Carnegie Mellon Selects Clarke, Khosla and Nagin To Receive University’s Highest Faculty Honor

Ken Walters

Carnegie Mellon University professors Edmund M. Clarke, Pradeep K. Khosla and Daniel S. Nagin have been named University Professors, the highest distinction faculty can achieve at Carnegie Mellon.

Clarke is the FORE Systems Professor of Computer Science. Khosla is the Philip and Marsha Dowd Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Robotics, and Nagin is the Teresa and H. John Heinz III Professor of Public Policy and Statistics.

“Designation as a University Professor is a distinction that is reserved for a very small fraction of our faculty,” said Carnegie Mellon President Jared Cohn. “Ed Clarke, Pradeep Khosla and Dan Nagin are highly deserving of this honor, each having made exceptional contributions to their fields as well as outstanding contributions and leadership to the university.”

Bidding Bill the Best

Byron Spice

You don’t have to hang around Carnegie Mellon long before you realize robots can take any number of forms — cars, receptionists, camera mounts, origami-makers and even sub-millimeter nanorobots. And this summer, people all over Pittsburgh will learn a robot also can be a big, yellow foam hand.

That robot, called “You’re #1” and mounted atop the Andy Warhol Museum on the North Side, is one of 10 featured “BigBots” in Robot 250, a massive citywide community art and technology program that is teaching people what robots can be and how virtually anyone can use robotic technology. Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh launched the program, which has received widespread support from community groups and financial support from the Heinz Endowments, the Grable Foundation and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Pausch’s Passion

Computer Science Professor Randy Pausch hugs his wife and his passion, Jai, after telling the Class of 2008 to find and follow their passion in his emotional remarks at commencement. For more, see page seven.
Energy Conservation, Waste Reduction Tops on Campus To Do List

**DELIBERATIVE POLL FINDS GLOBAL WARMING IS IMPORTANT ISSUE ON CAMPUS**

Kelli McElhinny

Carnegie Mellon faculty, staff and students believe the university has a responsibility to provide leadership on the issue of global climate change.

That’s according to the results of a recently conducted “Climate Change and the Campus” Deliberative Poll. In that poll, 95 percent of the participants said that it was either “very” or “some-what” important for the university to be in the forefront on the issue.

A deliberative poll gathers a representative sample of the community to discuss and respond to questions on pressing national and local issues.

While traditional public opinion polls solicit knee-jerk responses from people who are not informed on the topic, a deliberative poll represents what people think about an issue if they have had time to consider and discuss it with experts and among themselves.

The poll was the sixth of the Campus Conversations series co-sponsored by Carnegie Mellon’s University Libraries, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Program for Deliberative Democracy (SPPDD) and the Coro Center for Civic Leadership. Previous sessions of the series covered topics ranging from same-sex marriage to public art on campus.

“This deliberative poll showed that addressing climate change is an important issue to the Carnegie Mellon community. And the process by which participants’ opinions were measured could be used by other campuses across the country,” said Robert Cavalier, a teaching professor in the Department of Philosophy who is also an SPPDD co-director.

Other results from the deliberative poll suggested that energy conservation and waste reduction would be the two most effective ways for Carnegie Mellon to help thwart climate change. Participants ranked energy conservation with an average importance of 4.57 on a scale in which 5 was the top score.

Prior to the event, attendees received a packet of background information on the topic of climate change, which covered aspects such as the scientific evidence for climate change, potential effects of global warming, and the university’s many roles in the area, ranging from research to energy consumption. Participants were asked to consider questions about their personal responsibility for addressing climate change and how the university would need to enforce environmentally related regulations, among others.

Pittsburgh City Councilman Bill Peduto, a co-chair of the Green Government Task Force, opened the evening with remarks that focused on Pittsburgh’s potential as a leader in the green movement.

After Peduto’s remarks, participants split up into small groups of six to 10 people and discussed the background information they had reviewed and their general views on the issue.

The small groups also developed questions to pose to a panel of experts that included Peter Madsen, Distinguished Service Professor of Ethics and Social Responsibility; Elmar Krieger, a visiting research scholar in the Department of Engineering and Public Policy; Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor Clif Davidson; Deborah Lange, executive director of the Steinbrenner Institute for Environmental Education and Research, which funded the event; and Vanessa Schweitzer, an engineering and public policy doctoral student.

One participant noted the value of the process itself, in addition to the knowledge she gained about the issue of global warming.

“To me, it’s very similar to caucus- ing,” said Linda Wright, an assistant director of information systems in the Office of Campus Information Technology. “You come out knowing more than when you came in.”

“Scotty Arrives!”

Carnegie Mellon’s first official live mascot arrived on campus June 5 from a Canadian breeder in Calgary. The Scottish Terrier, named “Scotty” by a campus-wide poll, is a gift from comedian Bill Cosby, who spoke at Carnegie Mellon’s 2007 Commencement. Cosby said he was inspired to present the university with a live mascot after walking Professor Larry Cartwright’s Scottish Terrier into Heinz Stadium before giving his commencement address. Holding Scotty is Cartwright, who will serve as its owner and manager. He will train the puppy until its first on-campus appearance this fall.

Triking for Dollars

Kindergarten students from Carnegie Mellon’s Children’s School raised more than $2,500 for Ally’s Angels by holding a Trike-a-Thon fundraiser in Skibo Gym. Ally’s Angels, an organization named for four-year-old multiple-organ recipient Ally Heintz — a sister of a kindergartner student — raises funds for the Gift of Life Donor Program, a non-profit agency that recovers and distributes organs and tissues used in life-saving and life-enhancing transplants. The Trike-a-Thon was sponsored by Colorworks, Inc., Eat’n Park, Harris Grill, Mike the Balloon Guy and the Pittsburgh Penguins.
Faculty Take Technical Communications Course To Consulting Firm in India

Kelli McElhinny

When America’s information technology sector was still a nascent industry, the verbal and written communication strategies needed to convey important information about hardware and software lagged behind the technological advances. To address that discrepancy, Carnegie Mellon pioneered the field of technical writing, launching its first bachelor’s degree program in the field in 1956 under the leadership of Erwin Steinberg.

Today, India’s rapidly expanding high-tech industry finds itself in a similar situation. The nation’s many engineers and consultants often aren’t well-versed in the technical communication tools that they need to successfully deliver products and services. Once again, Carnegie Mellon has stepped in to fill that void.

Last month, a group of English Department faculty members traveled to India to teach a three-week course on technical communications to faculty trainers of Infosys Technology Limited, a $3 billion consulting firm based in Bangalore.

“This was a tremendous opportunity to offer our experience and knowledge to a leading company in a region that’s becoming increasingly important in the global economy,” said David Kaufer, head of the English Department, who led the Carnegie Mellon group. “It builds on our tradition of leadership in technical writing and communication.”

The relationship between Infosys and Carnegie Mellon, which was the first university invited to provide such instruction to Infosys instructors, began to take shape when Paul Goodman, director of Carnegie Mellon’s Institute for Strategic Development and a faculty member at the Tepper School of Business, circulated the department’s technical communications core curriculum among several contacts on a trip to India in January 2007.

The curriculum caught the attention of M.P. Ravindra, who, at the time, was Infosys’ vice president of education and research. When he retired, he passed the materials along to his successor, Tan Moorthy, who in turn informed his colleagues at Infosys’ Global Education Center in Mysore, a complex larger than Carnegie Mellon’s campus where more than 10,000 courses are offered annually to 25,000 new and mid-career employees.

Infosys requested that Kaufer submit a proposal for a course on technical communication and instructional design, which he did last November. The proposal was finally accepted this past February, giving the team a scant three months to prepare.

The team rose to the challenge, gaining rave reviews from its trainees. Kaufer taught the course’s writing module, while Andrea Rittivoi, associate professor of English and rhetoric, traveled to India for one of the weeks to provide instruction on intercultural and oral communications. Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Communication Design Suguru Ishizaki joined the group in India for a few days to teach the visual design component. Karen Schnakenberg, teaching professor of rhetoric and writing, taught the instructional design component module via videoconference.

School of Design Head Dan Boyarski assisted with the development of the visual design component, and Chris Neuwirth, professor of rhetoric, and Marsha Loverett, associate director for Faculty Development at the Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence and an associate research professor in the Department of Psychology, assisted with the instructional design module. English Department Business Manager Margaret Kinsky and Necia Werner, a doctoral student in rhetoric, were also on site in Mysore and instrumental in the course’s success.

Although this course lasted only three weeks, Kaufer said that he hoped to continue the relationship and that Infosys would seek broader agreements with more units across Carnegie Mellon.

“We developed great friendships with our colleagues at Infosys in just a short amount of time,” he said. “Hopefully, we’ve built a foundation for an enduring and fruitful relationship.”

Kaufer could get his wish. In a debriefing email, Infosys’ Moorothy expressed the desire to continue to work with the department and collaborate with Goodman on building additional alliances.

New Course Gives Students “Decision Tools” To Become Savvy Entrepreneurs

Chris Swaney

The drive and agility of an entrepreneur can turn the world upside down, whether by overhauling an industry or by building a new one.

That energy to run with a dream was the class mantra for Carnegie Mellon students enrolled in a new entrepreneurship course for engineers.

The course, “Decision Tools for Engineering Design and Entrepreneurship,” gave students a cache of innovative computational tools to assess the marketability of introducing a new product or technology to the market long before large-scale capital investment.

“The class taught us that you have to be organized,” said Juan-Carlos Intriglio Veloz, a mechanical engineering graduate from New York City. “We also learned that the discipline involved in managing growth and innovation is crucial for success.”

That taste for success was a key element in the novel class project Valez and team members Arun Gupta of Chandigarh, India, and Jehan Azad of Boston, Mass., tackled this semester. All three engineering students traveled to China this spring to study production operations of a new technology being commercialized by an Asian-based start-up.

“It was the first time we were ever going to have to make it in a new environment,” said Chris Neuwirth, professor of rhetoric, who taught the course’s writing module, while Karen Schnakenberg, teaching professor in the Department of English and rhetoric, traveled to India for one of the weeks to provide instruction on intercultural and oral communications.

“Some product launches can be planned with scant knowledge of engineering details, but when more high-tech and differentiated products are involved, engineering analysis is critical to making good business decisions,” said Jeremy Michalek, professor of mechanical engineering and engineering and public policy (EPP), Michalek co-directs the new course with EPP Professor Erica Fuchs.

Michalek said the new course is designed to help students better understand the technology and the implications of decision designs on market performance and production operations.

“Many engineers can develop a new technology in the research lab or have an idea for a new design. Few, however, are able to understand, quantify and communicate the bottom-line value of adopting their inventions,” said Fuchs.

“This course provides Carnegie Mellon students with a strategic toolkit to outpace their competition by quantifying the commercial risks and rewards of new product and process decisions.”

The new course is part of a university-wide initiative aimed at integrating education and research on entrepreneurship and innovation into the entire undergraduate curriculum.

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Bill Elliott says he’s not one to look back. So he’s looking forward to “working in the woods, sailing and a whole different set of friends” in the picturesque northern Atlantic Coast town of Steuben, Maine, on Dyer Bay. But, also in this tranquil picture for the self-proclaimed workaholic, is a new set of duties for Carnegie Mellon.

After 38 successful years at the university as director of admission and vice president for enrollment, the 66-year-old Elliott, who arrives at his office at 4:15 a.m. before playing racquetball at 6 a.m. most weekdays, will retire from his full-time responsibilities June 30.

“You get to a point in time where you say, what’s next,” Elliott explained. “As retired colleagues at this and other universities have told me, you’ll know when the time is right. I spent a lot of time from Thanksgiving to New Years in Maine this past year, and kind of came back to campus and realized the time was right.”

But Elliott won’t miss Carnegie Mellon. He won’t have time to. In the fall he’ll head to Manhattan to begin recruiting for the Class of 2013.

“I will stay involved in admission activities,” he said. “Reading lots of application folders this past year brought me back to my roots and that’s making opportunities for kids. I’ll continue to represent the university in Manhattan in the fall and spring.

“My wife, Joan, can go with me and do the things grandmothers do during the day with our grandchild and I’ll go off and visit schools. The New York scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cope with the schools scene takes a lot of experience. It takes tough words to cop

THE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION LOUNGE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF WARNER HALL WILL BE NAMED THE WILLIAM F. ELLIOTT LOUNGE IN HIS HONOR.

Elliott joined Carnegie Mellon as associate director of admission in 1970 from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute and by April 1971 took over the reigns as admission director. During that decade, he saw a decline in high school graduates in the state, which at that time made up the majority of Carnegie Mellon’s recruiting base.

“We had to figure out new ways to do old jobs,” he said. So, he brought a marketing approach to the Admission Office and initiated new activities to recruit students, such as regional area recruiting programs and sleeping bag weekends, which allowed students to experience life on campus. He also led the effort to include students’ parents in the recruiting process.

“In 1970, our West Coast trip was a week in Chicago, our southern trip was a week in Washington, D.C. And it wasn’t clear that we knew there was anything to the northeast of New York City,” Elliott recalled.

“We did about 80 area programs at local hotels this past year across the country, and some outside the U.S. In the area programs we bring together students and parents to talk about Carnegie Mellon in a very carefully orchestrated, hour-and-a-half to two-hour presentation that includes everything from slides to videos. We’ve become very sophisticated over time.”

The enhanced recruiting efforts, combined with Carnegie Mellon’s rise in stature as a top 25 international university has led to more than 22,000 applications for less than 1,400 first-year spots annually—a far cry from an average of about 3,500 applications a year in the 1970s.

“Simply put, he is the master of college admissions,” said President Jared Cohon at a May 21 party in Elliott’s honor.

A Ride With the Boss

AMAZON.COM FOUNDER JEFF BEZOS FOUND TIME DURING COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND TO TAKE A RIDE IN BOSS, CARNEGIE MELLON’S AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE THAT WON THE 2007 DARPA GRAND CHALLENGE. BEZOS, WHO WAS THE GUEST SPEAKER AT DIPLOMA CEREMONIES FOR THE SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND THE TEPPER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, WAS AWARDED AN HONORARY DOCTORATE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DURING THE MAIN COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY. SITTING NEXT TO BEZOS IS CHRIS URMSON, TARTAN RACING’S DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY.

Bill Elliott’s collection of Carnegie Tech and Carnegie Mellon memorabilia has made his office a campus landmark. Elliott says the items will now find new homes in various spots on campus, such as the Tartans Pavilion, Skibo Café and the University Center.

For an Elliott-guided video tour of his office, visit:
http://multimedia.cm.edu/shared/NE5_16_0BB.mvd

Dick that this was the right thing to do. I think in retrospect the development of the East Campus Project has been the most instrumental in changing the university and in enabling us to do the things we do today. This was a decision that’s been monumental in transforming the campus.”

At the tribute to Elliott in the Tartans Pavilion, President Cohon announced that the undergraduate admission lounge on the first floor of Warner Hall would be named the William F. Elliott Lounge in his honor. Two large display cases will flank the doors to the lounge, featuring some of Elliott’s vast collection of Carnegie Tech and Carnegie Mellon memorabilia that has made his office a campus landmark.

Cohon also announced that a scholarship is being created in Elliott’s name for a deserving SAMS student to attend Carnegie Mellon. In addition, Cohon presented Elliott with a certificate of appreciation from the university’s Phi Beta Kappa Chapter and a special Andy Award for Exemplary Service, created to represent all five award categories: dedication, innovation, commitment to students, citizenship and culture. Jean Alexander, treasurer of the Faculty Senate, presented Elliott with a $2,000 donation in his name for a Carnegie Mellon scholarship fund of his choice.

“Speaking personally, and on behalf of everyone at this institution, here now and those from the past, we could not have had a better colleague, and no university could have had a better, more loyal, or selfless, or more effective leader than you,” Cohon said.

Elliott accepted the praise graciously, but says the real praise and thanks should be directed to Joan, his wife for more than 40 years.

“Thanks for putting up with the early morning hours. I wasn’t there when the kids got up. And the endless travel, week after week, to talk to students. And there were other things like school board and church meetings that took me away from the house. I thank you for letting me do that,” he said to Joan.

“Now, let’s go home.”
Web Site Tracks “Green” Steps

Carnegie Mellon researchers are leveraging the power of social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook to encourage people to monitor and reduce their energy use with a new project called StepGreen.

The Footprints research group, which includes members from the Human-Computer Interaction Institute (HCII), the Heinz School and the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, recently launched StepGreen. Its Web site, StepGreen.org, allows people to consider a long list of everyday things—from replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents to air-drying their dishes—that save energy and often cut expenses.

Once they commit to some or all of these steps, the site keeps track of how much they are saving and how they are shrinking their carbon footprint.

The StepGreen site can be linked to an individual’s profile pages on MySpace and Facebook, where updates are sent as a news feed. Also, a polar bear icon on the pages, but plans call for use of special applications may use a series of icons to keep people engaged.

Users now have to manually update the StepGreen site regarding their actions. Much of that updating can be done from their Facebook or MySpace pages, and plans call for use of special software and common devices, such as cell phones, to eventually monitor some activities automatically.

In addition to Mankoff, members of Footprints include Susan Fussell of the HCII, Michael Johnson of the Heinz School, and Deanna and H. Scott Matthews of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

“Research shows that a public commitment to environmental action increases the follow through,” said Jennifer Mankoff, assistant professor in the HCII. Pilot studies of the social network application also showed that people are engaged by the use of a cartoon icon for monitoring their progress.

“People got attached to whatever icon we gave them, whether it was a bear or a tree or whatever,” Mankoff said. “As people increase their actions to save energy, their icons mature or add features. There’s a sense of anticipation that grows as people become eager to see its end-stage.” She anticipates that the Web applications may use a series of icons to keep people engaged.

Joining RoboForces

COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSOR MANUELA VELOSO, FOUNDER OF CARNEGIE MELLON’S ROBOTIC SOCCER PROGRAM, AND GEORGIA TECH PROFESSOR TUCKER BALCH, FORMERLY A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP MEMBER IN CARNEGIE MELLON’S ROBOTICS INSTITUTE, JOINED FORCES RECENTLY AT THE ROBOCUP FEDERATION’S U.S. OPEN COMPETITION AT THE CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER. THE CARNEGIE MELLON-GEORGIA TECH TEAM WAS ONE OF THREE PARTICIPATING IN AN EXHIBITION OF NAH HUMANOID ROBOT TEAMS. GTCMUNITED’08 WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ROBOCUP FEDERATION COMPETITION IN SUZHOU, CHINA, JULY 14-20. VELOSO SAID ONE OF THE GOALS OF THE JOINT HUMANOID TEAM IS TO GET ROBOT PLAYERS THAT ARE DEVELOPED IN TWO DIFFERENT GROUPS TO WORK TOGETHER.

In other RoboCup action, the School of Computer Science’s small-size robot soccer team, CMDragons’08, took first place, and its AIBO team, CMDash’08, was third in a five-team field.

New House Gets New Name

STEVEN HOUSE RECOGNIZES FORMER PRESIDENT’S ACHIEVEMENTS

The man who helped to create Carnegie Mellon University has a building named after him.

Carnegie Mellon has named a first-year residence hall in honor of H. Guyford Stever, the university’s fifth president. At the school’s 1967 commencement, it was Stever who announced the formation of Carnegie Mellon University as a result of a merger between the Carnegie Institute of Technology and the Mellon Institute of Research.

Some 41 years later, Carnegie Mellon President Jared Cohon told the Class of 2008 that New House, the nation’s first “green” dormitory, would become Stever House.

“Carnegie Mellon and the nation owe President Stever an enormous debt of gratitude,” Cohon said, referencing Stever’s accomplishments in both science and academia. “President Stever oversaw the complex transition to Carnegie Mellon University with his characteristic thoughtfulness and effectiveness, setting the stage for the university’s growth and achievement ever since.”

Stever also led the creation of the Department (now School) of Computer Science and the School of Urban and Public Affairs (now the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management), two programs significant to Carnegie Mellon’s core.

Carnegie Mellon’s recognition of New House, the university’s fifth president, is twofold, Roy Stever explained; the naming of Stever House, the University’s “green” dormitory, will, Debbie, Kasey, Roy and Natalie.

Stever House is notable for being the first dormitory in the nation to be certified for its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) from the U.S. Green Building Council. It has a “silver” LEED designation because of its low environmental impact in both construction and function.

“It is fitting to associate Dad’s service with a living experience such as Stever House,” Stever’s son, Roy said. The relationship is twofold, Roy Stever explained, his father is passionate about environmental change, and he is enthusiastic about the university’s success in community-oriented dorms like Stever House.

In addition to serving seven years as president of Carnegie Mellon, Stever was director of the National Science Foundation, the Presidential Science Advisor to Gerald Ford, and a leader in the development of the nation’s space program. Stever also is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences. He won the National Medal of Science in 1991 and the Vannevar Bush Award in 1997, which are among the nation’s highest honors for scientific work in public service.

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As the course matures, Fuchs and Michalek’s course aims to reduce risk and uncertainty through sound quantitative modeling of technical and economic viability to support decision-making.

“You don’t have to be impulsive. You just have to have a good idea,” said Ryan Almeida, a mechanical engineering graduate from Rhode Island. His team developed a new surfboard design. Other class projects involved analyzing solid state LEDs for stage lighting applications and streamlining the efficiency of lithium-ion polymer batteries.

As the course matures, Fuchs and Michalek plan to seek a wide variety of industry support for projects that will define the benchmark for successful technology-based product launches.
Keynote Speaker Al Gore Urges Grads To Be Among Next American Heroes

It is indeed a great and singular honor for me to be on this campus again and particularly under these circumstances and I congratulate you, Dr. Cohon, on your transformative leadership of this institution, not least on matters affecting the environment. I also want to express my personal gratitude to Dr. Ed Ruben and to say to Ed Ruben and his colleagues at the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) how grateful this world is for the two decades of work these distinguished scientists at the top of their respective fields have done in a collaborative and impressive and unprecedented way.

[I express gratitude to Chairman of the Board of Trustees David Shapiro, to the members of the board of trustees, and may I mention three by name who are close personal friends: Teresa Heinz Kerry, who invited me to come and dedicate the Heinz Center some years ago as mentioned, but who was by then already a long-time friend and fellow environmental advocate and a person for whom I have boundless respect; Cynthia Friedeman, a very close friend to my wife, Tipper, and me and a leader and a founder of the very important program to bring young people in to contact with public service; and to my close friend and business partner, Ray Lane, who as a member of your board of trustees invited me to come here today. I have enjoyed working with Ray Lane and have learned a great deal from him.

To the other distinguished guests who are present, and I don’t know if he’s present or not, but I wanted to take a moment just to say a special word about one of your professors who has touched the hearts and spirits of our nation, Dr. Randy Pausch. He is a hero in this country. <applause> Ray Lane told the graduating class in Doha about the motto “Your heart is in the work” and Dr. Randy Pausch’s heart is with all of us and I am very grateful for the opportunity to have read what he’s written.

I am Al Gore. I used to be the next President of the United States of America. <laughter> I don’t think that’s particularly funny. <laughter>

You know, put yourselves in my position for a moment. <laughter> I flew on Air Force 2 for eight years and now I have to take off my shoes to get on an airplane. <laughter>

Just one quick story to illustrate the emotional whirlwind of that experience. Not long after I left my job in the White House my wife, Tipper, and I were driving from our home in Nashville, Tennessee, to a small farm we have 50 miles away and we were driving ourselves <laughter> and I know that sounds like a little thing to most of you but <laughter> I looked in the rear-view mirror and all of a sudden it just hit me there was no motorcade back there. <laughter>

You’ve heard of phantom limb pain. <laughter>

This was a rented FordTau-rus and <laughter> it was close to dinner time, so we looked for a place to eat and got off the interstate highway and found a Shoney’s restaurant, a low-cost family restaurant chain. And we walked in, sat down at the booth and the waitress came over and made a big commotion over Tipper and <laughter> then took our order and went to the couple in the booth sitting next to us, and she lowered her voice so much I had to really strain to hear what she was saying. She said, “Yes. That’s former Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper.” And the man said, “He’s come down a long way, hasn’t he?” <laughter> <laughs> It was an epiphany. <laughter>

…This is a campus that has provided great leadership for our nation and for our world in confronting what I regard as the most serious crisis our civilization has ever confronted. Sierra magazine has named Carnegie Mellon as one of the schools that gets it. Re-searchers here like Ed Rubin are leading the world’s effort to understand ways that CO2 can be captured and safely stored. Your undergraduate and graduate environmental engineering programs are consistently ranked among the very top in the entire country. Your Environment Across the Curriculum initiative allows all students to integrate an understanding of the environment in to their respective courses of study. …You have also installed solar array systems, built LEED certified buildings and have built green roofs and have demonstrated other new technology innovations that have become important as part of the nation’s and the world’s response. Your recycling program has grown. Your leadership in every field has become extremely important and significant and it is not an accident that this city that you call home has itself been a renaissance city renewing the commitment to leadership in science and technology for which it was known in an earlier era and for which it is known yet again. Pittsburgh has the largest concentration of green buildings and is adding to the many lists of firsts it is known for.

…We have had in the United States of America two special generations in our history that appreciated the promise of the future so much that they overcame all fear to create a new era. The generation of our founders won the struggle for independence and in its aftermath created the basis for freedom in the modern world. And then in the middle of the 20th century, the generation we consistently refer to as the greatest generation won the struggle against global fascism in Europe and in the Pacific. and then upon their return they set out again to remake the world.

African Americans who had been a part of that cause came back and said, “We will no longer put up with segregation.” Jackie Robinson, 20 years before he was breaking new ground in professional baseball, was court-martialed in 1945 for refusing to go to the back of the bus. We had Native Americans who helped to win the war struggle and came back and broke new ground, women who had helped to produce the goods and materiel for victory said, “We are going to insist upon equality.” And that generation created the Marshall Plan, lifting their defeated adversaries from the battlefield and helping them march toward renewal, freedom and prosperity. They created the United Nations and the other institutions that built us decades of peace and prosperity.

You, I hope and expect, will be called upon to be part of the third hero generation in American history because this moment of your graduation sees the United States of America poised to reclaim its rightful place as the leader of the world as our world confronts this unprecedented challenge. We face a planetary emergency. The concentrations of global warming pollution have been rising at an unprecedented pace and have now given the planet a fever. Just as at the beginning of the industrial revolution when your counterparts helped to create a new era, we now find that solar energy, particularly in the form of concentrating solar thermal power, and wind energy and distributed power generation and geothermal energy and a series of other new innovations have now reached the stage where we can replace every electron and every BTU from the fossil fuel sources without missing a beat.

But we need one ingredient that you represent. We need political will; we need your dedication; we need your hearts. There is an African proverb that says, “If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” We have to go far, quickly <laughter> and we need your help to do it. We have everything we need to get started with the sole exception of political will but, as you know here in Pittsburgh and especially at Carnegie Mellon University, political will is a renewable resource.

Good luck. God speed. Congratulations to all of you. <applause>
Computer Science Professor Randy Pausch, who is dying of pancreatic cancer, made a surprise appearance at commencement at the invitation of President Cohon. As he made his way to the podium to deliver his remarks, he received a standing ovation. The following are excerpts of his emotional remarks.

I’m glad to be here today. Hell, I’m glad to be anywhere today. President Cohon asked me to come and give the charge to the graduates. I assure you it’s nothing compared to the charge you have just given me.

This is an incredible place. I’ve seen it through so many lenses. I saw it when I was a graduate student that didn’t get admitted, and then somebody invited me back and said, “Okay, we’ll change our mind.” And I saw it as a place that hired me back to be on the faculty many years later and then gave me the chance to do what anybody wants to do, which is follow their passion, follow their heart, and do the things they’re excited about.

And to the degree that a human being can love an institution, I love this place, and I love all of the people, and I’m very grateful to Jerry Cohon and everyone else for all the kindness that have been shown me.

Last August I was told that in all likelihood I had three to six months left to live. I’m on month nine now, and I’m not gonna get down and do any pushups. <appplease> But there will be a short pickup basketball game later. <laughter>

Somebody said to me, in light of those numbers, “Wow, so you’re really beating the Grim Reaper.” And what I said without even thinking about it is that we don’t beat the Reaper by living longer. We beat the Reaper by living well and living fully, for the Reaper will come for all of us. The question is what do we do between the time we’re born and the time he shows up ‘cause when he shows up, it’s too late to do all the things that you always were gonna, kinda, get around to.

So I think the only advice I can give you on how to live your life well is first off, remember it’s a cliché, but I love clichés. It is not the things we do in life that we regret on our deathbed; it is the things we do not. ‘Cause I assure you, I’ve done a lot of really stupid things and none of them bother me. All the mistakes and all the dopy things and all the times I was embarrassed, they don’t matter. What matters is that I can kinda look back and say, pretty much any time I get a chance to do something cool, I tried to grab for it, and that’s where my solace comes from.

The second thing that I would add to that is … you will need to find your passion. Many of you have already done it; many of you will later; many of you may take ‘til your 30s or 40s, but don’t give up on finding it, right? Because then all you’re doing is waiting for the Reaper.

Find your passion and follow it, and if there is anything that I have learned in my life, you will not find that passion in things. And you will not find that passion in money because the more things and the more money you have, the more you will just look around and use that as the metric, and there will always be someone with more. So your passion must come from the things that fuel you from the inside …

Find your passion, and in my experience, no matter what you do at work or what you do in official settings, that passion will be grounded in people. And it will be grounded in the relationships you have with people and what they think of you when your time comes.

And if you can gain the respect of those around you and the passion and true friendship, I’ve said this before, but I waited ‘til 39 to get married because I had to wait that long to find someone [whose] happiness was more important than mine. And if nothing else, I hope that all of you can find that kind of passion and that kind of love in your life.

Thank you.
School’s Out, Construction’s In For Summer

It will be business as usual for Campus Design and Facility Development this summer, as it manages about $14 million worth of renovation and new construction projects spanning the 144-acre campus.

“It’s an average year,” said veteran Director of Construction Joe Greenaway as he and Director of Design Bob Reppe peered over his long list of projects on the large white board in his office. “We usually average about $16 million worth of work each summer,” Reppe said.

The biggest new project, according to Reppe, will be a three-story addition to the west entrance of the Tepper School adjacent to the Peace Garden and Hunt Library. The $2.2 million, 5,000-square-foot, ADA accessible addition will include new offices for faculty and graduate students and a conference facility on the third floor. It will also contain an elevator, which will for the first time make the third floor of the original Graduate School of Industrial Administration (GSIA) building ADA accessible.

Reppe said the new addition is one of three projects at the business school this summer. The first floor of the GSIA building is being renovated with a new dean’s suite, new enrollment offices and an improved lobby area for undergraduates. Work will also begin on a four-phase effort to install water sprinklers for fire protection in the original GSIA structure.

Another major renovation project targeted for the summer resides on the second floor of Homerschlag Hall, where $1.6 million and 8,800-square-feet of space will be used to construct new offices for faculty and graduate students, as well as ADA compliant restrooms. Renovations to mechanical engineering labs will also be completed on the C-level of the building.

While the largest project resides in the Tepper School, the most visible project to many on campus will be on Tech Street, where major digging will take place to install a new water line serving the business school and Skibo Gym. Greenaway said the university’s private water line would supplement the existing line to provide improved fire protection for both facilities.

Also visible to many navigating through the intersection of Forbes and Morewood avenues will be the final phase of renovations in the fraternity quadrangle. The Alpha Epsilon Pi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity houses at 1085 and 1091 Forbes Avenue, respectively, will be the last two houses to be completely remodeled inside. Greenaway said the total price tag is about $3 million.

Many other projects will be taking place across campus, including exterior repairs to Hunt Library, the remodeling of the A-103 computer cluster in Hamburg Hall, cosmetic improvements to the former Entropy location in the University Bookstore, and classroom upgrades across campus, primarily in Baker and Porter halls. Three science labs in Mellon Institute are also on the docket for renovations, including Aaron Mitchell’s biological sciences lab, Newell Washburn’s chemistry lab and Frank Zappe’s biomedical engineering lab. A wing of the eighth floor in Wean Hall will be renovated for the new McWilliams Cosmology Center and work will be ongoing in many buildings across campus in support of Computing Services’ Wireless Andrew upgrade.

This fall, Reppe and Greenaway will be headed west to Carnegie Mellon’s Silicon Valley campus to manage improvements to faculty offices, graduate student workstations and distance learning conference rooms. These enhancements will help support several new graduate programs on the West Coast.

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Clarke, Khosla, Nagin Earn Highest Faculty Honor  Continued from page one

Clarke is known for his pioneering work on Model Checking, an automated method for finding design errors in hardware and software. Clarke’s work on Model Checking was recognized by the Association for Computing Machinery with the 2007 A.M. Turing Award, considered to be the most prestigious award in computing. Often referred to as the “Nobel Prize of computing,” it is named for British mathematician Alan M. Turing. Clarke shares the award with colleagues at the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Grenoble.

“Ed has made many contributions to his research field, and also to Carnegie Mellon in his teaching, his advising of students and his intellectual leadership,” said Randal E. Bryant, dean of the School of Computer Science. “I am pleased that he has been given the title of University Professor, showing he is counted among our most distinguished faculty.”

Khosla, who has also been dean of the College of Engineering since 2004, has demonstrated his leadership in research and education initiatives both within Carnegie Mellon and internationally. While director of Carnegie Mellon’s Information Networking Institute, Khosla doubled its enrollment, created the Master of Science in Information Security Technology and Management program and developed international graduate programs with the Athens Information Technology Institute (AIT) in Athens, Greece (CyLab Athens), CyLab Korea and CyLab Japan. He is also the recipient of the Cyber Education Champion Award from the Business Software Alliance for his exceptional skill and commitment to teaching students and educators about the importance of technology innovation, cyber ethics and intellectual property issues.

“As a University Professor, Pradeep joins a distinguished group of peers who represent the intellectual leadership of Carnegie Mellon,” said Mark Kamlet, Carnegie Mellon provost and senior vice president. “We are extremely pleased to make this prestigious appointment.”

Nagin, who also serves as the Heinz School’s Associate Dean of Faculty, was the 2006 recipient of the Edwin H. Sutherland Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to theory or research in criminology. The American Society of Criminology’s highest honor, the award was given to Nagin for his innovative research on the evolution of criminal behavior and for his development of related statistical methods. His research challenges the conventional wisdom that violence is a behavior learned during adolescence, instead showing that development origins of violence can be traced to the earliest stages of life. Nagin is on the editorial board of six journals, and has participated in two MacArthur Foundation Networks.

“Dan’s research has had a significant impact on not only criminologists, but also psychologists, medical researchers, urban geographers and many other disciplines,” said Mark Wessel, dean of the Heinz School. “Beyond his research, he has made enormous contributions to Carnegie Mellon, as both a colleague to faculty and as a teacher and advisor to students. His recognition as a University Professor is well deserved.”

Greek Community Creates Roadmap for Excellence

Carnegie Mellon’s fraternities and sororities are working together to achieve a new, community-wide vision that includes a Standards of Excellence program.

“The Standards of Excellence have been an excellent tool for us to use with the chapter leadership to assist them in identifying goals and action items for their organizations,” said Greek Affairs Coordinator Monica Bebie.

“I have seen a significant level of improvement in the day-to-day functioning of almost all of the organizations that participated in the Standards of Excellence during the 2007-2008 academic year,” Bebie added.

Work started more than a year ago when Dean of Student Affairs Jennifer Church and the Greek Life Advisory Committee (GLAC) identified key areas for improving and unifying Carnegie Mellon’s Greek organizations. Committee members include Holly Huppensteil, director of Student Life; Bebie and Lenny Chan, coordinators for Greek Affairs; and eight student representatives.

During weekly meetings and a series of open forums with fraternity and sorority members, committee members sought feedback on major issues and future initiatives to enhance Greek organizations.

The Standards of Excellence program was one result. The 11 standards include: academic achievement; new member education/orientation program; recruitment of new members; member development; chapter advisors; faculty advisors; facility management; leadership development; alumni development; management of risk and social host responsibilities; and financial management.

Although participation in the Standards of Excellence is voluntary, all multicultural fraternities, all sororities and seven fraternities have enrolled in the program. Chan said that several additional fraternities have expressed interest in participating next year.

Student Affairs supports the Standards of Excellence program by organizing educational programs and developing incentives for participation. For example, Student Life staff worked with the Panhellenic Association to host a talk by Greek life expert David Stollman. His talk, “Buy In, or Get Out,” was about embracing the core values of friendship, service, leadership and scholarship.

Church also offered $1,000 mini-grants to Greek organizations that participated in six Healthy Greek 2010 programs. The grants will fund additional chapter activities centering on physical and emotional health.

The Standards of Excellence helped 2007-2008 Chapter President of the Year Robert Voigtman of Alpha Epsilon Pi to encourage members of his chapter to become more involved in leadership positions throughout campus. “The Standards of Excellence are a great road map to activities and practices every fraternity should partake in and how an organization should operate,” he said.

Bebie agrees. “It is exciting to see the chapter presidents implement so much positive change in their organizations. It is leadership at its very finest,” she said.
**Students, Alumni Set Record for Most International Scholarships in One Year**

Abby Houck

Fifteen Carnegie Mellon students and alumni were selected during the 2007-2008 academic year to study and research abroad through highly competitive scholarship programs, setting a new record for the university’s Fellowships and Scholarships Office (FSO).

Six of these individuals earned Fulbright grants—the highest number of university representatives to the program in a single year. The U.S. Student Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is the largest U.S. international exchange program offering opportunities to undertake international graduate study, advanced research and English teaching assistantships world-wide.

“Fulbright selects grantees on the basis of their individual character, efforts and vision,” said Judy Zang, fellowship advisor for the FSO. “It is clear that their work will increase our country’s cultural awareness of the rest of the world.”

Jonathan Minard, a 2007 graduate of the Bachelor of Humanities and Arts program, will conduct artistic research in Mongolia. He plans to make audio recordings of music, nature, religious rituals and everyday life as he travels throughout the North Western Altai region. These recordings will be available on a Web blog.

John Pena, who received a Master of Fine Arts this May, will explore the intersection between arts and language and culture while teaching in Colombia. He may be best known on Carnegie Mellon’s campus and throughout the region for delivering handwritten letters through the “Pittsburgh Pedal Express” with co-founder and MFA student Aly Reeves.

William Schloug, a 2007 graduate with a major in fine art, will study sculpture in Iceland. He plans to research and explore the relationship between Icelandic culture and the country’s natural landscapes.

Rebecca Shore, a 2008 graduate with a major in architecture and minor in business management, will study at Germany’s Cologne University of Applied Sciences. She will attend a two-year master’s degree program in architecture focused on energy-optimizing buildings. Shore is no stranger to Germany or sustainable building practices. As a member of Carnegie Mellon’s 2007 Solar Decathlon Team, she visited Germany to collaborate on building designs with students from the Technische Universität Darmstadt.

Rashi Vankataraman, a 2008 graduate with a dual major in biology and ethics, and history and public policy, will travel to Indonesia. In addition to her English teaching assistantship, she plans to conduct research on international public health, an extension of her three years as a health educator intern at Carnegie Mellon’s Student Health Services.

Rebecca Snyder, a 2008 graduate with majors in materials science and engineering and biomedical engineering, will conduct research at Nanyang Technical Institute in Singapore. Following her Fulbright experience, Snyder will pursue a Ph.D. in bioengineering at Stanford University.

According to Stephanie Wallach, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowship Resources, the Fulbright is a true collaborative campus effort involving faculty, staff and students. For example, Eva Mergner, who recently left the Office of International Education to dedicate more time to her family, spent approximately 10 years as a Fulbright campus representative. In this role, she helped the FSO guide students through the application process while emphasizing the importance of the Fulbright program’s mission to promote peace and create community impact.

“Every one has an important part to play in the process, but it is the collective actions that bring the Fulbrights to fruition,” Wallach said. “The remarkable support of our academic community allows our talented, creative students to realize their potential and reach their goals.”

More information on recipients of nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships, both domestic and international, is available at www.cmu.edu/fs/o/winners/2008.html.

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**Science Paper Explores How Brain Codes Words**

Scientists have taken an important step toward understanding how the human brain codes the meanings of words by creating the first computational model that can predict the unique brain activation patterns associated with names for things that you can see, hear, feel, taste or smell.

Researchers previously have shown that they can use functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to detect which areas of the brain are activated when a person thinks about a specific word. A Carnegie Mellon team has taken the next step by predicting these activation patterns for concrete nouns—things that are experienced through the senses—for which fMRI data does not yet exist.

The work could eventually lead to the use of brain scans to identify thoughts and could have applications in the study of autism, disorders of thought such as paranoid schizophrenia, and semantic dementias such as Pick’s disease.

The team, led by computer scientist Tom M. Mitchell and cognitive neuroscientist Marcel Just, constructed the computational model by using fMRI activation patterns for 60 concrete nouns and by statistically analyzing a set of texts totaling more than a trillion words, called a text corpus. The findings were published in the May 30 issue of the journal Science.

**Veloso Earns Sloan Industry Fellowship**

Francisco Veloso, an assistant professor in the Department of Engineering and Public Policy, has received a 2008 Sloan Industry Studies Fellowship for his research in the automotive sector.

Veloso studies the organization of technological capabilities in supply chains, with a particular emphasis on the automotive industry. His latest research project, supported by the National Science Foundation, aims at understanding the effective strategies for auto firms to become players in new alternative power train technologies, including electric, hybrid and fuel cell engines.

Each fellow receives a two-year, $45,000 grant and is free to pursue whatever line of inquiry or research that is most interesting to him and his partners.

“The Industry Studies Fellowships support the work of researchers early in their academic careers who are recognized for their exceptional promise to contribute to the advancement of knowledge as well as to U.S. industrial development,” said Paul L. Joskow, president of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The New York-based foundation makes grants in science, technology and quality of American life.

**Online Games Will Make Computers Smarter**

Most online game sites don’t promise players anything besides some fun and a way to kill time, but a site being launched by scientists in the School of Computer Science will offer something else: a chance to make computers smarter.

The new site, gwop,.com, features what Luis von Ahn, an assistant professor in the Computer Science Department, calls “games with a purpose,” or GWAPs. Each is a multiplayer online game that is designed to be fun and also accomplish tasks that are easy for humans but beyond the capability of today’s computers.

“We have games that can help improve Internet image and audio searches, enhance artificial intelligence and teach computers to see,” von Ahn said. “But that shouldn’t matter to the players because it turns out these games are super fun.”

The site initially will feature four new games and a classic called the ESP Game. The first GWAP developed by von Ahn is the ESP Game, which displays images to two players who each try to guess words that the other player would use to describe the image. The game improves Web image searches by generating descriptions of unannotated images. Google Inc. has licensed the game, which the company calls Google Image Labeler.

**Scientists Create New Tool To Analyze Gene Evolution**

Carnegie Mellon scientists have discovered critical flaws in the standard method used to analyze gene evolution. Standard methods fail when applied to genes that encode multi-domain proteins, an important class of proteins crucial to human health.

Computational biologist Dennis Durand and colleagues have for the first time tackled the dilemma of how to study the ancestry of multi-domain genes.

Correctly identifying gene ancestry is a linchpin of computational genomics. Genes passed down from a common ancestor tend to perform similar functions in the cell. Scientists exploit this similarity to perform tasks such as predicting gene function, mapping human chromosomal regions to corresponding regions in model organisms, and reconstructing the regulatory circuitry that turns genes on and off.

Although computational biologists have developed methods to identify genes that share a common ancestor, current methods often lead to spurious conclusions when applied genes encode multi-domain proteins. Domains are sequence fragments that encode the basic building blocks of protein structure. Evolution makes new genes by mixing and matching domains in novel combinations, much like a child who builds a house, a car and a helicopter from the same LEGO kit by combining LEGO blocks in different ways.

This process, called domain shuffling, creates complex proteins that perform specific, critical tasks such as cell communication and binding to other cells. When one of these proteins fails, cancer is often the result. Domain shuffling allows rapid evolution of new proteins, but it also makes it close to impossible for scientists to determine their ancestry.

In a paper published online in the Public Library of Science Computational Biology,
Three Graduates Engineer Their Way to Wall Street

Ester Barbuto, Jessica Tsang and Sona Avetisian are trendsetters. The three graduating seniors join the ranks of engineering students heading to Wall Street.

Last year, 10 percent of the graduating engineers opted for jobs in the competitive financial sector compared with just one percent in 2003, according to statistics kept by the university’s Career Center. Both Barbuto and Tsang will be employed in market risk analysis at the Asset Management Department for Goldman Sachs in New York City. Avetisian also will work as an analyst in the operations section of Goldman Sachs.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase my problem solving skills, and to show how diverse an engineering education really is,” said Barbuto, a Pittsburgh area native who is a past president of the campus chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. “Carnegie Mellon’s rigorous academic demands simulate the real working world and that’s one of our greatest skill sets.”

Tsang, who grew up in New York City, said she’s happy to be going home to a great job. “I wanted to land a job where I could make a difference and use not just my mathematical and engineering skills, but all my communication and teamwork expertise,” said Tsang, who praised the university’s senior project classes for instilling the importance of teamwork.

Avetisian of Pittsburgh, said her Goldman Sachs experience will help her when she heads off to get an MBA. “I have always had an interest in business and finance, and an engineering degree gives you such a great background,” said Avetisian, who is a winning ballroom dance competitor.

The women’s comments jibe with recent reports showing strong educational and professional surges by women.

For example, in high schools nationwide, three out of five National Honor Society members are girls. In addition, female college graduates — less than half of all graduates a decade ago — now outnumber their male counterparts in most industrialized countries, according to a recent 453-page report released by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

“We see more women with engineering and other technical backgrounds heading to the financial sector because the career support structure is much more developed, and there is less of a ‘macho’ environment,” said Sylvia Ann Hewlett, one of six co-authors of a new study, “The Athena Factor: Reversing the Brain Drain in Science, Engineering and Technology.” The study is the fourth in a multi-year project by a task force of 42 global companies. It focuses on women with degrees in traditionally male-dominated fields, who occupy a surprisingly large 41 percent of the lower echelon corporate jobs for scientists, engineers and technologists.

Carnegie Mellon Career Counselors report that recruiters consistently tap engineering students for interviews because of their broad skill sets.

“From day one, our students are learning how to innovate, work in teams and adapt to a myriad of situations. That’s why we see our engineers succeed not only in traditional fields, but also in business, finance, law and medicine,” said Kurt Larsen, assistant dean of undergraduate studies at the College of Engineering.
Over the last 30 years Carnegie Mellon officials have pondered old photographs of the Kresge Recital Hall in the College of Fine Arts. The photos show spectacular interior hardwood walls, ornate murals and a cascading stained glass skylight. The hall, altered by renovations in the 1970s, no longer has the magnificent skylight seen in these photos.

Now, with curiosity and the hard work of a few faculty and staff members, a hidden treasure has been found. It took some snooping, lots of emails and the retracing of steps, but Norman Beck, professor in the School of Drama, and Ricardo Schulz, recording engineer in the School of Music, have rediscovered the skylight. Tucked in a corner in the bowels of the College of Fine Arts, the skylight was dismantled, and covered simply with cardboard and straw.

Its discovery has set off a series of inquiries by Carnegie Mellon and Heinz Archivist Jennie Benford and Architecture Librarian Archivist Martin Aurand. Even though there is a good amount of information about the construction of the College of Fine Arts building, there are no details about who created the skylight.

“It can be frustrating not to have all the evidence in front of you but part of the fun is taking what the object is telling you and seeing how that matches up to what is contained in other collections within the Archives,” Benford said. “That’s when the story starts telling itself.”

In hopes of determining its origins, a local expert in stained glass was recruited to examine sections of the skylight. While many say the thickness of the glass indicates it may be a Tiffany, the exact origin is still unknown. Many people around the College of Fine Arts have taken up the cause to find the glass creator.

“There is much evidence of many changes to and within the older buildings on campus. There are layers and layers of changes, which itself is evidence of the evolution of this campus from a small trade school to a major, international university,” Benford said.

$2.64M Awarded To Digitize Qatar Collection

A rich collection of books, maps and manuscripts from the Qatar Foundation’s Heritage Library will be digitized for the Internet as part of a $2.64 million agreement between the university and the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science & Community Development.

The one-year pilot project aims to bring this outstanding Arab heritage collection of books, maps and manuscripts to the Web, where they can be studied and enjoyed by scholars and lay people around the world.

The Qatar Foundation’s Heritage Library contains approximately 85,000 books, 600 maps and 2,000 manuscripts related to the Arab and Islamic world. Rare and unique documents, including the Korans, make up about 12 percent of the collection. The rest are historic and more contemporary published works in Western languages and Arabic.

“This is a treasure, a rich collection of early travelers’ views of the Arab world and Islamic historical materials. The works will interest many students and scholars,” said Dean of University Libraries Gloria St. Clair.

For the pilot project, which is a joint effort among the University Libraries, the School of Computer Science and Carnegie Mellon in Qatar, 300 rare books or manuscripts and 5,000 additional books from the collection will be selected for digitization by the Heritage Library. Scanning will be done on-site in Qatar, according to methods perfected in the course of the Million Book Project and in digitizing Carnegie Mellon’s Posner Collection of rare books.

“We know that conditions like climate control must be optimal, for books and for humans, to insure that the materials are not damaged in the process of scanning and to assure a quality end result,” St. Clair said. “As was the case in the Posner Collection digitization, best practices for handling and security of materials are critical to success.”

Besides enriching the Web with a significant body of heritage materials documenting Middle East culture and history, the short-term project aims to identify potential problems and to estimate the time and cost to digitize the entire Heritage Collection.

“Many don’t think of this at first, but digitization is a highly effective way to preserve book and document collections. At the same time the digital collection is hundreds of times more likely to be used than the physical collection would be,” St. Clair said.

Dean of Student Affairs Steps Down

She’s created a culture of support for thousands of students experiencing major life changes at Carnegie Mellon. This summer, Dean of Student Affairs Jennifer Church will make a significant change of her own.

Effective July 31, Church will relinquish the dean’s role to move to Indianapolis to pursue a new career opportunity for her husband. Although her daily influence on campus will be missed, she will continue to spend a portion of her time working remotely on a variety of Carnegie Mellon’s Student Affairs projects.

“Jennifer’s leadership in the past three years has resulted in a number of enhancements throughout the campus, including those in residence life, student activities, leadership development, community outreach, and various developmental programs consistent with her vision for the health and welfare of all members of the campus community,” President Jared Cohon said. “She has been an exceptional role model for students and colleagues alike, and we will miss her very much.”

Church joined the university community in 1995 as a residence life coordinator and was promoted a year later to assistant dean of Student Affairs. She became associate dean in 2000 and dean in 2005.

“It has been a pleasure and an honor to be part of the Carnegie Mellon community for the past 13 years,” Church said. “I have learned a tremendous amount from the students, faculty, and staff with whom I have had the privilege of working and I truly miss being a part of such a dynamic and engaging community.”

G. Richard Tucker, the Paul Mellon University Professor of Applied Linguistics and former head of the Modern Languages Department, will serve as interim Dean of Student Affairs. He has been actively involved in enhancing undergraduate and graduate experiences through the Student Affairs Division since joining Carnegie Mellon’s faculty in 1992.

Michael Murphy, who will become vice president for Campus Affairs, effective July 1, has been named chair of the search committee for a new Dean of Student Affairs. The selection process will engage students, faculty, staff and alumni.