world leader in agricultural information services. Special Collections of the National Agricultural Library houses a wealth of materials relating to all aspects of agricultural history, discovery, and advancement. Special Collections is the center for those collecting, preserving, and providing access to unique materials significant to the history of agriculture and the USDA. The combination of rare books, manuscript collections, nursery and seed trade catalogs, original works of art, and photographic collections makes Special Collections a premiere center for historical research.

To expand its reach, NAL is building an electronic repository of USDA materials accessible through the NAL Web site <http://www.nal.usda.gov/>.
“Those Who May Be Less Well Off”
By Thomas Moore Kerr, Emeritus, Tepper School of Business

After the election last November, two federal bank regulation agencies, the Federal Office of Thrift Supervision and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, announced new rules to enhance the enforcement of the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977. This statute sought to encourage the practice called “red lining,” wherein banks and thrift institutions, acting together by agreement, drew lines on maps around areas deemed to be the less profitably profitable and hence avoided. This practice or policy resulted in denial of loans or banking services in “colored,” poor, or generally minority urban areas.

Later, the law applies to financially distressed rural communities.

The Amendment proposals are now pending before Congress.

(If would be appropriate to call this law, just for fun, the GSA now, Tepper Community Reinvestment Act of 1977?)

From 1964 to 1973 while teaching at Carnegie Tech I was on the Board of Directors of Dwelling House Savings and Loan, a “colored” and “ deprived” organization on the Hill in Pittsburgh. Our affiliate, Lavelle Real Estate was not admitted to membership in the white people’s “Multi-List” (wherein they share with each other their list of properties for sale). And the commercial banks of Pittsburgh had a “red line” policy which excluded the “hill,” and other areas agreed upon, from locations where they would make loans. This was especially important of course, to those of the public seeking the security of home ownership.

In 1967 Dwelling House used the Multi-List Association in a multi-trust law case you have conspired to exclude our real estate office from the Multi-List.

The next step was “red-lining.” Here we you national legislation to put a stop to a banking long-time practice (undoubtedly taught in graduate schools of business!!!)

As you know there are many kinds of banks, national, state, mutual savings, etc. with differing state statutes. We sought a provision that would prohibit “red-lining” by any or all of them.

During the 1970’s, this Association conducted “summer schools” for employees of their bank. The banks paid for the tuition and expenses. Some summers were at U. Mass., Amherst, others at Rowan University in Rhode Island. I taught at these. One of the students was “young Boly” Lavelle from the Dwelling House in Pittsburgh. We GOT IT.

Passed and signed: The present statute, the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 that is now being questioned by the lobbyists for large banking interests.

We were helped by many charitable foundations, non-political civil leaders of all races, the Lavalle family and many others. GSA was involved. David Lendt, (white) worked as a volunteer bookkeeper clerk at Dwelling house. Another volunteer, since his graduation has been a director of Dwelling House. He is Chief Financial Officer at Hanon, Inc., Pittsburgh.

Professor Herbert Simon (white) won a Nobel Prize winning economist also helped and recognized that a good investment is one that enhances racial equality and serves economic justice.

Most essential, was a white professional banker was the late Harri Tweddy, then the President of First Federal Savings and Loan in Pittsburg. This “competitor” coached Dwelling House Savings in the latest banking methodology furnished them with the latest in computers and chaired a committee of prominent Pittsburghers to raise sufficient reserves ($1,000,000) so that Dwelling House could be fully insured by the FederalSavings and Loan. He was a national leader in the Association of Mutual Savings Banks.

As I’ve indicated, it might be useful for anybody interested to write letters to the appropriate folks protesting the attempt to gut a useful provision that has its roots in Carnegie Mellon activism.

Summers Lease

continue from Page 1

ship with Embur, but I found this book to be more universal in its wisdom, and its ability to linger in my imagination. More of Maria’s fiction is currently being translated, and Knopf is planning to release another title this year. This is an event worth marking.

From a tale of one kind of journey to quite another, Tales of a Female Nomad is a book I read in one snap of a yoga retreat in the Berkshires where I spent a few rejuvenating days at the beginning of the summer. After a day that begins at five with a two hour yoga and meditation session, followed by more of the same until early-night. Any book that allows you to remain conscious long enough to get through a paragraph or two deserves recommending. A lifetime projection may play into this, but Tales of a Female Nomad, by Radia Lufkin, 48, a children’s book author who eschewed a sophisticated life in Los Angeles to realize her dream of living intimately with the earth from disparate cultures all over the world. Following graduate work in anthropology, Gelman resolved to emancipate herself from her past and possessions. For twenty years now she has roamed the hemispheres, from Borneo to Mexico to Brazil. Gelman lives for extended periods of time in circumstances that would challenge the more conventional among us. She forgives strong emotional bonds with the women of these societies, and cooks with them on fires all over the world. (I knew we’d be unable to stay away from recipes entirely, and there is a lot of congregating and feasting along the way to mutual understanding and appreciation.) Besides which, I suspect that authentic anthropologists might find her perceptions rather warily about “lifestyle” and not so much about the core details. It could also be wistfully observed that it may be a good thing that her plan involves such a diverse rotation of destinations, because one suspects she might be quite hard work on the co-existence front. Anyone who comes from a “cultural region” culture will be awed and a little horrified by Gelman’s blithe insinuation into people’s lives. These cavils aside, is there any important idea that Gelman undertaking such a radical shift, at a time of life when many look only for the assurance of continued stability. And her experiences are fascinating, unexpected and testing. Certainly the book is a welcome wake up call at a time when fundamental mistrust of others whose skin is brown or who’s cultural or religious background is different from our own is becoming frighteningly enshrined in our culture.

Gelman’s journeys both celebrate and embrace our common humanities. From my hammock, I thought fleetingly about remaining open to possibilities for further discovery, no matter how far fetched they might first appear.

So now I’m on Connecting Flights, interviews with theatre-maker Robert Lepegue in preparation for a new spring term course called Theatre Today. Then there is 800 page biography of Tom Stoppard lying reproachfully like all of you. Summer’s lease truly has all that wonderful wilderness of the mind.

Andy Awards

Each year Staff Council’s Rewards and Recognition Committee provides certificates for years of service at the Andy Awards to all of those with five or more years of experience. The staff members listed below have 25 or more years of contribution to Carnegie Mellon University.

**SALLY ADLER**  BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  25
**DONALD BENNETT**  NMR CENTER  25
**CHRIS BOWMAN**  ECE  25
**LYNN DANSEY**  MBC ADMINISTRATION  25
**CYNTHIA DAVIS**  BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  25
**JACQUELINE DEFAZIO**  PHILOSOPHY  25
**JAMES DILLINGER**  MECHANICAL ENGINEERING  25
**ILEEN EICHELBERGER**  SEI FINANCIAL SERVICES  25
**ELIZABETH FOX**  CFA/DEAN’S OFFICE  25
**JEAN HARPLEY**  ROBOTICS FINANCE & ADMIN  25
**KAREN HORNAK**  PARKING & TRAFFIC ADMIN  25
**IAN HUDDLESTON**  UNIVERSITY POLICE  25
**ROCHELLE KOCH**  HUMAN RESOURCES (QATAR)  25
**ROBERT KUJAWA**  SEI IT FUNCTIONS & ADMIN  25
**PATRICIA LAUGHLIN**  CIT DEAN’S OFFICE  25
**AI-CHI LIU**  UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  25
**JUDITH MANCUSO**  CAREER CENTER  25
**SHANA MATHIS**  SEI/SEPM ADMIN  25
**CAMILLA MERE**  CSD EDUCATION – PHD  25
**PHILIPUS POZNIK**  BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  25

**ELIZABETH PRELICH-KNIGHT**  ECE  25
**DANIEL SCHULZ**  FMS OPERATIONS – AC  25
**MARGARET SMYKLA**  STATISTICS  25
**C. ROY TAYLOR**  ROBOTICS INSTITUTE  25
**LOUISE THEN**  ENROLLMENT SERVICES ADMIN  25
**LORETHA THOMPSON**  M.OE  25
**LORRAINE UNDERWOOD**  UNIVERSITY POLICE  25
**DAVID WESSELL**  FMS OPERATIONS – MANAGEMENT  25
**BARBARA-JANE WHITE**  SEI ITSD COMMUNICATIONS  25
**GARY WILKIN**  PHYSICS  25
**DUANE WILMINS**  ROBOTICS INSTITUTE  25
**MICHAEL ZUCHER**  ROBOTICS INSTITUTE  25
**EDDY CLYDESDALE**  HISTORY  30
**JOHN KOERBEL**  FMS OPERATIONS – PAINTERS  30
**DANA MOROSKI**  ATHLETICS  30
**RICHARD SIMON**  UNIVERSITY POLICE  30
**EVERETT TADEMY**  HUMAN RESOURCES – EEO  30
**JAMES WALKER**  FMS OPERATIONS – PAINTERS  30
**STELLA ANDRACCHETTI**  MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES  35
**DONNA CONNELL**  HBID  35
**WILLIAM ELLIOTT**  VP ENROLLMENT  35
**TASHA KIKU**  HR EDUCATION – PHD  35
**KENNETH STUPAK**  SEI IT FUNCTIONS & ADMIN  35
**ROBERT ANDREUGG**  EHS  40
**RONALD BURROWS**  FMS OPERATIONS – PAINTERS  40
**IDA CZARNIEK**  HOUSING SERVICES FACILITIES  40
Reinhard Schumacher is Professor of Physics at Carnegie Mellon and has for several years now been chair of the "Educational Facilities Committee" (EFC), a Faculty Committee actually charged with spending real money to fix up classrooms. FOCUS spoke with him about the Committee's work.

F: Professor Schumacher, can you tell us a bit about this committee and what it does?

RS: Yes, the EFC deals with classroom maintenance, upgrades and renovations. By maintenance, it may go without saying, I don't mean erasing the chalkboards, but when things wear out we have to allocate money for that. We want to improve the classrooms, by putting in or upgrading chalkboards, projection-screens, dealing with lighting, acoustics and so on. We want to pay attention to the ambiance, carpeting, window coverings. We get requests for all those kinds of things and we have to figure out where to put the university's money. Every year we send out requests for people to let us know where things need to be improved. We generally do this in the fall, usually after the first week of classes or so. Then the committee meets and we put all requests on the table and have a discussion.

F: What is the structure of the committee and how do you make decisions about what needs to be done?

RS: We have a faculty person from each of the seven colleges there. Those people make up half the committee. The other half are people from the university staff who have some role to play in the classroom situation. So we have a representative from Enrolment Services, somebody from Facilities Management Services (FMS), typically somebody who does architectural design work for the university. We also have people from the Planning Office, who keeps track of all renovation work on campus, or elsewhere. And we have people from the Instructional Technology area. Those staff people are crucial because they do the heavy work. Some are engrossed by the numbers, knowing what goes on in different areas to keep us from stepping on one another's toes and others are focused on the actual fixing up whatever we may mandate.

So we have about fourteen members all together.

This committee started in 1984, so it's been around a long time now. Prior to that classrooms used to be absolutely deplorable spots, especially when you think how many students and faculty alike. Ted Fenton will use the idea of the tragedy of the common. What he means is that if an entire community owns something in common nobody feels the particular responsibility to take care of it. So the common facility belongs to the entire university, like the classrooms, were never comprehensively cared for because nobody was doing enough.

Originally the EFC was made up of people who had won the Ryan teaching award. Now the practice is just to find people actively engaged in teaching, actually using the classrooms regularly and intensively, and know what they are talking about.

Clearly it would be too costly to do everything at once, so the major purpose of this committee is to provide a systematic way of keeping classrooms in acceptable condition. We get a fixed amount of money, $300,000.00 per year and each have to decide where we can allocate that money most effectively. And over the years, the worst classrooms and lecture halls have been renovated and upgraded first, and every year by year to year to figure out where the need is greatest and try to keep things up to an acceptable level.

F: You said that the budget is $300k per year.

RS: That's right. We routinely have about as much as $300,000 per year as we can actually do, and, yes, if we had more money we would spend more.

F: Does the amount stay the same or does it increase each year?

RS: Actually the amount hasn’t changed for the last 20 years. It has been exactly the same dollar amount year in and year out.

F: Do you think, then, that the University is putting enough into fixing classrooms?

RS: I'm happy enough with the way the University is attacking the problem. As a standing committee, we convene every year to look at classrooms. So year and year out there is a great continuity of attention to this problem.

In some other Universities the classrooms are badly neglected, because of the tragedy of the common property, so we do quite well. I think in the way we pay attention to classroom upgrades.

In a larger context, sure we could spend more money, we could spend twice as much as we wanted, but at a more general level one just has to figure out how to allocate all your resources.

Let me put it this way: What we are doing is great; we could do more.

I’ll probably get killed in comments to your article, but I think we are satisfying the community. The complaints I get about things not being good enough are rather few, but I see two or three for a while, but in that sense I have the perception that we are kind of keeping up with what people want although I would happily spend more.

Once we know what the jobs are, then FOCUS can allocate the actual carrying out of these recommendations—and they do a great job. Every year they have always come through and carried out the wishes of the group to a very high degree of professionalism.

For example, a large lecture hall in Doherty will be painted and carpeted every few years and cleaned up to look fresh. That’s an ongoing kind of thing. We have been doing blackboards in many places; that is still the preferred teaching method for many professors, writing with chalk on the board.

For many years there has been a limited amount of blackboard space. For many years there have been complaints that people in the back of the room couldn’t make out what was being written at the bottom of the single board. So if you look around campus now you’ll see that most of the classrooms have the standard double sliding blackboards.

Similarly with lighting, sometimes a lot of the rooms were very dim.

You name any big classroom on campus and typically within the last few years we have made some big changes in there. I should add that the Instructional Technology people, the folks who put computers and do the networking in the classrooms are a very important resource on campus, and their existence helps out our committee a lot. Faculty on this committee are not necessarily geared to making decisions about details of computers, so we let IT deal with those questions. That kind of upgrading really happens out of a different budget, so we in the EFC, we do not worry about which rooms have different kind of computers and since we have IT people on our committee, we pass requests on to them.

F: You mentioned health and safety issues?

RS: A couple of years ago in one of the undergraduate teaching labs in Biology their floors were coming up, fragmenting, breaking up. They were these 30 or 40 year old tiles that turned out to have asbestos in them. That was a hazard of the kind that we would take very seriously. So fixing the floor turned out to be a larger job than anticipated, because we found we had to deal with asbestos first.

Actually the asbestos issue has come up in many classrooms. If you replace carpets you sometimes tear up asbestos tile with that, or if you put in new lights you might well find asbestos in the ceiling. Any fix up that finds asbestos leads to another job.

F: Have you run across difficulties, conflicts between what one group wants and another wants?

RS: Well there will always be a discussion where there is competition between groups, somebody here in HSS or there in EET wants to spend money differently. Those discussions happen every year of course, but I can’t say we’ve had serious conflicts about any particular task. We don’t generally have fights over how to fix a particular room, say.

F: So then what do you think needs to be done to maximize the educational potential of facilities?

RS: Since the committee was formed 20 years ago, the most dreadful conditions have gone away. Classrooms are in quite good shape, most of what we do is renovate them again, allocate money to make them look fresh again.

We’re in something of a steady state situation for most of the existing classrooms. A perennial issue, tangential to what we do, is that we could use more classrooms. Getting space at some times is quite difficult. We’re happy to lobby for the university to spend more money on additional space. Professors have requested that we will try we want a similar style classroom with tables, and chairs around the tables, and they want it at 8.30.

So the request, the push toward the more...
If the weather inside is frightful, at least outside it's delightful. And luckily we don’t have to refinish this kind of thing every year. We think this repair job cost us nothing.

This room in the OSC, which hardly smells at all and has decent carpet, has served as a classroom for some years now, but will soon disappear as the building makes way for the Gates structure.

CFA 210 doesn’t break with the decorative tradition of most classrooms.

By way of contrast, a faculty office that deals with the block walls and still achieves a livable, what do we call that stuff?—oh yes, ambiance.

Photo Left: If the weather inside is frightful, at least outside it’s delightful. And luckily we don’t have to refinish this kind of thing every year. We think this repair job cost us nothing.

Photo Right: Balls
Assault Weapons

which the Second Amendment speaks.

In one notorious and prudently narrow de-

cision on the Second Amendment (U.S. v.

Miller 1939), Supreme Court dicta made it

absurdly clear that the words were those that

enjoyed military currency. It is no wonder that

folk who see animule evil in firearms cleave
desperately to the view that the Founding

Fathers wished to secure a right to these

wepons only for state militias. That

a state monopoly on state-of-the-art deadly

force pacifies anyone is astonishing.

My guns are the guns that many jurisdic-
tions still see fit to ban. To add insult to the

injury of denying me my recreation of choice, these

arbites of high virtue tell me that my

guns have no “legitimate sporting purpose,” and

thereby impute to me heinous tastes and

criminal intent. They do so in self-righteous

ignorance of the combat arts, and indifference to

my - or millions of other law-abiding folks’ -

interests. There is additional insult in the

imputation that those of us who recreate with

deathly weapons put our own trivial selfish pleasures

above the commonweal, insensi-
tive to human carnage, holding innocent lives

hostage to our petty pleasure.

The denial of “legitimate” or “sporting” pur-

pose to combat weaponry is blithely ignorant

and insulting; but it is quite separate, logically,

from the empirical issue of whether the private

ownership of these or any other firearms by

law-abiding citizens in fact exacerbates either

crime or carnage in our society, a factual

controversy in its own right.

The reduction of crime and violence is a

pragmatic if deluded reason for banning the

private ownership of any weapon, but the

moralistic phobia runs deeper. Concern for

carnage has become the humanitarian pretext

for the arrogance that dopes, in a preening

fit of ignorant rant, any legitimacy however

to combat weaponry in law-abiding civilian

hands. Logic goes on holiday when rolling

rhetoric is on a roll.

My personal recollection goes deeper as well.

Those who would rob the law-abiding of

so-called “assault weapons” would rob me

not only of my recreation of choice, but the

very firearms best suited to my personal self-

defense. The so-called “assault weapons”

which gun-grabbers would have us believe

have neither a legitimate recreational use nor

any defensive utility happen to be the very

firearms best designed for safe and effective

one-handed operation.

Century-old features that consign a firearm to

the bin of “assault weapon” bans are these: (1)

The guns are self-loading (i.e., when a round

has been fired, they chamber a round automati-

cally). They do not also fire automatically, but

require a pull of the trigger for each shot.

Thus they are called “semi-automatic,” as
distinguished from “fully automatic” weapons

(which both chamber and fire rounds so long

as the trigger is pressed - aka machine guns, long

strictly regulated under the National Firearms

Act of 1934). (2) They have relatively “high

capacity” and detachable magazines, reduc-
ing the frequency with which they must be

recharged with ammunition and increasing

the ease of recharging.

These features apply to both my handguns

and my long guns of choice; they make the

manual tasks of loading and reloading the gun

easier for a one-handed person. My shoulder

weapons also include (3) the evil pistol-grip

stock, essential for the safe and effective

manipulation of the gun one-handed.

Facts, eliminating firearms with these features

will not lessen the carnage in our streets in any

more than eliminating automatic transmissions

or power steering in vehicles would reduce the

carnage on our highways. But, make no mistake:

these three stereotypes, “assault weapon”

features are indeed very convenient for combat
– defensive as well as offensive. So it is no one trying to outlaw martial arts as “assault”

arts.

Convenience, like technology itself, is mor-

ally ambiguous: convenient for good and

convenient for evil. Ease of one-handed use

is a boon to any combatant (good or evil) who

may lose the use of an arm in battle.

But one-handed weaponcraft is still a sport-

ing challenge, which is one of its recreational

appeals for me. Another appeal is that my

mastery of combat weaponry proves informa-
tive to officer-survival training: Necessity is

the proverbial mother of invention, and my

inventive contributions to law enforcement

survival training increase my satisfaction in the

use of my tools. So I turn my recreation to

practical purpose by training fellow peace

officers in combat weaponcraft as well as in

the law and ethics of deadly force that properly

delimit its use.

But more to the point is that firearms with these

“antique” (century-old) features are my own

(or someone’s) best option in defensive weap-

ons: I need a firearm “in the greatest extreme.”

Present ban on weapons with these features as

much as I would re-quest a ban on motor vehicles with automatic transmissions

or power steering.

Worse, banning “assault weapons” is feckless:

it cannot reduce the rate of carnage by felons

or fools one whit. The reasons for this are

many and sad, but another story.

So it is that I survey the clamor against “assault

weapons” with the bias of an invertebrate gun

with a very practical mission and a deeply

personal stake in the matter. I believe that

“assault weapons” bans are ignorant, politically

pernicous, and criminally impotent.

I do not confuse my personal bias with justifi-
cation for my views; that is another project
(a book I am writing).

But when people ask the rhetorical ques-
tion “What kinda person needs an “assault

weapon”?” I stand to be counted. And I tell

them what I feel.

I heed Justice Louis D. Brandeis:

Experience should teach us to be most on

our guard to protect liberty when the government’s

purposes are beneficent. Men born to free-

dom are naturally alert to repel invasion of

their liberty by evil-minded rulers. The greatest
generates to liberty lurk in insidious encroach-

ment by men of zeal, well meaning but

without understanding.

(To read more about it, checkout the hotlinks

in my 80-346 Course Schedule at http://www.
pitt.edu/augustallen/CSWX.html. And con-

sider me at covey@andrew for my testimony be-

fore the Pittsburgh City Council and PA General

Assembly.)

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra:  
Season Schedule

Friday, February 3; Saturday, February 4  
(CMU Night at the Symphony)  
Elgar: Serenade for Strings, Op. 20  
Beethoven: Symphony No. 2, Op. 36  
Brahms: Double Concerto, Op. 102  
Pachelbel, Canon and Gigue  
(Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Conductor)  
For more information, contact Allison Hill:  
412-392-2887 or ahill@pittsburghsym-
phony.org

Friday, February 17; Saturday, February 18  
Dvorak: Symphonic Variations, Op. 78  
Higdon: Trombone Concerto  
(Richman: Oboe Concerto)  
Bernstein: Symphonic Dances from West Side Story  
(Sir Andrew Davis, Conductor)  
Sir Andrew Davis, Conductor  
Peter Sullivan, Trombonist, is a faculty

member in the School of Music.

Saturday, May 12; Monday, May 14  
Mozart: Symphony No. 40, K.550  
Valse Zuliana (suite), Overture to the

The King of Love, a piece commissioned by the PSO from

CMU faculty composer, Reza Vali  
(CMU Commission)  
CMU faculty composer, Reza Vali  
(CMU Commission)  
(Alexandra Orgera and Alan Kennedy)

Just to end, though I could add that I’ve tried

for years to get some more undergraduate

representatives on this committee and every

year I request Deans to identify one or two

undergrads who would like to help. We

meet most input from faculty and could use

more direct input from students. Every year

we make the request, but nobody wants to do

this, perhaps because we meet at 8:30 in the

morning. Occasionally we get undergrads on

the committee but they are never very happy

about that commitment of time that early in

day I guess. Still, I’d like to have more input

from the student side, someone who doesn’t

mind putting in early hours.

For the EFC: Reinhard Schumacher, Profes-

sor of Physics

For FOCUS: Alexandra Orgera and Alan

Kennedy

for my testimony before

andrew.cmu.edu/course/80-346/.  And email

me at covey@andrew for my testimony before

the Pittsburgh City Council and PA General

Assembly.)

A lower Porter Hall room, displaying the usual wall-decorations. This is perhaps a semi-

neroom, although the tables suggest some other use.

- it is an important aspect of the 2005-2006 season. Choose five or six

concerts to get a subscription weekend.

Prices for students will be $12 per concert.

In recognition of its strong partnership with

Carnegie Mellon, the Pittsburgh Symphony

Orchestra is offering a special CMU Subscrip-
tion for the 2005-2006 season. Choose five or six

concerts to get a subscription weekend.

For more information, contact Allison Hill:

412-392-2887 or ahill@pittsburghsym-
phony.org

Friday, March 17; Sunday, March 19

Bernstein: Symphonic Dances from West Side Story

8

3

2

1

0
Food & Wine Column

Just be grateful your car doesn’t run on English Muffins

Sometimes a picture can be worth as much as a 1,500 words. So the food and wine column this time plans to save its breath by offering some visual shortcuts. (but then, of course, we’ll waste a lot of time trying to figure out what to do with those saved words—redesign them in the word-hoard probably).

First and most important, a note from summer travels to expensive places of rest and restoration. Long on our list of houses to visit, the Biltmore house rose to the top of the list this summer. A fine place, worth a visit. Asheville, NC itself is not a bad little burg either, and we discovered the Thomas Wolfe shrine there (the Wolfe of Look Homeward Angel, not of The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test). The shrine is in question is the boarding house Wolfe’s mother ran, and it has little to do with the life of Thomas the writer, but in the hour long tour we certainly learned a lot about boarding house life in the early 20th century.

The Biltmore House itself is much bigger and grander. If you get a choice, stay there and enjoy the kind of luxury the Vanderbilts were clever enough to provide for themselves and their lucky guests. Stay away from boarding houses. The Biltmore house has something like 250 rooms (Mrs. Wolfe’s boarding house had about 25), most of them very nice. The Inn on the estate grounds offered an internet special, three nights for the price of two, which wasn’t bad, but they still charge you an entrance fee, about $35 to see the house itself. On a return visit (probably there won’t be one) we’d stay off the estate, someplace in town.

We’d dine off the estate too, although the dining room at the Inn wasn’t bad. We accidentally found a fine little restaurant called ‘The Cottonwood Cafe’, and offer it to you in our ongoing effort to find a decent place around here to get a bite to eat and something to drink. The estate dining facilities offer Biltmore wines, and we found two of them to be pretty good: the Riesling and the Select Syrah. As you may know, FLW wanted architecture to blend in with the natural landscape, and hence loved horizontal lines, as in FW. At FW you may have noticed, the waterfall is vertical, and so are the trees. In fact, there are very few horizontal lines in the surrounding natural landscape. So that is a bit of a puzzle. At FR (a slightly scary name, very evocative of nature, especially along many PA highways characterized by the ominous presence of falling rocks) the butter pointed out to us the way the lines of our room all pointed like arrows to the natural world outside. We hesitated to ask the butler about the presence of buildings in nature—or about the status of arrows in nature. There were many buildings outside our room, and a golf course as well. So the lines of our room seemed actually to be directing our attention as much to other buildings and examples of human design as to nature itself. But never mind.

There is a concept restaurant at FW, Aquaeous, which offers food in ‘progressions’, a sequence of small things progressively related to each other in some way. Some members of the collective enjoyed this, while others on another occasion couldn’t get in because busloads of conference attendees had already booked the place up. We did have breakfast there though, the highlight of which was the fluttering of a huge Luna Moth outside in the gardens. Breakfast for two came to about $55.00, but that was our own fault, having ordered an English muffin each to go with the eggs made from Glisan’s home-made bread, it will cost you an extra $0.60. Believe us, it’s well worth the extra cost. Also, you can buy a whole home-made pie at Glisuns, many types, for about $6.00. Each pie would be about half a gallon! Hmmm…

On other dining fronts, we recommend, again perhaps, the Taipei/Tokyo in Monroeville (photo left), just down the Mall a bit from the specialty liquor store, some of the finest food to be had in town, and much closer than Asheville, NC. Your charming hosts, Heather Mau and Bruce Liang, grace the photo below. The sushi comes in a wide variety, all excellent. As the restaurant’s name suggests, you can get both Chinese and Japanese (as you can in The New Dumpling House on Murray Ave.) food. From the Chinese side of the menu recently we enjoyed the dish called ‘The Honey Moosers’, two dishes in one—really, spicy shrimp on one side and pork in black bean sauce on the other. The menu describes it as a ‘perfect balance of separation’, indicating that somebody there knows their tv history.

And speaking of Murray Avenue, many things are happing there. We tried out the new Mexican restaurant, Mi Mexico, the place for absolutely authentic tacos. We liked it a lot, but fear that it may be ‘too authentic’ for Pittsburgh tastes. We hope not.

And finally, as this photo indicates, signs can be misleading: Smallman Street Deli now on Murray Ave. (photo below)

Regular readers of FOCUS will perhaps recall our special article on Steele’s Meats, on Smallman Street in the Strip—still the best place in town for a (raw) steak. Steele’s and the Smallman Street Deli now is only a few blocks away from Squirrel Hill, right opposite the Giant Eagle on Murray. It’s a much expanded version of the Strip Deli, offering all the same great things you can get there, the signature sandwiches and everything else. But the restaurant side is much bigger, offering breakfast, lunch and dinner. The breakfast special, 2 eggs, choice of meat, homefries & toast & coffee is only $5.99. And dinner, as in Corned Beef and Latkes is only $8.99 while their own char-grilled steak (strip, rib-eye or petite filet) is only $18.99. Smallman Deli on Murray (412-421-3354) officially opened for business on Monday, September 19, 2005. And you read it here first!

—for the cultural collective: Barb and Cletus Anderson. Otto Foghns, Alan Kennedy