

Almanac

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Dedicating the Rhoads Pavilion (see page 4), Wilbur Pittinger takes the honoree and his wife, Dr. Katherine Goddard Rhoads, on a tour of the new \$69 million facility.

Can HIV be kept asleep? Can the 'domino effect' in Alzheimer's disease be interrupted?

Zeroing in on AIDS and Alzheimer's

Last week researchers in the University of Pennsylvania Health System announced new discoveries about proteins that could lead to intervention in two deadly diseases: acquired immunodeficiency syndrome—AIDS—and Alzheimer's disease.

In the November 8 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, investigators in the laboratory of Dr. David Weiner relate that they have identified the function of a gene, *vpr*, that regulates latency in HIV—suggesting a new target for development of drugs that could “keep the virus asleep,” as Dr. Rob Roy MacGregor put it in a television interview.

Meanwhile, in the November *Journal of Neuroscience*, Dr. John Q. Trojanowski and his team clarify the role of aluminum in the development of Alzheimer's disease: they demonstrate that it interacts with and prevents the degradation of a protein, PHF-*tau*, that is thought to be involved in the death of brain cells and the resulting loss of brain function.

Both studies were led by members of the department of pathology and laboratory medicine, where Dr. Trojanowski is a professor and Dr. Weiner an assistant professor.

Dr. Weiner's co-authors are Dr. MacGregor, who is director of the AIDS Clinical Research unit at HUP, and two then-graduate students, Dr. David Levy, now of UCLA, and Dr. Yosef Refaeli, now of Harvard. Publishing with Dr. Trojanowski are Dr. Virginia M.-Y. Lee, also professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, and Dr. Ryong-Woon Shin, a postdoctoral fellow now at Japan's Kyushu University.

On page 5 of this issue are announcements from the Medical Center that spell out the two potential breakthroughs in greater detail.

NSCP: A 'Virtual Supercomputer' Will Link Penn, Illinois and Maryland in Research

Researchers at the Universities of Pennsylvania, Illinois and Maryland will have their computers linked together via futuristic telephone technology to form a “virtual supercomputer,” allowing them to share data across the country, conduct experiments together and solve complex problems that require high-speed calculations.

The three universities announced their consortium, called the National Scalable Cluster Project (NSCP), yesterday at Supercomputing '94 in Washington, D.C.

The consortium arose from the work of three researchers who are now Project Directors: Dr. Robert Grossman, University of Illinois at Chicago; Dr. Andrew Baden, University of Maryland at College Park; and Dr. Robert Hollebeek here at Penn. Heading individual research groups that specialize in large-scale operations—the processing of large amounts of data, the operation of many computers simultaneously, and the construction of enormous collections of information—they set out to test their conviction that

emerging telecommunications technology would allow computers at the three institutions to appear to operate as a single, unified computer.

The three project directors now lead teams of computer scientists, engineers, physicists, linguists, and robotics specialists at Penn, Illinois and Maryland, who have agreed to collaborate.

The project is funded by a two-year, \$4 million grant from the National Science Foundation and supported by business partners that include Xerox Corporation, IBM, Intermetrics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Platform Computing Corporation in Toronto, and Odyssey Research Associates in Ithaca, New York.

At Penn, the collaboration involves a number of participants across disciplines, and across schools, including: Dr. Jonathan Smith, co-director, AURORA Gigabit Testbed; Ira Winston, director, SEAS Computing; Dr. Ruzena Bajcsy, director, GRASP Robotics Lab; Dr. Aravind Joshi, co-director, Institute for Research in Cognitive Science; and Dr. Mark Liberman, director,

Linguistic Data Consortium. Dr. Hollebeek said that others at Penn who wish to participate may call him for more information.

Dr. Hollebeek, professor of physics at Penn, said that some problems require massive number-crunching to solve: modeling future climate change, for example, or extracting patterns from large amounts of data. The idea of the NSCP, he said, is that for some of these problems, the right approach is to link many computers together so they can “think” together.

“With emerging technology in telecommunications, we can link dozens of computers in three cities to act like one supercomputer,” says Dr. Robert Grossman, professor of mathematics, statistics and computer science at UIC. “It's like putting a virtual supercomputer at everyone's desktop.”

The virtual supercomputer is expected to be so powerful and fast that it can be used by anyone linked into the system—primarily scientists and business people at first—to predict trends, find

Council: Actions and Forum

At its November 9 meeting the University Council passed two resolutions making changes in the Proposed Revised Bylaws (*Almanac* October 11), which will be voted upon by mail ballot:

(1) On the Library Committee, the slot for a Librarians Assembly member is removed.

(2) On the Committee on Committees, "Nominations and Elections Committee" replaces "Undergraduate Assembly."

Council also had a preliminary look at proposals to redesign the Judicial Charter, debating a model which would have separate panels for honor code vs. conduct violations.

Forum: Midway in the two-hour meeting, Council held its first open forum, a new procedure in the Proposed Revised Bylaws. Moderator Will Harris offered three minutes to each of the six members of the University who had indicated topics in advance. When the first two presenters (on women's issues and lesbian issues) passed, he said he would still hold the remaining four to their time limits to preserve time for debate and to add late requests.

The moderator established that in addition to presenting a point of view or touching off debate on the floor, each presentation should lead to proposals upon which Council or its committees could deliberate and advise. Thus scheduled item #3, a complaint and plea for correction of deteriorating recreational facilities, went to the Committee on Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics. Item #4, a Newman Center student's protest of the Andres Serrano exhibit, led to debate of a proposal that when a University unit schedules programming that is potentially offensive to others, it be required

to give advance notice, and that the University arrange and fund debate on it. After lively debate too long for this space, students proposed from the floor that existing mechanisms be used to foster debate.

Issues in Minority Permanence and the establishment of a Penn Watch completed the scheduled presentations, and in time remaining Council was

urged not to "waste" the year's effort that went into the Report on Commission on Strengthening the Community, but to name one administrator to oversee follow-up and particularly to keep to the timetable of actions that the Report called for completing in one year. Steering Chair Barbara Lowery assured that follow-up on the Commission is on the agenda.

Death of Dr. William Miller, Shakespearean Curator

Dr. William E. Miller, former assistant curator of the Furness Memorial (Shakespeare) Library in the Department of Special Collections at Van Pelt-Dietrich Library, died on November 8 after a long illness. He was 84 and had been at Penn since 1953.

In 1932 Dr. Miller took his baccalaureate degree in classics at Haverford, and was pursuing graduate studies at Princeton when his career was interrupted by World War II. After post-war service as an officer, he returned to academia as a graduate student at Penn; he took an M.Ed. in 1950, an M.A. in English in 1951, and a Ph.D. in English literature in 1957.

His work on Abraham Fleming, one of the Elizabethan editors of Holinshed's *Chronicles*, along with his strong background in classics and his mastery of languages, enriched his contributions to the University's special collections. Dr. Daniel Traister, curator of Special Collections, recalls. "Students, faculty, and other readers and scholars who, occasionally or routinely, use Furness's resources for their work on Shakespeare, his contemporaries, and

later theater history, all owe a great deal to Bill Miller's devotion in the care and building of this collection over many years."

Dr. Miller also edited *The Library Chronicle* at the University from 1964 to 1981.

In the days before a librarian was curator of the Furness Library, and when the collection was still presided over by faculty who also served as curators, Dr. Miller assisted Curator-Professors Matthew W. Black, Matthias A. Shaaber, and Roland Mushat Frye. He also trained Professor Frye's successor as curator, Dr. Georgianna Ziegler (now head of reference at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington), who was his student assistant while earning degrees here.

Dr. Miller was aware of his approaching death and asked that no heroic measures be taken, Dr. Traister said. Although he left no immediate survivors he was surrounded by friends at the end. He requested no burial and left his body to science. "In accordance with his final wishes, his eyes have already gone to someone who needed them," Dr. Traister added. "He wanted, even in death, to be of help and use to others."

Supercomputer from page 1

patterns, simulate futuristic outcomes, and solve complicated problems.

Every computer tied into the shared system will bring new data and hardware resources into the central "brain" that exists somewhere in electronic space. So instead of just communicating with the system, scientists and business people will add their computers to the system and literally become part of it. Individuals can then tap into the vast resource, create models and make predictions in a way they could never do on their own.

The project will be a road test of high-speed telephone networking called ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) that has been touted as the future of the communications industry. Unlike today's computer networking technology, ATM has the ability to transfer at very high speeds voice, video and graphics in addition to data files.

"A system like this implies a lot of resource sharing," says Dr. Baden, professor of physics at Maryland. "We think it can be tested first within the scientific and academic community that is already used to sharing information."

The shared computing system is "the future of the Internet," says Dr. Hollebeek. "Right now, the Internet is used primarily for one-way communication—for exchanging mail and reading news. We are creating the next generation of the Internet: an interactive computing system that allows researchers across the country to think together with their computers. The eventual implications for business computing are enormous."

"This is a cost-effective way for engineers, scientists and business people to participate in high-performance computing and data management," says Dr. Grossman, who specializes in extracting information from terabytes (one mil-

lion megabytes) of data or "data mining." "The technology we are developing will reveal consumer spending patterns from huge numbers of credit card transactions that would have remained hidden with a conventional supercomputer," he adds. "It's a way of mining the 'gold' of the Information Superhighway."

Once the connections are made and the proper

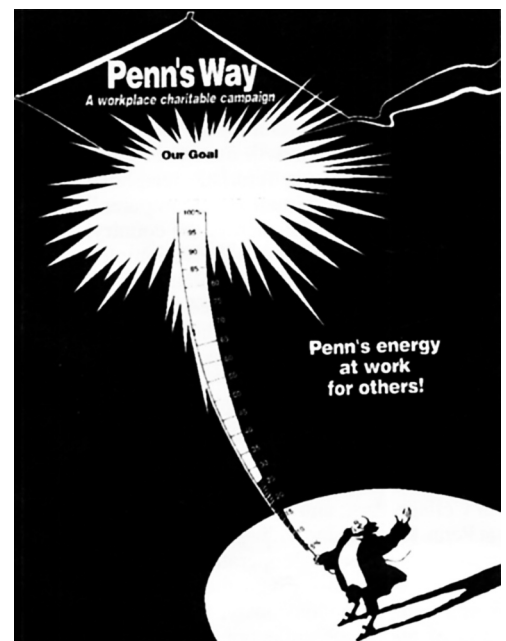
hardware and software installed, the system will be tested on several research projects based at the three universities that involve huge amounts of data. These include problems in virtual reality, medical imaging, robotics, manufacturing, digital libraries, astronomy, particle physics, and condensed matter physics.

— Esaul Sanchez, News & Public Affairs

On the Way

There are just 30 days left to "use your energy to work for others by supporting Penn's Way '95," said Steve Murray, co-chair of Penn's Way '95. He said that as of November 11, the pledges made since the Campaign began two weeks ago total \$110,640, which he described as a "tremendous response." This year's goal is \$400,000 and the deadline for participating is December 16. Any faculty or staff member who has not received a booklet may call 898-9155.

There are 16 partner organizations and more than 4,000 organizations eligible through Specific Care, Inc., many of which are listed on pages 23-27 of the booklet. To get a code number for an agency not listed, or to verify if an agency is eligible, call 898-1733.



AIDS Program: Released Time

All members of the University are invited to attend the *AIDS and the Penn Family* conference on December 1 (*Almanac* November 1).

Supervisors are asked to be flexible in arranging released time for employees interested in attending the conference.

For information on registration for the symposium, which is sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for University Life, contact Denise Peele at 898-6081.

—John Wells Gould
Acting Vice President/Human Resources

Tax Alert: On Graduate Tuition

Employees taking graduate courses at Penn can expect to be taxed on the tuition benefit starting *January 1, 1995*.

The exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance is set to expire December 31, 1994. An extension of Internal Revenue Code Section 127 was tied to health care reform legislation which was defeated in Congress.

Unless Congress considers a retroactive extension of this tax provision in the next session, the University *must* begin withholding taxes from the tuition benefit beginning in 1995. Temporary credits will be posted to employees' student accounts tax free for the December bursar bills. However, employees may have tuition payments due for the winter term if legislation is not passed in 1995.

—John Butler, Tax Manager
Comptroller's Office

PPSA: Today and Upcoming

The November meeting of the Penn Professional Staff Assembly will be held today at noon in Bishop White Room, Houston Hall, chaired by Drita Taraila of Pharmacology.

A Conversation about Human Resources at Penn includes an update on human resources issues in the Report of the Commission on Strengthening the Community. Invited speakers are David Smith, manager, Employment, and Susanne Iannece, director, Training and Organizational Development.

All members of the University community are welcome to attend the meetings of PPSA. Future meeting dates and topics include:

January 17	<i>Time Away from Work</i>
February 21	<i>Benefits Fair</i>
May 9	<i>PPSA Election</i>

Computer Security Day

It's ten o'clock: Do you know where your files went?

In the first campus celebration of Computer Security Awareness Day, the Data Administration division and Computing Resource Center of the Office of the Vice Provost for Information Systems and Computing will have an information table on Locust Walk on November 30 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. They have info on all aspects of computer security—including back-up.



Photos by Mary Scholl (above) and Joanne Confalone (below)

The nearly completed garage at 38th and Walnut (above) is on the northeast corner of the intersection and will have entrances from both streets. At a ribbon cutting earlier this month Robert Furniss, director of Transportation and Mail Services, welcomed visitors before handing the scissors over to Acting Executive Vice President Jack Freeman (right).



Parking Spaces, Shopping Places and the 'Big Chill'

Parking Garage #30, scheduled to open for business about December 1, will provide core parking for a mixture of visitors and guests as well as permit parking for faculty and staff. There are six tiers of parking which comprise 650 parking spaces. Spaces will be offered to those faculty/staff who are on the waiting list for parking. This is a Class 1 facility with annual permit parking charges of \$990, comparable to Penn Tower's garage and the Health Center's garage #44. The transient rates will be:

0-2 hours	\$3.00
2-4 hours	\$4.50
4-6 hours	\$6.00
6-10 hours	\$7.50
10 hours plus	\$9.00
Early Bird (in by 9 a.m.)	\$6.50
Evening Rate (in after 5 p.m.)	\$6.50

The garage will provide the University community with parking spaces not only to replace the 130 which were on the site of the new garage (and the 350 scheduled to be lost when the proposed campus center is built at 36th and Walnut Street), but also to create 170 spaces more.

In the future, it will be possible for those going to see a show at Annenberg Center to purchase their ticket for the show as well as reserve a parking space in the new garage at the same time.

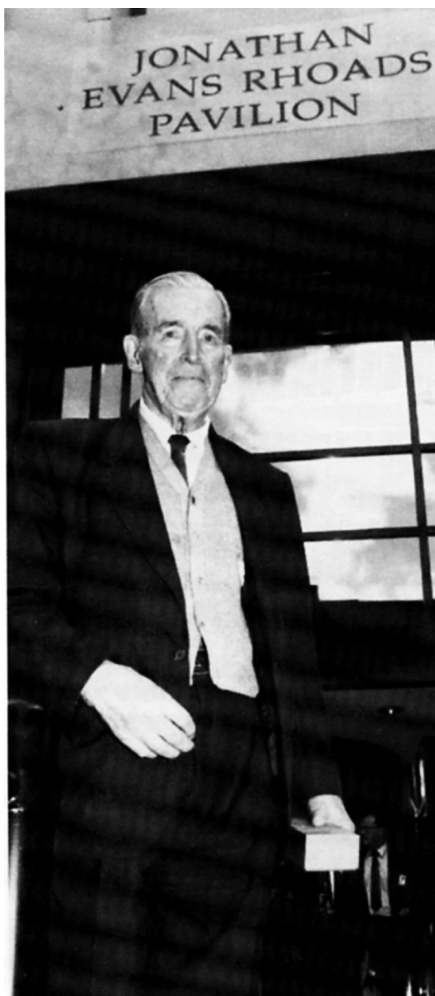
There are two other components to the new structure.

One is a series of retail stores that will open in the spring along the Walnut Street side, at street level. The anchor tenant will be Thrift Drug—which *will* sell prescriptions. Neighbors will be Joseph Anthony, the barber shop now located across the street, Campus Copy, formerly from across the street, and Mail Box Etc.

The other is the Module 6 Chilled Water Utility Plant and Electrical Substation which is still under construction. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony Executive Vice President Jack Freeman called this "an important facility; the chilled water will save us a lot of money." It will generate ice at night when electricity is less expensive, then melt it to produce chilled water to cool buildings with central air conditioning—including some yet to be built, such as IAST, Basic Research Building II, and the Revlon Center.

This Utility Plant is not only Penn's largest on campus, but when it was in the design stage three years ago, it was the largest in the country, according to Jim Wargo, executive director, Physical Plant.

The red brick structure with its glass-enclosed elevators was designed by the architectural firm of Bower Lewis Thrower.



Dr. Jonathan Rhoads at the entrance of the pavilion named for him (above). At right, the ceremony with Wilbur Pittinger, President Judith Rodin, Dean William N. Kelley, and Dr. Rhoads. The \$69 million pavilion is just south of the Maloney Pavilion facing Hamilton Walk.

Dedicating the Rhoads Pavilion at PennMed

Dr. Jonathan Evans Rhoads, 87 years old, stood before the new medical building that bears his name and prepared to wield the oversized scissors on the pink ribbon across the main entrance. Forming a colorful arch above the entrance was a link of red and blue balloons. A snip of the scissors—and the people gathered around the new Jonathan Evans Rhoads Pavilion burst into applause. Then someone dislodged the balloons. They floated slowly upward, twisting and turning, looking like a giant model of a DNA coil, until they were carried by the breeze around the corner of the building.

Meanwhile, the second stage of the building dedication was taking place on the small patio outside the entrance: filling the cornerstone. Ready with trowels were Dr. Judith Rodin, president of the University; Dr. William N. Kelley, chief executive officer of the University's Medical Center and Health System and dean

of the School of Medicine; Wilbur B. Pittinger, senior vice president for health services and executive director of the hospital; and Dr. Rhoads himself. Before they each took a turn at sealing the cornerstone, Dr. Kelley explained what mementos were inside it. They included the 1994-95 strategic plans for the health system as well as the latest issues of *Penn Medicine*, *Penn Pulse*, and *HUPdate*. "We appreciate your coming," announced Dr. Kelley after spreading the mortar. "What a grand event!" The afternoon was not over, though: on the first floor of the new 10-story, \$69 million pavilion was a spread of delicacies for those who stayed. Moving inside the pavilion, the first features that stood out were an airy three-story atrium and a grand staircase that connects the ground floor, first floor, and second floor. The first floor includes large reception areas as well as a walkway to the Silverstein Pavilion.

Before entering the building again, however, Dr. Rhoads stayed to answer a few questions. He singled out the pavilion's "wonderful area for intensive care" (on the fifth floor) and the "lovely accommodations" for patients (on the third through seventh floors). The Rhoads Pavilion, he added, was well equipped for dealing with infectious cases.

The booklet that celebrates the opening of the new pavilion begins with a salute to Dr. Rhoads himself: "The quintessential physician, educator, scientist, scholar, and friend, Jonathan Evans Rhoads, M.D., represents the best of the University of Pennsylvania. And in that tradition, the Jonathan Evans Rhoads Pavilion will serve as a lasting tribute to one of Penn's distinguished leaders, whose remarkable contributions to the University, the community, and the medical profession are embodied and will endure in this grand structure offering patients and their families the finest health care in the most gracious environment."

The Rhoads Pavilion, located at 36th Street and Hamilton Walk, replaces the Piersol Building, which was built in the late 19th century and razed in the fall of 1992. It contains eight floors for patient care, including five specially designed for the care of inpatients from the Medical, Surgical, and Oncology services. The other three floors are designed for the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of outpatients from the Departments of Transplantation, Cardiology, Dermatology, and Urology.

Since joining the Penn faculty in 1939, Dr. Rhoads has held more than 20 hospital and University positions, including provost (1956-1959). A skillful surgeon and innovative researcher, Dr. Rhoads pioneered the use of peritoneal dialysis in the treatment of renal failure. He was also a leader in the study of shock, burns, and the use of Vitamin K and coumadin for coagulation defects.

Dr. Rhoads is also the recipient of more than two dozen major awards, including the Medallion of the Surgeon General of the United States and the American Medical Association Sheen Award for Scientific Accomplishment.

— John Shea for The Compass
November 3, 1994
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Photos Courtesy of the Penn Health System

On the Naming of the Jonathan Evans Rhoads Pavilion

The University of Pennsylvania Medical Center wishes to name its new building at 36th & Hamilton Walk the Jonathan Evans Rhoads Pavilion. The new building will provide attractive and efficient in-hospital patient care, combined with sensitivity to the needs of patients, their families and the professional and support staff of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Jonathan E. Rhoads' name is synonymous with the history of medical education at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Rhoads came to Penn in 1932 for surgical training, and he has served the University with great distinction ever since. In 1949 he was designated the J. William White Professor of Surgical Research, and in 1959 he succeeded Dr. I.S. Ravdin as the John Rhea Barton Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery and as Director of the Harrison Department of Surgical Research.

From 1956-59 Dr. Rhoads served as the University's Provost, the first member of the medical faculty to serve as the University's chief academic officer since Dr. William Pepper (1880-94) and one of only two medical faculty (Dr. Eliot Stellar being the other) to fill that role in the 20th century.

Dr. Rhoads has achieved international renown as a surgeon, cancer researcher and innovator of parenteral hyperalimentation for surgical patients. The University of Pennsylvania takes enormous pride in Dr. Rhoads' many contributions to medicine and to the University.

Resolved, that the new building at 36th Street & Hamilton Walk be named the Jonathan Evans Rhoads Pavilion.

— Passed unanimously at the Stated Meeting of the Board of Trustees, September 23, 1994

HIV to AIDS: The Suspect Protein Vpr

Scientists at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center have identified the function of a gene that regulates latency in the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). In the November 8 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, investigators in the laboratory of David Weiner, Ph.D., describe a soluble factor produced by the gene, which activates virus expression from infected cells.

"This study is the first to identify an HIV gene that is associated with viral latency and silent infection," said Dr. Weiner, as Assistant Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at Penn. Thus it should provide important clues about how silent infections are established in HIV-infected people, and how these silent infections later give way to AIDS.

Following infection with HIV, people usually enter a quiescent period of several years, during which time the virus is undetectable in the blood stream. Researchers have shown that this lack of demonstrable virus results from the fact that the virus is latent, or silent, in several tissues—but that low levels of viral replication may proceed within immunological tissues such as lymph nodes. At some point the virus exits its latent state and begins reproducing, and spreads throughout the body. Eventually, this leads to destruction of important immune systems cells,

immunosuppression, and increased susceptibility to numerous infections and some malignancies.

One of the factors that regulates this switch, said Dr. Weiner, is an HIV gene called *vpr*. Interestingly, in this case the gene acts not on the virus, but on the cell it infects. In a previous study, Dr. Weiner and his colleagues inserted the *vpr* gene into uninfected cells and showed that it influenced cell growth and arrested cell proliferation. Now, the scientists have shown that the *vpr* gene encodes a soluble factor. The Vpr protein is a component of the virus particle and is shed into the blood stream of infected people. Dr. Weiner and his colleagues have demonstrated preliminarily that the level of Vpr in the serum correlates with patient status: levels are low when virus production is low but increase as the disease progresses.

Dr. Weiner's group demonstrated the biological activity of the protein in cell culture: When the Vpr protein was added to cells that were infected with but not producing HIV, the cells were induced to shed virus. Similarly, when peripheral blood cells from patients with asymptomatic HIV infection were placed in culture they did not shed virus until induced to do so by treatment with an activating agent such as the Vpr protein. Antibodies to the Vpr protein inhibited this activation.

"Vpr is the first human retroviral protein that's

been identified whose goal it is to regulate the state of cells, including the cells' permissiveness to viral replication," said Dr. Weiner. "And the protein will act not only on the cells in which it's found; it can also affect cells that are not infected with virus, even those far away from the target site." This might help explain the mechanism for some AIDS-related pathologies, such as muscle wasting, neurologic disease, and immune deficiency.

Dr. Weiner suggested that the deleterious effects of Vpr may be modulated by anti-Vpr antibodies in the blood stream. "We think there's a dynamic relationship between the Vpr and the antibodies," he explained. In the lymph nodes where many cells are infected, anti-Vpr levels may not be high enough to neutralize the effect of the protein; thus virus replication would be high. Farther away from these "hot spots," however, anti-Vpr could keep viral replication in check and infected cells would remain quiescent. Eventually, as the disease progressed, the balance could shift in favor of the Vpr protein, allowing cells in the periphery to replicate virus. In other words, the infection would shift from silent to active.

"What is really important about this finding is that, in addition to defining a new regulatory loop of the virus, it gives us a new target for drug development. It tells us that anti-Vpr therapies are likely to have some benefit. Now it's our responsibility to make them," said Dr. Weiner.

— Lisa Bain, Public Affairs, PennMed

Alzheimer's Disease: Aluminum as Collaborator

Seeking to better understand the role of aluminum in Alzheimer's disease (AD), scientists at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center have demonstrated that aluminum interacts with and prevents the degradation of a protein found in the brains of AD patients. This protein, called PHF-*tau*, is thought to be involved in the death of brain cells and the resulting loss of brain function. The research is published in the November issue of the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

According to John Q. Trojanowski, MD, Ph.D., professor of pathology and laboratory medicine and one of the authors of the study, these results indicate that although aluminum by itself does not cause (AD), it may act as a co-factor. "Aluminum is a highly abundant metal in the earth's crust, yet despite its ubiquitous presence in dust and soil, not everyone develops Alzheimer's disease.

"We've demonstrated that aluminum could be a co-factor by interacting with PHF-*tau*, but that doesn't necessarily mean that aluminum is the cause. We're talking about a disease that could be due to multiple genetic predispositions and environmental factors. Aluminum could contribute without playing a dominant role in the emergence of Alzheimer's disease."

Aluminum has been implicated as a causative factor in AD based on its accumulation in the brains of AD patients, epidemiological evidence linking high water levels of aluminum to the incidence of the disease, and laboratory studies showing that aluminum interacts with various components of the pathological lesions found in the AD brain. Despite this circumstantial evidence, controversy remains about the role of aluminum in AD.

Dr. Trojanowski and his colleagues have focused their research on the role of PHF-*tau*, a primary component of the neurofibrillary tangles that are hallmark lesions of AD patients. It is these tangles, along with plaques that consist largely of a protein called beta-amyloid (also known as A-beta), that ultimately are diagnostic of AD. AD research today is largely devoted to

understanding the development and composition of plaques and tangles as well as their role in nerve cell death in AD.

Research from several laboratories indicates that normal *tau* protein acts to stabilize the nerve cell's microtubules, which transport essential molecules through the cells. However, the abnormal form of *tau* (PHF-*tau*) found in AD patients is unable to bind and stabilize microtubules, thus depriving the cells of important material. The abnormal protein accumulates in the form of neurofibrillary tangles, further disrupting normal brain function.

"What may happen is that a nerve cell dies or degenerates, releasing PHF-*tau*, and that this may be the seed that causes precipitation of A-beta. To take that a step further, we wanted to know what else was in a plaque or a tangle that might be relevant to the interaction between PHF-*tau* and A-beta."

In a previous study, Dr. Trojanowski's group had shown that PHF-*tau* injected into rat brains induced A-beta deposits at the site of injection. For this study, the scientists co-injected aluminum

salts and PHF-*tau* into rat brains and showed that aluminum dramatically enhanced the resistance of PHF-*tau* to enzymatic degradation and led to prolonged persistence of PHF-*tau* aggregates. Injection of the protein along with other substances that have been found in Alzheimer's plaques had no such effect. For example, co-injection of ApoE4, a lipoprotein that has been shown to be a risk factor for AD, did not induce aggregation of A-beta or any other brain abnormalities.

According to Dr. Trojanowski, the results of this study, combined with previous work that demonstrated aluminum in tangles and some plaques, support the idea that aluminum plays some role in the pathogenesis of AD. "Aluminum is in the right place to play a role in what will probably turn out to be a stepwise series of events leading to the formation of plaques and tangles. We're at the level of trying to dissect out what those events are, thereby being in a position to interrupt one of the dominoes that, as they fall, lead to the formation of plaques and tangles and the death of nerve cells in Alzheimer's disease."

— Lisa Bain, Public Affairs, PennMed

Cancer Center Pilot Project Grants: Deadline January 15

Through its National Cancer Institute Core Support Grant, the University of Pennsylvania Cancer Center will provide seed money grants up to \$25,000 to University faculty members at any faculty level for innovative cancer research projects that have the potential peer-reviewed grant funding. Projects that are translational in nature (application of basic research findings to the clinical setting) are encouraged.

Penn faculty at any level are eligible to apply for a pilot project grant. Investigators who have not previously conducted cancer research, but are proposing a cancer-related project, are encouraged to apply. Investigators who have already received peer-reviewed funding for their proposed project will not be eligible.

Covered costs include laboratory personnel costs (non-faculty salaries), laboratory supplies, animals, and small equipment. No travel or patient costs are allowed. Specifics regarding allowable costs will be provided in the application packet.

The deadline for submitting a completed application for this grant is *January 15, 1995*. Faculty may obtain application forms and instructions from Stephan Poole, assistant administrator for research, Cancer Center, 12 Penn Tower/4283, 662-7328.

The Cancer Center also awards seed money grants through its American Cancer Society Institutional Review Grant (ACS IRG). Announcement of this separate funding mechanism will be made in the spring.

— John H. Glick, Director, Cancer Center

The Report of the Task Force on Urban and Regional Studies at Penn was published For Comment by the Provost in Almanac October 18. The following comment is by the director of the Fels Center of Government. The chair of the Task Force, Professor Anita Summers, responds briefly at the end of Dr. Spady's remarks.

For the MGA Program: No Need for a Hostile Takeover

by James A. Spady

In response to the Report of the Task Force to study "Urban and Regional Studies" at Penn, I have the following clarifications and corrections of very serious and central errors and distortions in the Task Force Report.

(1) The Task Force was supposedly studying at the provostial-level the decadal-proposed closing of City and Regional Planning (CRP) and Regional Science (RS), but instead spent a majority of its Report criticizing the Fels Center of Government (which I direct) and the MGA (Master of Government Administration) program, which is (contrary to the central findings of the Task Force Report) headed by a standing faculty committee.

(2) This *ultra vires* foray by the Task Force would not be so suspect except that, as I shall show below, (a) they have their central facts about MGA governance dead wrong; (b) the Task Force members are nearly all associated with programs that were (as was MGA) part of the former School of Public and Urban Policy (SPUP) before its 1983 breakup and are, for that reason as well as for subject-matter reasons, rivals of both CRP and MGA, and yet (c) their recommendation for MGA is that it merge into their programs by transfer from GSFA to their school(s); and finally (d) the Fels Center transfer and the MGA transfer proposals of the Task Force Report are virtually identical to the *same proposals* by the *same parties* twelve years ago when SPUP was being terminated and the various parts (theirs and ours) were being parceled out to the various schools.

(3) The main problem with the Task Force Report, introduced above, is that their central facts are dead wrong. The MGA program is "headed" (their word) by the normal standing faculty committee, just as is every other graduate program at Penn. Indeed, the existence and structure of that MGA standing faculty governance was created by a Provost's committee (chaired by the then-Deputy Provost) in 1982-83 as SPUP broke up, charged with relocating both the SPUP standing faculty and SPUP degree programs and centers in other schools at the University. "The MGA Program Committee" of standing faculty that was created as a result is identical to a "graduate group." The terminology varies only because "graduate program committee" is the language used at this University when the graduate degree offered is not a Ph.D. (or an included MA/MS).

The resulting MGA Program Committee (relocated in 1983 into GSFA) is chaired by the President Emeritus, and has, from the beginning, included the Deputy Provost as a member. Two other standing faculty members have been Associate Deans of their schools (of Law and of GSFA). One other member was Acting Dean of SPUP. Every other member save one (an Economics and Law faculty member) has been a department chair (three of CRP, one of Political Science). It is a distinguished governing body by any standard, certainly by the standard of knowledge of academic governance.

The Task Force Report, by ignoring *the very existence* of this MGA governance body while at the same time criticizing how MGA is governed, presented "Hamlet without Hamlet," as the phrase goes.

At Penn, centers and degree programs report to deans; that is, degree programs do *not* report to centers. The MGA Program Committee is no different. The Fels Center and the MGA Program Committee each have separate budgets and separately report to the Dean of GSFA. The governance of MGA therefore meets all University criteria, as would be expected of a governance structure *designed* by a Provost's committee,

and including a President Emeritus and a Deputy Provost *as members* of that governance structure.

(4) The Task Force Report's notion that *the MGA degree program* should be transferred into Wharton is not new. It was suggested to the Provost's committee (chaired by the then-Deputy Provost) that supervised the breakup of SPUP in 1982-83. It was suggested back then by the then-associate chair of Public Policy and Management in Wharton, who subsequently became (concomitant with receiving tenure) chair of that Wharton Department, *and who chaired the recent Task Force which produced this Report*. Paraphrasing, the suggestion then was: "We (Wharton) would take MGA, and convert it to an Executive program." One suggestion of the Task Force Report now is exactly the same—transfer of MGA to WEMBA, Wharton's Executive program.

(5) Similarly, the notion that *the Fels Center of Government* should be transferred into an Institute in the Provost's Office (together with other centers), like the notion of transferring MGA to Wharton, is *also* not new. It too was suggested to that same Provost's committee supervising the breakup of SPUP in 1982-83, in that case being suggested by the Director of the Center for Greater Philadelphia. The suggestion then was that an Institute be set up in the Provost's Office (with the suggestor, the Director of the Center for Greater Philadelphia, as director of the new Institute), and that under that Institute there should be (a) the Fels Center of Government (which I directed, then as now), (b) the suggestor's Center for Greater Philadelphia, (c) the Energy Center, and (d) the Policy Modeling Center. The only difference between that proposal then and the same proposal now, is that the Fels Center and the Center for Greater Philadelphia are in the current Task Force's proposal to be accompanied by *one* other center (the Real Estate Center), instead of by *two* others (the Energy Center and the Policy Modeling Center) as in the proposal back in 1983. The person who proposed the requested Institute in 1982-83 is the same person proposing it now—the Director of the Center for Greater Philadelphia, *a member of the current Task Force*.

(6) Why were those same proposals to send the MGA program to Wharton, and to send the Fels Center to an institute in the Provost's Office, *rejected* by that Provost's committee at the breakup of SPUP in 1982-83? *In the case of the MGA*, the transfer proposal failed back then because the MGA program was thought to be a useful professional counterpoint to the "Public Policy" programs in Wharton, one that would be killed if it entered Wharton to be supervised by that public policy faculty, because of the MGA's professional focus as contrasted with their technical focus. (History has proven MGA's "usefulness" outside of Wharton supervision, as I document below). *In the case of the Fels Center of Government*, that 1982-83 proposal to transfer it to that new Institute also failed, *because all three of the Center Directors refused such a transfer* (and the Provost's Office agreed that such an Institute would be both a redundant overlay and a straightjacket on, the work of the three centers). Indeed, the Provost's Office understood clearly in 1983 that *what was being proposed (no less then than now) was a substitute for the SPUP they were terminating*. If SPUP didn't work, a substituted Institute wouldn't work either, was the conclusion of all parties.

In sum, both of the transfer proposals, even aside from being officious

continued past inserts

and based on false governance facts, are old proposals by the very same people who proposed them twelve years ago. Those proposals were rejected by *all* parties (other than their proposers) then, and the (as discussed below) performance of the MGA Program Committee since 1983 fully justifies those rejections.

(7) The MGA Program Committee has done an excellent job of governing the MGA degree. The wisdom of allocating that degree to GSFA, and to the MGA Program Committee in GSFA, is fully evident. The MGA program admits slightly over forty per class. Over half of each class has a baccalaureate degree *magna* or *summa cum laude*. Approximately one quarter of a typical class has at least one GRE score at "800" (three or four [10%] having two "800" scores), and approximately one-quarter are members of Phi Beta Kappa.

The graduates of the MGA Program are equally outstanding. Although the MGA has been given since 1937, the work of the MGA Program Committee is properly judged by the degree-years they supervised, which were the classes entering from September 1983, *i.e.*, the ten classes graduating from 1985 through 1994. These classes have won numerous Presidential Management Internships (in four instances, at the level of 20% of each class—several times the total of all other "public affairs oriented" programs at Penn, combined). Keith Gaby, '93, began as Executive Assistant to Defense Secretary Aspin, and Laura Good, '94, began as Special Assistant to Congressman Stark, in his role as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health that managed this year's health debate in Congress.

And these still-young graduates also do very well *after* their initial position. Ken Puvak, '85, was named, by the U.S. office of Personnel Management, one of the "top forty executives under forty" in the entire federal government, at 28. John Stooddy, '92, was given the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's highest honor, the Gold Medal For Exceptional Service, at 27. Dario Polo, '89, was promoted to Vice President of Citibank, the nation's second-largest bank, and put in charge of its Madrid, Spain office one year after joining them at graduation. Mark Fried, '89, when he became President of Stonebridge Trust at 28, two years after graduation, was the youngest bank president in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Noel Eisenstat, '85, when he became Executive Director of the (\$1.5 billion capitalized) New Jersey Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, at 27, two years after graduation was the youngest such executive in New Jersey history (he is now Executive Director of Philadelphia's Redevelopment Authority). Wayne Smith, '88, when he became Chairman of the Delaware House of Representatives' Committee on Taxation and Finance at 27, was the youngest chair of any committee of any state legislature in the nation.

All this was produced under the governance of the MGA Program Committee of standing faculty, whose existence could not be discovered by a Task Force that found it possible nevertheless to cavalierly propose that the MGA program be transferred out from under that MGA Program Committee—and into the *Task Force members'* school(s), and even into the *Task Force members'* very department(s).

But just as the 1983 Provost's committee planned when they kept MGA separate from the Wharton Public Policy program, it is in the effect on Philadelphia that these new MGA graduates of these past ten years have had the intended impact. The Deputy Mayor of Philadelphia for Policy and Planning is Greg Rost, MGA '90. In addition, there have been *seven* Assistant Deputy Mayors in the Rendell administration from among these ten MGA classes. One of them Mike Nadol, '93 is, at 29, the chief labor contracts negotiator for the city. There are a number of major executive heads of Philadelphia agencies, perhaps led by Al Outlaw, '89 and Bob Ross, '90, who are respectively Revenue Commissioner and Health Commissioner (Ross has now left to become Health Commissioner of San Diego). But the contribution of the MGA Program Committee's work of these ten years to the rising young African American leadership of Philadelphia is not restricted to Outlaw and Ross. *Two* Vice Presidents of Independence Blue Cross—Lorina Marshall, '89, and Ed Morris, '89—are important rising young African American leaders in health reform in our city. There are *five* Deputy Secretaries in Harrisburg (two of whom are African Americans). There are several elected officials among our young alumni whose education was supervised by the MGA Program Committee, but I must mention one: Chaka Fattah, '86, now Congressman-Elect from Philadelphia, who

promises to become the most prominent African American official among the rising young leadership of Philadelphia, easily a potential Mayor.

All of this (and much more) in only ten classes of still-young MGA alumni. None of this would have been achieved if, in 1983, the Provost's committee had put the *professional*-oriented MGA under the *technically*-oriented Wharton Public Policy program, instead of (as it did) into GSFA alongside CRP and GSFA's other professionally-oriented programs.

* * *

My conclusions about the Task Force Report? It is a report by a membership appointed to do an entirely different task (investigate the decanal-proposed closings of CRP and RS), that instead officiously took advantage of a turnover in deans at GSFA to suggest the hostile takeover of two money-making GSFA units (Fels Center and MGA), into "their" units (the Institute and Wharton, respectively)—based, to boot, upon a false premise (the ignored existence of the MGA Program Committee). These takeover proposals are exactly the same as the ones made by the same people twelve years ago. The rejection of these proposals by all parties (except the proposers) back then was correct, as judged by the above MGA program results. The fact that, in an attempt to revisit the decisions of twelve years ago the Task Force conveniently ignored *the very existence* of the distinguished and successful MGA Program Committee which (instead) took charge of the MGA back then, is both astonishing and revealing.

The only criticism of MGA made by the Task Force Report that is justified, is the criticism of the percentage of MGA courses taught by standing faculty. Even there, however, an honest and disinterested report to the University community would have pointed out that the percentage at MGA is little different from that in the professional programs of GSFA in general. The MGA Program Committee has, as has the new Interim Dean of GSFA, been actively pursuing this internal school matter. While I speak for neither the MGA Program Committee nor the new Dean, I imagine that they both appreciate the Task Force's solicitous (if sanctimonious) suggestion that the percentage be raised, particularly since they are already working on that matter. The percentage can be raised by using the MGA's financial operating surplus to purchase additional standing faculty teaching, and does not require a hostile takeover by another school.

The proposal to revisit the "ancient resentments" of decisions lost twelve years ago, and create an Institute in the Provost's Office to substitute for the discredited, failed and terminated SPUP, has to stand on its own merits, not on the shoulders of successful programs in other schools. There is no logical relationship between that proposal and the MGA/Fels Center, which is not only successful but is wholly a GSFA asset.

If the Institute is a *good* idea, it does not need to raid the assets of GSFA. If instead it is a *bad* idea, there is no gain to the University in ruining a successful GSFA program (*i.e.* MGA) in order to prove once again (as with SPUP) that a central umbrella (whether called a "school" as in SPUP or "Institute" as in the proposal) is a bad idea.

A Response to Dr. Spady

For purposes of clarification I think it is useful to restate the charge of the Task Force—"to look for new approaches to teaching and research on urban and regional issues at the University of Pennsylvania"—and "to find a way for the University to provide a more stable environment for scholarship and education in these areas." No specific locus was singled out.

The report of the Task Force on Regional and Urban Studies is now in the hands of the Provost and President. It will be they who will sort through the merits of the recommendations in the context of views of the University community such as those put forth in Dr. Spady's letter to *Almanac*.

— Anita Summers, Chair of the Task Force on
Regional and Urban Studies

Overcoming Illiteracy in the Global Era *by Federico Mayor*

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you here at this distinguished University, which dates back to the very founding of the United States and has played so important a role in shaping higher education in this country and, indeed, in the world at large. Our purpose is to launch the International Literacy Institute with which UNESCO is very proud to be associated.

To place this purpose in perspective, we need to remind ourselves that as we meet here this evening hundreds of thousands of educators and millions of adult learners, men and women, are gathering all over the world, in the slums of industrial cities as well as in remote human settlements, to teach and to learn. Their purpose is not only to decipher words, but to make sense out of the world that surrounds them and, ultimately, to become the masters of their own destinies. It is their quest that gives purpose and reason to ours. The International Literacy Institute will be effective only to the extent that it brings closer the achievement of a literate world in which the right to education is enjoyed by all.

The task before us is enormous, but not hopeless. For the first time since UNESCO began collecting literacy statistics in the 1950s, the number of illiterates has begun to decline—slowly, but steadily. Yet a vast amount remains to be done. There are still over 900 million illiterates on the planet of whom, it is estimated, more than 100 million live in industrialized countries, including the United States of America. There are also 120 million children of school age who are not in school, either because there are no schools for them to go to or because they live in circumstances that bar them from attendance. These children will be the adult illiterates of the 21st century unless we act urgently to provide them with education.

Because the issues are urgent, they call for careful deliberations, not for hasty and ill-considered solutions. It would be naive to regard illiteracy as a purely *educational* challenge. Illiteracy is, in fact, a complex socio-economic and socio-cultural problem that can only be solved within the context of a wider struggle for social participation and economic development. This struggle is essential today for world security. We are investing today immense amounts in peace keeping and emergency humanitarian assistance because we were unable, twenty years ago, to look beyond the everyday's pressing problems. So, we failed in building peace. It can be argued that farsightedness was impossible during the Cold War. But now the Cold War is over and we must address war, conflict and social unrest at their very roots. We live in a culture of war and

we are used to paying its price (how expensive, even in human lives!). We are not used to investing in peace building because we have suffered from this myopia that I have been commenting on. We are still too worried about urgent issues to address the essential ones. Indeed, *literacy must not be seen as an end in itself*, but as a phase in a quest for lifelong learning and the provision of political, social and economic opportunities. When we talk, for example, about democracy, sometimes in this rush we don't realize, and I like to insist on this very much, that democracy is not to count people in the elections but for the people to count. And for the people to count, they must participate. You know Descartes, he said "I think, therefore I am," and we can say the same thing concerning citizenship. If I participate, I exist as a citizen. If I don't participate, I don't exist as a citizen. And to participate they must have access to knowledge and they must be literate. The knowledge explosion taking place around the globe makes it even more important that educational goals, such as literacy, are seen as stepping stones toward further and continuous learning.

It must never be forgotten that literacy programs not only provide vital learning skills but also build confidence, promote critical thinking and inspire learners to transform their own lives and the communities in which they live. Literacy is not only a basic human right. It is also a development imperative that, in properly conceived programs, should lead learners to experience greater freedom and practice independent decision-making. Paradoxically, literacy and reading—the most quiet of pursuits—hold the power to break "the culture of silence," as Paulo Freire has so aptly referred to the state of powerlessness in which the unschooled and impoverished so often live. They are capable not only of bringing knowledge of the world, but also of changing one's image of oneself in relationship to it.

In his answer to a letter of my predecessor, Sir Julian Hadsley, dated February 1947, Mahatma Gandhi wrote: "An illiterate but very wise woman, my mother, told me that the best way to protect our human rights is to observe our human duties." This quotation is a good example of the crucial difference that exists between illiteracy and ignorance. Illiterates are not ignorant, they are not hopelessly handicapped. My own experience is that the industrialized countries are richer in knowledge and know-how, but the developing ones are richer in wisdom, in brotherhood, in compassion. Should we need to remind ourselves of this, it might be well to

reflect upon the following poem jointly authored by a group of poor illiterates in the State of West Bengal in India. I am going to read this poem because I think it is very important to avoid this confusion between what represents today access to knowledge and wisdom:

"What kind of people are we?
We are poor, very poor
but we are not stupid.
That is why, despite our illiteracy,
we still exist.
But we have to know
why we should become literate.

We agree to join the classes
if you teach us how not to depend
on others anymore.

Please do understand that
the teacher may know things
which we don't.
But we know a lot of things
which are beyond him.

We are not empty pitchers.
We have minds of our own.
We can reason out things,
and, believe it or not,
we also have dignity."

Nevertheless, in a society increasingly dependent upon print, illiteracy is a serious problem. The truth is that in the modern world education is the most essential condition and powerful agent of progress and those deprived of it are seriously disadvantaged. This is as true of nations as it is of individuals. The knowledge gap and the information gap of which we so glibly speak are in fact powerful indicators that reveal growing disparities between and within nations.

UNESCO, whose goal is to build the foundations of peace in the minds of men through cooperation in education, science and culture, views with great concern this bifurcation of the world between those who "know" and those who "know not," paralleling the divide between the "haves" and the "have nots." One of the solutions to dealing with this complex problem at the international level is to form partnerships between institutions in advanced countries, such as the University of Pennsylvania, and those in developing countries. The purpose of such partnerships is the sharing of knowledge and expertise. It must not be a one-way flow, but a genuine exchange in which each party gives and each party learns.

Promoting such an exchange is UNESCO's goal in joining with the University of Pennsylvania to establish the International Literacy Institute. As many of you are aware, this is a

further step in a process of cooperation between Penn and UNESCO that began several years ago. Under the UNESCO/UNITWIN Program, Penn is joined with universities in Botswana, Nigeria, and Tunisia in a program of joint research and training. The success of this undertaking has inspired both partners to take this further step in our cooperation.

Literacy is often referred to as the "priority of priorities" among UNESCO's programs. Our organization's constant efforts in this field can be traced back more than 45 years. In the early years, we were something of a voice crying out in the wilderness. Today, our message has been heard and literacy institutes have been established in many countries, the most recent being this one here at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1990, UNESCO was designated as the lead organization for the United Nations International Literacy Year. In the same year, we joined with our partners in the United Nations Development Program, UNICEF and the World Bank to launch the "Education for All" movement that has already had a powerful impact upon school enrollments in the developing world. Literacy and basic education are, in brief, priorities for UNESCO and, indeed, for the international community as a whole.

Yet, while we will do our utmost to promote literacy and education, we readily concede that the problem is bigger than we are. We cannot conceivably hope to solve it alone. Our strategy is, therefore, one of alliance building. The quest for a literate world is one of the great challenges of our era. We are ready to cooperate with any and all institutions that can make a significant contribution to that goal. In this venture the countries themselves, their governments, now in a democratic context their parliaments, their municipalities, the municipal level is essential, must be the first in this struggle, they must be

the champions of this movement.

Education is a lifelong process and therefore without the commitment and involvement of the civil society itself no real progress can be accomplished. It is in this spirit that I am here today to join with you in launching the International Literacy Institute. We are proud to be associated with this university.

We must, however, constantly remind ourselves that while publications and research are often extremely important, the ultimate meaning and measure of the success of our work is the progress of literacy in the world. We need—like the founder of this institution, Benjamin Franklin—to join thought to action. We need—to borrow the Philomathean Society's motto—to "raise hell with our brains." The work that has to be done is not sited here on this lively campus, but in the urban slums and remote villages of the developing world and in the inner cities of the industrialized nations.

Let us begin this mission with hope and idealism, but also with a dash of humility. It is a task that can only be accomplished if our heads and hearts work in unison. Let us be outspoken, not to have this silence, because silent are those who cannot but are also those who do not dare—and it is for these that we must be very outspoken to pass the message to all the corners of the world.

Population growth rate can be curbed, human resources can be made available, sustainability can be guaranteed—if we persuade the leaders of all the countries that education is first, that education is the best investment for global security; persuade them that illiteracy is a collective shame in the era of global security and in the era of highways of information and access to knowledge. This afternoon, with the creation of this institute, we put all together, the highways with the subways, and a further step to overcome that shame is accomplished.

Photo by Tommy Leonardi



Federico Mayor, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), left, exchanges greetings with Penn's Provost Stanley Chodorow, right, at the official opening of the International Literacy Institute at Penn's National Center on Adult Literacy, at 3910 Chestnut Street on September 29.

About the Literacy Center(s)

The new International Literacy Institute (ILI) began its work this fall. Based at Penn and co-sponsored by UNESCO, its goal is to promote worldwide literacy research, training and development.

"While its priority will be on developing countries, the Institute will seek out linkages and agencies, non-governmental organizations, and universities to create new knowledge as well as an enhanced system of communication and training for the year 2000 and beyond," said its interim director, Dr. Daniel Wagner of GSE.

Among the immediate plans are an international conference on literacy and development, and improvements in telecommunications and distance education among literacy centers around the world to expand its network of affiliated institutions.

"The Institute is one of the University's international priorities," President Judith Rodin said, "and its establishment provides the University a unique opportunity to combine our research strength in the social sciences, cross-cultural studies, and technology with critical issues in educational policy and practice around the world."

According to UNESCO statistics, there are nearly one billion illiterates in the world today, most of them living in developing nations. However, millions in industrialized countries, while not illiterate, do not possess sufficient literacy skills to function effectively in work, home and their communities. The 1993 U.S. National Adult Literacy Survey showed that nearly half of all adult Americans would fit into this category of limited literacy skills.

The ILI will conduct training, development, research, evaluation and dissemination in literacy. It will provide a forum for the generation and exchange of information on literacy for researchers, policy makers and practitioners on a worldwide basis and will foster regional and national centers of excellence in developing countries.

Victor Ordonez, the Director of UNESCO's Division of Basic Education, said he anticipates quick worldwide acceptance of ILI and a rapid expansion of services over the next three years.

Dr. Wagner, professor of psychology in education at the Graduate School of Education, is also director of the National Center on Adult Literacy (NCAL), which focuses on American literacy issues. Dr. Wagner said that the collaborative project will establish under one roof a comprehensive center that would house both NCAL and ILI "and enable us to take advantage of the important linkages between worldwide and domestic literacy issues, while applying the best in technical and research expertise."

The NCAL began functioning on campus in 1991, supported by a U.S. Department of Education grant of more than \$10 million to the Graduate School of Education to establish the National Center on Adult Literacy, the nation's first research and development center in this domain.

Baby Coming? Special Delivery at PennMed

Our expert faculty obstetricians, pediatricians and anesthesiologists, our skilled and caring obstetrical nursing staff, and the latest technology and equipment are only a few good reasons to consider having your baby at PennMed Center. As an employee of the University, HUP, or a related institution, you and your partner will receive VIP attention for your prenatal visits and hospital stay when you join the Penn Special Delivery program. In order to participate, you or your partner must have health insurance that allows you to receive obstetrical care at HUP. Registration for the program is necessary prior to your delivery at HUP. Call as soon as you know that you are pregnant so that you don't miss out on any amenities (there is no reimbursement for services received prior to enrollment in the program). Penn Special Delivery members receive:

- Individualized pre-pregnancy counseling.
- Convenient prenatal appointments during the work day, with minimal waiting.
- Free TV and basic telephone service during your hospital stay.
- No personal balance billing for obstetrical and anesthesiology services and fees not covered by insurance.
- Free parking for delivery and discharge.
- Free prenatal book and quarterly newsletter with health information.
- Free childbirth education classes.
- Personalized tour of the obstetrical areas.
- Beeper for "Dad" during your hospital stay.
- Special menu during your hospital stay.
- Baby t-shirt, set of birth announcements, and diaper bag.
- Special PSD adult-sized golf shirts for Mom and Dad.
- First priority for a complimentary private room.

Call PENNHealth at 662-PENN (7366) to confirm your eligibility and find out if your health benefits enable you to come to the PennMed Center. Also call to register for the program, to receive the Penn Special Delivery newsletter, or for more information.

—Barb Gouzouasis
Obstetrics & Gynecology, HUP

Thanksgiving Food Drive This Week

Penn VIPS seeks donations for its Thanksgiving food drive benefiting St. Barnabas Mission, a shelter for men, women and children, at 64th and Haverford Avenue. The food drive runs through November 18. Items suggested for donation, as well as drop-off points and contact people, are listed below.

Suggested items:

potatoes (sweet and white)	canned milk	mayonnaise/oil
pumpkin pie mix	cake mix/sugar	canned vegetables/meats
rice/beans	flour/muffin mix	cranberry sauce/jello
canned juice	gravy	stuffing/onions

Drop-Off Points:

Room 1214, Blockley Hall	Carolyn Jones	898-1353
Room 5, Christian Association	Marcine Pickron-Davis	898-4831
Computer Resource Center	Sheila Lorrett Emerson	898-9090
Room 200, Franklin Building	Pat Coleman	898-4212
Room 728, Franklin Building	Bonnie Ragsdale	898-2020
Room 472, Nursing Education Building	Kristin Davidson	898-8442
Shared Cataloging, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library	Rachelle Nelson	898-5938
Veterinary School	Trish diPietrae	898-8812
Room 1050, Steinberg Hall-Dietrich Hall	Frances Rhoades	898-1170
Room 233A, 3401 Walnut	Rocco Casciato	898-1906
Room 521A, 3401 Walnut	Banoo Karanjia	898-9155

Secret Santas for Next Month

Penn VIPS asks members of the University community to sponsor a toy for its annual Secret Santa program. The toy drive runs from December 5 through 19.

This year the program benefits SCAN (Supportive Child/Adult Network). SCAN is one of the largest private non-profit organizations in Philadelphia specializing in the multi-disciplinary treatment and prevention of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation. There are over 400 children in the program.

The first name and age of a child will be given to Secret Santas who can include special notes with their gifts. Penn VIPS will also accept general donations of toys and clothing at various sites on campus. For more information, call 898-2020.

Retirement Planning for the 21st Century



The following programs, open to all faculty and staff, are sponsored by the Office of Human Resources/Benefits.

Investment Education Sessions

November 30 Vanguard: Advantages of Plan Participation; for new faculty, staff, and less experienced investors; on the advantages of early retirement savings, the power of compounding, the ease of payroll deductions, pre-tax earnings and savings to enhance retirement portfolios through the use of mutual funds; 11 a.m.-noon; Club Room, Faculty Club. Repeated 12:30-1:30 p.m., December 1.

November 30 Vanguard: Take Charge!; for faculty and staff enrolled in TDA plans and for more experienced investors; on how to balance and diversify investment portfolios to maximize returns while maintaining investment security; case studies with strategies for balancing portfolios based on risk tolerance and number of years to retirement; 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Club Room, Faculty Club. Repeated 11 a.m.-noon, December 1.

December 2 TIAA-CREF: Getting Started—Planning and Investing Wisely; for faculty and staff considering enrollment or recently enrolled in TDA plans; on setting goals and making plans, understanding investment basics: dollar cost averaging, value of tax deferred and tax sheltering, investment allocation strategies, investment choices and other investment strategies, how much savings is enough, and considering an SRA; 11 a.m.-noon and 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Club Room, Faculty Club.

December 6 Calvert: Tax Advantages of Pre-tax Retirement Plans; on meeting retirement goals through the tax advantages of a 403(b) account; on contributions growth through informed investment selection and dividends; how these accounts provide a double tax benefit, define tax brackets, and determine risk tolerance level; review of benefits of early participation and time horizon planning; 11 a.m.-noon and 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Room 2, Faculty Club.

December 7 TIAA-CREF: Retirement...Charting Your Course; for faculty and staff age 50 and over; on how much savings is enough for a comfortable retirement, understanding retirement savings payout options and their tax implications, preserving the purchasing power of retirement savings and income in the face of inflation, considering an SRA to maximize retirement savings; 11 a.m.-noon and 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Club Room, Faculty Club.

TIAA-CREF Counseling Sessions

TIAA-CREF individual counseling sessions are held monthly, on Tuesdays, in Houston Hall. All sessions are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The schedule for these meetings is shown below. Sessions can be arranged by calling the TIAA-CREF Philadelphia Branch Office at 1-800-842-2010.

If you are considering retirement and need an illustration of benefit options, estimated benefit amounts, classification of quarterly statements, investment selection information, or any information regarding your investments in the TIAA-CREF plan, these sessions will be of value to you.

January 10, 1995
March 7, 1995
May 9, 1995
July 11, 1995
September 12, 1995
November 7, 1995

February 7, 1995
April 11, 1995
June 13, 1995
August 8, 1995
October 10, 1995
December 12, 1995

Crime Alerts: Update and Apprehension of Suspects

—On November 8 at approximately 6 p.m., an international student was robbed at the 34th Street SEPTA subway station. The actor is described as a black male, 30-40 years old, with a scruffy appearance, dark overcoat, dark pants, and beard. The actor was hunched over and appeared to walk with a limp. He was last seen fleeing toward the street level.

—On November 8, a student was robbed and assaulted in the 3300 block of Smith Walk at approximately 9:41 p.m. On November 9 at 10:32 p.m., another robbery by actors of a similar description occurred at 39th Street and Baltimore Avenue. The actors in the first incident were described as two African Americans; the first 20 years old, last seen wearing a tan shirt with horizontal stripes, docker-type pants; there was no further description of the second actor. In the second incident, the actors were described as five African American males wearing full-length leather jackets. One actor was wearing a bomber-type jacket underneath. The suspects fled in a late model, black, 4-door vehicle, possibly a GEO Prizm, with New York State tags. They may have been involved in two other robberies in the area.

Note: During the robbery at Baltimore Avenue, the actors identified themselves as police officers.

Note: The suspects in both the Smith Walk and Baltimore Avenue incidents were apprehended on November 10.

If you can provide any information regarding any of these incidents, please contact one of the phone numbers listed below.

Campus Police 898-7297
Victim Support 898-4481/6600
On-Campus Emergencies 511

SEPTA Police 580-4131
Philadelphia Police 911
Off-Campus Emergencies 573-3333

Safety Tips:

As always, we encourage you to continue to utilize safety precautions, to be aware of your environment and to promptly report any suspicious activity.

- Use the outdoor blue-light telephones: open the box and lift the receiver for direct connection to the Campus Police.
- Use Penn's Escort Services, 898-RIDE or 898-WALK.
- Use Penn's 24-hour Victim Support/Crime Prevention Unit, 898-6600.

—Division of Public Safety

About the Crime Report: Below are all Crimes Against Persons and Against Society listed in the campus report for the period **November 7 through 13, 1994**. Also reported were Crimes Against Property, including 44 thefts (including 3 burglaries, 1 of auto, 5 from auto, 15 of bikes & parts); 4 incidents of criminal mischief & vandalism; 2 of fraud & forgery. Full reports are in *Almanac* on PennInfo. —Ed.

The University of Pennsylvania Police Department Community Crime Report

This summary is prepared by the Division of Public Safety and includes all criminal incidents reported and made known to the University Police Department between the dates of *November 7 through 13, 1994*. The University police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue, and from the Schuylkill River to 43rd Street in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police. In this effort to provide you with a thorough and accurate report on Public Safety concerns, we hope that your increased awareness will lessen the opportunity for crime. For any concerns or suggestions regarding this report, please call the Division of Public Safety at 898-4482.

Crimes Against Persons

34th to 38th/Market to Civic Center: Simple assaults—1, Threats & harassment—1

11/09/94	2:36 AM	Christian Ass'n	Employee shoved
11/10/94	2:17 PM	Bookstore	Employee harassed by ex-boyfriend

38th to 41st/Market to Baltimore: Robberies (& attempts)—3, Simple assaults—2,

Threats & harassment—1			
11/08/94	7:10 PM	Low Rise North	Unwanted calls received
11/09/94	10:36 PM	3900 Blk. Baltimore	5 males took wallet, simulated weapon
11/11/94	3:53 AM	Pi Lambda Phi	Juveniles assaulted at party
11/13/94	2:46 AM	4000 Blk. Chestnut	3 males took keys & PennCard
11/13/94	5:58 PM	200 Blk. S. 40th	Complainant hit with umbrella
11/13/94	6:50 PM	4000 Blk. Spruce	Robbery/no charges pressed

41st to 43rd/Market to Baltimore: Robberies (& attempts)—2

11/10/94	6:15 PM	42nd & Sansom	2 males took wallet
11/12/94	4:10 PM	200 Blk. 43rd	Attempted robbery by 2 males/fled

30th to 34th/Market to University: Robberies (& attempts)—2, Threats & harassment—1

11/07/94	7:38 AM	Lot # 33	Male followed employee in auto
11/08/94	7:59 PM	34th & Market	Robbery of bracelet/wrist injury
11/08/94	9:41 PM	Smith Walk	Robbery of wallet

Outside 30th to 43rd/Market to Baltimore: Robberies (& attempts)—2

11/11/94	8:51 PM	4400 Chestnut	Pizza box w/cash taken from delivery person
11/13/94	2:17 AM	45 & Pine Sts.	2 males w/gun took wallet

Crimes Against Society

30th to 34th/Market to University: Disorderly conduct — 1

11/10/94	4:24 PM	Lot # 5	Male checking out cars/became disorderly/cited
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Update

NOVEMBER AT PENN

MUSIC

19 *University Symphony Orchestra*; Jennifer Higdon conducts Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5 in c minor, op. 67*, Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, and "Jupiter" and "Mars" from Holst's *The Planets*; 8 p.m.; Cathedral Church of the Saviour, 38th & Chestnut (Music).

SPECIAL EVENT

16 *A Landmark Then and Now*; tour of the Furness Building led by Toby Martinez, administrative assistant, Art History Ph.D. program; 1 p.m.; reservations: 898-7838 (A-3 Assembly).

TALKS

16 *Hyaluronan Metabolism During Maturation of the Preovulatory Cumulus Cell-Oocyte Complex*; Vincent Hascall, Jr., Cleveland Clinic; noon; Hirst Auditorium, Dulles (Reproductive Biology).

MAV-1 Induced Nephroblastoma: An Animal Model of Wilm's Tumor; Bernard Perbal, Institut Curie; noon; Auditorium, Wistar Institute (Wistar).

Oxygen Sensitive Ion Channels in Carotid Body Function; Jose López-Barneo, University of Sevilla; noon; Physiology Library, Richards (Physiology).

Elasticity in Creams, Foams, and Emulsions; David Weitz, Exxon Corporation; 4 p.m.; A2 David Rittenhouse Lab (Physics).

17 *Paul Robeson and the Grammar of Hollywood Blackmale Representation*; Clyde Taylor, Tufts; includes film *The Emperor Jones*; 4 p.m.; International House (Center for the Study of Black Literature and Culture).

Syrian Literature and Society: An Informal Discussion (in Arabic); Sarab Atassi and Khedr Zakaria, Damascus University; Nadia Khost, Syrian author and journalist; registration/information: 898-6335 (Middle East Center).

18 *80-Year-Old Woman with Intermittent Exertional Dyspnea*; Lee Goldberg, medicine; noon; Agnew-Grice Auditorium, Dulles Bldg. (Medicine).

The Rhythms of Northern Ewe Society; Kofi Agawu, Cornell; 4 p.m.; Room 210, Music Annex (Music).

21 *The Role of the Dynactin Complex in Regulating Dynein-Mediated Organelle Transport*; Erika Holzbaur, biochemistry/vet; 2 p.m.; Physiology Library, Richards Building (Muscle Institute).

22 *Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis*; Robert Kotloff, pulmonary and critical care division; 8 a.m.; Med. Alumni Hall, Maloney Building (Medicine).

The Role of Cell Adhesion Molecules in Inflammation; Steven Albelda, pulmonary division; 1:15 p.m.; Physiology Library, Richards Building (Physiology; Respiratory Training Grant).



Almanac

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AIDS and the Penn Family

December 1 is World AIDS Day. This year's theme, as designated by the World Health Organization, is "AIDS and the Family." When, last spring, members of Penn's HIV/AIDS Task Force gathered to begin planning a University conference, we agreed to hold the conference on World AIDS Day and adopted the WHO theme. It was a logical decision, an easy choice.

In the last few months, as the planning has proceeded, several incidents and recollections have made clear to me just how significant and how appropriate our chosen theme is.

Early this summer I bumped into a young man I had met in 1983, during the first year I worked at the University Counseling Service. He was then a freshman in the College, away from home for the first time, exploring his sexual orientation. We had lunch recently, to "catch up." He said that he had just had his thirtieth birthday and was giving high priority to taking good care of himself. A very '90s thing to say, I thought. When we started talking about relationships, I decided to put in a plug for safer sex. Frankly, the possibility that he was HIV-positive hadn't occurred to me. Given that I have been an AIDS activist and educator since just after the epidemic began, my level of denial that day surprises me.

He told me he had known for more than six years. So he had been infected some time before that—perhaps, I thought, even while he was an undergraduate at Penn. I was reminded of recent research which indicates a dramatic increase in the rate of infection among young people. The report speculates that either they don't consider themselves or their behavior as "at risk," or they think of themselves as invulnerable, or, for some unfortunate reason, engaging in unsafe behavior is more important to them than preserving their own lives. All of this served to strengthen my conviction about the need for education regarding AIDS and safer sex within the campus family.

In July, a graduate student who had been an active member of the University's Task Force died at Betak, the AIDS hospice in Mt. Airy. He had fought nobly for the rights of people with AIDS, on campus and in the community. He was the first student to speak out on campus as a person with AIDS. He worked with several committees and groups, providing insights based both on his studies and on his own experience. And it was only when his illness became debilitating that he was forced to discontinue his activities on campus.

His primary caregivers throughout were members of the only family he had in this part of the country—the University community. Colleagues from his department and elsewhere on campus shopped for him, did his laundry, took him out for rides in the country, sat with him sipping tea. When money became a problem, as it usually does in such situations, the department purchased his collection of books for its library.

Not all Penn family members affected by AIDS have had such positive experiences. The Task Force's Policy Committee, which I chaired, surveyed University departments and called for testimony from students and employees. There were indications that some University employees did not have basic information about AIDS, including modes of transmission. For example, one supervisor expressed concern that co-workers could transmit the virus through paper cuts. An HIV-positive employee discussed his frustration in discovering that his supervisors seemed to know almost nothing about the benefits and accommodations to which he was entitled. Another employee spoke movingly about her role as a primary caregiver for a close friend with AIDS. Though she considered him family, she was not able to get approval for sufficient time off—nor even understanding—from her boss.

These were among the many indications for a campus-wide conference.

There have been other deaths in the Penn family—too many. I picked up the October issue of the *Gazette* and read my way through to the obituaries. I approached them, as has become my way in the last decade, with apprehension. This month there were three names I recognized, men who died young, men who had died of AIDS. One was a social work student placed in my office several years ago. We had been asked to take him in the middle of the academic year, a somewhat unusual circumstance. We didn't know why, only that he had been placed originally in an emergency shelter, but we agreed to take him without asking too many questions. Last year, when I heard he had died of AIDS, the reasons became clear: upon discovering his positive antibody status, it was decided he needed a more supportive and less potentially toxic environment than his original placement. Though such accommodations are now mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, families have always been called upon to make such adjustments—and have willingly done so—for their own.

Another alumnus whose obituary appeared in the *Gazette* last month was a bright and ebullient law student when I knew him in the mid-'80s. His smile and his style brightened the rooms he entered. I had lost track of him, as I have of most past students. I didn't even know he was ill. His obituary shocked and saddened me. I needed to talk to somebody, usually my first impulse upon hearing bad news. So I called a colleague at the Law School. He had known about the death and was able to recount some of the alumnus' accomplishments since graduation. His career—his life—were too short, but he had made good use of what time he had.

This colleague and I spoke of others. He agreed with my view that there should be some kind of memorial on campus for members of the Penn family lost to AIDS—a plaque, a sculpture, a grove of trees such as is being planted in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Other colleagues and alumni have expressed enthusiasm about a memorial of some kind. I will try to develop the idea—and I invite others to join me. But, as the World AIDS Day conference approaches, it occurs to me that, right now, the best memorial we can provide for the members of our family who have died of AIDS is to redouble our determination—and seek the requisite skills—to be sensitive to those living with AIDS, to be understanding of those caring for people with AIDS, and to educate ourselves and others in our Penn family.

— Bob Schoenberg, Coordinator of the Program for the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community and Lecturer in the School of Social Work



Editor's Note: AIDS and the Penn Family

will be held Thursday, December 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Penn Tower Hotel and is open to the entire Penn family. For registration/information, please call Denise Peele at 898-6081 or e-mail hivbox@A1.relay.upenn.edu. Details of the program are in *Almanac* November 1.