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Penn Urban Research Institute: Specializing in All Aspects of Urban Environment

President Judith Rodin will announce the creation of the Penn Urban Research Institute during a 4 p.m. address, *The University and The City*, on Thursday, March 4, at the School of Design, Room B-1, Meyerson Hall.

The Penn Urban Research Institute will be an umbrella structure that will integrate and coordinate the research, education and practice of experts in urbanism from Penn's 12 schools.

The institute will develop and disseminate knowledge to those charged with managing the growth, problems and design of urban environments at the local, national and international levels in the decades ahead. By serving as a fulcrum for research findings, academic pursuits and service learning projects related to urban issues, the Penn Urban Research Institute is poised to become *the* authoritative source, locally, nationally and internationally.

In creating the Penn Urban Research Institute, the University is building on its award-winning success in transforming the safety and cleanliness of its West Philadelphia neighborhood as well as providing new retail amenities and home ownership, education and business opportunities to the residents.

In her March 4 speech, Dr. Rodin will discuss the Penn-assisted urban revitalization efforts to a university-wide audience that will include the School of Design board of overseers and guests, as well as students, faculty, alumni and the general public. She also will introduce the Penn Urban Research Institute co-directors, Dr. Eugenie Birch, chair and professor of city and regional planning at the School of Design, and Dr. Su-

san Wachter, Richard B. Worley Professor of Financial Management and professor of real estate and finance at the Wharton School.

Dr. Birch has a long history of commitment to urbanism having served as president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, co-editor of the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, and president of the Society of American City and Regional Planning History. From 1990 through 1995, Dr. Birch was a member of the New York City Planning Commission. She joined Penn's faculty in 1998.

Dr. Wachter has taught at Wharton since 1972 and served as chair of its real estate department from 1997 to 1999. She served as the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1999-2001. Dr. Wachter—a national expert in housing analysis

and the first woman to head the American Real Estate Urban Economics Association—is the author of more than 200 publications.

As co-directors, Dr. Birch and Dr. Wachter will be supported by an executive committee comprised of Dr. Elijah Anderson, SAS; Dr. Dennis Culhane, SSW; Dr. John DiIulio, SAS; Dr. Michael Fitts, Law; Dr. Susan Furhman, GSE; Dr. Richard Gelles, SSW; Dr. Joe Gyourko, Wharton; Dr. Gary Hack, Design; Dr. Michael Katz, SAS; Dr. Shiriki Kumanyika, Medicine; Dr. Janice Madden, SAS; Dr. Afaf Meleis, Nursing; Dr. Samuel Preston, SAS; and Dr. Lawrence Sherman, SAS. Provost Robert Barchi will chair the executive committee.

An external advisory board is expected to be in place by autumn.

For more on information the Penn Urban Research Institute, visit www.upenn.edu/uiap, call (215) 573-8380 or e-mail Kendra Goldbas, associate director, at kendrag@pobox.upenn.edu.



Susan Wachter



Eugenie Birch

For Exhibition Development

The University of Pennsylvania Museum (UPM) has been awarded its largest exhibition grant ever: a three-year, \$1.7 million continuing grant from the National Science Foundation to support an innovative exhibition project, *Survivor: The Place of Humans in the Natural World*.

The first year of the award, effective January 1, 2004, is for \$610,560. The continuing grant, approved on scientific and technical merit for three years and contingent on the availability of funds and the scientific progress of the project, would continue for a total of \$1,675,030.

Survivor: The Place of Humans in the Natural World, is planned as a 3,000 square foot traveling exhibition—to open at UPM in 2006—guiding the visitor through an exploration of the process and consequences of human evolution in the context of its implications in daily life. The exhibition material will be presented through diverse sensory and multimedia techniques and interactive devices, including an interactive web design and a content “morphing studio.”

“While the Museum has received a number of important NSF grants over the years, this is the first NSF grant for an exhibition,” said Dr. Jeremy A. Sabloff, Williams Director of the Museum and Principal Investigator for the high-tech, conceptual project.

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Thanks for Daring to Care

To the Penn Community:

The Penn's Way 2004 Campaign kicked off last September by challenging the University community to “Dare to Care” about the many who are facing terrible hardships, which have been aggravated in the current economic climate. Penn's Way 2004 sought to rally the Penn community to strengthen the capacity of charitable organizations to create positive change in other people's lives.

You answered the call. This year's campaign raised \$466,771, surpassing our goal of \$465,000. Penn's Way 2004 also made its mark by introducing Penn's Way Online. This incredible technological innovation has made Penn's Way a nationally benchmarked model for mobilizing personal volunteer networks in combined campaigns.

We are so proud that you have shown such deep compassion toward our most vulnerable fellow human beings, and we know your commitment will not subside.

We especially applaud the hard work and enthusiasm of the many individual volunteers who served as volunteer coordinators, and appreciate the support of several departments: Business Services, VPUL, Creative Communications, Payroll, ISC and Mail Services.

On behalf of our charitable partner organizations and the people in our region whom they serve, our deepest thanks to everyone who made Penn's Way 2004 such a remarkable success.

Judith Rodin
President

Maureen Rush, Vice President for Public Safety
Penn's Way 2004 Campaign Co-Chair

Charles W. Mooney, Jr., Professor of Law
Penn's Way 2004 Campaign Co-Chair



Trustee Meeting Coverage

When the Trustees met on campus last month, they had a full slate of committee meetings that culminated in the Stated Meeting on Friday, February 20 where Dr. Amy Gutmann was elected to become Penn's next president effective July 1 (*Almanac* February 24, 2004).

The Trustees passed Memorial Resolutions for two long-time trustees, Samuel Ballam, Jr., EV '41, CGS '50, for whom the Ballam Board Room on the 21st floor of Penn Tower is named; and Reginald H. Jones, W '39, Hon '80, for whom the Reginald H. Jones Professorship of Corporate Management, and the Reginald Jones Center in Huntsman Hall, along with the Reginald H. and Grace Cole Jones Trustee Scholarship are named (see page 3).

President Judith Rodin congratulated Pedro Ramos, vice president and chief of staff, as he embarks on his new position as the City Solicitor, and Senior Vice President Wendy White assumes the chief of staff duties in addition to her other responsibilities as General Counsel. Dr. Rodin said as a way of marking the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education, Penn will be holding a series of events, including *Dialogues on Race* (see Council coverage right). She also noted that the Penn Alexander School has become a community resource with numerous evening activities and programs made possible with a grant from the William Penn Foundation.

Provost Robert Barchi noted the recent appointment of Dr. Janice Bellace who is now the associate provost, adding that she is "well-suited for this position." Dr. Barchi also said that the Law School's new faculty wing that opened in the fall was needed because their faculty has grown in recent years. The Law School's admit rate is now less than 15%.

Craig Carnaroli, senior vice president for finance, and treasurer, gave the financial report for the six months ending December 31, 2003.

President-Elect: On the Air

The January 22 Press Conference at which Dr. Amy Gutmann was introduced as the nominee to become Penn's next president will be aired on the Research Channel on the following dates/times:

March 14 @ 5:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 11:30 p.m.

March 19 @ 5:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 11:30 p.m.

The broadcasts are webcast at www.researchchannel.org/webcast/ and will also be available on channel 25 on campus in dorms and academic buildings at the times listed above.

Also, the portion of the February 20 Trustees' Stated Meeting pertaining to her being elected president and the procession will be available on the web along with the Press Conference, at www.upenn.edu/secretary/new_president/video.html.

Penn Humanities Forum/Mellon Faculty Research Fellowships

Applications are solicited from the standing faculty of the humanities and allied departments for Penn Humanities Forum Mellon Faculty Research Fellowships for the 2004-2005 academic year.

Awards of \$5,000 each are available for junior faculty, payable as stipends. Awards of \$10,000 each are also available for senior faculty, payable directly to the Fellow's department to offset one course.

PHF Mellon Faculty Research Fellows must be carrying out research related to *Sleep and Dreams*, the Forum's topic for 2004-2005. (Full application procedures and topic details are available on-line at <http://humanities.sas.upenn.edu>).

Recipients will be designated Penn Humanities Forum Mellon Faculty Research Fellows and will be expected to participate in the Forum's weekly Mellon Research Seminar (Tuesdays, noon-2 p.m.) during the academic year.

Send a one-page research proposal and c.v. to Wendy Steiner, director, Penn Humanities Forum, 3619 Locust Walk/6213, or via e-mail to Jennifer Conway, associate director (conwayj@sas.upenn.edu). Application deadline: *March 31, 2004*.

Council Meeting Coverage

Provost Robert Barchi called the February 25 Council meeting to order since President Judith Rodin was in Harrisburg to testify before the Appropriations Committee.

The President's status report, which had been disseminated to Council members, announced the launch of *Dialogues on Race*, "a series of conversations exploring issues of race and multiculturalism as experienced by members of the Penn community." One such conversation took place that evening and another is scheduled for 7 p.m. on March 18 in Houston Hall. On March 23, Dr. Rodin, and Spelman College President Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, will present *Presidents' Perspective on Integration in Higher Education* as part of this series. GSE Dean Susan Fuhrman will moderate the event, 5-7:30 p.m. in Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall. For more information see www.upenn.edu/dialogues_on_race/.

Dr. Dennis Culhane, chair of the Pluralism Committee, gave an interim report in which he said they are attempting to measure how much social interaction and participation there is among diverse student groups. He also said that an assessment of the question of discrimination in the University's housing policy will be part of the final report, due out by the end of the semester.

Dr. Steven Kimbrough, chair of the Communications Committee, gave the final report (*Almanac* February 24, 2004) which touched on their five charges: the Penn web site, e-mail issues, personal privacy, access to electronic resources, and changes to signage on campus which are expected to be completed this spring.

Dr. Yvonne Patterson, chair of the Community Relations Committee, gave a final report (*Almanac* February 24, 2004) which described their role as advocates for the local community and their recommendations to improve outreach to those who do not have internet access, and to make affordable housing for lower income families available by changing the boundaries of the mortgage program.

Ron Ward, manager of Transportation Services, gave a presentation on the PennPass Program. Through an agreement with SEPTA that began in 1999, full-time Penn students can purchase a semester-based discounted city-wide pass to ride on buses, trolleys, and trains. SEPTA is not yet equipped, he said, to read PennCards but may be able to in five years. Penn—which contributes to keep the price lower than what it would cost for four monthly passes—is currently the only university in Philadelphia offering their students this reduced rate pass. A PennPass is \$250 per semester and is non-refundable if lost or stolen. Monthly passes are available through payroll deduction for faculty and staff. Those who use SEPTA less frequently can purchase tokens at several campus locations (Moravian Food Court, Houston Hall, Penn Bookstore, and the Student Credit Union).

The Personnel Benefits Committee's interim report was given by its chair Dr. David Freeman. He described a Caremark disease management program for those with chronic conditions that could help employees stay healthy and save Penn money by avoiding the need for acute care. Keystone has switched from using full social security numbers on ID cards to a portion of the SSN. He also mentioned the funding requirements for FAS 106, which the provost described as "a balance sheet issue." Dr. Barchi also added that due to continued inflation of medical care costs, Penn will have to consider changes to keep costs affordable.

Dr. Lance Donaldson-Evans, chair of Steering, asked for faculty to serve on the Facilities and the Bookstores Committees.

Deaths

Reginald Jones, Trustee Emeritus

Mr. Reginald H. Jones, Penn emeritus trustee, and former CEO of General Electric Company, died on December 30, at the age of 89.

Mr. Jones was born in Stoke-on-Trent, England and moved to the U.S. when he was eight years old. He graduated from the Wharton School in 1939. While at Penn he was elected president of Beta Gamma, the national honorary academic fraternity, and was treasurer of Phi Sigma Kappa.

He joined General Electric in the company's Business Training Course in 1939. Three years later, he became a traveling auditor, moving to general management, serving as manager of company businesses in the consumer, utility, industrial, construction and distribution fields. In 1968, he became GE's CFO and was elected senior vice president two years later. In 1972, he became president, then chairman and chief executive officer of GE. As CEO he brought new strategic direction to GE, emphasizing strong internal growth fostered by research and development, strategic planning and the introduction of the sector structure that "prepared the organization and the people to meet General Electric's long-range growth opportunities in the decade ahead," Mr. Jones said at the time.

In 1968 Mr. Jones joined the Penn Board of Trustees and continued as a trustee emeritus and



Reginald Jones

honorary trustee until his death. As chair of the Development Committee he represented Penn in boardrooms across the nation. He was a founding member of the Wharton Board of Overseers, its chair for 13 years, and the Chair Emeritus. He was also chair of the Joseph H. Lauder Institute Board of Governors.

In a Memorial Resolution on February 20, the Board of Trustees said:

"Throughout his life he was admired for his intelligence, integrity, and interest in those around him. Dubbed the country's most respected business executive and spokesman for corporate America, he was appointed to advisory positions by presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter. He served as Chairman of the Business Council and co-Chairman of the Business Roundtable and was the recipient of the Poor Richard Club's Gold Medal of Achievement for educating the public about industry and the Captain Robert Dollar Memorial Award for distinguished contributions to American Foreign Trade and Investment."

The Reginald H. Jones Professorship of Corporate Management in the Wharton School, the Reginald Jones Center in Jon H. Huntsman Hall, and the Reginald H. and Grace Cole Jones Trustee Scholarship will serve as fitting reminders to future alumni of one of our alma mater's most loyal and dedicated sons. The force of his intellect and personality will long remain vivid to all who knew him."

Mr. Jones is survived by his wife, Grace Cole Jones, (CW'39); his son, the Reverend Keith Edwin Jones, (W'64); his daughter, Grace Jones Vineyard, (CW'66); five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Thomas E. Leary, Purchasing

Tom Leary, a procurement specialist in purchasing services, who recently celebrated his 30 year anniversary as a Penn employee, died on January 21, after a long illness.

Mr. Leary joined Penn in 1973 as a buyer and became a procurement specialist in 1996, a title he held until his death. "Tom was a key staff member of the Purchasing Services Department. Tom was widely admired for his professionalism, his energy, and his genial personality. He had the unique ability to find solutions to complex problems. His dedication to his work and his love for Penn were always apparent. All who worked with him and knew him will miss him very much," said director Bob Michel.

Mr. Leary is survived by his wife, Judy; his son, Thomas E. Leary, Jr.; his daughter, Mari- anne E. Pangia; his mother, Madeleine Leary; and brothers, James and Laurence.

Donations to the American Cancer Society, 1851 Old Cuthbert Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 will be accepted in his memory.

Memorial Celebration: Orneice Dorsey Leslie

The School of Social Work and the Penn community will honor the life of Orneice Dorsey Leslie on Monday, March 22, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The celebration will take place in Houston Hall's Bodek Lounge. The School of Social Work is currently putting together a program booklet to give to her family at the memorial, so those interested in sending a personal quote and/or a special photo for inclusion in this booklet, please send them to Melissa Coleman, School of Social Work, 3701 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6214 or e-mail them to mcoleman@ssw.upenn.edu by March 8.

Joint Pilot Study: ADCC & IME

The Alzheimer's Disease Center Core (ADCC) in the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research Center (CNDRC) and the Institute for Medicine and Engineering (IME) will fund three pilot projects on biomedical, epidemiological or behavioral research in basic science or clinical areas each at a level of up to \$20,000/year (for personnel and supplies costs, but not equipment). These one-year, non-renewable grants support pilot research projects on the etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis or management of dementia of the Alzheimer's type or related conditions.

The purpose is to assist faculty in obtaining preliminary data to serve as the basis of a grant application to the NIH or other public or private agencies concerned with this important medical and social problem. Last year's awards and application instructions are on the CNDRC website, www.uphs.upenn.edu/cndr/ADCCPilot.html.

A committee representing both the ADCC and the IME will review proposals; funding depends not only on scientific merit, and on the likelihood that the pilots will lead to independent investigator initiated proposals. Priority will be given to:

- faculty in the early stages of their career who seek to enter the Alzheimer's Disease research arena
- senior faculty who intend to shift their research emphasis towards neurodegenerative diseases.

Applications should utilize the basic NIH PHS 398 form with a limit of 5 pages (exclusive of literature cited). The deadline is April 15, and questions may be directed to Gayle Joseph, phone (215) 662-4708 or e-mail: viale@mail.med.upenn.edu.

Promoting Excellence...

2004 Performance and Staff Development Program

Fulfilling Penn's mission of education, research, and public service would be impossible without the hard work and extraordinary commitment of the University's staff members. The annual performance appraisal program, officially called the "Performance and Staff Development Program," provides an important way to recognize and reward effective staff efforts throughout the institution.

Performance appraisal is designed to help staff and supervisors to talk about job responsibilities, goals and expectations, as well as encourage the personal and professional growth of Penn staff members. It also fulfills an essential role in the University's performance-based compensation plan by providing the substantive support for annual salary increases.

This year, performance appraisals for all regular staff should be completed by June 4, 2004. It's especially important for supervisors to complete appraisals for all staff receiving annual salary increases to validate the level of increase awarded.

As Dr. Rodin discussed in the January 20, 2004 issue of *Almanac*, despite the tough economic realities facing the University, there will be a 2% salary pool for faculty and staff increases this year (www.upenn.edu/almanac/v50/n18/economic_outlook.html). Although Penn is hardly alone among great universities in facing a serious financial challenge, our insistence on cost efficiencies has helped us avoid the salary cuts, hiring freezes and even layoffs that MIT, Yale, Stanford, and Rice have recently announced.

Effective, candid performance appraisals are important for many reasons:

- They provide documented feedback on staff performance and accomplishments from the past year.
- They help staff members gain a clearer understanding of their job responsibilities.
- They provide supervisors with the opportunity to discuss staff successes as well as areas needing improvement.
- They set the performance expectations and goals for the upcoming year.
- They provide feedback that can enhance the professional development opportunities for staff members.

The Performance and Staff Development Program materials for the 2004 appraisal cycle are now online at the Human Resources website at www.hr.upenn.edu/staffrelations/performance/default.asp. The Division of Human Resources provides helpful training to supervisors and staff on how to make the most of the performance appraisal process. To find out about this training or for more information on the Performance and Staff Development Program, please contact the Division of Human Resources at (215) 898-6093. Let us help Penn's supervisors and staff members promote excellence at work.

—Division of Human Resources

Honors & Other Things

AAP Award: Dr. Gutmann

Dr. Amy Gutmann, Provost of Princeton University and Penn's President-elect, has been awarded the 2003 Professional/Scholarly Publishing Division Annual Awards Competition in the Government and Political Science category for her book, *Identity in Democracy*. The award from the Association of American Publishers (AAP) is given in recognition of excellence and innovation in professional, scholarly, reference, book, journal and electronic publishing.



Amy Gutmann

AACTE Award: Dr. Ingersoll

Dr. Richard M. Ingersoll, associate professor of education and sociology, is the winner of the 2004 AACTE Outstanding Writing Award for his book, *Who Controls Teachers' Work? Power and Accountability in America's Schools* (Harvard University Press, 2003). The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) is a voluntary organization of colleges and universities that prepare the nation's teachers and other educational personnel. AACTE is considered "the leader for innovation in teacher education."



Richard Ingersoll

ASNR Award: Dr. Schwartz

Dr. Eric D. Schwartz, assistant professor of radiology, has received the 2004 Cornelius G. Dyke Memorial Award from the American Society of Neuroradiology. He received the award for his work titled, *Apparent Diffusion Coefficients within Spinal Cord Transplants and Surrounding White Matter Correlate with Degree of Axonal Dieback Following Injury*. The award is given for outstanding original research in neuroradiology by an assistant professor, fellow or resident. ASNR was founded in 1962 and currently has a professional membership of 3,000 physicians specializing in the field of neuroradiology.

Reproductive Medicine: Drs. Barnhart & Sammel

Dr. Kurt Barnhart, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and *Dr. Mary Sammel*, assistant professor of biostatistics, have received the 2003 American Society of Reproductive Medicine Program Prize Award for their paper *Doubling Time in Early Gestation in Symptomatic Patients with an Intrauterine Pregnancy: The Curves Redefined*. The paper was presented at the 59th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. They also received the prize in 2002.

NCI Board: Dr. Rebbeck

Dr. Timothy Rebbeck, associate professor of epidemiology, department of biostatistics and epidemiology, has been asked to serve on the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Cancer Institute for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2004.

Heilmeier Faculty Research Award



Dennis Discher

Dr. Daniel A. Hammer, Chair and Alfred G. and Meta A. Ennis Professor of Bioengineering, and *Dr. Dennis E. Discher*, associate professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering and mechanical engineering and applied mechanics, are the 2004 recipients of the George H. Heilmeier Faculty Award for Excellence in Research. The award is presented annually to encourage and recognize excellence in scholarly activities among the School of Engineering faculty.

Drs. Discher and Hammer received the award for their discovery and characterization of polymersomes, vesicles made from synthetic block copolymers whose flexibility has allowed the development of a broad new class of materials that extend well beyond what can be achieved in natural systems. Their work was presented to an audience of faculty, students and industry in a lecture entitled, "Polymersomes Discovery, Characterization, and Emerging Application."

The Award is named in honor of Dr. George H. Heilmeier (EE'58, Ph.D., Princeton), chairman emeritus of Telcordia Technologies, in recognition of his extraordinary research career, his leadership in technical innovation and public service, and his loyal and steadfast support of Penn Engineering. He received international recognition for his discovery of several new electro-optic effects in liquid crystals leading to the first liquid crystal displays for watches, calculators, and instrumentation. He serves on the Board of Overseers for SEAS.



Daniel Hammer

The recently unveiled portrait of Dr. Edward Cooper (middle), by Dr. Bennett Johnson, HUP Senior Medical Director and artist (left), now hangs in the Edward S. Cooper, MD, Internal Medicine Practice (formerly known as Penn Internal Medicine on 3 Silverstein, at HUP). Dr. Arthur Rubenstein, dean of the School of Medicine and EVP of UPHS (right) looks on.



Photograph by Chris Simonsen

Unveiling of a Portrait: Dr. Cooper—A Penn Medicine Pioneer

Dr. Edward Sawyer Cooper, emeritus professor of medicine, and the first African-American professor with tenure at the School of Medicine, had his portrait unveiled at the Edward S. Cooper, MD, Internal Medicine Practice to honor his contributions to HUP. Dr. Cooper, who joined the faculty in 1964, received tenure in 1970, and become emeritus in 1996, is also the first African-American to be named president and spokesperson for the American Heart Association.

In addition the Edward S. Cooper, MD, Humanitarian Award was established to be presented annually to the person or group of persons who best exemplify Dr. Cooper's selfless, caring spirit. This year's recipient was the Board of Women Visitors of the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, HUP—a volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing the hospital environment for patients and employees alike.

School-based Health Program

The *Penn-Urban Nutrition Initiative* (UNI) has been sighted as one of four of the most promising school-based health and nutrition programs by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In a major report titled "Healthy Schools for Healthy Kids" the UNI was singled out as a most promising model because it has a comprehensive approach to partnerships, school-day curriculum linkages, and an overarching focus on healthy decision-making, not just diet or nutrition. UNI's working holistically on all three issues of education, access, and fitness incorporated in a school-based approach to school and community improvement was considered powerful. Also written about the UNI in the report, "The wide number and range of hands-on activities that UNI incorporates into this program also makes the initiative successful. Students are highly engaged, have a sense of ownership and directly experience healthy eating on a regular basis. Not only do students learn about nutrition, they grow and cook healthy food and learn about the culture and politics surrounding food."

The program is a partnership between Philadelphia schools and the University. It currently reaches 1,000 students in Philadelphia and will be expanding to reach a total of 2,000 students.

\$100,000 to Penn for Scholarship

Evelyn Y. Davis, a nationally recognized advocate for shareholder rights, and the Evelyn Y. Davis Foundation have contributed \$100,000 to Penn to endow a scholarship for students pursuing careers in business or political journalism. Her gift will be recognized with a brass plaque in the lobby of Houston Hall. In announcing the gift, President Judith Rodin said, "Evelyn Y. Davis is offering a unique opportunity to Penn students who seek to bring greater understanding to business and politics through journalism. Her gift recognizes the need for more discerning and unbiased reporting in both fields." Ms. Davis publishes the corporate newsletter, *Highlights and Lowlights*, and has made a career of defending the interests of shareholders.

MLK Community Involvement Awards

As part of the ninth annual Interfaith Commemoration of the Life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., three Campus Awards and two Community Service Awards were announced at the ceremony on January 21.

Campus Honorees

Winnie Smart-Mapp, associate director for the Center for Community Partnerships, was honored for her commitment to positive social change, her devotion and dedication to her spiritual and religious beliefs, along with her personal passion for the community, has not only shaped an exemplary personal career, but has resulted in her working closely with community advisory boards so that their voices may be heard. By playing a key role in the building of relationships between the University and communities of faith, she has bridged gaps between service and action within these communities, while forging new ideas and relationships. Her work with the Women of Color at Penn over the past 15 years has been vital to the national attention the organization now receives, including the establishment of three scholarships for female students. She has represented, chaired and convened numerous committees and organizations, including: Concerned Parents, Alumni and Students of Bartram Motivation 2001-02; Bartram High School Middle States Accreditation Process 2001 and assisted in the development of the Non Profit and Communities of Faith Non Profit Institute at Penn. She has worked on the planning of youth events such as the 12th Annual Children's Sabbath and served as an advisor to the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts to develop their first gospel music series. As a co-facilitator of Music 605 she inspired Penn students to research the history of West Philadelphia Gospel music and develop a gospel music web site.

Ricardo Diaz Soto has devoted himself to serving the community both in his professional life and as a volunteer. As project manager for Penn's National Center for Adult Literacy, he has helped to develop online ESL instruction for Mexican immigrants and has worked with Bridges to the Future, an international project designed to improve technological literacy among the world's most disadvantaged populations. As a volunteer,

he has worked with Comunidad Hispana, LDS church, Mexicanos Juntos, and La Casa Latina, all in Philadelphia and at the University of North Ghana in Africa, using his technical knowledge to develop systems for improving literacy skills. He has also been a tutor and mentor to students on and off campus. His commitment, passion, leadership and interpersonal skills make him an outstanding advocate for underserved populations and a role model for everyone interested in serving their community.

Peter Bloom, a Penn CGS undergrad, founded Mexicanos Juntos—a non-profit group geared towards community organization and development of social services. He has successfully been able to raise awareness of both internal and external social issues affecting the disenfranchised undocumented Mexican immigrant community in South Philadelphia. His primary activities involve integrating the Mexican community within the larger Philadelphia community, establishing legal and medical services for community members, establishing a 5-day a week ESL program for both community and non-community members, bringing together principle community leaders to organize positive community-wide events that celebrate the Mexican heritage, and, more recently, planning an undergraduate class at Penn in conjunction with La Casa Latina. Peter has achieved all of this within a year's time through vigorous work and dedication, spurred on by the ambition of giving this often marginalized community a chance to develop much-needed confidence and social know-how.

Community Honorees

Kenneth Gamble is best known for his pioneering work in the development of soul and R&B music in America. He has also dedicated considerable time and effort to improving the plight of the less fortunate. As chairman and founder of Clean Up The Ghetto, Inc., a non-profit organization, he has helped to provide employment for disadvantaged youth in cities throughout the nation. In 1993, he founded Universal Community Homes, which has begun one of the largest community revitalization efforts in Philadelphia history. Other organizations he has founded and dedicated his time to include the African-American Foundation, the Universal

Community of Truth and the South Philadelphia Ministries Task Force. Coming from humble beginnings to achieve international success and fame (he has written, produced, published and recorded over 3,000 songs), Mr. Gamble has used his fame and fortune to help those less fortunate.

Marion Cooper has used his position as a program analyst with the Philadelphia Health Department, to inspire hope for a better future within his community and his city. He is the driving spirit behind the Institute of African American Mobilization, an organization dedicated to promoting drug prevention and to fighting the other social and economic ills associated with drug use. By promoting self-determination, collective work, education and respect for all faiths by members of the community, he epitomizes Dr. King's spirit with his "less talk, more action" belief. He leads by example, teaching and inspiring the young and elderly not just to talk about changes that need to be made but to make those changes and teach others how to become change agents. He has trained hundreds of people, inspiring them to become community activists. He is a traveling resource and shares information with others about college preparation, scholarships, behavioral health, grant proposals, suicide prevention, business development, parenting, literacy, and drug prevention. He has facilitated workshops on Rites of Passage, Drug Abuse by the Elderly, How to Deal with Kids in a Violent Society, Conflict Resolution, Multi-Cultural Leadership, Empowerment and Skill Building.

Women of Color Awards: March 5

The National Institute for Women of Color (NIWC) has proclaimed March 1, National Women of Color Day. For the 17th consecutive year, Penn, UPHS, Presbyterian and Pennsylvania Hospital seek to increase our awareness of the talents and achievements of women of color. We will recognize a diverse group of women in our community whose special commitment and dedicated service to their workplace, or the Delaware Valley, have made a difference. We hope you will join us for this uplifting and inspirational daylong celebration.

The 17th Annual Women of Color at Penn Day Celebration will take place from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., **March 5**. The Awards Program at noon will precede the Buffet Luncheon. Join us as we celebrate the special achievements of the following awardees:

Faculty/Staff: Pamela Robinson, Associate Director of College Houses, Office Colleges Houses and Academic Services
Grad/Prof. student: Daphnee Saget, L '04
Undergraduate student: Celia Castellanos, W '05

Helen O. Dickens Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Helen Conrad Davies, Professor of Microbiology/Med.

We will also be celebrating the achievements of the five top ranking female students in the neighboring West Philadelphia high schools. Call or e-mail Isabel Mapp for ticket details at (215) 898-2020 or sammapp@pobox.upenn.edu.

—Women of Color Day Committee



This year's MLK Community Involvement Award recipients (from left to right): Peter Bloom, C'05, Marion Cooper, Winnie Smart-Mapp, Kenneth Gamble, and Ricardo Diaz Soto.

March Volunteer Opportunities

Dear Penn Community,

Each month, Penn Volunteers In Public Service (Penn VIPS) posts a list of volunteer opportunities. These opportunities are developed from the many requests we receive for partnerships and assistance. The University community continues to volunteer their valuable time to provide service in our surrounding community. We thank you for your overwhelming support and for your generosity.

Below are volunteer opportunities. Please contact me via e-mail, sammapp@pobox.upenn.edu to volunteer for any of the programs. Thank you for your continued support.

—Isabel Mapp, Associate Director, Faculty, Staff and Alumni Volunteer Services,
Director, Penn Volunteers in Public Service, Center for Community Partnerships

Penn VIPS Annual Penny Drive: Now through March 19 Penny drive to benefit the Paul Robeson House Museum. The museum located at 49th and Walnut Streets is dedicated to preserving his memory. Your donations will be used to assist with the restoration of his historic house. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please take your pennies to the following drop sites:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Museum Reception Desk | Near Kress Gallery | Bonnie Crossfield | 898-4001 |
| Women's Center | 3643 Locust Walk | Gloria Gay | 898-8611 |
| Af-Am Resource Center | 3537 Locust Walk | Afi Roberson | 898-0104 |
| Veterinary Medicine | Rosenthal Lobby | Trish diPietrae | 898-8842 |
| Engineering | 107 Towne Building | Ellen V. Russell | 898-7244 |
| English Language Prog. | 21 Bennett Hall | Anne Budd | 898-6009 |
| SAS | 120 Logan Hall | Kristin Davidson | 573-3416 |
| Van Pelt Library | Shared Catalogue Dept. | Rachelle Nelson | 898-9048 |
| Renal Division | 700 Clinical Research | Yvonne Florence | 898-1018 |
| ISC | 265C 3401 Walnut | Doris Pate | 573-6803 |
| Wharton | 1000 SH-DH | Jennifer O'Keefe | 898-1092 |
| Nursing Ed. Bldg. | 4th Floor Reception Desk | Donna Milici | 573-0747 |
| BRB II/III | 13th Floor | Mary Jo Pauxtis | 898-0151 |
| Political Science | 217 Stiteler Hall | Marcia Dotson | 898-7641 |
| ISC | 203A Sansom West | Kathy Ritchie | 573-3561 |
| Presidents' Office | 100 College Hall | Julie Sheehan | 898-6630 |
| Houston Hall | Information Desk | Peter Giovinco | 573-5011 |
| VPUL | 3611 Locust Walk | Patricia Ravenell | 898-5337 |
| Faculty Club | 3611 Walnut/Inn at Penn | Natalia Swavely | 898-4618 |
| Med School Fac. Planning | 233 Blockley Hall | Telaria Hawthorne | 898-2076 |
| CCP | 133 South 36th/5th Floor | Isabel Mapp | 898-2020 |
| Graduate Student Center | 3615 Locust Walk | DeAnna Cheung | 746-6868 |
| Research Services | Franklin Bldg., Rm. P-204 | Yvette Acevedo | 898-6156 |
| Cell & Dev. Biology | 1157 BRB II/III Bldg. | Jill M. Agolino | 898-4466 |

Mentoring: Students at University City High School are interested in learning about what you do. This is a great opportunity for you to provide exposure and mentoring to high school students. It only takes a few hours a week.

Computers Needed: Is your department upgrading its computers? Would you like to donate your used computers to a worthy cause? Are they Pentium I or PowerPCs or better? The Center for Community Partnerships' Digital Divide Program and Penn VIPS, work-study students and a group of volunteers are working to provide computers to West Philadelphia schools, families and non-profit agencies. Donate your computer. Come help design and install computer labs in the community.

Volunteers Needed: The LIFE 1st Program is a diverse and innovative non-profit organization dedicated to providing education, support service and recreation to inner city and at risk youth. The main goal of the LIFE 1st after school program is to address academic and social barriers that may impede the growth among the youth today.

The University Museum at 33rd and Spruce Sts. has opened a new little gift shop ("Second Site") next to the new main entrance. The shop is open 6 afternoons a week. Help in manning the shop, especially Sunday afternoons, 1–5 p.m. Training in the use of the register will be available.

Spring Break Safety: Special Checks of Residences

In order to reduce the opportunity for crime (i.e. criminal mischief, burglaries, etc.), the Division of Public Safety is again offering to conduct Special Checks of Residential Properties during the following timeframe: midnight, Friday, March 5, 2004 through 7 a.m., Sunday, March 14, 2004. Students, faculty and staff who live within the following geographical boundaries—Schuylkill River to 43rd Street and Baltimore Avenue to Market Street—may participate.

You need to complete and return an application prior to vacating the premise. Applications may be picked up at the Penn Police Headquarters, 4040 Chestnut Street or on Public Safety's website.

The Public Safety website, www.publicsafety.upenn.edu/dpsform0030.asp has an online Request for Special Property Check Form along with complete instructions and security tips.

—Division of Public Safety

ClariNet e.News Discontinued

During the FY2005 planning cycle, Penn's Network Planning Task Force (www.upenn.edu/computing/group/nptf) decided to discontinue the campus-wide site license agreement for the ClariNet e.News service as of July 1, 2004.

This affects all newsgroups in the clari news hierarchy (clari.local.*, clari.net.*, clari.news.*, etc.) currently provided by netnews.upenn.edu. Other news hierarchies are not affected by this change.

Netnews is a set of Internet-based bulletin-board-style discussion groups. Penn's Netnews server is netnews.upenn.edu and can be accessed by any computer within the upenn.edu domain or by a user with a PennKey using any ISP. For more information about the Netnews service, please see www.upenn.edu/computing/netnews/overview.html.

—Michael Palladino, Associate VP, ISC Networking & Telecommunications

Updated EHRS Documents

The third edition of the University's *Biological Safety Manual* is now available. The manual provides updated university-wide guidelines for working safely with biologically hazardous materials such as infectious agents, or materials that may contain them, and recombinant DNA. It describes program responsibilities and the principles of biological safety in addition to providing information on biological agent classification, safe work practices, infectious waste management, permitting and transportation of biological materials.

EHRS also reviewed and updated the University's *Exposure Control Plan* as required by the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1030. The Plan is designed to help eliminate or minimize employee exposure to human bloodborne pathogens. Principal investigators and/or laboratory supervisors who work with bloodborne pathogens, human blood, blood products and other potentially infectious materials defined in the Standard are reminded they must update their laboratory copy of the Plan annually or when procedural changes occur. The plan must be reviewed with staff and be available for reference in the laboratory. Additions to the plan include:

- Recent statistics on the prevalence of tuberculosis in Philadelphia.
- EHRS recommendations to prevent exposure incidents.
- Safety-engineered sharps device evaluations.

Both documents are available at the EHRS website, www.ehrs.upenn.edu/.

EHRS Training

The next live training program is: *Introduction to Laboratory and Biological Safety at Penn*, March 18, 9:15 a.m.–noon, BRB II/III Auditorium (Please arrive early; sign-in, 9–9:15 a.m. No admittance to course after 9:15 a.m. Penn ID or driver's license is required for sign-in. A Certificate of Completion will be granted at the end of the training session. Only those individuals who sign-in and receive the Certificate will be given credit for the course.)

This new combined training program provides a comprehensive overview of safe work practices in the biomedical laboratory and meets the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements for employees who work with hazardous substances including chemicals, human blood, blood products, fluids and human tissue specimens. All faculty, staff and students at the University who work in a laboratory and have not previously attended a live training presentation must attend this training.

The Office of Environmental Health & Radiation Safety (EHRS) develops and presents a variety of required training programs in live presentations or online formats. To determine which training programs you are required to take, review the section "Training Requirements" on the EHRS website www.ehrs.upenn.edu/training/index.html.

No Issue During Spring Break

There is no *Almanac* scheduled for March 9. Staff are on duty to assist contributors planning for the subsequent issues after Spring Break. Publication will resume on March 16. Staff will be in the office during spring break to help with your publication needs.

Breaking news, if any, and weekly crime reports will be posted to "Almanac Between Issues."

Update

MARCH AT PENN

CANCELLED

The event *Baluchi Epic Performers from Pakistan* scheduled for March 3 has been cancelled.

FILM

Screening with English subtitles; 7 p.m.; Film Studies Center, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library; Photo ID required.

4 *Rue Cases-NÈgres*. (Martinique)

FITNESS/LEARNING

Penn Alexander Community School

Enter at 43rd & Locust Sts. Info.: (215) 823-5288.

2 *Financing Opportunities for Homebuyers and Homeowners with Citizens Bank*; 7 p.m.; pre-registration required.

4 *Acting Workshop, Performing Trojan Women: Greek Tragedy for a Time of Terror*; 6 p.m.; no experience required; pre-registration required.

Cardio Pilates; 6:15 p.m.; pre-registration required. *Thursdays through March 25*.

Below the Belt and Beyond; learn a sequence of exercises that trains the lower body while in weight bearing positions and with balance challenges; bring a towel or mat; 7 p.m.

16 *CommerceWOW!Zone*; financial literacy program that teaches children the value of money; *Thursdays through March 25*; 5:30 p.m.; pre-registration required.

TALKS

3 *A Valid Marriage Contract and the Status of the Bride*; Susan Spector, Queens College; 4 p.m.; rm B2, Meyerson Hall (Middle East Center).

9 *Characterization of the Hair Follicle Stem Cell Niche*; Tudorita Tumber, Rockefeller University; 10 a.m.; Grossman Auditorium, Wistar Institute.

11 *Damage Sensing and Checkpoint Activation in Human Cells*; Lee Zou, Harvard Medical School; 10 a.m.; Grossman Auditorium, Wistar Institute.

Deadlines: The deadline for the next Update is March 9. The deadline for the April AT PENN calendar is March 16. For information, see www.upenn.edu/almanac/calendar/caldead-real.html.

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 **February 16-22, 2004**. Also reported were 14 Crimes Against Property (including 12 thefts, and 2 burglaries). Full reports are on the Web (www.upenn.edu/almanac/v50/n24/crimes.html). Prior weeks' reports are also online. —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 **February 16-22, 2004**. 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 (215) 898-4482.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 02/18/04 | 11:43 PM | 4000 Baltimore Ave | Male combative with police/Arrest |
| 02/19/04 | 8:55 PM | 3900 Delancey St | Male cited for public urination |
| 02/20/04 | 7:42 PM | 3700 Spruce St | Male wanted on warrant/Arrest |

18th District Report

6 incidents and no arrests (including 4 robberies, 1 aggravated assault and 1 rape) were reported between **February 16-22, 2004** by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th St. & Market St. to Woodland Ave.

| | | | |
|----------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 02/16/04 | 3:52 AM | 301 52nd St | Robbery |
| 02/16/04 | 3:10 PM | 4634 Chestnut St | Robbery |
| 02/17/04 | 8:33 PM | 4700 block Walnut | Rape |
| 02/18/04 | 8:45 PM | 4504 Walnut St | Robbery |
| 02/21/04 | 8:45 PM | 4300 Locust | Aggravated Assault |
| 02/22/04 | 2:55 AM | 4000 Market St | Robbery |

CLASSIFIEDS—UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH

Overweight Volunteers wanted for a study using the dietary supplement chromium picolinate, looking at its effects on improving risk factors for diabetes and heart disease. The Preventative Cardiology Program seeks volunteers 18 to 75 years old who are overweight AND have high either high triglycerides, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, or high blood sugar, but no diabetes. Participants will be compensated for time and travel. Contact Sheri Volger at (215) 898-8672 or sheriv@mail.me.d.upenn.edu.

Are you the parent of an **adolescent who wants to lose weight**? The University of Pennsylvania's Weight and Eating Disorders Program is offering a 1-year weight loss research study that combines group behavioral treatment with the use of a meal replacement product or a nutritionally balanced diet of regular food. You may be eligible if you are between 13 & 17 years of age, at least 30% over recommended weight, a non-smoker, and free of significant health problems. For more information please call Joanna at (215) 898-7314.

Healthy Newborn Participants Needed for a research study comparing the feeding patterns and energy balance of infants with complex heart defects with those of healthy infants. A multidisciplinary team in the University of Pennsylvania and CHOP is looking for healthy newborns to participate in feeding studies at 2 weeks, 3, 9, and 12 months of age. Participants will receive free consultations and examinations of their baby's diet and energy balance and are compensated for travel. Call (215) 746-2741 for more information.

Do you have Arthritis in Your Knees? Would you like to participate in a study designed to find out if acupuncture may help you walk better and decrease the pain? The study compares real acupuncture with acupuncture using needles that do not puncture the skin in patients who need physical therapy. Call Pat Williams for more information at (215) 898-3038.

Want To Lose Weight? The UPenn Weight and Eating Disorders Program is offering a 2-year weight loss program beginning this February and March. Women aged 21-50 who are 50 or more pounds overweight (BMI 30-40) may be eligible. Please call Lauren at (215) 898-3184 to see if you qualify.

Almanac is not responsible for contents of classified ad material.

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

CLASSIFIEDS—PERSONAL

FOR RENT

Fully furnished, gorgeous **Manayunk rowhome**. 2BR/1BA, C/A, hardwood floors, appliances, electronics, deck, yard, easy parking. \$1,475/month + utilities. (610) 940-1977.

Do you have mood swings? Mood swings can be a persistent symptoms of Bipolar Disorder. Common symptoms include: appetite disturbance, racing thoughts, sleep disturbance, excessive spending, excessive energy, distractibility, irritability and depressed mood. Evaluation and research treatment for depression is available. To schedule a confidential evaluation with a physician please call the Depression Research unit at (215) 662-3462 or (215) 662-2844 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Volunteers Needed for Osteoporosis Study The University of Pennsylvania Health System/Department of Radiology seeks women 60 years or older. Eligible volunteers would receive a magnetic resonance (MRI) and a dual energy X-ray exam (DEXA) to measure bone density. Participants will be compensated. Please contact Louise Loh or Helen Peachey at (215) 898-5664 for more information.

Participants with Hypertension Needed for research study using herbal remedies. If you are diagnosed with mild hypertension, are 21 years or older, and are able to visit in the mornings every other week, please consider participation in this very interesting research project. Participants will receive free physical exam, lab work, EKG, 24 hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, and all medications. Compensation at completion \$1,400. Please call Virginia Ford, CRNP for more information, (215) 662-2410.

Do you have colon cancer? Do you have a living brother or sister who also has colon cancer? If so, you may be eligible to participate in a genetics study at The University of Pennsylvania. You may receive free and confidential genetic testing. To find out more about this study, call The University of Pennsylvania at 215-349-5317 or toll free at 1-888-666-6002.

Women taking estrogen. The University of Pennsylvania Health System seeks volunteers for a bone density medical research study. If you meet the following description, you may be eligible: Female, Ages 45-55, Taking estrogen or would like to take estrogen for menopausal symptoms. Contact: Helen Peachey at: (215) 898-5664 or peacheyh@mail.me.d.upenn.edu. Volunteers are compensated.



Almanac

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3600 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106
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E-Mail: almanac@pobox.upenn.edu
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 and online.

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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, gender identity, 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 Jeanne Arnold, 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).

Mastectomies Significantly Lower Risk of Breast Cancer

An international study led by researchers from the Abramson Cancer Center has found that a prophylactic double mastectomy—surgical removal of both breasts to prevent a cancer before it occurs—can lower the risk of developing breast cancer by 90% in women genetically predisposed to the disease. This is the first study to quantify the risk reduction for this procedure and its impact on hundreds of thousands of women in the U.S. who carry mutations in one or both of the two genes—BRCA1 and BRCA2—strongly linked to breast and ovarian cancer. Their findings will appear in the March 15 edition of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

“Women are still at risk for breast cancer after any kind of mastectomy as some breast tissue remains in the body after surgery,” said lead author Dr. Timothy R. Rebbeck, associate professor of epidemiology at the School of Medicine and co-program leader of the Center’s Cancer Epidemiology and Risk Reduction Program. “Now that we have quantified the benefit of a double mastectomy for reducing the chances of breast cancer, women in this high-risk group can make a better-informed decision about having breast surgery in addition to other forms of prevention, such as regular screening and/or other preventive surgeries, including ovary removal.”

The PROSE study, (Prevention and Observation of Surgical Endpoints), followed 483 at-risk women from 11 sites in the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and the Netherlands for over six years. Most of the North American women chose not to have preventive, or prophylactic, double mastectomies. Women who chose to have prophylactic mastectomies were paired with women in a control group based on type of mutation, treatment center and year of birth within five years. In addition, none of the participants had any previous or current diagnosis of cancer upon entering the study.

Breast cancer was diagnosed in two of 105 women (1.9%) who had double mastectomies. The occurrence of breast cancer was much greater in the control group, with 184 of 378 women (48.7%) developing breast cancer.

Study results also confirmed a large risk reduction for breast cancer (95%) for women who also had their ovaries removed.

Funding for this study was provided through a research grant from the NIH, Penn’s Abramson Cancer Center, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, the Dana-Farber Women’s Cancers Program, the US Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program, the Utah Cancer Registry, the Falk Medical Research Trust, the Utah State Department of Health, and the Nebraska State Cancer and Smoking-Related Diseases Research Program.

The Body’s 911 Call: Why Blood Flow Stops Short

While it’s common knowledge that high levels of LDL, also known as “bad” cholesterol, can lead to the restriction of blood vessels and a higher incidence of heart attack, stroke and diabetes, the exact method of “how” has remained a mystery. Now, researchers from Penn’s School of Medicine have discovered the exact mechanism to explain why blood vessels are restricted in patients with cardiovascular diseases, thus preventing blood flow and causing disease symptoms. These finds were published in the February issue of *Nature Structural and Molecular Biology*.

“We all have oxygen-heavy toxins in our bodies,” said Dr. Xiang Dong Tang, staff scientist in physiology. “When there are high levels of LDL or sugars in the blood, those toxins are generated in excess, and the body can’t break them down as efficiently as a healthy body can. This kicks off a chain reaction that leaves blood vessels contracted. Now we know how that chain works, down to the amino acid residue that is targeted.”

That amino acid is Cysteine at position 911 of a protein called the Maxi-K potassium channel, which is typically made of approximately 1,200 amino acids. The Maxi-K channel moves potassium ions out of blood vessel muscles and serves as a critical regulator for blood vessel tone. It works in one of two ways: either from an electric shock or an increase in calcium within the channel. When Cysteine911 is altered by an oxygen-heavy toxin, calcium doesn’t enter the Maxi-K channel. If the Maxi-K channel is inhibited, then the vascular muscle isn’t told to relax, thus restricting blood flow.

“We also found that the Maxi-K channel isn’t permanently damaged when Cysteine911 is altered,” said Dr. Toshinori Hoshi, associate professor of physiology and co-author of the article. “In fact, with the right chemical agent, it can be reversed.” In initial laboratory tests, the researchers have found that a chemical, NS1619, can allow the damaged Maxi-K channel to continue to function. “This discovery could lead to the production of drugs that would reverse the negative effects on the Maxi-K channel. It would be an alternative method for treating cardiovascular diseases and even diseases relating to aging,” said Dr. Hoshi.

Scientists also contributing to this research include Marcia L. Garcia from Merck Research Institution and Stefan H. Heinemann from Friedrich Schiller University. This research is funded by the NIH.

Cache of Seal Impressions Discovered in Western India

Excavating at the ancient town of Gilund in southern Rajasthan, India, one of the largest sites of the little-known Ahir-Banas culture, archaeologists led by teams from the University of Pennsylvania Museum and Deccan College, Pune, India have discovered a bin filled with more than 100 seal impressions dating to 2100-1700 B.C. The existence of the seals, and their particular styles, offer surprising new evidence for the apparent complexity of this non-literate, late and post-Indus Civilization-era culture, according to Dr. Gregory Possehl, curator-in-charge of UPM’s Asian Section and excavation co-director. Dr. Possehl’s collaborator, Dr. Vasant Shinde of Deccan College, and their teams made-up of professionals and students from around the world, have conducted excavations at Gilund over four seasons, beginning in 1999. The team is working to understand the social life, history and agricultural developments of these peoples, separated by about 200 miles of largely mountainous and desert-like regions from the powerful Indus Civilization that had its heyday 2500-1900 B.C. They came upon the bin with its seal impressions in the 2002-2003 season completed in February.

Clay, nature’s soft and plentiful sealant, has been used by people for millennia to keep containers closed. Seals, on the other hand, frequently decorated with symbols to indicate a person or persons and used to make seal impressions that lay claim or suggest special rights to a container’s contents, suggest a more stratified society. While no actual seals were discovered at Gilund, the unexpected collection of so many seal impressions strongly points to the presence of a populace of elite citizens who used stamps as identification of themselves and their elevated status—and who marked commodities that were stored in this building under their control. A large oval shaped bin about 5 feet deep and 2.5 feet in diameter at its midpoint, to keep the seal impressions in—and potentially keep others from duplicating specific impressions for their own use—further indicates the elitist nature of this warehouse.

The impression designs according to Dr. Possehl, offer additional evidence for a more worldly-wise culture than was formerly assumed to exist at Gilund. The impressions found in the bin were made from seals both round and rectilinear. The design motifs are generally quite simple, with wide-ranging parallels from Indus Civilization sites such as Chanhudaro, Pirak, Kot Diji and Nindowari, 400 to 500 miles away. There are also distinct parallels with seals from another cultural group archaeologists call the Bactria-Margiana Archaeological Complex (BMAC), from as far away as Central Asia and northern Afghanistan, 1,000 miles to the northwest.

“Gilund is providing us with good evidence for a stratified society that had wide-ranging contacts between the peoples of western India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia just at the end of the third millennium and the beginning of the second millennium,” noted Dr. Possehl.

Generation Gap Explains Decline in Feminist Ranks

Despite gains brought about by the women’s movement, young adults are far less likely than their middle-aged counterparts to call themselves feminists, according to a study conducted by Dr. Jason Schnittker, assistant professor of sociology at Penn, Dr. Jeremy Freese, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Dr. Brian Powell, professor of sociology at Indiana University.

Researchers examining the link between age and social attitudes about feminism found that support for abortion rights and gender equality in the workplace—a strong part of the feminist tradition—is virtually unrelated to whether young adults as well as senior citizens call themselves feminists.

“These results suggest that men and women whose political coming of age coincided with the feminist movement are more likely to think of themselves as feminists than their younger or older counterparts,” said Dr. Schnittker, co-author of the report, *Who Are Feminists and What Do They Believe: The Role of Generations*. The report was published in the *American Sociological Review*.

Dr. Schnittker said that, while the feminist movement may not lose any of its hard-won accomplishments, the findings indicate that it may be increasingly difficult for contemporary feminists to present the united front once characteristic of feminism.

“There appear to be many more conceptions of feminism these days than there were in earlier generations, allowing a variety of different people, with a variety of different ideologies, to self-identify as feminists. It’s not just a story about some groups moving away from feminism, which most people have assumed, but about new groups and diverse ideological groups moving into it.” The study also found that:

- Women were more than twice as likely as men to think of themselves as feminists.
- Men and women born 1935-1955 were the most likely to self-identify as feminists.
- Racial differences played no significant role in self-identification as feminists.
- Marital status, parental status, employment status and income were not significant factors in self-identification as feminists.