

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA *Almanac*

Tuesday,
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Strategic Alliance: Wharton School and Internet Capital Group

Internet Capital Group (ICG), a leading business-to-business e-commerce company, and the Wharton School announced last week a major alliance to support and accelerate the School's e-business initiative.

The Wharton e-Business Initiative (WeBI) is an academic/industry partnership encompassing research, corporate initiatives and curriculum development in the e-business arena.

"One of the key strengths of WeBI is its ability to leverage the expertise of leading businesses around the world that are dealing with critical e-business issues in real-time," said Dr. Patrick T. Harker, dean of the School and Reliance Professor of Management and Private Enterprise. "We sought a partnership with ICG because this business builder embodies the vision, leadership, talent and collective knowledge required for a serious dialogue about the future of business, particularly in the B2B marketplace."

Through the newly named ICG/Wharton Forum on Electronic Business, WeBI and ICG will create and disseminate new research and knowledge that will enable businesses to maximize the opportunities created by the Internet. In addition, this new knowledge will enhance current WeBI educational programs that prepare current and future business executives to lead effectively and efficiently in a rapidly changing business environment.

"The skills, experience and legacy understanding of business evolution within this collaboration represents a cumulative and aggregate B2B knowledge base unmatched in the industry," said Walter Buckley, president and CEO at ICG. "ICG has spent the past five years building a far-reaching network of B2B companies, and we welcome the opportunity to share our knowledge and experience to propel WeBI while leveraging Wharton's deep understanding of business evolution and the Fortune 500 to

benefit the growth of our partner companies and the overall acceleration of e-business adoption."

"This partnership marries the most comprehensive research, real-world knowledge and Internet assets and expertise, all of which will accelerate the growth of e-business and fundamentally change the way business is done," added Dr. Raffi Amit, director of WeBI and the Robert B. Goergen Professor of Entrepreneurship.

The Wharton e-Business Initiative (WeBI) is a unique partnership among business leaders, faculty and students to generate and disseminate knowledge about e-business through research, academic programs and a range of corporate engagement programs.

Internet Capital Group (www.internetcapital.com) is an Internet company actively engaged in business-to-business e-commerce through a network of partner companies. It provides operational assistance, capital support, industry expertise, and a strategic network of business relationships intended to maximize the long-term market potential of more than 70 business-to-business e-commerce companies. Headquartered in Wayne, Pa., Internet Capital Group has offices in San Francisco, Boston, London, Munich, Paris, Tokyo and Hong Kong.

COUNCIL Agenda

**Wednesday, December 6, 2000, from 4 to 6 p.m.
Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall**

Members of the University who wish to attend as observers should so indicate by calling the Office of the Secretary, (215) 898-7005.

- I. Approval of the minutes of November 15, 2000. Time allocation: 1 minute.
- II. Status Reports
 - A. President
 - B. Provost
 - C. Chair of the Steering Committee
 - D. Chair of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - E. Chair of the Undergraduate Assembly
 - F. Chair of the Penn Professional Staff Assembly
 - G. Chair of the A-3 Assembly
- Time limit for reports and clarifications 25 minutes
- III. Update on Disability Issues. Presentation 10 minutes, discussion 10 minutes.
- IV. Update on Manufacturer's Responsibility. Presentation 10 minutes, discussion 10 minutes.
- V. Open Forum. Presentation 3 minutes each, discussion 5 minutes each.
- VI. Adjournment by 6 p.m.

TO: University Community
FROM: Larry Gross, Chair, Council Steering Committee
William F. Harris, Moderator, University Council
SUBJECT: University Council Open Forum, December 6, 2000

The issues for the University Council Open Forum in the order in which they will be addressed are:

1. Increase the allocation of resources for FLASH and other peer health education groups on campus
2. Lack of Latino student representation on University Council
3. Safety and security, especially women's issues pending and of current importance
4. Safety and security
5. New life sciences building
6. Ad Hoc Committee on Manufacturer's Responsibility

Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes. Issues that are not on the schedule will be accommodated if time allows. The University Council meeting is from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6, in Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall. The meeting is open to any member of the University Community who wishes to attend, subject to space limitations. We suggest that people interested in the Open Forum arrive at 5 p.m.

Winterfest at Sansom Common

In the spirit of the holiday season, Sansom Common is celebrating now through December 28 on Thursday evenings with entertainment, festivities and food as well as evening shopping. Between 5 and 8 p.m. there will be live music, free gift wrapping at the Bookstore, free admission to the ICA and free coffee at the Sheraton, as well as free metered parking between 34th & 38th, Walnut to Chestnut Streets. See December AT PENN, www.upenn.edu/almanac/v47/n13/deccal.html#winterfest for the weekly highlights like Philadanco, Steel Kings, ice carving and ice skating.



Continuing an *Almanac* tradition that goes back to the Age of Aquarius, this issue contains the annual supplement on Holiday Shopping at Penn.

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- Pullout: Holiday Shopping at Penn**

Reminder: Retirement Seminars

The following seminars will be presented by TIAA-CREF & the Vanguard Group at Perelman Quadrangle/Houston Hall, in Bodek Lounge, on the 1st floor. No pre-registration is required.

The Vanguard Group: Tuesday, December 5, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. & 1-2 p.m. *New Faculty & Staff*

The Vanguard Group: Thursday, December 7, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. *Take Charge of Your Savings*

The Vanguard Group: Thursday, December 7, 1-2 p.m. *Retirement Distribution Options*

TIAA-CREF: Friday, December 8, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. *Developing an Investment Strategy*

TIAA-CREF: Friday, December 8, 1-2 p.m. *Retirement Distribution Flexibilities*

Programs for New Bolton Center: January 31, 2001 & *Morris Arboretum:* January 25, 2001.

—Division of Human Resources

NIH-Funded Weight-Loss Study

Researchers at Penn's Weight and Eating Disorders Program have received funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct a two-year study exploring the benefits of combining the weight-loss medication MERIDIA with diet and exercise counseling.

"We are very excited about this study," said Dr. Thomas A. Wadden, director of the program and recipient of the grant. "We believe that it will significantly improve the long-term maintenance of weight-loss, which remains the Achilles' heel of most weight-reduction efforts."

An additional goal of the study is to help primary care physicians provide more effective weight counseling during routine office visits, according to Dr. Robert Berkowitz, medical director of the study.

"Most doctors feel unprepared to help their obese patients modify eating and activity habits," Dr. Berkowitz said. "But we've learned in a previous study that brief physician counseling was as effective as more intensive group behavior modifications that may be provided by nutritionists. This is important news for doctors."

In a separate trial, Dr. Wadden and Dr. Berkowitz are studying the use of weight-loss medications by obese adolescents. Together, the two trials are the first such studies of appetite-suppressant medications to be funded by NIH since September 1997, when Redux and fenfluramine (a component of then-popular fen-phen) were withdrawn from the market.

"MERIDIA works by different means than Redux and fenfluramine, and two studies have shown that it is not associated with heart-valve abnormalities," Dr. Wadden said. The two-year MERIDIA trial follows a similar year-long study that Penn conducted last year, in which researchers observed no significant complications.

"The major concern is that it may significantly increase blood-pressure in a small minority of patients. We've been able to manage that complication by adjusting the medication dose," Dr. Berkowitz said.

Penn researchers are looking for volunteers between the ages of 25 and 65 to take part in the study. Participants must be at least 35 percent above recommended weight and generally in good health.

The program requires a \$300 deposit, which will be returned upon completion of study milestones. The deposit will be waived in cases of hardship.

Interested persons should call Shirley or Rebecca at (215) 898-7316 or visit the study's website at: www.med.upenn.edu/weight.

Summary Annual Report for the Basic Tax-Deferred Annuity Retirement Plan and the Supplemental Retirement Annuity Plan

This is a summary of the annual reports of The University of Pennsylvania Basic Tax-Deferred Annuity Retirement Plan (Plan 001) and the Supplemental Retirement Annuity Plan of the University of Pennsylvania (002) sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania, EIN: 23-1352685, for the period July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. The annual reports have been filed with the Internal Revenue Service as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

To facilitate publication, the reports have been combined. Consequently, portions of this summary may refer to a Plan in which you are not currently participating.

Basic Financial Statement

The Plans have contracts with the providers TIAA-CREF and The Vanguard Group which allocate funds toward group deferred annuities and mutual funds. Participants who have accounts with these providers deal directly with them when making transactions in their respective accounts. The providers render financial reports directly to the plan participants.

Your Rights to Additional Information

Under ERISA you have the right to receive copies of the full annual reports, or any part thereof, on request. To obtain a copy of either annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the Plan Administrator, University of Pennsylvania, 3401 Walnut Street, Suite 527-A, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6228, (215) 898-9947.

You also have the legally protected right under ERISA to examine the annual reports in the offices of the Employer, and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: Public Disclosure Room, Room N-5638, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

— Division of Human Resources

Protecting Data Against Computer Viruses

Reports of computer viruses, most notably the MTX virus, have increased on campus in recent weeks. The MTX virus is distributed via an e-mail attachment using several different names. It causes considerable damage to Windows system files and is difficult to remove.

Most computer virus outbreaks are preventable. Information Systems and Computing (ISC) reminds everyone at Penn to protect their system by following these simple recommendations:

- **Back up your work**—Keep backup copies of important papers, research projects, and other critical documents.
- **Exercise caution with e-mail attachments**—Do not open e-mail attachments, even from senders you recognize, unless you are sure about the contents. Viruses often attach and are sent automatically via a sender's address book without the sender's knowledge.
- **Exercise caution accepting file downloads** from strangers in chat rooms or when using instant messenger programs. These are common ways of infecting your system and may give anyone on the Internet unrestricted access to your computer, all keystrokes that you type, and all data files.
- **Install current versions of Penn's supported anti-virus software**—The software and configuration instructions are distributed on the PennConnect CD, available from the Computing Resource Center, or can be downloaded from www.upenn.edu/computing/virus/.
- **Update your virus definitions weekly (Windows) or monthly (Mac)**—Anti-virus software vendors make easy-to-install updated virus definition files available regularly to combat new viruses. For instructions on updating your software and for recent virus alerts, go to the virus web site at www.upenn.edu/computing/virus/.

For Assistance

If you have a virus or need help downloading or installing anti-virus software, the following resources are available:

- **Students in College Houses:** Contact your information technology advisor (ITA). See www.rescomp.upenn.edu/.
- **Students living off-campus**, in Sansom East and West, and in the Greek houses: Contact First Call (215) 573-4778 or visit the Computing Resource Center (CRC), M-F from 1-4:30 p.m., at Suite 202 Sansom Place West.
- **Faculty and staff:** Contact your local support provider (LSP). If you do not know who your local support provider is, consult www.upenn.edu/computing/view/support/.

— Information Systems and Computing

Charging to Help Penn

The University of Pennsylvania and MBNA America Bank have had a proud affinity relationship since 1997. The University of Pennsylvania MasterCard credit card offers faculty and staff a tremendous opportunity to help support the University through everyday purchases. To date, over 15,000 students, alumni, faculty and staff members have signed up for the credit card and both Penn and MBNA express our thanks to all of you. This relationship has also given the University of Pennsylvania the ability to sustain and enhance many of its campus services by providing a needed source of revenue to help expand its work.

MBNA will once again begin marketing the University of Pennsylvania MasterCard in January of 2001. Throughout the year, there will be numerous opportunities for the Penn community to show their pride and continued support of the University's credit card program. Each new Penn account that is opened results in a contribution made to the University from MBNA. The University will also receive a contribution generated by every purchase you make with your Penn MasterCard. Your participation will help ensure that Penn's programs and efforts flourish.

For more information about the cost and benefits of the card, call 1-800-847-7378. Please be sure to mention the *University of Pennsylvania* and Priority Code *YMJR* when calling. If you do not wish to be included in future marketing efforts please contact Jessica Durette at MBNA at (212) 407-2144 or send an e-mail to jdurette@mbna.com with "remove from marketing efforts" in the subject line.

—Lee Nunery, Vice President,
Business Services

Advice on Connecting to PennNet from Home

• *Struggling with remote access to PennNet?*

• *Still not connected from home?*

Faculty and staff who have not yet signed up for Internet service from their home can pursue various avenues for assistance:

- Consult your Local Support Provider for advice on choosing an Internet Service Provider (ISP).
- Refer to the detailed information on the remote access web site at www.upenn.edu/computing/remote/.
- Call ISC's First Call to request a referral if you don't know whom to contact — (215) 573-4778, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Students living off-campus can get help from ISC by calling (215) 573-4778, sending e-mail to help@isc.upenn.edu, or going to the Computing Resource Center, 202 Sansom Place West, 3650 Chestnut St., Monday-Friday, 1-4:30 p.m. There is no technical reason why you should still not be connected to PennNet from your home. Don't give up—get help today!

—Information Systems & Computing

Penn's Way 2001 Raffle Winners

The following were the winners of the first three weekly Raffle Drawings:

Week One Winners

Kenneth G. Wilson, Information Systems & Computing (ISC)—Epson Printer compliments of Computer Connection

Yolanda Hayes, Business Services—One pair of Sunglasses from Modern Eye

Anne Farnum, Development and Alumni Relations (DAR)—Book from University of Pennsylvania Press

Trudi Sippola, School of Nursing—Five passes for walking tour with the Foundation for Architecture

Jen Page, Public Safety—Three passes to the African American Museum in Philadelphia

Sandra Scheibe, Center for Technology Transfer—Two tickets to the Philadelphia Orchestra

Cheryl Faulkner, President's Center—Cordless Phone from Telecommunications and Business Services

Janet Tomcavage, School of Nursing—Five CDs from WXP

Rebecca Labbe, Wharton—One month's parking from Business Services

Ken Campbell, Comptroller's Office—Penn notes cards from Business Services

Chris Horrocks, Business Services—Gift Certificate for \$10 for The Bistro

Week Two Winners

Russell Carroll, ISC—Tennis time at Levy
Darlene Jackson, SAS—Gift basket from Parfumerie Douglass

Monica Taylor, DAR—Book from Penn Press
P. Santosusso, Business Services—Six passes to the Atwater Kent Museum

Mike Edwards, School of Dental Medicine—Various items from the Paper Garden

Latanya Love, Human Resources—Four tickets to an April 2001 performance of The Choral Arts Society

Terry Snyder, President's Center—A class at the Morris Arboretum

Frances Weber, ISC—A pass to the Katz Fitness Center from DRIA

Knakiya Hagans, SAS—A gift certificate for a sandwich and beverage for two at Chats

Katrina Terrell, Business Services—Book of passes to the Class of 1923 Skating Rink

Tommy McCoy, Business Services—Gift Certificate for \$10 for the Houston Market

Week Three Winners

Jennifer Stratton, Dental School—Overnight stay at the Inn at Penn from Business Services

Maria Brooks, School of Arts and Sciences—Book from Penn Press

Michelle Jester, President's Office—Set of books from the ICA

Andrea Deaton, WXP—Book and gift items from Chris' Books for Kids and Teens

Steven Novkovic, ISC—One month's free parking from Business Services

James Urban, Department of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics (DRIA)—Tickets for two to a performance at the Annenberg Center

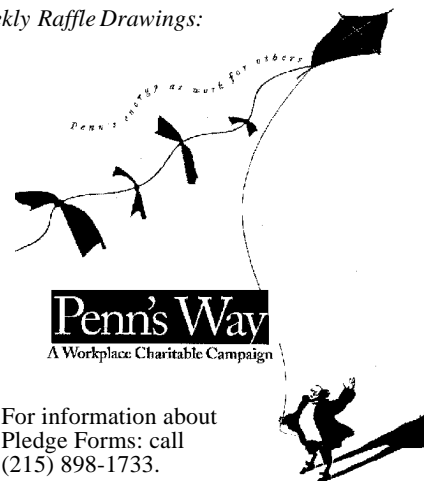
Meg Insall, ISC—Dinner for two at Ivy Grill

Debra Duffy, School of Dental Medicine—Gift Certificate for a cut, color and curl from Saturn Club

Kevin Bryne, School of Veterinary Medicine—Gift Certificate for a sandwich and beverage for two at the Cafe at Williams Hall

Rebecca Perry, Business Services—Penn note cards from Business Services

Jane Cohen, School of Veterinary Medicine—Bistro Gift Certificate for \$10 from Business Services



For information about Pledge Forms: call (215) 898-1733.

For information about Penn's Campaign: call (215) 898-1637 or pennsway@pobox.upenn.edu.

The winners of the upcoming drawings will be published in future issues.

Week Four Prizes

Drawing: December 4

1. Book from University of Pennsylvania Press
2. Three passes to the Atwater Kent Museum
3. Two tickets to a performance of the Mendelssohn Club
4. Two tickets to a performance at the Annenberg Center
5. Court time for squash
6. Gift Certificate for dinner at The White Dog Cafe and shopping at The Black Cat
7. Gift certificate for a sandwich and beverage for two at Cafe 58
8. Tickets to a basketball game at the Palestra
9. Gift certificate for \$20 from House of Our Own Bookstore
10. Gift certificate for \$10 for the Houston Market

Week Five Prizes

Drawing: December 11

1. Overnight stay and breakfast for two at the University Sheraton
2. Book from University of Pennsylvania Press
3. Four passes to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
4. Three-day weekend rental of camping equipment (tent, 2 sleeping bags)
5. Gift certificate for \$20 from University Jewelers
6. Gift certificate for \$25 from ma jolie
7. Five CDs from WXP
8. Tickets to the Penn Relays (from DRIA)
9. Tickets to a basketball game at the Palestra (from DRIA)
10. Gift certificate for \$10 for The Bistro
11. Gift certificate for an hour's massage from Saturn Club

With the University closed between December 25 through the New Year, we only have three weeks left to the campaign. However, we will still have four more weekly raffles: Week Five (drawing on Monday, 12/11), Week Six (drawing on Monday, 12/18), Week Seven (drawing on Friday, 12/22), and Week Eight (drawing on Thursday, 01/04/01).

We will also hold the Grand Prize Drawing on January 4, 2001.

—David Hackney and Carol R. Scheman,
Penn's Way 2001 Co-Chairs

Penn Press Presents

The University of Pennsylvania Press presents not only books with a Philadelphia connection—*The Ingenious Dr. Franklin* and *The Philadelphia Navy Yard*—or a Penn connection—*Building America's First University*—but has books with an international flavor—*Haute Cuisine: How the French Invented the Culinary Profession* and *The London Monster*.

These and many other books from the Penn Press are available at the Penn Bookstore. Visit the Penn Press website, www.upenn.edu/pennpress/ for more information.

Brotherly Love, A Poem by Daniel Hoffman, Penn's Poet in Residence & Felix E. Schelling Professor of English Emeritus. *Brotherly Love* is a long poem that evokes William Penn's luminous vision of America. "An astonishing feat of historical and literary imagination" *Washington Post Book World*, Paper \$15.95.

The Ingenious Dr. Franklin: Selected Scientific Letters of Benjamin Franklin, Edited by Nathan G. Goodman, "Reading these letters fosters a new affection for our country's foremost and most beloved inventor" Dava Sobel, author of *Longitude* and *Galileo's Daughter*, Paper \$14.95.

The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual, Ann Fowler Rhoads and Timothy A. Block. Ann Rhoads is director of botany, Morris Arboretum and adjunct professor of biology at Penn and Timothy Block is the Arboretum's assistant director of botany. Illustrations by Anna Anisko, the Arboretum's botanical illustrator. *The Plants of Pennsylvania* provides a means of positively identifying the more than 3,000 species of flowering plants, ferns, and gymnosperms native or naturalized in the Commonwealth. 1,040 pages, Cloth \$65.

American Tradition in Painting, John McCoubrey, Penn's James and Nan Farquhar Emeritus Professor in the Department of the History of Art. First published in 1963, this classic text is accompanied by a new introduction and an epilogue that explore the increased diversity in American art since the book appeared. Cloth \$37.50, Paper \$17.95.

Haute Cuisine: How the French Invented the Culinary Profession, Amy Trubek, who took her Ph.D. in anthropology at Penn in 1995, Cloth \$24.95.

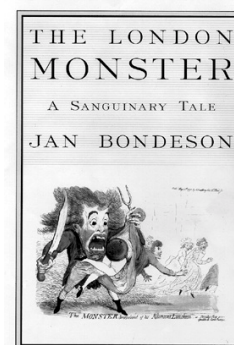
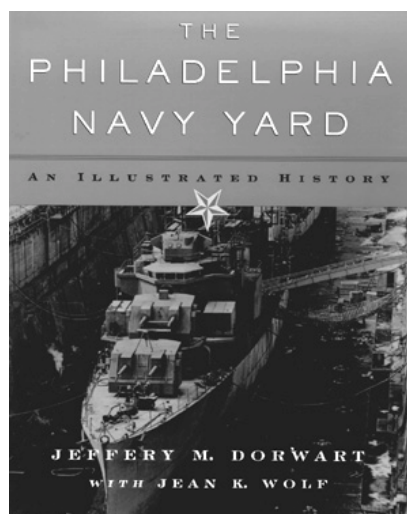
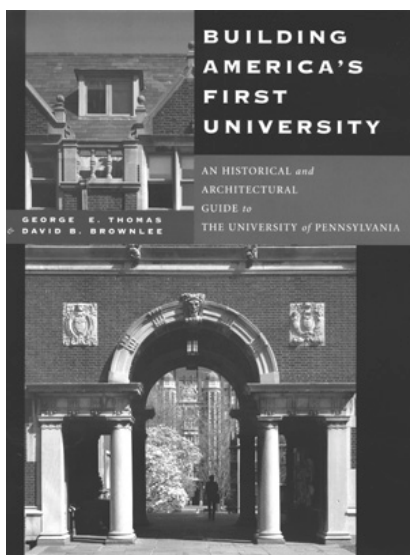
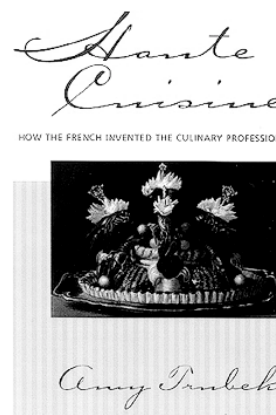
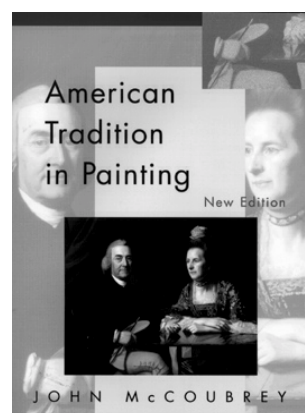
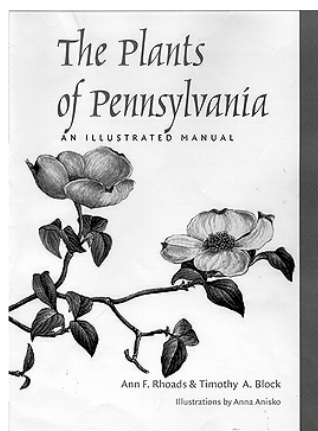
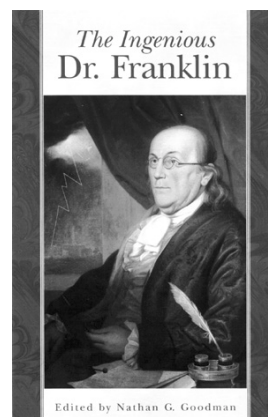
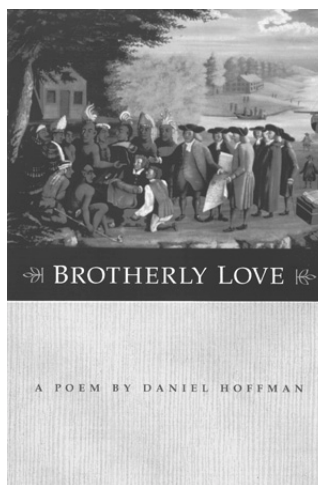
Building America's First University: An Historical and Architectural Guide to the University of Pennsylvania by Penn faculty members and architectural historians George E. Thomas and David Brownlee. This is the first comprehensive architectural history of the University since the early twentieth century. Cloth \$45.

The Philadelphia Navy Yard: An Illustrated History (with 125 archival photos and 10 detailed maps) Jeffery M. Dorwart with Jean K. Wolf. The first complete illustrated history of one of America's most illustrious military institutions. Cloth \$45.

The London Monster: A Sanguinary Tale by Jan Bondeson, a well-told narrative of the popular hysteria surrounding a mysterious slasher who stalked London a century before the Ripper. *Kirkus Reviews*, Cloth \$29.95.

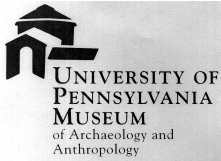


The 1921 seal of the Penn Press: a tribute to Benjamin Franklin, publisher, statesman, inventor, and founder of the University



The Gift of Involvement

Can't find that special gift in stores or online? Want to give something different this holiday season? Here are some ways to give friends and family opportunities to experience Penn, like...



... **Anthropology/Archaeology:** Those who treasure the past will be delighted with a full year's membership in the *University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology*.

They will enjoy free admission, Museum Shop discounts, and *Expedition Magazine*; and they will be kept up-to-date about the latest discoveries from the Museum's worldwide fieldwork and research. The gift membership will be mailed. Individual membership is \$45, dual membership \$55, and household \$65. Information: (215) 898-5093 or membership@museum.upenn.edu.

... **Art:** Members of the *Institute of Contemporary Art* receive free admission to the exhibitions, lectures and programs, invitations to preview opening receptions and the annual benefit, a calendar listing lectures, programs, tours, and special events, 20% discounts on ICA catalogue purchases, and use of the ICA library by appointment. Students, artists, senior citizens, Penn faculty and staff \$20; individuals \$40; dual/family \$65; other membership categories from \$100 to \$1,000, with additional membership bonuses for each. Information: (215) 898-4980.



Generations of Tradition, a lithograph of the University campus by Jane Wooster Scott, is available at four different prices depending on the edition: \$150, \$200, \$400, \$1,000. Profits benefit the Shoemaker Fund for Women's Athletics. Information: (215) 898-6123 or www.pennathletics.com/local/lithograph.html.

Operation Santa Claus

Operation Santa still needs some thoughtful elves to provide gifts for both the youngsters and senior citizens who will be coming campus for the annual party. If you would like to donate a gift, please wrap it and place a label on the outside marked with the name of the item, whether for a man or woman, girl or boy and the size, if relevant.



Please bring all gifts to Yvonne Giorgio in Suite 212 Franklin Building, no later than Monday, December 11.



Information: (800)-390-1829 or friends@pobox.upenn.edu.

Annual membership of the *Penn Press Associates* is available at \$100 and \$500 levels. Members get to meet authors and publishing professionals, attend publication events, and receive free books and special offers. Information: (215) 898-6263 or cjack@pobox.upenn.edu.

... **Readings:** Members of *Friends of the Kelly Writers House* help sustain the Writers House's seminars, readings and webcasts. Friends will be acknowledged in the Summer 2001 Writers House Annual and online at www.english.upenn.edu/~wh/support/friends.html. Membership fees: \$40, \$100, \$250, \$500, and William Carlos Williams Circle \$1,000. Information: (215) 573-WRIT.



... **Performances:** *International Music Series* The International House presents concerts featuring music from around the world each month through April. Shows include Armenian folk music, Latin jazz, Irish, Scottish and Gypsy music, R&B and Doo Wop. To subscribe: (215) 569-9700.

Penn Presents will stage 19 shows including music, dance and theatre from now through May. Two shows are scheduled for December: *Philadanco's* world premiere of "Xmas Philes" (see pg. 11) from December 7-9, and *Pinchas Zukerman's* holiday recital on December 9. To subscribe: (215) 898-3900.

... **Films:** International House's *Neighborhood Film/Video Project* sells discount passes for its screenings, \$20 for four shows. Information: (215) 895-6542.



... **Flora:** Members of the *Morris Arboretum*, Pennsylvania's official arboretum, receive free admission, 15% course discounts, the quarterly newsletter, plant sale benefits, access to the Reciprocal Admissions Program, gift shop discounts, and invitations to events and lectures. Membership fees are: Regular \$50, Franklinia \$75, Chestnut \$150, Holly \$250, Oak \$500, and Laurel \$1,000. Membership form is available online for printout at www.upenn.edu/morris/member.html.

For your favorite rose-lover, give a copy of *Gardening with Roses* (\$29.95) by Judith McKeon. Or, for someone who wants to know about all the local flora: *The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania: Annotated Checklist and Atlas* (\$50) by the Arboretum's director of botany Dr. Ann Rhoads and Dr. William McKinley Klein,

Jr. All are available by calling the Morris Arboretum Gift Shop at (215) 247-5777.

... **Food:** *Dining Service* offers 10- and 25-meal coupons for convenient meals on campus. The 10-lunch coupons are \$75.20 and can also be used for breakfast. The 25-meal coupons are \$125 for breakfast, \$188 for lunch, and \$275 for dinner. Information: (215) 898-7585.



The *Faculty Club* offers faculty and staff in their first year at the University a year of membership free; you could make a deposit into a declining balance account for the member to enjoy meals at the Club's Buffet or Hourglass a la carte Dining Room. Gift certificates for membership and dining are also available. Information: (215) 898-4618 or fsaclub@pobox.upenn.edu.

... **Hebrew:** *Hillel Foundation* offers a University of Penn tee-shirt with the name of the institution in Hebrew, \$15. The Penn Hillel *shiron* (songbook) is also available for \$8. Information: (215) 898-7391.

... **Sports and Fitness:** *The Class of 1923 Ice Rink* offers a discount book of 10 admission passes to any public skating session for \$40 with a PENNCARD or \$50 for the public. Why not stuff a stocking with skating lessons? Six weeks of group lessons, beginning January 7, are available for ages 6 through adult in a variety of skill levels. The registration deadline is January 3. Cost \$75. Information: (215) 898-1923.

Levy Tennis Pavilion memberships are \$15 students and spouses, \$25 faculty, staff and spouses, \$40 alumni, \$75 public, \$30 senior citizens, guest fee \$5; valid through August 2001. Information: (215) 898-4741.

The *Katz Fitness Center* in Gimbel Gym, along with the *Penn Fitness Center* in Hutchinson, with a variety of weight training and aerobic equipment is the perfect gift for those who have made a New Year's resolution to get in shape and exercise. Membership for the spring semester is \$50 for students, \$80 for faculty, staff and affiliates, and \$100 for alumni and community members. Information: (215) 898-8383.

The *Men's Basketball Club* offers various gift levels from \$25 to \$1,000 with benefits that increase with the level. Benefits include invitation to Club receptions, Hoopenings, media guide, Club memento, and preferred seating assignments. Information: (215) 898-4717.

... **World Culture:** *International House* members receive reduced admission to most International House programs, the *International House Newsletter* and *Calendar* with advance notice of upcoming programs and Members Only events, exhibits, lectures, and the chance to meet with graduate students and visitors from over fifty countries studying at Philadelphia universities who live at International House. Student Member \$25, Individual Member \$30, Family Member \$50, Contributing Member \$100, Sustaining Member \$250, World Member \$500, International Member \$1,000 or more. — A.L.

EHRS Training: December

The following training programs are required by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (DEP), for all employees who work with hazardous substances including: chemicals, human blood, blood products, fluids, and human tissue specimens and radioactive materials. These programs are presented by the Office of Environmental Health & Radiation Safety (EHRS). Attendance is required at one or more session, depending upon the employee's potential exposures.

Introduction to Laboratory Safety at Penn (Chemical Hygiene Training); provides a comprehensive introduction to laboratory safety practices and procedures at Penn and familiarizes the laboratory employee with the Chemical Hygiene Plan. This course is designed for employees who have not previously attended *Laboratory Safety at the University*. Required for all University employees who work in laboratories. December 5, 9:30 a.m., BRB II, Auditorium.

Introduction to Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens; this course provides significant information for employees who have a potential exposure to human bloodborne pathogens. Topics include a discussion of the Exposure Control Plan, free Hepatitis B vaccination, recommended work practices, engineering controls and emergency response. This course is designed for employees who have not previously attended *Bloodborne Pathogens* training at the University. Required for all University employees potentially exposed to human blood or blood products, human body fluids, and/or human tissue. December 13, 9:30 a.m., BRB II, Room 252.

Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens (In a clinical setting) *; required for all University faculty and staff who have potential clinical exposures to blood and other human source material. It is intended for employees with direct patient contact, or those who handle clinical specimens, and administrators who routinely work in a clinical environment. Topics include: risks, protection, work practice controls and emergency procedures. This course is designed for employees who have not previously attended *Bloodborne Pathogens* training at the University. It is available on-line at www.ehrs.upenn.edu.

Laboratory Safety—Annual Update; this program is required annually for all laboratory employees who have previously attended *Chemical Hygiene Training*. Topics include chemical risk assessment, recommended work practices, engineering controls and personal protection as well as an update of waste disposal and emergency procedures. Faculty and staff who work with human source materials, HIV or hepatitis viruses must attend the *Laboratory Safety and Bloodborne Pathogens—Annual Update* December 7, 9:30 a.m., BRB II, Room 252.

Laboratory Safety and Bloodborne Pathogens—Annual Update; this program is required annually for all faculty and staff who work with human source material, HIV or hepatitis viruses and have previously attended *Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens*. Issues in general laboratory safety and bloodborne pathogens are discussed. Topics include bloodborne diseases, risk assessment, recommended work practices, engineering controls and personal protection as well as an update of waste disposal and emergency procedures. Participation in *Laboratory Safety—Annual Update* is not required if this program is attended. December 15, 9:30 a.m., BRB II, Room 252.

Radiation Safety Training—New Worker; this program provides information on fundamental radiation concepts and requirements for the use, storage and disposal of radioactive materials at Penn. Personnel working in laboratories where radioactive materials are present are required to attend this training before beginning their work followed by annual attendance at the training program described below. Training can be completed on-line at (www.ehrs.upenn.edu) under *Radiation Safety Programs, Training for Credit*.

Radiation Safety Training—Annual Update; this program updates radioisotope users on current Radiation safety issues and practices. It is required of all personnel who work in areas where radioisotopes are used or stored. Training can be completed on-line at (www.ehrs.upenn.edu) under *Radiation Safety Programs, Training for Credit*.

Radiation Safety Training—Irradiator Users; individuals interested in becoming authorized to use an irradiator must first receive operational training from the irradiator licensee and radiation safety training from EHRS. Training can be completed on-line at (www.ehrs.upenn.edu) under *Radiation Safety Programs, Training for Credit*.

Additional programs will be offered on a monthly basis. Check the EHRS web site (www.ehrs.upenn.edu) for dates and time. If you have any questions, please call Bob Leonzio at (215) 898-4453.

Update

DECEMBER AT PENN

CANCELLATION

The screening of *Scary Movie* originally scheduled for December 13 has been canceled.

SPECIAL EVENT

5 First Annual Pennmed Global Health Reception; highlights health issues around the world and how to become involved. Susan Gennaro, Nursing; Scott Bartlett, Children's Hospital; Vinay Bhutani, Pediatrics-Medicine; William Fox, Pediatrics-Medicine; 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Lobby, BRB II/III (Global Health Interest Group; Medical School.)

Deadlines: The deadline for the weekly update is each Tuesday for the following week's issue; December 5 is the deadline for the Update in the December 12 issue. The deadline for the January AT PENN calendar is *December 5*. The deadline for the February AT PENN calendar is *January 16, 2001*.

All Aboard Express Almanac

Want to be apprised of late-breaking news and time-sensitive information that is published only on *Almanac's* website? We will inform you as soon as we post such items if you are on board *Express Almanac*. A free electronic service, *Express Almanac* is sent whenever we add something significant to our website: *Between Issues* news, the latest issue or the AT PENN calendar.

To register, send an e-mail message with "subscribe" as the Subject to almanac@pobox.upenn.edu and include your name, e-mail address, and mailing address. —Ed.

Free Flu Shots: Register Now!

Human Resources has received many calls regarding availability of flu shots this year on campus. We are pleased to announce that a limited number of flu shots have been made available by Occupational Medicine for full and part-time faculty and staff of the University of Pennsylvania. These inoculations will be offered on campus, free of charge, on December 5 and 7.

Faculty and staff must pre-register on-line through the Course Catalog at www.hr.upenn.edu, where more details can be found.

To Register:

1. Go to www.hr.upenn.edu
2. Click on "Course Catalog" icon located near the top of the page.
3. Scroll down to "Browse by Category".
4. Select "Health Promotions" from the drop-down menu and then click "Go"—8 flu shot times will appear with 2 different dates and locations.
5. Click on your preferred date and time - A full description will appear.
6. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "Register for this Course" icon.
7. Follow the registration instructions and PRINT YOUR CONFIRMATION SHEET.

Please:

- * Bring this Confirmation Sheet and your PENNCard with you when you come for your shot.
- * Wear clothes that make it easy to access your upper arm.

If you are unable to register on-line, please contact Orna Rosenthal at (215) 898-5116 or rosenthal@hr.upenn.edu.

— Division of Human Resources

December: The Bottom Line

The December, 2000 issue of *The Bottom Line* is now available at

www.finance.upenn.edu/ftd/bline.html

Check it out for information regarding:

- Links to BEN/FinMIS, Salary Management, and Payroll Closing Schedules
- PennCash Changes
- BEN Update
- Information from the ABA
- FinMIS Tips & Tricks
- Treasurer's Holiday Office Hours and Gift Transmittal Information
- Financial Training Department Calendar December 2000 - March, 2001

—Financial Training Department

Corrections

Bonnie Motley Bowser is the Penn's Way coordinator for *Human Resources* not the Medical School Human Resources coordinator as previously identified.

In the **November 21 issue** of *Almanac*, Dr. Robert Maddin, Dr. John Christian and Dr. John Goodenough were omitted from the list of recipients of the Medal for Distinguished Achievement. They received the award in November of 1996 at the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering. We regret the errors. —Ed.



Almanac Takes a Break

The last issue for the fall semester will be December 19. The next issue is *January 9, 2001*. No issues will appear *December 26*, or *January 2, 2001*. Breaking news, if any, will be posted to *Almanac Between Issues* on our website, www.upenn.edu/almanac.





Philadanco's World Premiere of Xmas Philes at Zellerbach

Philadanco's holiday concert, *The Night Before Christmas*, will be performed in the Zellerbach Theatre of the Annenberg Center December 7 through 9. The varied program for shows represents the holiday season as celebrated by different American cultures. Philadanco ushers in the Yuletide season with their world premiere of *Xmas Philes* by the internationally-renowned choreographer Daniel Ezralow, who staged the dance sequences for the new movie *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Jackson Lowell, costume designer for *The Grinch*, designed the costumes. The other works to be featured are *The Joy of Chanukah*, choreographed by Milton Myers to the music of Johann Sebastian Bach; *The "Exotica" of Kwanzaa and the African-American Disapora*, choreographed by Ronald K. Brown to the music of Wunmi and others; and *The Whirl of "La Valse" for a New Year's Eve Celebration*, choreographed by Gene Hill Sagan to the music of Maurice Ravel.

Xmas Philes will be featured as part of WHYY's *Philadelphia Performs!* series, to be televised on December 15 and 24.

Tickets: \$33, \$31, \$29 for the evening shows; \$30, \$28, \$26 for the Saturday matinee. For tickets call (215) 898-3900 or visit www.PENNpresents.org.

Discounted Rush Tickets for Penn faculty/staff \$15 and students \$10 are available at the Annenberg Center Box Office, noon-5 p.m. as well as 30 minutes prior to the performance. PENNCard is required for the discounts.

The University of Pennsylvania Police Department Community Crime Report

About the Crime Report: Below are all Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Society from the campus report for **November 20 through November 26, 2000**. Also reported were **22 Crimes Against Property: (including 6 thefts, 2 retail theft, 3 burglaries, 7 theft from auto, 2 fraud, 1 auto theft and 1 city ordinance violations)**. Full reports on the Web (www.upenn.edu/almanac/v47/n14/crimes.html). Prior weeks' reports are also on-line.—Ed.

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 20 and November 26, 2000**. The University Police actively patrols 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 (215) 898-4482.

11/20/00	3:10 PM	3402 Sansom St.	Employee robbed by unknown male with weapon
11/23/00	11:54 PM	4238 Chestnut St.	Complainant assaulted by boyfriend/Arrest
11/25/00	9:05 AM	3400 Spruce St.	Patient threatened to kill staff

18th District Report

10 incidents and 2 arrests (5 robberies, 4 aggravated assaults and 1 homicide) were reported between **November 20 and November 26, 2000** by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street and Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

11/20/00	3:15 PM	3402 Sansom St.	Robbery
11/22/00	1:20 PM	4316 Chestnut St.	Homicide
11/22/00	4:00 PM	529 49th St.	Aggravated Assault/Arrest
11/22/00	6:22 PM	4800 Spruce St.	Robbery
11/23/00	1:40 PM	4220 Baltimore	Aggravated Assault/Arrest
11/23/00	11:51 PM	1004 45th St.	Robbery
11/24/00	9:25 PM	4900 Cedar Ave.	Robbery
11/25/00	12:07 AM	5200 Market St.	Robbery
11/26/00	3:53 PM	4942 Chestnut St	Aggravated Assault
11/26/00	7:00 PM	4827 Walton St.	Aggravated Assault

CLASSIFIEDS—UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH

Participants needed for hypertension pharmacological study. Must be diagnosed as hypertensive and able to keep early morning appointments. \$350. Contact Virginia Ford, MSN at HUP Hypertension Program. (215) 662-2410 or (215) 662-2638.

Premenstrual Syndrome do you feel irritable, depressed, moody, or anxious before your period? You may be eligible for free evaluation and treatment in the PMS research program. Appointments are available in Philadelphia, Radnor, Chestnut Hill, PA and Marlton, NJ. For more information, call (215) 662-3329 or 1-800-662-4487, PMS Program, Univ. of PA Medical Center.

Experiencing neck and shoulder pain for three months or more? You may be eligible for a study at the UPenn Pain Medicine Center involving free Botox injections. Call Lisa Bearn at (215) 662-8736.

To place a classified ad, call (215) 898-5274.

Almanac is not responsible for contents of classified ad material.

CLASSIFIEDS—PERSONAL

HELP WANTED

Administrative Asst P/T. Hillel on Penn campus seeks responsible, organized individual to work 20 hours per week. Strong computer and communication skills required. Word, Excel, DonorPerfect preferred. Send resume and salary requirements to Gail Cantor, Hillel, 202 S. 36th St. Phila, PA 19104 or fax (215) 898-8259.

FOR RENT

Bright, spacious Center City **bi-level townhouse** apartment. 2br, 2 bath, dining and living rooms. Newly renovated historic building. Ideal for faculty, professionals. \$1,900 per month (negotiable). Available January, 2001. Call (215) 545-2209.

THERAPY

Competent Psychotherapy: group, family and individual. Please call for an appointment: Shari D. Sobel, Ph.D. (215) 747-0460.

Almanac is not responsible for contents of classified ad material.



Almanac

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URL: www.upenn.edu/almanac/

The University of Pennsylvania's journal of record, opinion and news is published Tuesdays during the academic year, and as needed during summer and holiday breaks. Its electronic editions on the Internet (accessible through the PennWeb) include HTML and Acrobat versions of the print edition, and interim information may be posted in electronic-only form. Guidelines for readers and contributors are available on request.

EDITOR	Marguerite F. Miller
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The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam Era Veteran or disabled veteran in the administration of educational policies, programs or activities; admissions policies; scholarship and loan awards; athletic, or other University administered programs or employment. Questions or complaints regarding this policy should be directed to Valerie Hayes, Executive Director, Office of Affirmative Action, 3600 Chestnut Street, 2nd floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106 or (215) 898-6993 (Voice) or (215) 898-7803 (TDD).

2000 Merriam Symposium

Can the World Cope? The Challenge of Ethnopolitical Conflict

Some Speakers in the Symposium



Ayesha Jalal, a professor of history at Tufts University participated in the panel on Kashmir that was part of the "Crucibles of Conflict" portion of the Merriam Symposium.



Mahmood Mandani, Herbert Lehman Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University spoke about the reform and reproduction of political identities in Africa during the discussion of Rwanda and Africa's Great Lakes Region.



Penn political science professor Ilan Lustick participated in a discussion of the future of Jerusalem at the Merriam Symposium.

Photos by Lisa Godfrey



Can the World Cope? The Challenge of Ethnopolitical Conflict was presented by the School of Arts & Sciences on November 29, 2000. The daylong conference investigated recent conflicts in Kosovo, Rwanda, Kashmir and Jerusalem from anthropological, historical, political and psychological points of view. Reporters, like Christopher Hedges of *The New York Times* who witnessed events in Bosnia and Kosovo, scholars, like Penn professor Ilan Lustick, whose studies are concentrated in the Middle East, and diplomats like Joseph Montville of the Center for Strategic and International Studies who is an expert on conflict resolution, discussed the critical issues that arise before, during and after ethnopolitical conflict and attempted to answer these questions: Why does this happen? Why is this happening now? Is reconciliation possible?

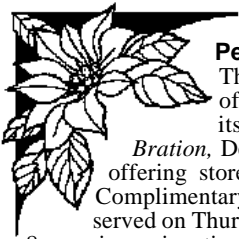
Penn Press plans to publish the proceedings of the Symposium.

The 2000 Merriam Symposium highlighted the work of Penn's Solomon Asch Center for the Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict. The Center has taken the lead in creating a multi-disciplinary approach to training and research in the area of ethnic group conflict. The Asch Center was established in 1997, when Martin E. P. Seligman, Fox Leadership Professor of Psychology at Penn, was president of the American Psychological Association and Peter Suedfeld was president of the Canadian Psychological Association. They jointly called for new initiatives to understand and ameliorate the devastating conflicts caused by ethnopolitical violence.

The Asch Center has established collaborative arrangements with a network of international sites that currently include organizations in Northern Ireland, Israel/Palestine, South Africa and Sri Lanka.

The Merriam Symposium is one of many programs and activities of SAS made possible by a generous bequest from John Merriam, one of the Delaware Valley's leading real estate developers. Mr. Merriam graduated from Penn in 1931.

For more information visit the web site at www.sas.upenn.edu/home/merriam



Penn Bookstore

The Penn Bookstore kicks-off the holiday season with its 25th Annual *Sale-A-Bration*, December 14 through 16, offering storewide savings of 20%. Complimentary refreshments will be served on Thursday, December 14, 5 to 8 p.m. in conjunction with a musical performance by the Arpeggio Jazz Trio. Also that day, gift-wrapping (normally \$2) will be free with any Penn Bookstore purchase and shoppers will get the opportunity to have their picture taken with Santa. And that's not all . . .

Now through December 22, Barnes & Noble offers holiday discounts of 25% off all glassware and ceramic mugs; jewelry; domestics/small electronics; lighting; storage; boxed cards; wrap boxes; wrap & bows; gift bags; backpacks; posters; school spirit outerwear; and AT&T prepaid phone cards.

Let's not forget the books, now. Truly a mega-store, the Penn Bookstore is a picture-perfect definition of one-stop-shopping. With its massive in-store stock and two large levels of wall-to-wall books, spanning the equivalent of one city block, the Bookstore may seem overwhelming, at first, for those of us who get shopping anxiety around the holidays. Nevertheless, the proficient signage demarcating sale items and offering gift ideas and multiple, conveniently located information desks/cash registers make the shopping quick and easy.

For children, the Bookstore provides a wonderful haven called *Penn & Me: the Funderburg Community Bookstore*. Featured items include the Madeline collection, anything from books and audio read-along cassettes, to a plush Madeline toy with a backpack (\$34.95). Rugrats, Winnie-the-Pooh and Friends, Disney's 102 Dalmatians, Harry Potter and Dr. Seuss paraphernalia are also well represented.

Walking back on the first level, shoppers will come upon items from the University of Pennsylvania Collection. Classy and school spirited gifts from this collection can get pretty pricey, but prepackaged gifts—such as decorated Penn beer mugs containing Penn chocolates (\$7 to \$22)—or charming teddy bears bearing a knit Penn sweater and a Santa hat or yarmulke (\$20 to \$50) can bring a smile to the face of even the Grinchiest officemate. Some other gift items are a wide assortment of picture frames, framed and unframed prints and calendars that feature everything from fine art to cartoons to sports to animals (\$9.95-\$11.95).

Upstairs, shoppers will be relieved to find the Penn Café, where they can take a break from their holiday purchasing pursuits, though even the Penn Café has an entire Godiva chocolate gift center as well as coffees and coffee-related items for the holidays. Predominantly containing textbooks and housewares, the upper level also has a music department on the end opposite the Café. Complete with listening booths, the music department has special holiday themed CDs on sale (\$6.99) as well as portable CD players and walkmen, CD cases and racks, and select box sets. Though the Bookstore's CD shop sells music from a wide range of genres, including pop, classical, jazz, new age and world music, it is also the only place to purchase CDs of your favorite Penn singing and instrumental groups. Penn authors' books, as well as books about Penn and Penn Press books (see page 4), are prominently displayed in the center of the upper level, making it easy to share the heart of

Holiday Shopping On Campus and On the Web

As Almanac once again sent its elves all over campus to find the best gifts of the season, they found the shops on campus have much to offer shoppers whether they want to visit the traditional venues or their online counterparts. A new on-line Penn shopping destination is www.shopatpenn.com/ with links to eight options from Annenberg Center to WXPN. Holiday shopping at Penn would not be complete without the traditional *Sale-A-Bration* at the Bookstore—this year is the 25th annual celebration. The Museum continues its own tradition, which adds an element of surprise with their *Scratch and Save Sale*. From books to bikes—from computers to cosmetics—from teas to ties—there are more choices than you might suspect.

Penn with loved ones this holiday season.

Holiday Hours: Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sunday, December 24: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Monday, December 25: Closed; Tuesday, December 26-Friday, December 29: 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.

On the Web: The Penn Bookstore offers a wide variety of gifts and apparel for students, alumni, family, friends and kids. At www.bkstore.com/upenn you will find a number of the Bookstore's best selling items. Just grab your selection and toss it in your shopping cart. If you would like to order by phone, call (800) 237-8400 ext 210. —T.B.

Penn Book Center

An old favorite among the scholarly community, the Penn Book Center, at 34th and Sansom, offers the gift of personalized attention to its holiday patrons. A seemingly smaller shop in the shadow of the Penn Bookstore, the Penn Book Center should not be confused with its titanic competitor; what it may lack in size, it more than makes up for in attention to detail. The staff is extremely knowledgeable when it comes to their stock and adept at tailoring customer requests to order. New to the store are three sections: Religion & Science, Globalization, and Ecological Sustainability. In addition to their stock of course books, fiction and non-fiction works in various genres and fields of study, the Penn Book Center has a special section reserved for new Penn author releases downstairs, as well as an entire collection of works by Penn authors on their upstairs level. New to the Penn Book Center are exquisite, blown glass art objects in varied sizes (\$80; \$55; \$36).

Sale tables throughout the store encourage shoppers to browse and the window display on the Sansom Street side of the store features affordable gifts of interest such as *The Beatles Anthology* (\$45), *The New Yorker Cartoon Collection* (\$30) and *Jewish Art Masterpieces* (\$12.95). Store hours are Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Shoppers are advised to place any special orders in advance as the holidays approach; orders can take anywhere from three days to a week. —T.B.

House of Our Own Bookstore

For the anti-shopping shopper, weary of the overbearing commercialism of the holiday season, there's no place like House of Our Own—a book shop housed in an old Victorian home on Spruce Street—between 39th and 40th Streets. Open Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and Fri.-Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m., this reader sanctuary provides an eclectic mix of literature from all over the world and nearly every area of interest imaginable. The peaceful, reflective setting is enhanced this time of year with antique Victorian ornaments hung beneath the lead and glass front window; the green pine garlands adorning the upstairs wrought iron balcony; and the smells from the coffee and holiday refreshments. Not only does House of Our Own alleviate the chaos caused by the hectic holiday rush, but it also is a good place to find non-mainstream books and

magazines for someone who appreciates works off the beaten path—with topics such as cultural studies, current politics and feminist theory. The staff is friendly and quite helpful and, aside from the huge selection of new books downstairs, House of Our Own has an entire second floor filled with used books (treasures waiting to be found!) which are, on average, much lower in price. Keep an eye out for holiday specials and extended hours as the season progresses. —T.B.

Museum Shop

Run to the December 5-22 surprise coupon sale at the Museum Shops. Bring your red postcard and PENNCARD for a chance to save from 15-75%. This year's selection includes brightly colored wooden animal sculptures from Mexico. Dragons, crabs, horses, cats, dogs, donkeys, elephants, in blue, purple, red, and yellow delight the eyes and make great gifts.

Enamel miniature teapots and vases in various shapes and exciting colors are painted and numbered by Kelvin Chen (\$24-\$26).

A collection of Venetian glass necklaces, bracelets, and earrings in iridescent colors are a must for the jewelry lovers on your list.

There is a room full of African artwork. Soapstone sculptures of animals and human forms in pale mauves and beiges, deep blues and black.

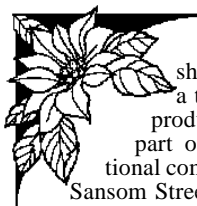
Silk scarves and ties inspired by ancient Roman designs and Batik-style vests, coats, and jackets and one-of-a-kind embroidered jackets from India.

Books, holiday cards, Egyptian jewelry, board games, tee shirts, mugs, limited edition blown glass, Polonaise Christmas ornaments, distinctive mouse pads, wrapping paper and more will be part of the Coupon Sale. —M.A.M.

Pyramid Shop

For the kids on your list the Pyramid Shop offers a nice change of pace from the Nintendo and pooh chi dogs on their lists. With a great selection of books from around the world, and games and toys you're not likely to find elsewhere—take the walk. The Make A Mummy discovery kit shows what a tomb looks like and provides a model and wrap to wrap your own mummy. There is also the wildlife toy and book collection of animals including polar bears, tigers, pandas, kangaroos, elephants, gorilla and more (\$9.95 and up). Give Roman coins (\$3.75) or great stocking stuffers of tattoos, Egyptian jewelry, flowers and stickers and transfers (\$1). They have a great selection of handmade Christmas ornaments from around the world (\$2-\$32). An ancient Mesopotamian school tablet, Sumerian pictograph tablet, and ancient Egyptian heart scarabs sell for \$9.95 and come with descriptive information.

Scratch and Save: The Museum has continued the tradition of the "surprise discount" for shoppers at both the Museum and Pyramid Shops. A card has been mailed to all faculty, staff and students valid today through December 22, to present upon purchase. As the cashier scratches off the patch on the card it reveals a discount of 15% to 75%. Shop on line at www.upenn.edu/museum/PublicServices/shops.html. —M.A.M.



Black Cat

A trip to the Black Cat gift shop is a trip around the world, a truly global experience with products from practically every part of the national and international community. The quaint shop on Sansom Street now has a counterpart on the web (www.blackcatshop.com)—both offer an eclectic assortment of products made from recycled materials and handmade items from a variety of cultures.

From handmade colorful Armenian mittens and apple-scented candles (\$5) to a mirror in a wooden frame from Zanzibar (\$65) there is also a range of prices as well as country of origin. The Brazilian Rain Forest hand puppets are adorable (\$10) critters: jaguar, bat and squirrel. A company in Oregon has turned bike chains into earrings and bracelets. Meanwhile, another company, Motherboard, uses reclaimed circuit boards to create clocks, notepads and clipboards. Think you've heard it all? Not until you see the purses (\$60) from Relan made from real billboards! If you are old enough to remember the time when such things didn't exist, then you'll want to read, *Do You Remember Technology: Geeks, Gadgets & Gizmos* and *Do You Remember TV: The Book That Takes You Back* (\$10.95).

The Black Cat even has a whimsical selection of clever bird houses. A mother-daughter company in Pennsylvania makes rustproof vases, platters and candle plates that are hand-cast from recycled aluminum cans and auto parts. Hand-crafted picture frames from Italy (\$40) would enhance any photograph. The sleek wooden letter openers from Kenya (\$11) and the 12-inch rules with names of Women Rulers, Native American Rulers and Rulers of the World printed on the flip side would make special stocking stuffers. The soft-soled moccasins for kids (\$21) will keep the little ones' feet warm and colorful. Hemp socks (\$13) and shoelaces (\$4) are just a pair of the many items made from hemp, including paper and personal care products. Of course, the Black Cat carries a full line of White Dog cookbooks, aprons, mugs and more.

They also have quite a selection of jewelry, some is made of sterling silverware. Their selection of scarves is spectacular and colorful.

For a gift that looks like you went to the ends of the earth to get it, there's nothing like a whirlwind trip to a shop that has cornered the market on the unusual and unexpected. —M.F.M.

Saturn Club

Nestled behind Black Cat and White Dog Café, along Moravian, is Saturn Club, which provides the expected services along with skin care, nail polishes, hair care products, and hair accessories such as head bands and barrettes. Tempted to try a tattoo? They have temporary tattoos. For the holidays, they have gift sets, some have a picture frame, shampoo and conditioner (\$15) while others include a candle instead of frame. Know someone who has tension in their back? Hit the Spot massage tool (\$18) is intended to relieve their stress. Gift certificates are available. The shop is open 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Mon-Sat. —M.F.M.

Sprint

A new store at 3401 Walnut, the Sprint Store has cellphones for those of you who have until now resisted the urge. They carry a variety of cellphones including Sprint, Motorola, Nokia, Qualcomm, Samsung, and Sanyo. There are plans ranging from \$29.99 for 1,000 minutes per month to \$84.99 for 2,000 minutes a month for the family. They also carry adapters, and covers. Or visit www.sprintpcs.com. —M.A.M.

Computer Connection

No time like the present to start the little one on computers. Jumpstart Baby (\$35) is perfect for the 9-24 month-old who can't wait to get their little hands on a computer. With CD and large mouse, babies can learn about shapes, music, color, clothing and animals. For the older kids on your list there is the Dr. Seuss, Blues Clues and Dinosaur Hunter Deluxe software (\$19.99).

For the really big kids on your list the Mac Cube looks good on any computer table (\$2,249). But the must-have for that student is the Palm Pilot. They are available (\$149-\$439) as are all the accessories for your computers and lots and lots of software.

They have a website www.upenn.edu/ccx. By the way, they have price categories on the website to make shopping easier. —M.A.M.

Camera Shop Inc.

From minimum to maximum this store has it all for your photographic needs. Start a little one off taking pictures with the Talking Big Bird Camera (\$14.99) or the Barbie 35 mm Camera Kit for (\$17.99). For the computer savvy there are digital cameras from the Kodak i-Zone (\$99.99) to the Olympus D-360L (\$299) to Nikon Coolpix 880 Zoom (\$799).

For the gadget lover on your list there is the Aiptek PenCam Trio. It is a digital camera, camcorder and a web camera in one (\$79.99). Of course, there are video cameras, film, picture frames and photo albums available. You can shop on line for these items and much more at www.ritzcamera.com. —M.A.M.

Radio Shack

Other than the usual audio and video products that you expect at Radio Shack, it also carries items such as radio control cars (\$14.99-\$99.99) and internet accessories like web cameras. Want to get someone a cell phone this holiday? Radio Shack carries a comprehensive stock of cell phones, including Motorola, Ericsson, Sprint, and Nokia. If you want to save a walk to 40th Street, you can also shop on-line at www.radioshack.com. —A.L.

Video Library

You'll find little surprises at the Video Library if you're willing to walk that extra block to 41st and Locust. You can get videos of recent movies including *X-Men* and *Chicken Run*, or you can go for the classics like *The Wizard of Oz*. Ever wonder what movies are out on tape? Get the latest *Video Movie Guide 2001* (\$8.99). Be sure to look at the overstock shelf that carries used videos for sale (\$1 to \$10.95). Here you can get *Toy Story 2* or *Girl, Interrupted* (\$9.95). If you know someone who will have fitness on their New Year's Resolutions list, get them Jane Fonda exercise videos or better yet, Cher Fitness videos (\$2.95) on the overstock shelf. If you can't make up your mind as to what videos to buy, simply get a gift certificate. You can put any amount on a declining balance, and the recipient can use it for both rentals and purchases at the Library. —A.L.

Spruce Street Records

As the only place left on campus entirely devoted to music, Spruce Street Records is a great place for shoppers who would rather buy their music in person and close to home than on-line or downtown. Open Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and Sun., noon-5 p.m., Spruce Street carries a large selection of new CDs at regular prices (\$12 to \$16) as well as rare LPs and box sets (prices vary). Unlike the Penn Bookstore's music department, Spruce Street Records boasts

a large and diverse collection of used CDs for much less (around \$7 or \$9) which are well worth perusing. Shoppers even have the option to sell their old CDs, should the ol' holiday budget need a little extra padding. Gift certificates are available, if you aren't sure what to buy, but if you need any help, the owner, Jim, is friendly and very knowledgeable. Special orders for those hard-to-find CDs, like imports, are not an obstacle, either, and can be ready for pickup in as soon as 24 hours.

—T.B.

Bike Line

This store stocks plenty of bike accessories that would make great gifts. If someone you know bikes all seasons, Pearl Izumi gloves will keep their hands warm this winter (\$39-45). These also work well as cross-country skiing gloves. Warm riding jackets made from reflective materials are also available. Has the biker complained to you about the hard saddle? Oasis gel saddles designed by urologists will ensure a comfortable ride. For those who park their bikes in the city, better get the ultimate New York City Lock by Kryptonite. Although this chunky chain link lock costs \$100, replacing a stolen bike will cost much more. For the child biker in your family, 12- and 16-inch bikes are just their size (\$110-\$150). This holiday season, Bike Line will be open on Sundays for last-minute shopping, and from December 8 to 10, the store will take 10% off all clothing. Also, don't miss the daily sale that is only available at the University City store location, featuring a different item everyday. If you like, browse the on-line catalog at www.bikeline.com before you visit the store. —A.L.

Eastern Mountain Sports

You don't have to be an extreme sports aficionado to take advantage of the sales at EMS. Now through December 10, expect to find high quality outdoorwear such as Columbia, North Face and EMS's own line at sale prices, for instance, their most popular item, a men's fleece jacket or pullover (\$39.50). Another sale, on the heels of their current one, runs from December 11-17, and knocks 20% off all insulated outdoorwear as well as all hats, gloves, mittens and sweaters. For the serious nature enthusiast, the store offers equipment for a variety of activities, such as camping, hiking and rock-climbing. Some of the items include backpacks, blankets, hiking boots, binoculars, cookware, and even snowshoes! In particular, EMS carries a wide selection of Leatherman tools (\$20-\$80).

On a more playful note, the store also offers seasonal items such as a plush polar bear, moose or otter in a can (\$10/ea.); youth and toddler teddy bear hats, too cute to bypass (\$14.99); National Parks Monopoly (\$35); and high quality stuffed animals (\$25-\$50). The best thing about EMS is the store's atmosphere: the service is friendly, the staff is well informed, and there is an abundance of informative pamphlets and signs next to almost every display of merchandise. As always, gift certificates are available in any amount.

Shopping on-line at www.emsonline.com has the added advantage of a "Holiday Gift Guide" detailing the 100 most popular presents EMS has to offer. EMS on-line also has helpful sections like "ideas for women," "toys for the techie," and "great gear under \$50." Remember to order all your items before noon on December 18, for guaranteed delivery by Christmas. —T.B.



Roses Florist

This year, although Roses Florist has less space than before, there is still plenty to choose from. A variety of Christmas decorating plants including poinsettias (\$3.99 and up), wreaths (\$10 and up), Christmas cactus and small decorated Christmas trees for those with little time (\$7.99) are perfect. Irises, Asiatic lilies, roses, of course, and many more flowers round out a great array for bouquets and arrangements.

In addition to flowers there is an unusual candle gift, Kahl Candlepots, which are hand-made (\$11.95 and up). There is an assortment of picture frames, cards, vases, and baskets. Roses carries a collection of Gund stuffed animals and small Winnie-the-Pooh characters that can adorn your packages (\$9.99).

Want gifts delivered? There is a \$3.50 charge for campus, \$6 in state, \$8 in the United States and \$18 to deliver to Europe. If you want to send a Christmas arrangement, they start at \$30. Mention seeing this information in *Almanac* and get free delivery on campus through the holidays. —M.A.M.

The Paper Garden

Formerly University of Cards, the shop has relocated to 3402 Sansom Street and occupies two floors. One of the many fun things in the store is a collection of pop-up Christmas cards, (\$5), for that person on your list who collects Christmas cards. They have a large collection of stuffed animals, and carry Harry Potter journals (\$8.99-\$12.95) and stationery (\$10.95).

In addition, they have academic weekly calendars (\$9.99-\$19.99), photo albums (\$24-\$30), address books (\$5.99 and up), candles, and stationery by the sheet (.15-.30), gift wrap, and paper goods. Need candy, boxes of cards, stickers, balloons? It's all here in one shop. —M.A.M.

Houston Hall Card Shop

Since Houston Hall's reopening this year, there is a new card shop at the west end of the lower level. More spacious than the old one, it has much more than cards. The boxed Hanukkah and Christmas cards are now on sale: buy one box and get the second for 50% off. Looking for Advent calendars or 2001 calendars? They have some of both types including the official 2001 Millionaire calendar (\$10.99) for the fan of that popular TV show.

Want to spice up your life? They have an assortment of aromatic spiced candles with delectable scents. Mugs, mugs and jumbo mugs (\$12.99) for those with a serious thirst. The shop has an old-fashioned candy counter where you can buy by the pound. Santas are plentiful here in many variations on the theme.

The stuffed animals are downright exotic: frogs, ostriches and otters are among the menagerie. The Gund snowpeople (\$26) are charming for kids of all ages. Speaking of snow, there are Snow Buddies, a line of adorable collectibles, for the wintery weather. Need another stocking stuffer? The miniature editions of books (\$4.95) are on dozens of topics. For those who cherish memories, the Keepsake box and photo album sets (\$18.99) provide a safe haven for treasures. The shop is open 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat.; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sun. —M.F.M.

Avril 50

To step inside Avril 50 is to experience the smells and tastes of other worlds as well as their magazines without leaving campus. This Sansom Street tobacconist is one of the few shops in the city that carries the world's most authoritative magazines for the graphic artist, photographer, techie or designer. Why not share the news of

other nations with a friend and give them a gift certificate?

Or coffees by the pound (\$10-12) or half-pound (\$5-6). Avril 50 also carries aromatic loose teas, from Earl Grey to passion fruit, averaging \$5 per half-pound, with some from Japan a bit higher (\$12 per half pound). While stuffing your stockings, remember chocolates from Belgium, Holland, Germany, England and Switzerland (under \$4). New this year is a popular British tea called "Fortnum & Mason", as well as chocolate favorites like the German "Milka", the French "Michel Cluizel" and "Valrhona", and the Belgian "Côte d'Or".

Calendars and engagement books make timely and sophisticated gifts, and Avril 50 has them, as well as pretty paper to wrap it all up in. Their elegant seasonal stationery (\$12.95-\$15.95) complete any holiday package. For those who would like to add exoticism to their gift-giving this season, Avril 50 has imported hookahs from the Middle East with its special style of tobacco in a tin. —T.B.

Messages

The new kid on the block at Sansom Common this year is Messages. Located on Walnut Street—between Steve Madden and The Ivy Grille—Messages is open seven days-a-week (Mon.-Sat.; 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun., noon-5 p.m.) and offers all the answers to your gift-giving wishes. This spacious store is fully stocked with just about anything holiday-related, from card sets, wrapping paper and decorative gift bags to tables, racks and shelves overflowing with Hanukkah, Christmas and other seasonal items. As an added bonus, Messages is having a special promotion on seasonal boxed cards: buy one, get the second for half-price.

In the center of the store, you'll see a horse-shoe-shaped register area, which doubles as a confectionery display case; it showcases delectable holiday treats such as holiday malt balls, speckled with green and red (\$4.95/lb.) and chocolate-dipped pretzels with covered in toffee crumbs (\$11.95/lb.). Oversized plush toys, mainly bears, (\$30 to \$75). And you can't miss the largest collection of miniature Santa's on campus: made of resin, they average \$50 and range from traditional Victorian likenesses to motorcycle Santa. Messages impresses with their extensive Hanukkah display, featuring decorative cake plates (\$34) and hand-painted candy dishes in the shape of a dredge (\$12). Collectibles of all shapes and varieties adorn the store, and the abundance of interesting and cute decorative items ensure that shoppers may get away with making all of their holiday purchases at Messages without giving the same gift twice. —T.B.

CVS

CVS on Walnut Street (and www.cvs.com) has lots of tasty treats—more flavors of candy canes than ever before, popcorn tins which now include not only popular popcorn but a 500-piece puzzle which matches the tin's design (\$8.99), Hickory Farms gift sets including cheeses (\$7.99), and boxed chocolates which are pre-wrapped for that last-minute gift. CVS also has a silly Sax-playin' Santa which is sure to amuse (\$19.99) a music-lover who can hum along. A Currier & Ives stoneware set of sugar bowl, creamer, napkin holder and salt and pepper shakers from the Museum of the City of New York (\$5.99) would bring back that feeling of the olden days. Want to make bath time fun for the little ones on your list? Wash cloths named Harry the Horse, Dusty the Dog, Connie the Cow and Betty the Bunny (\$3.99) will add some character to tub time. —M.F.M.

Inn at Penn Gift Shop

Just inside the Sansom Street entrance to the Inn at Penn is the Gift Shop which has an unexpected collection of Museum silk ties to complement virtually any man's personality. There are so many to choose from: the Constitution, crossword puzzles, musical notes, and the Zodiac, just to name a few (\$15.75 each or 3 for \$40). Their Vincent VanGogh notepads, mugs and balls with quotes would have the art lover on your list seeing stars. For the real Philadelphian there is the mug with Philadelphia: A View of the World (\$8.99) and Philadelphia hats (\$12.99). The shop, which is now open 7 a.m.-10 p.m., 7 days/week also doubles as the hotel's Business Center with a fax machine and copier available and a computer coming soon. —M.F.M.

Sheraton Gift Shop

Sheraton's Gift Shop has a variety of socking stuffers like mugs, key rings and magnets. The angel dolls have their own names—Hope and Faith—and personalities. If you want to give a little piece of Philadelphia, they have things to make anyone feel welcome such as collectible souvenir spoons and thimbles featuring the Liberty Bell. Even though it may be small, the shop has an assortment of practical gifts such as glow-in-the-dark alarm clock, photo albums, picture frames and snowglobes. —S.R.

Penn Tower Gift Shop

The Penn Tower Gift Shop has a great selection of note cards. In the shape of stores—an antique store, pet store, and tea shoppe—the note cards inside are shaped like items you would find in the store (\$8.95). Magnetic note pads in the shape of potted flowers (tulips, hydrangea, etc.) look great in any kitchen. They also have collectible Room With a View wall scenes (\$20-\$40) that are a great gift for the collector on your list. New this year, they carry Gertrude Hawk candy and Sweet Shop Chocolates. Oh, yes they do carry a great assortment of flowers, poinsettias, and Norfolk pines (\$5-\$50). There is a 10% off cash and carry on flowers if you are a Penn employee. —M.A.M.

HUP Gift Shop

The HUP Gift Shop has men's silk socks and ties, stuffed animals including the singing Grinch (\$19.99) and the snowman that sings and dances to Jingle Bells (\$21.99). Cards, and a selection of costume jewelry help the hurried shopper complete their work. —M.A.M.

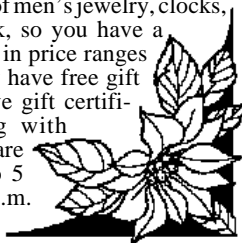
CHOP Gift Shop

The CHOP Gift Shop has some cute stocking stuffers including puzzles, games and stuffed animals. They also carry a selection of angels for decorating the house or office. —M.A.M.

University Jewelers

University Jewelers has a large selection of watches for your perennially late friend or relative, including Mavado, Seiko, Pulsar and Toso. For the jewelry lover on your list the selection of bracelets, necklaces and earrings glitters from sterling silver to gold to platinum and semi-precious stones to emeralds, sapphires, diamonds, and pearls.

Someone have writers block? Cross pens with the Penn seal may be just the thing. There is also a large selection of men's jewelry, clocks, and picture frames. Ok, so you have a budget; they have gifts in price ranges from \$10 and up. They have free gift wrap, engrave and have gift certificates available along with friendly service. Hours are Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. —M.A.M.



ma jolie

Even if you think you won't buy here, go in and take a look. Scarves, silk, and wool in colors that will warm on the coldest night. Knit hats that just snuggle around your ears (\$20), and sweaters big and loose and bright and tight-priced from practical to not are a delight to the eyes. For the party season it's velvet, velvet, velvet. Soft and clingy, the selection of dresses and jackets for the holidays is great.

Of course the jewelry is the perfect accessory to the outfits. Beads in all colors, light and dark necklaces and bracelets are great fun to wear.

For the very little ones on your list why not start them out in style? ma jolie has a small but fun collection of one piece outfits for newborns to about two years. The Jameez in a Jar is great, 100% cotton pajamas in a plastic jar (\$26.88). For the collector of retro there is the Felix The Cat Snack Box (\$18). Also a nice collection of wooden puzzles. Gift certificates are available.

They too have a website www.majolie.com if you want to shop on-line. —M.A.M.

Urban Outfitters

OPEN 24 HOURS is plastered all over the glassy facade of Sansom Commons' own Urban Outfitters, providing a sigh of relief to last-minute shoppers of all ages. Upon closer inspection, however, passersby will realize that the sign refers not to the store itself, but to the newest addition in the ever-changing Urban Outfitters repertoire—their website—www.urbn.com. Not to fear, late-shoppers, the store itself is one of the few at Penn which stays open late (Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Sat., 10 a.m.-7 p.m.). Besides their presence on the web and their elaborate window installations amongst the shops at Sansom Common, there is no indication elsewhere of what the store has to offer. So, in keeping with the air of mystery surrounding this Sansom Common staple, all I can tell holiday shoppers is what they may go and see for themselves. The look this season at Urban Outfitters appears to be young and hip, with a bit of rock 'n' roll thrown in for good measure.

With their clever floor displays, Urban Outfitters has really made it easy for its shoppers to keep their gift ideas fresh and diverse. Walk through and see for yourself, or shop on-line at www.urbn.com. The website offers diverse ideas for ensembles befitting men, women and the home, with gift certificates available in \$25, \$50, \$100, \$150 and \$500, to boot! —T.B.

The Gap

Bucking the traditional reds, greens, blues and golds, The Gap has painted the winter holiday season in cool, yet vibrant pastels taking shoppers—young and old—by storm. On her must-have list is the “chunky” turtleneck sweater (\$48); the season's essential chunky sweater in cozy wool with a great classic fit. Choose her favorite shade and add the matching chunky scarf, hat, or mittens to complete her look. The “candy cane crew” (\$48) is a striped lambswool sweater that makes a great gift when paired with matching striped accessories (hat, \$16.50; scarf, \$22). The top holiday item for teens and the young-at-heart alike is The Gap's luxe stretch velvet boot-cut jeans (\$58) “because it's your favorite jean dressed up”—also available in satin and glitter materials. For men, Gap offers a supersoft fleece pajama top (\$26) paired with plaid pj pants (\$29.50), perfect for lounging at home. Boxers are packaged in sets of 3 (\$25) in seasonal prints and prepackaged pajama sets for both him (\$48, in flannel) and her (\$49.50, in

fleece) give loved ones a warm feeling inside and out this winter.

Being a part of a big chain lets The Gap work to your advantage providing gift certificate options for any amount, which may be redeemable at any Gap, Gap Kids, Baby Gap or Gap Outlet. Quick, easy and convenient shopping seems to be the motto: all of their staff have undergone special “holiday training” to accommodate the shopper on-the-go. Whether you frequent the store or are a relative newcomer, expect to go into The Gap and see signs labeled “Here's the gift” during this time of the year—it doesn't get any easier than that. From prepackaged bath and body sets to comfort moccasins, The Gap is full of gift ideas for the clueless.

The Gap merchandise is mostly casual and sporty, but there are some elegant gift sets that seem tailor made for “Secret Santa” or “Pollyanna” purposes. “GapScents” return this season with “dream” (a unisex scent), and “Blue No. 655” for him and her. GapScents come in gift sets (\$2-\$35), including candles, fragrant bath beads, terry wash mitts and bars of glycerin soap. With special in-store only promotions, shoppers can pick and choose from the many lip shiners and fragrances to create their own gift.

Gap's website, www.gap.com, not only has outfit ideas (too numerous to count), but they have provided web surfers with their entire winter print ad campaign; so if you saw something in a magazine or on a billboard, ordering the items from that very ad is merely a click away. Though they don't have a campus shop, GapKids and BabyGap are both on-line at www.gapkids.com and www.babygap.com. —T.B.

Steve and Barry's

Steve and Barry's not only has a complete stock of Penn clothing and paraphernalia, it also has the best deals. Get a longleeve t-shirt and get three other items (t-shirts, boxers, or hats) free. Or get two pairs of shorts for the price of one. There are other bargains on sweatshirts and windbreakers. Not into clothing? Steve and Barry's also carries stuffed animals wearing Penn shirts or ties, keychains, mugs and glasses, wallets, and stickers, all with Penn logos on them. —A.L.

Steve Madden

The Steve Madden store has certainly “held its own” at Sansom Common as the only shoe store on the east side of campus. Complimenting its surrounding boutiques, this store is sure to provide the finishing touches to any holiday outfit or gift. There is literally something new at Steve Madden every day, as one of their staff told me, they constantly replenish their stock with the most popular sellers, or “classics” as they call them, as well as the newest in footwear fashion. The big thing this season (besides the beloved knee-high boot) seems to be a hybrid of the sneaker or running shoe and the leather dress shoe. Steve Madden has them in spades (\$50 to over \$100). Most boots and shoes are on sale now, with prices averaging from \$50 to \$80. Dress shoes (\$59-\$89); casual, basic versatile styles (\$49-\$99); and ankle to knee-high boots (\$79.99 and up). Steve Madden offers other non-shoe items like fashionable and reasonably priced handbags and backpacks. Select handbags in all shapes and sizes have been marked down (\$9.99) and there are specials on certain outerwear items.

Fuzzy slippers make great gifts for virtually anyone and Steve Madden has them in pastels as well as leopard, dalmatian and zebra prints on sale (\$25-\$29). They even have a fuzzy slipper in the shape of a big bear claws in baby blue, lavender and pink (\$39).

But if you're having trouble picking out a present for your favorite shoe maniac in your life, gift certificates are available in any amount. Although the store is open 7 days-a-week (Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sun., noon-6 p.m.) “moonlight madness” sales (where the store stays open later than usual) may be in the wind later on this month so keep checking in with the store for details.

Or, shop on-line at www.stevemadden.com, where each shoe in stock has its own name and personality; there are even suggestions on how to wear any given shoe and what outfit would suit it best! —T.B.

Grand Shoes

This little shoe shop on Spruce carries mostly dress shoes for men and women. From conservative pumps to funky faux-fur boots and soft walking shoes to sandals, Grand Shoes has it all. You can also get some nice leather bags here to go with your shoes. The store will have a 20% off holiday sale, so be sure to drop by for some bargains. —A.L.

Natural Shoe Store

Not only does Natural Shoe Store carry name brands like Nine West, Saucony, Steve Madden, and Dr. Martens, just about every shoe in the store is on sale. Does someone you know need a good pair of walking shoes? Get some Birkenstock sandals or Danskin clogs. Saucony sneakers are good choices for the young hipsters in your family, (\$36.95-\$42.95). For the athletic ones, Nike Air sneakers are as low as \$59.99. In case it snows more this winter than the last one, get some warm Timberland boots (\$68.95 to \$108). —A.L.

Douglas Parfumerie

If you have to do any holiday shopping someone on your list will want something from here. Bubble bath skin toner, baths salts, holiday soaps, candles, boxed sets for men and women of fragrances and skin products it's here. No walking through department stores being sprayed with every scent imaginable. Go in, browse and buy. All the well known manufactures including Clinique, Lancôme, Estée Lauder, Elizabeth Arden, Gucci, Shiseido, Origins, Hard Candy, Cliarns, and Ahava have value packs.

There are train cases, cosmetic brushes, umbrellas, purses, an eclectic collection of sponges and body brushes. Douglas provides a 10% discount to those with a PENNCARD for purchases of \$25 or more and free shipping anywhere in the U.S.

The paint can Pajama Party Kit for Six or the Goddess Gathering Kit for Four (\$37.50) add up to excitement. But, should four goddess be in one room at the same time? These could be the start of a fun night. Douglas Parfumerie also has a website, for those who want to shop way past bedtime, www.douglascosmetics.com. —M.A.M.

Modern Eye

How about a gift for yourself while you're shopping for others? You've put it off long enough. Glasses that actually have the right prescription is a good idea. Modern Eye has a large selection of frames including Ray Ban, Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren, Armani, Vogue, Gucci, and Union Bay. However if you want to really treat yourself take a look at their exclusive lines like, i.a. Eyeworks, Lunor, Freudenhaus, and Lafont. —M.A.M.

