

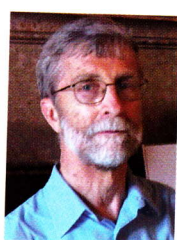
“His work, over decades, led to a prestigious Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Distinguished Achievement Award. It’s an exceptional gift of \$1.5 million ... and McDowell is one of only three recipients nationwide to receive the award in 2010.”

of the world’s most distinguished philosophy lecture series—at the University of Oxford. McDowell’s presentation laid the foundation for *Mind and World*.

He believes that many of the questions philosophers ask are based on misconceptions or confusions. The thing to do, he says, isn’t to answer the questions but to uncover the underlying confusions—and then the need to ask the questions will go away. “A lot of what needs to be done in philosophy is bringing us back to something like common sense,” notes McDowell.

He thinks that his account of human perceptual experience is simply common sense, though it takes hard work to clear away philosophical distortions that make it difficult to recognize that.

His work, over decades, recently led to a prestigious Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Distinguished Achievement Award. It’s an exceptional gift of \$1.5 million provided over the next three years, and McDowell was one of only three recipients nationwide to receive this award in 2010. He is the second Pitt professor to receive a Mellon Distinguished Achievement



McDowell

Award, joining 2003 recipient and Pitt Distinguished Professor of Philosophy Robert Brandom.

The Mellon Foundation Award represents the kind of funding support that enables Pitt professors to continue groundbreaking research that advances knowledge and understanding. The steady flow of such distinguished support contributes to Pitt’s progress as a competitive and vital institution, one where researchers—and deep thinkers—can continue to produce pioneering work and mentor the next generation of innovators.

With the award, McDowell intends to further explore human experience and action. He also will devote further study to the work of German philosophers Immanuel Kant and Georg Hegel, particularly their ideas of freedom or self-determination. And, he will use the freedom afforded by this award to focus on graduate teaching, publishing his latest research, and presenting it at conferences. One of those gatherings is scheduled during the summer of 2012 to celebrate the work of Wilfrid Sellars on the centennial of his birth.

—Adam Reger

Notes from Novak

The summer season at Pitt shines bright, much like the great talent and possibilities that our esteemed faculty bring to the University. **We are so fortunate to have top-notch people conducting groundbreaking research and educating our world’s future leaders in the classroom.** For that reason we continue our efforts to secure aid for the men and women who make Pitt what it is.

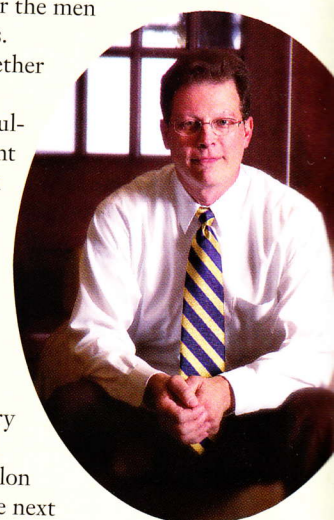
The Building Our Future Together fundraising campaign has helped to increase the number of endowed faculty positions by more than 154 percent since the beginning of the campaign in 1997. **It is because of this generous funding by our alumni and friends that Pitt is able to attract and retain some of the brightest and most talented faculty to our programs.**

For some, like Professor John McDowell who is featured in the story on the accompanying page, an award from the prestigious Andrew W. Mellon Foundation can take their work to the next level. Such recognition not only brings even more attention to their endeavors among international peers in their field, but it also provides essential support to further their discoveries. We at Pitt have been fortunate to have two faculty receive this national award.

We are thankful to organizations like the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation—and people like you—for the **ongoing support that continues to build greatness at our University.**

Remember, too, that it’s easy to offer support to Pitt through a charitable contribution by going to www.giveto.pitt.edu.

Hail to Pitt,
Al



Vice Chancellor
for Institutional
Advancement
Al Novak

Campaign Watch

Institutional Advancement is on track to reach the University’s ambitious \$2 billion goal. Pitt’s alumni and friends have contributed generously, making our current campaign status **\$1.635 billion!**

