Home Sweet Home

CARNegie MELLOn in QATAR Celebrates its New Building

Lending a Helping Hand

UNIVERSITY NAMED TO SERVICE HONOR ROLL

Jillian Bateman

It would take a single person working full-time more than 42 years to equal the 88,000 hours of community outreach that Carnegie Mellon logged during the 2007-2008 school year. For that achievement and dedication, the university has been named to the 2008 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement.

“I offer heartfelt congratulations to those institutions named to the 2008 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement.

“Carnegie Mellon people are people who do what it takes. Where there is a job to be done, or a crisis to respond to, we do what it takes,” Cohon said. “If there is one thing that we talk about it is collaboration above all else, working together. The people who directly interacted, all the people who cleared the way, all the people who contacted EMS — it was quite a large team — worked together and collaborated without even thinking about it. This is Carnegie Mellon at its best. I want you to know how proud I am, and all of Carnegie Mellon is, of you.”

Carnegie Mellon has placed 49 AEDs throughout campus. The one used to support Koll was obtained through the St. Margaret Foundation’s Pittsburgh United for Life Saving Emergencies Program (PULSE). PULSE has placed more than 250 AEDs in public buildings in the Pittsburgh area in hopes of improving the survival rate for victims of sudden cardiac arrest.

“By far, Carnegie Mellon is the most proactive and the best that I’ve seen in implementing an AED program,” Cohon said.

HER HIGHNESS SHEIKHIA MOZAH BINT NASSER AL-MISSNEK, chairperson of Qatar Foundation, cut the ceremonial red ribbon with the help of Carnegie Mellon President Jared Cohon, the entire Carnegie Mellon Qatar student body and 2008 alumni at the grand opening of the new building in Education City. At left is, David Shapira, chairman of Carnegie Mellon’s Board of Trustees. Over President Cohon’s right shoulder is Charles Thorpe, dean of Carnegie Mellon in Qatar. See story on page six.

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Lifesavers Recognized for Quick Response

Jocelyn Duffy

When Al Koll, a staff member in Facilities Management Services (FMS), suffered sudden cardiac arrest while working in Mellon Institute on Dec. 5, his colleagues provided life-saving measures, reviving Koll with an automated external defibrillator (AED) and administering CPR until city paramedics could arrive to transport him to the hospital. Just two months later on Feb. 12, Koll joined President Jared Cohon, representatives from the St. Margaret’s Foundation, AED manufacturer Cardiac Science, Pittsburgh Emergency Management Services and members of the Carnegie Mellon community for a reception to honor those who came to his aid.

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Robert Kelley’s book “How to Be a Star at Work: 9 Breakthrough Strategies You Need to Succeed” was recently selected as one of “The 100 Best Business Books Ever Written” by Jack Covert, longtime CEO of I-800-CEO-READ, the largest seller of business books in the United States. Covert told Kelley that what made his book stand out was its strong research base, its de-bunking of myths about star performance and its unique approach to developing talent and improving productivity.

Published in the late 1990s, “How to Be a Star at Work” was a Business Week and Amazon.com bestseller, and it continues to sell well today.

The Piper caught up with the author and adjunct professor of management at the Tepper School of Business to find out about his research and exactly how to become a star at work.

What inspired your research of “star performers”?

This project was an outgrowth of my book “The Gold-Collar-Worker,” in which I described this new breed of workers whose value to the market place is their brainpower. Some executives at AT&T’s Bell Labs had read my book and asked me if I’d be interested in studying their gold-collar workers. They’re specific concern was: “We hire the best and brightest from around the world. Why is it that only a small percentage of them become star performers who give out-sized productivity and value-added benefits to the organization? What separates these star performers from the average performers? If we figure out this difference, can we teach it to the average performers to boost their performance?”

I jumped at the chance and pulled together a team, which in the early stage included Dick Hayes in Carnegie Mellon’s Psychology Department.

Did your research indicate that there was a unique pattern of behavior associated with successful employees?

Yes, in fact the findings of our study made two important discoveries. First, stars are not born. Many people mistakenly believe that individual characteristics, such as cognitive abilities, social skills and personality factors, make the difference. We tested these and came up empty. Our second major finding is that stars are made, not born. After observing how stars and average performers do their work day-in and day-out, we noticed that stars use nine work strategies that power their performance. These strategies include taking initiative, knowledge networking, self-management, big-picture perspective, followership, leadership, teamwork, organizational savvy and how-and-tell.

How do these concepts translate into today’s climate?

Two ways. First, they allow workers to be more productive which is absolutely essential during a downturn. Higher productivity will lead to greater profitability. Second, without a doubt, average performers are at greatest risk in today’s economic climate. As companies look to reduce their headcounts or otherwise jump start their careers, they can do so by applying the star trajectory from Day One, then the returns to them — financial, career-wise and personal — as well as to the Tepper School, are enormous.

Do the strategies you teach have applications in business as well as at home?

Most certainly, the same strategies that empower success in the workplace can help individuals achieve a happy and healthy life outside of work. For instance, in families, practicing positive communication and understanding the principles of leadership and followership are very important. Furthermore, these principles will enhance an individual’s impact within their community, helping achieve positive results through work with their church or other community organizations.

What sort of feedback have you received from students or alumni that have taken your class?

I hear from numerous alumni telling me how the course helped them get off to a good start and to outperform their peers from other B-schools. I’m particularly pleased when current students tell me that they registered for my course because one of our alumni told them how valuable the information is.

Research that warrant further study. One area deals with helping women and minorities succeed. These groups have traditionally faced more barriers trying to become star performers and have had less access to this type of information, which would help them succeed. When women and minorities learn the star strategies, their productivity skyrockets. So, I want to extend the research to probe deeper into what we can do to help even more women and minorities succeed.

Another area of potential research deals with cross-cultural performance in the workplace. I would like to examine how the principles we have identified for workplaces based in North America will apply to other cultures, and vice-versa. I’m particularly interested in those few people who are able to be a star performer not only in their home country, but also in other countries.

How well will the research stand the “test of time” as new generations take over?

I’m hard-pressed to see why not. The principles are as valid today as a decade ago and, I think, will be for the foreseeable future. However, since our research on star performers, significant changes in communication technology, from cell phones to the Internet, have occurred. Plus, with more people working in virtual workplaces, whether at home, cars or planes, as well as the effects of a global workforce, I would like to examine how these fit into the puzzle.

Q&A With Robert Kelley: On His Book’s Star Performance

Robert Kelley’s book “How to Be a Star at Work” was picked as one of the best 100 business books ever written.
Cited for Service

Continued from page one

a difference in the lives of others every day,” said Molly Corbett Broad, president of the American Council on Education.

As many Pittsburghers continue to lose jobs and many local not-for-profits suffer budget cuts, the impact of outreach activities becomes more important in the city and region.

“It’s becoming more obvious that the expertise and time contributed by Carnegie Mellon faculty, staff and students play a big role in the improvement of many aspects of life in the community,” said Judith Hallinen, assistant vice provost for educational outreach and director of the Leonard Gelfand Center for Service Learning and Outreach. “It makes sense for us to do this work, because the strength of Carnegie Mellon is directly tied to the strength of the region.”

Under Hallinen, the Gelfand Center supports more than 75 university-wide programs for K-12 students and teachers aimed at improving and enhancing the teaching and learning process. Carnegie Mellon students, faculty and staff are active participants in its many outreach initiatives, which include certification and professional development programs for teachers and administrators; tutoring, mentoring and enrichment courses for students; and activities for students aimed at improving local communities.

The center works to connect university students to volunteer and paid positions that allow them to develop expertise while meeting the needs of local agencies and individuals.

Carnegie Mellon also offers approximately 30 classes described as “service learning” courses that enable students to serve non-profits in real-world situations as they develop their skills. These courses include the Modern Languages Department’s “Tutoring for Community Outreach” course, which places students each semester in Pittsburgh Public Schools to instruct elementary, middle or high school students in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Spanish or English as a Second Language. The Computer Science “Technology Consulting in the Community” Course partners Carnegie Mellon students with local non-profits, schools and government agencies to assist organizations in improving their use of technology.

Many of Carnegie Mellon’s educational outreach programs allow Carnegie Mellon students to make a difference in the lives of children in the community. The Fostering Academic and Social Achievement (FASA) Program, involves Carnegie Mellon students serving as tutors and mentors at the Homewood Brushton YMCA. They provide 25 at-risk seventh-graders at the Pittsburgh Faison School with positive experiences and opportunities.

“Our kids definitely need this academic support,” said Greg Lagana, director of the FASA Program. While the Pittsburgh region has been a major beneficiary of these courses and programs, Carnegie Mellon students benefit as well.

“It was an educational experience for me to see how the students perceived foreign languages and cultures,” said Chan Lu, a doctoral student in the Modern Languages Department who conducted a workshop with the youngsters. “Working with them made me think about how important it is for teachers to adjust their teaching based on different characteristics of the students.”

Those youths represent a small portion of more than 10,000 Pittsburgh area students who participate in Carnegie Mellon educational outreach activities each year. “FASA is not only building our students’ skills as tutors and human beings, but it also gives them a rubber-meets-the-road introduction to how programs like this work from the inside,” Lagana said.

Carnegie Mellon’s ventures into the community provide students with experiences that reinforce what is truly important to their futures.

“Many of our students have the initial goal of graduating and getting the highest paying job,” Hallinen said. “Through positive service experiences in the community, our students learn that they can combine this goal with community volunteer work and make a big impact in only a couple of hours each week.”

The 88,000 hours of community outreach logged in 2007-2008 reflects the time Hallinen was able to track. The information she submitted to the Corporation for National and Community Service included data from programs and activities across campus, including the Center for Economic Development at the Heinz College, the Technology Consulting in the Community class, the undergraduate service requirement at the Tepper School, the Toys for Tots and Pencil for Pupils drives in the College of Engineering, and service activities coordinated by the Office of Student Affairs.

But each day Carnegie Mellon students, faculty and staff contribute time to the community that is never officially recorded. Efforts are being made to develop a system to more accurately track the community service hours offered by the university.

Currently Lucas Christain, coordinator of Student Development, is working with a group of students on the second annual “1000 plus” initiative, which will take place March 28. Most activities are scheduled between noon and 5 p.m.

“Their goal is to get as many folks from the Carnegie Mellon community out and doing service on the same day,” said Holly Hippensteel, director of Student Life.

Last year about 600 faculty, staff and students participated and this year the goal is 1,000 participants. All members of the university community, including alumni are encouraged to volunteer.

“There will be a wide variety of activities,” Christain said. “Some as basic as cleaning up a library to rappelling down Mt. Washington to pick up trash.”

Pittsburgh Cares is partnering with Carnegie Mellon to organize activities with various organizations. All sites will be within walking distance of campus or transportation will be available. For more information, contact onethousandplus@gmail.com. To register, visit www.willyoubeaccounted.com.
Barcelona native Leonardo Balada, University Professor of Composition in the School of Music, started the year on an extraordinary note.

In February alone, his “Faust-bal” grand opera premiered at Madrid’s Teatro Real, a revised version of his “Voices no. 2” for chorus was performed on tour by the Dutch National Student Choir in Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw, among other venues; a music hall was named in his honor; and two new CDs, his ninth and 10th recordings, were released on the Naxos Classical music label.

Completed in 2007, the 90-minute opera “Faust-bal” was commissioned by Madrid’s Teatro Real. The first of nine performances led by world-renowned conductor Jesus Lopez-Cobos took place Feb. 13 at Teatro Real.

With libretto by Fernando Arrabal, “Faust-bal” is based on the classical character Faust, but takes place in the third millennium in which the two principal characters’ genders are switched. Faust is now Faust-bal, a beautiful woman of superior intellect and the only visible example of human goodness in a world dominated by violence. The opera is full of symbolism and contrasts, ranging from pure idealism to destruction by war, from the ironic to the grotesque, culminating in a tragic conclusion. In contrast to previous operas by Balada — “Christopher Columbus,” “Death of Columbus,” “Zapata” and “Hangman, Hangman!” — that encompass folkloric ideas, “Faust-bal” is universal in its music and story without ethnic suggestions of any kind.

“Faust-bal” was broadcast live on Spain’s Radio Nacional on Feb. 18.

Balada’s new CD releases include recordings of “Cristobal Colon” (“Christopher Columbus”) with stars Jose Carreras and Montserrat Caballe, and “La Muerte de Colon” (“Death of Columbus”) recorded by Carnegie Mellon’s Chorus and Philharmonic under the direction of Robert Page, with Jon Garrison in the title role.

The music hall at the Instituto de Educacion Cardenal Cisneros was dedicated in Balada’s honor. This is a branch of Spain’s University of Alcalá, one of the oldest institutions in Europe.

Columna Music Records also has recently released Balada’s “Concerto for Cello and Nine Players,” performed by cellist Julen Van Win. An early work, this piece was commissioned by the great cellist Gaspar Cassado.

On June 29, his piece for cello and string orchestra, “Caprichos no. 5 - Homage to Isaac Albeniz,” which was commissioned by the Orquesta de Camara Iberica, will premiere at a festival in Leon, Spain.

The composer, whose career spans five decades, is also the subject of a soon-to-be-released biography.

Trio of World Premieres, Recordings Part of Stellar Year for Composer

Compiled by Abby Ross

University Lecture Series
“Di My Journey with America”
Daniel Plesnick, emeritus professor of history and director of the Center for the History of the University
4:30 p.m., Thursday, March 19
Adamson Wing, Baker Hall 136A

“Technologies of Surveillance: Tracking People as Economic Subjects”
Florida International University Professor Kenneth Lappin
4:30 p.m., Monday, March 30
Adamson Wing, Baker Hall 136A

“Educating Ethical Engineers”
Cynthia J. Finell, director of the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching North and associate research scientist of engineering education at the University of Michigan
4:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 1
Adamson Wing, Baker Hall 136A

“The Simpsons and Other Gentiles I Work With!”
Mike Reiss, one of the founding writers of “The Simpsons”
7 p.m., Thursday, April 2
McConomy Auditorium, University Center

“The Journeys of Milton Fine”
Milton Fine, a lifetime trustee of the Carnegie Institute and board member of the Andy Warhol Museum
4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 7
Adamson Wing, Baker Hall 136A

Additional Lectures
Humanities Center Lecture
“The Antinomies of Realism”
Fredric Jameson, the William A. Lane Jr. Professor of Comparative Literature and Romance Studies at Duke University, and a visiting scholar at Carnegie Mellon
4:30 p.m., Monday, March 16
Manilow-McCaughey Hall

CAUSE Speaker Series
John Weiss Grant, the 2008-09 CAUSE postdoctoral fellow and an assistant professor of Africana studies at the University of Arizona
5 p.m., Friday, March 20
Stainberg Auditorium, Baker Hall

Upcoming Events

Collage Concert
8 p.m., Friday, April 3, Soldiers & Sailors Hall

Featuring all School of Music ensembles and selected student and faculty soloists, the School of Music’s Collage Concert will be a feast for the senses. This 90-minute non-stop concert will keep audience members at the edge of their seats as performers appear and disappear from various positions within the concert hall.

The Global Economy: Prospects for Policy and Investment
1:30-3 p.m., April 4, Rangos Hall

Are we living through the worst economic crisis since 1932? Will changes on Wall Street and new policies in Washington have their intended results? How soon? The campus community is invited to hear a variety of perspectives on current economic challenges and opportunities with a panel of prominent economists and investors. This panel will discuss the U.S. stimulus package, changing global financial markets and the role of growth-oriented investment in innovative technologies in areas such as energy. Panelists will include Allan Meltzer, the Allan Meltzer Professor of Political Economy at the Tepper School; Lee Branstetter, an international economist at the Heinz College; Charles Evans, (TPR ’85, 1989), president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; and Ray Lane, life trustee and managing partner of Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers.

School of Art Lecture Series
March Martinez, professor of computer science and electrical engineering Stanford University
5 p.m., Tuesday, April 28
McConomy Auditorium

School of Art Lecture Series
Marzio Warnes, head of graduate directing in the School of Drama
5 p.m., Monday, March 23
McConomy Auditorium

Humanities Center Lecture
“An Almost Unknown Masterpiece: Cecco del Caravaggio’s The Resurrection”
Michael Fried, the J.R. Herbert Boone Chair in the Humanities at Johns Hopkins University
5 p.m., Tuesday, March 31
Adamson Wing, Baker Hall 136A

Computation Thinking Seminar Series
Marc Levoy, professor of computer science and selected student and faculty soloists, the School of Music’s Collage Concert will be a feast for the senses. This 90-minute non-stop concert will keep audience members at the edge of their seats as performers appear and disappear from various positions within the concert hall.

For the first time ever in one concert, experience the dazzling array of music produced at Carnegie Mellon, including Baroque, classical, contemporary, vocal, jazz and more. You will want to miss this one-night-only extravaganza of sound produced by Carnegie Mellon’s School of Music and staged by Karla Boos of Quantum Theater.

Quantum Theater.

General admission is $15, prices for senior citizens are $12, and college students with valid ID are $10. To purchase tickets, visit http://music.cmu.edu and click on Box Office. Tickets will be available (cash only) at Soldiers & Sailors one hour prior to the performance.

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The Illusion
By Tony Kushner, adaptation by Pierre Cornelle
Directed by Alagro Libonati
April 22-25
Philip Chosky Theatre

One Flea Spare
By Naomi Wallace and Amy Gaussen
March 18-20
Performance times Wednesday and Thursday at 8 p.m., Friday and 4 and 8 p.m.

Blood Drive
10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, March 18
Rangos 3, University Center

Project Olympus Show and Tell
3:30-5 p.m., Wednesday, March 18
Lecture Hall, Collaborative Innovation Center
Reception to follow in the Novell-Simon Hall Atrium
Showcasing university research, projects, spin-offs and community perspectives.
Visit www.olympus.cs.cmu.edu/events to register.

Spring Carnival
April 16-17
Site: www.contrib.andrew.cmu.edu/~soLV

— Kristi Ries
When Dreaming is Believing

Teresa Thomas

While science tries to understand the stuff dreams are made of, humans from cultures all over the world continue to believe that dreams contain important hidden truths.

In six different studies, Carey Morewedge, an assistant professor of Social and Decision Sciences, and Michael Norton of the Harvard Business School, surveyed 1,100 people about their dreams.

“Psychologists’ interpretations of the meaning of dreams vary widely. But our research shows that people believe their dreams provide meaningful insight into themselves and their world,” Morewedge said.

“If people take their dreams seriously, and our research suggests that they do, their interpretations of the content of their dreams may influence their beliefs, opinions, relationships and their decision-making,” he added.


Morewedge said dreams are perhaps the best way scientists have to investigate the meaning ascribed to thoughts that arise from the subconscious, as they are unconscious thoughts to which the thinker has access.

In one study that surveyed general beliefs about dreams, Morewedge and Norton surveyed 149 university students in the United States, India and South Korea. The researchers asked the students to rate different theories about dreams. Across all three cultures, an overwhelming majority of the students endorsed the theory that dreams reveal hidden truths about themselves and the world, a belief also endorsed by a nationally representative sample of Americans.

In another study reported in the article, the researchers wanted to explore how dreams might influence people’s waking behavior. They surveyed 182 commuters at a Boston train station, asking them to imagine that one of four possible scenarios had happened the night before a scheduled airline trip: The national threat level was raised to orange, indicating a high risk of terrorist attack; they consciously thought about their plane crashing; they dreamed about a plane crash; or a real plane crash occurred on the route they planned to take. A dream of a plane crash was more likely to affect travel plans than either thinking about a crash or a government warning, and the dream of a plane crash produced a similar level of anxiety, as did an actual crash.

Finally, the researchers wanted to find out whether people perceive all dreams as equally meaningful, or whether their interpretations were influenced by their waking beliefs and desires. In this study, 270 men and women from across the United States took a short online survey in which they were asked to remember a dream they had had about a person they knew. People ascribed more importance to pleasant dreams about a person they liked as compared to a person they did not like, while they were more likely to consider an unpleasant dream more meaningful if it was about a person they disliked.

“Dreams may sometimes reflect current concerns such as thoughts about one’s work and family. Our research cannot describe whether or not some dreams are or are not meaningful. But it does suggest that people take a motivated interpretation of their dreams. People interpret their dreams in a way that accords with their beliefs and desires while awake,” Morewedge said.

The dreams study is part of a larger research project that examines how people make sense of thoughts that are or appear to be stimulus-independent.

Morewedge also said additional research is needed to more fully explore how people interpret their dreams, and in what cases dreams may actually reveal hidden information.

“Most people understand that dreams are unlikely to predict the future but that doesn’t prevent them from finding meaning in their dreams, whether their contents are mundane or bizarre,” Morewedge said.

The APA news service contributed to this story.

Hands-on Learning

Chriss Swaney

Engineering is fun! That’s the message Carnegie Mellon engineering students broadcast to high school students during National Engineers Week in February. A cache of gala events including edible bridge building, robot demonstrations and the latest duct tape clothing for consumer fashion buffs helped pique the interest of high school students in the fields of engineering and science.

One team of Carnegie Mellon mechanical engineering students was dispatched to Thomas Jefferson High School in Alexandria, Va., to showcase innovative product designs, including a new foldout toaster and an automatic safety lock for baby strollers.

Even the university’s engineering alums turned out to help beef up interest in engineering. JoAnn Truchan, a 1996 chemical engineering graduate, spearheaded a program dubbed “It’s Easy Being Green” at the Carnegie Science Center on Feb. 21. More than 300 students — mostly girls — were shown how they can build a better future through engineering. All participants received a specially designed environmental patch developed by the Steinbrenner Institute for Environmental Education and Research and the College of Engineering.

Micro Grants Net Major Impact

Philip LeDuc is pioneering the use of artificially created cells that can help to target and treat disease. His work is revolutionizing the fields of micro- and nanotechnology. And the Carnegie Mellon professor credits a gift to the university with giving him support when he needed it most.

Carol and Myles Berkman set up the Berkman Faculty Development Fund to honor Myles’ mother, Sybiel Altman Berkman (CFA’31). The fund’s goals are to support primarily junior faculty members in pursuing projects that would be difficult to fund but are important toward developing their ability to think outside-the-box — and break new ground. Each spring and fall, faculty members are chosen to receive these grants, not exceeding $10,000 a piece.

The award is part of the university’s comprehensive campaign, Inspire Innovation: The Campaign for Carnegie Mellon University. One of the campaign’s goals is to enhance faculty support through endowed chairs, start-up funds for new faculty and gifts for research and academic pursuits.

The scope and diversity of the grants represent some of the key areas of research for the university including air quality work, cosmology and the science of decision-making. For example, Priya Narasimhan, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, won an award in 2007 to help develop Trinetra, a project she conceived to assist the blind. It already has three inventions in the user-testing stage.

“We planned these awards to offer smart and dedicated faculty members the freedom to explore new ideas and passionate interests, with no strings attached,” said Myles and Carol Berkman on their fund’s Web site, www.hss.cmu.edu/berkman. The couple writes that the gift offers a way to support diverse intellectual growth for scholars and teachers.

“We are very happy with the program’s evolution, and we are pleased to support the work of Carnegie Mellon University.”

The small grants program is designed to support professional development. Full-time faculty in lecturer, research, tenure and librarian/archivist tracks are eligible.

A Carnegie Mellon professor of mechanical engineering, LeDuc has since been recognized with a National Science Foundation CAREER Award and received funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Energy, among others.

“This was an instrumental grant for me to receive in terms of developing my confidence and knowledge in this area,” said LeDuc, who received the Berkman grant to study interfacing engineering and biology through micro- and nanotechnology. “This was the first grant that I received and I believe it helped project me on a path forward.”
Carnegie Mellon in Qatar Celebrates its New Building

Carnegie Mellon has a new home nearly 7,000 miles from the flagship campus in Pittsburgh. The grand opening of the new building in Education City was held Sunday, Feb. 22, in Doha, Qatar.

Highness Sheikh Moazah Bint Nasser Al-Qassimi, a member of Qatar Foundation, cut the ceremonial ribbon with the help of Carnegie Mellon President Jared Cohon. After the ribbon cutting, Her Highness called the Emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, to join her on stage for photographs with the entire Carnegie Mellon Qatar student body 2008 alumni. Both His Highness and Her Highness joked with and embraced students while on stage.

More than 1,400 guests attended the milestone event at the Ceremonial Court in Education City, including members of the Carnegie Mellon Board of Trustees.

After the formal ceremony all guests were invited to the building for self-guided tours and a dinner reception.

The 460,000-square-foot facility is a three-story architectural wonder that incorporates open spaces, water features and a warm palette of colors.

“The philosophy of the Carnegie Mellon building is connected to the social experience of the university. Carnegie Mellon wanted to be the heart of Education City,” says building architect Ricardo Legorreta, of the world-renowned Mexican architecture firm Legorreta+Legorreta. “Having two sides of the building with a green spine in the middle was the basis of the design. Similar to buildings in other cultures, this design creates space for people to pass through and circulate.”

An aerial view of the building shows a half circle on one side and a rectangle on the other. By straddling the Education City’s East-West Walkway, the building creates a welcoming spacious breezeway.

Palm trees and water features line the outdoor path that leads into the three-story, glass ceiling walkway. Trees continue into the building, creating a space alive with greenery and flooded with natural light. Walls are made of geometric mosaics of wood and stone glass, while bridges join the two sides of the building. The walkway opens up on the south side into the food court, which is always packed with students studying, eating or hanging out.

“The heart of Carnegie Mellon is people coming together, to teach, to study, to do research. We’re blessed with a wonderful space that encourages that kind of collaborative, active, cross-disciplinary learning,” says Dean Charles E. Thorpe.

Beyond the food court is the largest assembly area in Education City, which can hold in excess of 400 people. The area incorporates traditional Arabian Majlis-styled seating, which uses large, soft cushions where people can gather for casual conversations. A plinth in the space is carved with “My heart is in the work” in English and an Arabic quote from the Emir, which translated means “What is needed is not simply to take one step forward, but to embark upon a comprehensive process that embraces modernity without trepidation and welcomes progress without fear.”

The north side of the building is home to a tranquil courtyard. Open to two floors of offices and classrooms, the focal point of the space is a large water feature designed for easy drainage so the space can be used for events. The open ceiling, blue walls and rippling water reflect light during the day and cast inspiring shadows as night falls.

In addition to the large common spaces, Carnegie Mellon Qatar’s new building features 11 state-of-the-art classrooms, five computer classrooms, five labs, five lecture halls, a library, 12 meeting rooms, four study rooms, two prayer rooms, 149 offices/workstations and two lounges.

“From the very beginning, the plan has centered on the idea of making a place for learning and development of the highest order; a place for teaching and research; and a community of teachers and students,” says Kevin Lamb, assistant dean for planning. “Qatar Foundation inspired and supported a design that would do all of this plus make an elegant statement that the intention of Education City is to be a world-class place for teaching and learning, for growth and development of students from Qatar, the Middle East and beyond.”

The building, which was provided to Carnegie Mellon by the Qatar Foundation, is situated in the 2,500-acre campus between Weill Cornell Medical Collage in Qatar and Texas A&M University at Qatar. Other universities with branch campuses there include Virginia Commonwealth University, Georgetown School of Foreign Service and Northwestern University.

Ceremonial groundbreaking of the
A group of women in Pittsburgh have committed to support future leaders in science and technology.

Since 1958, the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Foundation (ARCS) has donated more than $66 million nationally. The Pittsburgh chapter was established in 2003 and has since committed more than $757,000 to 39 scholars. Twenty-four have been Carnegie Mellon students.

Alysha Grenko is one award recipient. She said the honor helped her make the leap to graduate school. A Pittsburgh native, she studied electrical engineering at Penn State, then worked in the field to develop solar energy technology for 10 years.

“I loved what I was doing,” she said. “But there aren’t enough qualified people in the field. I needed more education to go further in the technical side of things. I wanted to be able to contribute more.”

Grenko said the idea to return to college was daunting. She applied and was accepted to several schools, but she never followed through with the offers. She was accepted into the Materials Science and Engineering Program.

“I felt like that was a sign,” Grenko said when she heard of the ARCS award as part of her financial assistance.

The Pittsburgh ARCS chapter supports doctoral students at Carnegie Mellon, the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Penn State. Each award is $5,000 per year for three years or until the completion of the doctoral degree.

Jeanne VanBriesen, professor of civil and environmental engineering at Carnegie Mellon and director of the Center for Water Quality in Urban Environmental Systems, was an ARCS scholarship recipient at Northwestern University as a graduate student.

“The ARCS scholarship came at a critical point for me in my own graduate career. The first year, I used the funds to pursue a research ‘diversion,’ and this ended up being a significant part of my dissertation,” VanBriesen said. She added that the last year of her scholarship was the year she had her first child, and the ARCS funding allowed her to continue work and afford childcare.

“The ARCS funding was critical to my staying in graduate school and pursuing my goal of a faculty career in engineering,” VanBriesen said. “When a group of women in Pittsburgh decided to start an ARCS chapter in 2003, I was pleased to be asked to be a charter member and to serve on the Board of Directors.”

Scholars and members meet at Carnegie Mellon building took place May 17, 2006. Actual construction work began that summer and continued around the clock for two years. Some 2,300 workers were on site at any given time to meet the Aug. 1, 2008, move-in day.

Having this building means more to the students, staff and faculty than having a permanent place to unpack boxes and hang photos. After four years and two temporary locations, this building gives Carnegie Mellon a solid foothold in Qatar, and as Thorpe says, someplace for the university to call home.

“We’re far from the main campus in distance, but we can bring the same spirit to Qatar that Andrew Carnegie first brought to Pittsburgh when he wrote, ‘my heart is in the work,’” Thorpe said.

View pictures of the building at www.qatar.cmu.edu/newbuilding.

Lifesavers Recognized for Quick Response

Continued from page one

“Program,” said Dave Bianco, AED Program Coordinator for PULSE. Koll was the 64th person saved by an AED provided through PULSE.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the heart fails to pump blood due to an electrical disturbance in the heart. Unless a normal heartbeat is restored within minutes, a victim of sudden cardiac arrest will most likely die — without immediate treatment only 5 to 7 percent survive. An AED is a computerized device that delivers a shock to restore a normal heartbeat.

“I’d like to thank those involved, especially the St. Margaret’s Foundation. Without the AED, I wouldn’t be standing here today,” Koll said. “I like to thank the guys I work with for a tremendous effort; you guys didn’t give up. I feel so lucky to be here. You hear the percentages of anyone surviving like I did without an AED, I was very, very fortunate.”

Among those honored included Carnegie Mellon staff members Dana Norman and Don Campbell of University Police; Lisa McGaw, an NMR Center research technician; and George Papuga, Rodney Hickman, Darryl Harper, Don Murphy, Bob Ranker, Chris Ervin, Tom Kelly, Sandy Probola and Pina Olander, all of FMS.

Environmental Health & Safety regularly hosts classes for AED/CPR training. To learn about upcoming sessions, visit www.cmu.edu/ehs and click on the training link at the top of the page.
Colleagues Celebrate Bothner-By’s Work in NMR Spectroscopy

Amy Pavlik

Fifty years ago, NMR spectroscopy was a young field, with spectroscopists spread across the country. They wanted to meet with each other to share their ideas, and Emeritus Professor Aksel Bothner-By was one of the men who got the ball rolling.

Bothner-By and his colleague Barry Shapiro hosted the second through 11th Experimental NMR Conference (ENC) at the Mellon Institute. At the end of March, the NMR community is gathering in Asilomar, Calif., to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ENC. At age 88, unable to travel to California for this year’s ENC, Bothner-By’s colleagues at Carnegie Mellon are hosting a symposium in his honor.

“Bothner-By was an important figure in the NMR community for decades. He developed key tools for NMR analysis that are now used routinely by scientists all over the world,” said Roberto Gil, associate research professor of chemistry, director of the Department of Chemistry NMR Facility and co-organizer of the symposium.

Bothner-By, now an emeritus professor of chemistry, came to Carnegie Mellon in 1958, when NMR spectroscopy was an up-and-coming field. NMR spectroscopy, an analytical technique that provides information about the structure of chemical and biochemical compounds, takes advantage of a physical phenomenon called nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) occurring inside an atom’s nucleus. In a magnetic field, some nuclei wobble and spin like tops, emitting a radio frequency signal. By observing the behavior of these spinning nuclei when they are exposed to a magnetic field and pulses of radio waves, scientists can piece together the chemical structure of the compound.

During his 33 years at Carnegie Mellon, Bothner-By conducted numerous experiments that advanced NMR spectroscopy. In the 1960s, he and Salvatore Castellano developed a computational method for analyzing NMR spectra, which later became the computer program LAOCN3 that was widely used by NMR spectroscopists worldwide. In the late ‘60s, Bothner-By and Josef Dadok, now an emeritus professor of chemistry at Carnegie Mellon, built a multinuclear NMR spectrometer with a superconducting magnet operating at 250 MHz. It became the workhorse of Carnegie Mellon’s NMR Facility for Biomedical Studies.

“The number of publications produced by users of this facility was quite impressive,” said Dadok, who headed the technical side of the spectrometer project.

Although the 250 MHz spectrometer was an extraordinary instrument at the time, in 1976 Bothner-By and Dadok set their sights higher. In collaboration with Intermagnetics General Corporation, Bothner-By led the team that built the world’s first 600 MHz spectrometer, which reigned as the world’s most powerful system for several years. At that time, many scientists all over the world wanted to have their samples analyzed with the 600 MHz spectrometer. The best and brightest NMR spectroscopists flocked to Carnegie Mellon to analyze everything from natural products to DNA, RNA and proteins.

For Bothner-By, the high magnetic field posed a challenge. He should have been able to glean more information about the molecules he was studying, but he was having trouble getting a key type of information about a certain class of larger molecules. Taking inspiration from his wife, a figure skater, he developed the CAMELSPIN experiment. Now called ROESY, the technique allows scientists to acquire this key type of information in mid-size molecules like small peptides using NMR regardless of the molecules’ size or the strength of the magnet.

During his career, Bothner-By published more than 150 papers, mostly in the field of NMR spectroscopy. In 2002, he was one of three recipients of the Gjønther Laukien Prize for his efforts to develop techniques to measure residual dipolar couplings (RDCs). This work allowed scientists to analyze biomolecules with greater precision than ever before, according to Gil.

“Aksel is a visionary,” Gil said. “His work is an inspiration to me and to so many others in the NMR community.”

Twitter-Based Personal Graphing Tool Wins 2009 Smiley Award

Anne Watzman

Graffiti, a technology that makes it easy to collect information about yourself over time and depict it in graph form on Twitter, is the 2009 winner of Carnegie Mellon’s second annual Smiley Award. The award, sponsored by Yahoo Inc., recognizes innovation in technology-assisted person-to-person communication and is open to all undergraduate and graduate students at the university.

The award is named in honor of the ubiquitous smiley emoticon, :-), created 26 years ago by Computer Science Department Research Professor Scott Fahlman. The smiley symbol was an early — and still widely used — convention that allows people to express humor and happiness in text messages on the Internet.

Graffiti is the creation of Ian Li, (http://ianli.com) a doctoral student in the Human-Computer Interaction Institute who received the $500 first prize and a crystal trophy. Li won an honorable mention in last year’s Smiley Award competition for his web-based Moodjam application that tracks people’s emotional states (www.moodjam.org/).

“I create technologies that help people collect and see information about themselves,” Li said. “I have applied my research on motivating physical activity, increasing mood awareness and office activity awareness. Graffiti is only as useful as you make it. If there is something about your life that you are curious about, start recording it and study your graphs.”

With help from Graffiti (http://graffiti.com), you could record your weight, the amount of exercise you get and the food you eat by sending simple Twitter messages with special tags. Later, you can see all of these items in graph form and optionally share them with your community of friends on Twitter. For a demo of how Graffiti works go to http://graffiti.com/tw/graffiti-demo.

“Ian has a wonderful combination of technical and creative skills,” said Li’s advisor Jodi Forlizzi, associate professor in the Human-Computer Interaction Institute. These culminate in his interest on ‘personal informatics’ — how to collect, display and benefit from information about the self.”

Fahlman said Graffiti is fun, very easy to use and is a good fit for the Smiley Award’s theme of technology-assisted person-to-person communication.

“The judges were particularly impressed with Ian’s cleverness in creating a ‘viral’ application — one that is likely to spread quickly through the large and fast-growing community of Twitter users, providing them with a handy new communication tool. This is very much in the spirit of the original smiley symbol.”

The honorable mention award went to Ilya Brin, Dan Eisenberg and Kevin Li, a trio of undergraduates who developed EyeTable, an intelligent restaurant table that uses headsets and sensing technology based on the Wii game controller to determine how well people are responding to one another on dates by analyzing their gestures and speech patterns. They developed EyeTable for a course project in the Applied Computational Intelligence Lab, taught by Language Technology Institute faculty members Anatole Gershman and Alan Black.
The problem with social networking applications that allow friends to track each other’s locations via cell phone or laptop is that sometimes friends don’t want to be tracked.

Oh, the idea of sharing locations so that friends can hook up for lunch or impromptu study sessions sounds great. But the thought that someone — even someone considered a friend — can monitor your locale as easily as reading a text message also sounds creepy.

Controlling who can know where you are at what times has been the Achilles’s heel of every such location-sharing service, whether it be Loopt, Buddy Beacon or the recently announced Google Latitude. The privacy issues are daunting and personal preferences can be surprisingly complex, but a group of Carnegie Mellon researchers think they may have an answer in a new Facebook application that they are now rolling out.

Called Locaccino, www.locaccino.org, the location-sharing social application features a unique user interface that helps users set rules about who can see them at what times and in what places, and to check to see who among their friends has been looking them up.

“It’s not reassuring to see who has been looking at your location,” said Norman Sadeh, a professor of computer science who led the development of Locaccino. “That realization is one reason these location-aware applications have been slow to catch on.”

All such applications, including Locaccino, allow users to temporarily make themselves “invisible” to their network of friends and all provide ways to control who can see them when. “But nothing out there now really works,” Sadeh contended.

The problem is that user controls tend to be cumbersome and time-consuming and often are practical only for handling a small group of acquaintances, he explained. Only Locaccino provides feedback about who is looking for the user and when — information that the group’s research suggests can help people overcome fears about friend-finding applications.

“There is a personal adjustment process for every new technology,” said Patrick Gaige Kelley, a Ph.D. candidate in computer organization and society who has coordinated the interface design for Locaccino. “The interface tries to help users through this process.” The group’s research suggests that users find it reassuring to see who has been looking for them and when. Often, this feedback causes them to selectively loosen some of their privacy policies and make greater use of location-sharing.

Equally important is an interface that can quickly and accurately capture a person’s privacy preferences, Sadeh said. These preferences can be quite complex, particularly when large numbers of people are involved. The Locaccino team has experimented with machine learning techniques that rely on user feedback to discern a person’s preferences over time and to make suggestions about how the location-sharing rules can be fine-tuned. They hope to make this functionality broadly available to the Locaccino user community in the months to come.

“The program could learn and set up the user’s preferences by itself, but then the user would no longer understand what is going on and would effectively have lost control over his privacy rules,” Sadeh said. “Instead, our approach to using machine learning involves generating suggestions in the form of incremental, user-understandable modifications to the user’s current location-sharing rules.”

Locaccino’s location-tracking technology is similar to that of several other services. Initially, Locaccino is being offered for use with laptops only and relies on proximity to Wi-Fi nodes. On campus, detailed knowledge of the Wi-Fi system sometimes allows Locaccino to identify a user’s location down to a specific office address. Off campus, it uses the Skyhook Wireless network to locate users.

Later this spring, an application will be released for certain GPS-equipped cell phones, including the Nokia N95. Indoors, the phones can use Wi-Fi to determine location and outdoors they can use GPS or cell tower triangulation.

The Locaccino group also includes Lorrie Cranor, associate professor of computer science and engineering and public policy; Jason Hong, assistant professor of human-computer interaction; Paul Hankes Drielsma and Eran Toch, both post-doctoral fellows in the Institute for Software Research; and Jay Springfield, a research programmer. In addition to Kelley, Ph.D. students on the team include Janice Tsai, Michael Benirsch, Jialiu Lin and Ram Ravichandran.

Funding for Locaccino comes from the National Science Foundation’s CyberTrust Initiative, CyLab, Nokia, Microsoft, Nortel, France Telecom and the Information and Communications Technologies Institute.
Record Number of Applications Received

Carnegie Mellon has received a record number of applications for undergraduate admission for the 2009-2010 school year. Numbers released Feb. 1 by the Office of Undergraduate Admission indicate that 22,780 applications have been received for 1,360 available seats. This marks an increase of 728 applications over the previous record of 22,052 applications, which the university received for the 2007-2008 school year. The university also reported a record number of early decision applications, which totaled 1,108 and were up 30 percent over last year.

“I think our application numbers continue to confirm Carnegie Mellon’s position as a recognized leader in education and research among the world’s best institutions of higher education,” said Mike Steidel, director of admission. “We’re fortunate that in light of today’s economic challenges, families continue to believe a high quality education is an excellent and worthy investment.”

Steidel noted that Carnegie Mellon’s consistent recognition in the national media is often cited by students as an important reason for choosing to enroll at the university. He also attributed the rise in applications to an increase in the number of college applications per applicant and to the use of the Common Application, which streamlines the application process to major universities.

Civil Rights Leaders Remembered

PITTSBURGH POSTMASTER JIM JOHNSTON II AND VICE PROVOST OF EDUCATION INDIRA NAIR UNVEILED ONE OF THE NEWLY RELEASED “CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEERS” COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS ON MONDAY, FEB. 23 AT THE MAGGIE MURPH CAFE. THE STAMP FEATURES MEDEGAN EVERS AND FANNIE LOU HAMER AND IS ONE OF SIX STAMPS THAT PAYS HOMAGE TO THE SACRIFICES OF 12 CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEERS ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE NAACP. THE EVENT, WHICH INCLUDED A POETRY READING BY CFA STUDENT LUCIA RODERIQUE AND WORDS FROM STUDENT DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR M. SHERNELL SMITH, WAS PART OF CAMPUS ACTIVITIES CELEBRATING NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH.

News Briefs

Sign Up for the 8.5x11 News

In support of Carnegie Mellon’s green initiative, the 8.5 x 11 News is now only available online (www.cmu.edu/news/news-notes/weekly/index.shtml) and to email subscribers. There is no more paper edition, so sign up to receive the 8.5 x 11 in your e-mailbox every Thursday by contacting Abby Ross at abbyross@andrew.cmu.edu. Be green and stay posted with the 8.5 x 11 News.

Nugent Earns Chikio Hayashi Award

Rebecca Nugent, a visiting assistant professor in the Statistics Department, has received the 2009 Chikio Hayashi Award from the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS). The award is given every two years to a promising researcher under the age of 35 who has contributed to the domains of classification, data analysis and related areas. She will receive the award at the IFCS Conference this month in Dresden, Germany.

Nugent has co-authored papers in clustering/classification and medicine, and has been an invited speaker at several seminars and conferences in the United States and abroad. She has served as a board member, meeting organizer and session chair of the Classification Society of North America, and as a session chair for several Joint Statistical Meetings. She received a 2008 grant from the Royal Society of Edinburgh for international collaboration in clustering.

This semester Nugent is teaching Statistical Graphics and Visualization. She will join the faculty as an assistant teaching professor this fall. Among her various research interests are determining the importance or stability of clusters and the relationship between sleep and obesity in adults and adolescents.

Disney Creates Pausch Fellowship

The Walt Disney Company has announced the creation of the Disney Memorial Pausch Fellowship at Carnegie Mellon in recognition of the passion and energy Randy Pausch brought to his work at Carnegie Mellon and Walt Disney Imagineering.

“Randy Pausch lived his life inspiring his students, colleagues and co-workers. Now, the vitality and energy he brought to his classroom lives on and serves as an inspiration to millions of people he never had the chance to meet,” said Disney President and CEO Bob Iger. “We are proud to honor Randy’s passion by supporting the innovators and dreamers of tomorrow with these fellowships.”

The Disney Memorial Pausch Fellowship will support two graduate students, one in the School of Computer Science and one in the College of Fine Arts. To mark Pausch’s achievements, a specially themed medalion was placed in the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World and inscribed with words from his lecture: “Be good at something; it makes you valuable. Have something to bring to the table, because that will make you more welcome.”

Levin Appointed Director of Studio for Creative Inquiry

Artist and engineer Golan Levin has been appointed director of the Studio for Creative Inquiry. An associate professor of art, Levin will bring his extensive interdisciplinary experience in innovative art and technology to the leadership position at one of Carnegie Mellon’s most progressive centers at the convergence of academia, cross-disciplinary practice and new art forms.

Levin is interested in the exploration of new modes of reactive expression. His work explores the intersection of abstract communication and interactivity. Through performances, digital artifacts and virtual environments, often created with a variety of collaborators, Levin applies creative twists to digital technologies that highlight our relationship with machines and make visible our ways of interacting with each other.

Levin’s work has been exhibited at New York’s New Museum of Contemporary Art, The Kitchen, the Neuberger Museum, and The Whitney Biennial; Ars Electronica in Linz, Austria; The Museum of Contemporary Art in Taipei, Taiwan; The Intercommunication Center in Tokyo, Japan; and the Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie in Karlsruhe, Germany, among other venues.

Darwin Synthetic Interview Opens at Science Center

In honor of Charles Darwin’s 200th birthday (Feb. 12, 1809) and the 150th anniversary of his book “On the Origin of Species (1859),” the Carnegie Science Center unveiled its Synthetic Interview with Darwin as a permanent exhibit Feb. 5.

Synthetic Interview, a system that allows people to ask questions of a historical figure and receive answers from a videotaped actor portraying that individual, is a patented technology developed by Carnegie Mellon’s Entertainment Technology Center. Questions answered by Darwin have been compiled through more than 1,000 interviews with students in local elementary, middle and high schools, and adults throughout Pittsburgh. More than 500 inquiries were collected and distilled into the 199 most frequently asked questions. Answers to these questions in Darwin’s “own words” are drawn from a considerable body of knowledge, including his books, autobiography, and the thousands of digitized letters available through the Darwin Correspondence Project. The interview includes the opportunity to hear from 13 modern experts including scientists, paleontologists, philosophers, theologians, clergy and lawyers supporting the principles of evolution.

Interested in learning more about Darwin? The Posner Memorial Collection has a copy of Darwin’s “On the Origin of Species (1859),” that has been digitized and can be found online at http://posnerlibrary.cmu.edu. Posner/books/book.cgi?call=575.8_D22_1859.
Gloriana St. Clair, dean of University Libraries, is the 2009 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Academic/Research Librarian of the Year. The award recognizes an outstanding member of the library profession who has made a significant contribution to academic/research librarianship and library development. St. Clair will receive a $5,000 award this month at the ACRL 14th National Conference in Seattle.

“Gloriana St. Clair is deserving of this award on all counts. She epitomizes the Librarian-Leader-Scholar model through her long and notable career as an academic librarian, her contributions to ACRL and other professional organizations,” said award committee Chair Robin Wagner, director of the Gettyburg College Library. “She demonstrates a deep commitment to academic librarianship and has an extraordinary record of scholarship and service. She is among a handful of people who have been instrumental in reshaping our professional literature, setting high standards for scholarship and writing, while making the literature meaningful and accessible to both researchers and practitioners.”

St. Clair served as editor of three prestigious professional journals: College & Research Libraries (1990-96); Journal of Academic Librarianship (1996-2000); and portal: Libraries and the Academy (2000-03). In ACRL, she was a member of the College & Research Libraries’ (C&RL) C&RL News, and Publications in Librarianship editorial boards, as well as the ACRL Publications Committee. She has authored and co-authored numerous articles and editorials, and provided mentoring on writing, research and publishing to a generation of scholar librarians.

Continued on page twelve

University Libraries has another copy from Charles J. Rosencblom, a former University Trustee.

Science Center Honors Blum, Feiler, Narasimhan

Loren Blum, Distinguished Career Professor of Computer Science, Peter Feiler, a senior member of the technical staff at the Software Engineering Institute, and Priya Narasimhan, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, have been named winners of Carnegie Science Center Awards. Blum will receive the Catalyst Award, Feiler the Information Technology Award and Narasimhan the Emerging Female Scientist Award. An awards ceremony will take place May 9 at the Carnegie Music Hall.

CSO Compass Award Goes to Pethia

Richard D. Pethia, director of the Carnegie Mellon Software Engineering Institute (SEI) CERT Program has been named a recipient of the 2009 CSO Compass Award sponsored by CSO Magazine. The CSO Compass Award recognizes individuals for their leadership and ability to execute security strategy while bringing business value.

Motivated “Last Lecture,” “Ask For It” Among Books For A Better Life

Kelly Solman

Students at Carnegie Mellon will be the first to tell you they are inspired and motivated by the faculty here every day — inside and outside the classroom. From the lectures that challenge them to think in a new direction to the difficult project assignment that brings out their hidden talents and abilities.

Accordingly, books written by two of our inspiring professors — Linda Babcock and the late Randy Pausch, also an alumnus — were nominated for a 2008 Books for a Better Life Award. Babcock’s “Ask For It” was nominated in the Motivational category and Pausch’s “The Last Lecture,” co-written with alumnus Jeff Zaslow, was nominated — and won — in the Inspirational Memoir category.

The winners were announced late last month at an awards ceremony in New York City hosted by NBC’s Today co-anchor Meredith Vieira.

“It is really gratifying to get emails, letters and even presents from readers who say that the book has literally changed their lives,” Babcock said. “Readers have also told me that they are teaching their daughters to negotiate, so hopefully the next generation of women will already know how to ask!”

Babcock is the James M. Walton Professor of Economics at Carnegie Mellon’s Heinz College and founder and faculty director of the Program for Research and Outreach on Gender Equity in Society (PROGRESS). Her book “Women Don’t Ask,” the precursor to “Ask For It,” was named by Fortune Magazine as one of the 75 smartest business books of all time.

A columnist for The Wall Street Journal, Zaslow’s last lecture and penned a story that helped spark worldwide interest in it.

“Sitting in the second row at his last lecture, I knew I was seeing something incredibly special. But that day, it was impossible to imagine the impact Randy would have,” Zaslow explained. “The book is now in 42 languages. And tens of thousands of miles from Carnegie Mellon, countless people are saying their lives are better because of what Randy taught them. That is his legacy.”

The Books for a Better Life Awards, founded in 1996, have honored more than 400 self-improvement titles and raised more than $1.5 million for the New York Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Choi Receives Product Innovation Grant from Green Building Alliance

Joonho Choi, a doctoral candidate in the School of Architecture, has been named the recipient of a $20,000 Proof of Concepts Grant from the Green Building Alliance (GBA). The grant was awarded to Choi and his team as part of the GBA’s Product Innovation Grants program for his work on the “smart thermostat” — a thermostat controlled by individualized bio-sensors. After a competitive selection process, Choi’s proposal was one of five selected from a pool of 12 to receive funding.

Choi’s work is an example of a project that seeks to develop and introduce new and enhanced green building projects. The “smart thermostat” offers an energy saving solution while improving personal comfort. GBA grant funding will aid Choi in further developing the project in conjunction with Carnegie Mellon’s Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics.

Carnegie Mellon Among Most Visible on the Web

The Cybersmart Lab, part of the largest public research group in Spain, recently ranked Carnegie Mellon, 10th in its 2009 Webometrics Ranking of World Universities. The rankings, published semiannually since 2004, are designed to convince academic and political communities of the importance of Web publication not only for dissemination of academic knowledge, but also for measuring scientific activities, performance and impact. For more information: www.webometrics.info.

CIT Announces Faculty Award Winners

The College of Engineering has announced the recipients of its 2008-2009 faculty awards. The George Tallman Ladd Research Award was given to Mohammad Islam of Materials Science & Engineering and Chemical Engineering, and David Ricketts of Electrical & Computer Engineering in recognition of their research, professional accomplishments and potential. Mechanical Engineering Professor William Messenger received the Benjamin Richard Teare Teaching Award for his excellence in teaching, course development, leadership and contributions to curriculum development and implementation. The Philip L. Dowd Fellowship Award, which recognizes educational contributions and encourages the undertaking of an educational project, has been awarded to José Moura of Electrical & Computer Engineering. Vijayakumar Bhagavatula and Marios Savvides of Electrical & Computer Engineering received the Outstanding Research Award for their collaborative research. The Steven J. Fenves Award, which acknowledges significant contribution to systems research in areas relevant to the Institute for Complex Engineered Systems, has been awarded to James Antaki. For more on the awards, visit www.cit.cmu.edu/faculty_staff/faculty_awards/index.html.
Richard M. Karp, a computer scientist noted for his work in developing algorithms to solve some of the world’s most complex problems, has been named the 2008 Dickson Prize recipient.

The Dickson Prize is awarded annually to the person who has been judged by Carnegie Mellon to have made the most progress in the scientific field in the United States for that year.

Karp has made many important discoveries in computer science and operations research in the area of combinatorial algorithms. His work on the theory of NP-completeness, a cornerstone of modern theoretical computer science, is considered seminal. NP-completeness refers to a class of problems that is extremely difficult to solve and may be impossible to solve efficiently, such as finding a set of patterns to find one that satisfies a stated set of conditions. Such problems are encountered in all aspects of human activity and the algorithms that solve them can be applied to complex tasks like scheduling jobs in a factory, arranging components on a computer chip, routing electricity in a power grid and sequencing the human genome.

Karp’s contributions to developing the theory revolutionized algorithm design and engineering, paving the way for the integration of computing into scientific research. During the Dickson Prize Lecture, he will discuss his life’s work studying algorithms to solve combinatorial search problems and how recent developments, such as the rise of computational molecular biology and the advent of the Internet, will bring about new computational problems.

“Already the recipient of many awards and prizes, Dick Karp is a truly outstanding example of an American scientist who is an inspiring role model,” wrote Dana Scott, emeritus professor of computer science, in nominating Karp for this award. “While his theoretical work is well recognized, I believe he most deserves this prize for his ability to reposition past work to study new and important problems.”

Currently, Karp’s research is focused on the field of bioinformatics and computational biology, in which he uses computers and algorithms to determine how genes and living cells work. By applying combinatorial and probabilistic methods, Karp is attempting to find hidden patterns in gene expression data and discover the structure of gene regulatory networks.

Karp is a University Professor and professor of electrical engineering and computer sciences at the University of California, Berkeley, where he holds joint appointments in the departments of Mathematics, Bioengineering, and Industrial Engineering and Operations Research. He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards including the A.M. Turing Award, the National Medal of Science, the Kyoto Prize and Fullerstone Prize, and has received 10 honorary degrees. He is a member of the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering, the American Philosophical Society and the French Academy of Sciences, and is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Association for Computing Machinery, and the Institute for Operations Research and Management Science.