Brian Strom: Vice Dean for Institutional Affairs in the School of Medicine and Senior Advisor to the Provost for Global Health Initiatives

Dr. Brian Strom, George S. Pepper Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Chair and Professor of Biostatistics & Epidemiology, and Director of the Center for Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics, has been additionally appointed to the newly created positions of Vice Dean for Institutional Affairs in the School of Medicine and Senior Advisor to the Provost for Global Health Initiatives. He assumed his new positions last Wednesday.

As Vice Dean, Dr. Strom will lead the School of Medicine’s longstanding relationship with the Philadelphia Veterans Administration Medical Center. He will also play a central role in developing the research and educational missions of the Center for Public Health Initiatives, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, and new Biomedical Informatics Initiative.

As Senior Advisor to the Provost, Dr. Strom will work closely with the provost, deans, and provost’s senior leadership team to implement the University’s global health initiatives. He will coordinate public health activities across the University, help the provost develop and fund new programs, and work with key groups to advance Penn’s commitment to public health, global health, and health services research.

“Brian will be a tremendous partner in all our public health initiatives, across the University and around the world,” said Provost Ronald J. Daniels.

“He’s the right person at the right time. His appointment to these new roles both recognizes his outstanding leadership and gives us all an opportunity to advance our collaborative work in this vital area.”

Rosenthal Imaging and Treatment Center at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital

The Rosenthal Imaging and Treatment Center (RITC) at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania is now open.

“We are very excited about the opening of the Commonwealth’s only oncology and imaging facility devoted entirely to veterinary medicine,” said Dr. Joan C. Hendricks, the Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine.

“This facility will provide the finest in diagnostics and care for our patients as well as for referring veterinarians.”

The 9,200-square-foot RITC houses magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment for diagnostics, as well as a linear accelerator for radiation treatment.

“It is an honor and a privilege for the Rosenthal family to name this exceptional facility,” said Jerry Rosenthal, a member of the School’s board of overseers.

“My Aunt Gladys and Uncle Alfred were committed to animal welfare, and we are proud to continue that commitment to enhancing the lives of animals.”

Other generous gifts from the Bernice Barbor Foundation, Jack and Margit McCrane, Sunny and Miriam Mandell, Gerald Shreiber and Dr. Glenn Gaulton, helped fund the center.

Initially open only to Ryan Veterinary Hospital cases, the first patient for the new MRI was Beny, a 10-year-old German shepherd from the K-9 Unit of the West Whiteland Police Department, in Pennsylvania. His partner, Officer Matt Herker, had noticed that one of Beny’s legs was knuckling under; MRIs of his cervical spine area and his lower thorax suggested that a cyst was compressing the left side of the spinal cord; there was also evidence of degenerative disks and arthritis of the cervical spine.

In addition to the MRI, the RITC offers radiation therapy. Sir Mix-A-Lot, a 32-year-old male canine from the Brandywine Zoo in Wilmington, DE, has a life-threatening carcinoma.

While much of the tumor was removed surgically, radiation therapy is a necessary next step to save his life—and so, he became the RITC’s first radiation therapy patient. Unlike most mammals, reptiles suffer few side effects from radiation therapy due to their physiology; Sir Mix-A-Lot received his final dose of radiation recently, and his tumor has decreased dramatically in size.

Veterinarians can now refer cases to the RITC, helping pets throughout the Delaware Valley and beyond. A GE 1.5 Tesla MRI scanner allows superb imaging of internal structures and provides soft tissue detail not available with conventional X-rays or computed tomography (CT) scans.

The MRI is operated by a certified MRI radiology technologist, and images are interpreted by board-certified radiologists and other specialists.

Save the Date: October 20
Join fellow students, faculty, staff and alumni as we celebrate the kickoff of the most ambitious fundraising campaign in Penn’s history.

With momentum unmatched by any other institution, we stand at the threshold of a once-in-a-century opportunity. In front of us is the path to eminence—a campaign that promises to make Penn not only a university of distinction but also one that will model for the world a 21st-century vision for higher education.

The Time is Now. The Place is Penn. Celebration on the Green October 20, 6 p.m. College Green For more information and to register, go to: www.alumni.upenn.edu/homecoming2007/theparty.

— Amy Gutmann, President

Brian Strom

Dr. Strom is a global leader in pharmacoepidemiology research, the application of epidemiologic methods to the study of drug use and effects. As an editor and an author of Pharmacoepidemiology, the field’s major text (now in its fourth edition), he has written or co-written 475 papers, been principal investigator of over 200 grants, and served as president of the International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology and editor for the Americas for Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety, its official journal. He is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and one of only a handful of clinical epidemiologists ever elected to the American Society of Clinical Investigation and American Association of Physicians.

A faculty member of the School of Medicine since 1980, and winner of a 2004 Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, he earned a M.P.H. in epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley in 1980; an M.D. from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1975; and a B.S. in molecular biophysics and biochemistry from Yale University in 1971.

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6 Help with the Hiring Process; CEET Pilot Project Funding; One Step Ahead; Security and Privacy Tip
7 Academic Career Conference; Citizenship; Bunison Gallery Call for Artwork; CrimeStats; Classifieds
8 Talk About Teaching and Learning
Hoopes Wampler: Alumni Relations
Fredrick ‘Hoopes’ Wampler is Penn’s new assistant vice president for Alumni Relations. His appointment, effective September 13, culminates a lengthy nationwide search following the departure of Robert J. Alig, C ‘84, WG ‘87, who resigned in February after six years.

Mr. Wampler previously worked for the Harvard Alumni Association, where he had been director of College Alumni Programs since 2001 and served as assistant director and special programs coordinator for two years before that. Earlier in his career, he worked in marketing and advertising. He earned a master’s degree in education from Harvard in 1999, and did his undergraduate work at the University of Richmond’s E. Claiborne Robins School of Business, graduating in 1991 with a major in marketing.

In a joint statement, John H. Zeller, vice president of Development and Alumni Relations, and Paul Williams, W’67, president of Penn Alumni, welcomed Mr. Wampler as someone of “proven success working across boundaries in a complex institution, cultivating volunteer leadership, encouraging staff initiative, and advancing diversity with new programs…”

“He has an accessible style and desire to collaborate with others. He expresses a very deep commitment to university life, to serving alumni, and to advancing the values and aspirations of a pre-eminent institution such as Penn.”

As AVP for Alumni Relations, Mr. Wampler will coordinate alumni programs across Penn’s 12 schools, direct University-wide alumni efforts on campus and around the globe, and serve as publisher of the Pennsylvania Gazette.

Harriet Joseph: CURF Interim Director
The Provost’s Office announced that Dr. Harriet Joseph will serve as the interim director of The Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF), replacing Dr. Art Casciatto, who has left to start a similar office at another university. Dr. Joseph has served as the associate director for CURF for the past five years, working directly with the University Scholars program. A search for a permanent replacement will be completed during this academic year.

Dr. Joseph is a Penn veteran, having spent seven years as an assistant dean in The College office at Penn and then seven years as the director of the Alumni Council on Admissions. She holds a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin, and an Ed.D. from Temple University in Urban Education.

WPSA Meetings
The WPSA meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month starting in October, noon-1 p.m., in Houston Hall on the third floor.

October 2, 2007
November 6, 2007
December 4, 2007
January 8, 2008
February 5, 2008
March 4, 2008
April 1, 2008
May 6, 2008

High School Upward Bound Program’s New Leadership
The Division of the Vice Provost for University Life (VPUL) has announced a new executive team for its High School Upward Bound program. Michael Cruz joins as director, and Afi Roberson-Heywood enters as associate director. Michael Cruz brings more than a dozen years of executive leadership and stewardship of community-based programs throughout the Philadelphia region. A graduate of Penn State University and Eastern University, where he holds a master’s degree in Non-Profit Leadership, Mr. Cruz has proven success in strategic planning, staff development and youth-driven initiatives.

Mr. Cruz comes to Upward Bound from the School District of Philadelphia, where he served as assistant director/college awareness coordinator. In his term there, he orchestrated the district’s efforts to educate, train, enable testing and facilitate college attendance among city-wide high school populations. Formerly, Mr. Cruz served as executive director of Philadelphia Weed & Seed Project, a federally-funded advocacy and community revitalization program.

“I’m very excited to join a prestigious university like Penn, and to be able to continue to make a difference for our community,” said Mr. Cruz. “Upward Bound provides our kids important information and knowledge — and a chance to succeed in post-secondary education. We’re helping people to better themselves and the community, and I am thrilled at this opportunity.”

The Vice Provost for University Life, Dr. Valerie Swain-Cade McCoulum, praised Mr. Cruz as the perfect fit for Penn’s High School Upward Bound program. “Michael is an experienced, thoughtful person and leader. He understands our West Philadelphia community and the needs of its students, especially the low-income and first-generation-to-college students our program directly serves. With his talented and energetic staff, I know Michael will continue the tremendous success of our High School Upward Bound program.”

Deaths
Mr. Ross, Philanthropist
Arthur Ross, an investment manager and benefactor of the Penn gallery that bears his name, died September 10 in East Hampton, NY. He was 96.

Mr. Ross had a long-standing relationship with the University of Pennsylvania. He studied as an undergraduate in the Wharton School from 1927-30 and then transferred to Columbia University where he received his B.S. in 1931.

With support from Mr. Ross, the Arthur Ross Gallery opened in 1983 (Almanac February 1, 1983). The gallery is located in the historic Anne and Jerome Fisher Fine Arts Building, designed by Frank Furness. It houses objects from the University’s collections and other major public and private collections.

Mr. Ross had a distinguished career in business, philanthropic activities and as a public member on various delegations to the United Nations. During his career, Mr. Ross worked on Wall Street in investment banking. In 1974 he became vice chairman of Central-National Gottesman, Inc. He made contributions to the arts and the environment, including the architecture school at Columbia University and Central Park in New York City.

Mr. Ross is survived by his wife, the former Janet Neff; children, Alfred, Clifford and Beverly Plewak; two grandchildren; and his brother, Chester.

Ms. Ryan, College Sophomore
Anne Rebecca Ryan, C ’10, passed away on September 9 from meningococcal meningitis at age 19. She died at HUP, one day after being hospitalized in critical condition (Almanac September 11).

Ms. Ryan, of Albion, PA, graduated from Mercyhurst Preparatory School in Erie, PA. She was studying environmental studies and Arabic at Penn. As a freshman, she worked for Penn’s The Walk magazine and fashion society Dzine2Show.

Hundreds of students and other members of the Penn community gathered for a candle-light vigil outside her apartment the night she died. Ms. Ryan is survived by her parents, Rebecca and Edward; and her brother Jed, her sisters Ainsley, Kate, and Jennifer and her maternal and paternal grandparents. Please make donations to the Anne Ryan Mission Fund c/o Mercyhurst Preparatory School, 538 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504.

To Report A Death
Almanac appreciates being informed of the deaths of current and former faculty and staff members, students and other members of the University community.

However, notices of alumni deaths should be directed to the Alumni Records Office at Room 545, Franklin Building, (215) 898-8136 or sent via e-mail record@ben.dev.upenn.edu.

ALMANAC September 18, 2007
Humboldt Award: Dr. Janmey

Dr. Paul A. Janmey, professor of physiology, physics, and bioengineering in the School of Medicine, has been nominated and elected recipient of a Humboldt Research Award. Dr. Janmey is being honored for his lifetime achievements in research and is invited to continue to pursue research projects of his own choosing in cooperation with specialist colleagues in Germany.

Ochsner Awards: Dr. Lerman

Dr. Caryn Lerman, Mary W. Calkins Professor of Psychiatry and deputy director of the Abramson Cancer Center, has received two awards from the American Cancer Society: the 2007 Alton Ochsner Award Relating Smoking and Health for her work on pharmacogenetic approaches to nicotine dependence treatment, and the 2007 Cancer Control Award in recognition for her contributions to cancer prevention and control.

Hall of Fame: Coach Micahnik

Penn Fencing Coach Dave Micahnik is going down in history—he is being recognized for 52 years in fencing by recently being elected for induction into the United States Fencing Association Hall of Fame. The annual induction is set to take place at the Summer 2008 Nationals in San Jose, California.

Grant for East African Research

Researchers from the Penn Museum and an international research team has received a $185,000 grant to study cattle pastoralism in East Africa. The grant, awarded by the National Science Foundation, will allow the team to complete a three-year research study focusing on the origins of cattle pastoralism in the eastern region of the continent. Archaeozoologist and research scientist Dr. Kathleen Ryan will complete the research study over the course of three years, mapping and testing excavation in central Laikipia, Kenya.

HUP Makes U.S. News ‘ Honor Roll’

The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania has been selected for “ Honor Roll” status in the U.S. News & World Report’s special, America’s Best Hospitals. HUP is one of only 18 hospitals in the country chosen from the 5,400 facilities surveyed.

Cancer Control Board: Ms. Rogers

Ms. Jeanne M. Rogers, associate executive director of the Abramson Cancer Center and administrative director of the Penn Cancer Network, has been appointed by Governor Edward Rendell to the Pennsylvania Cancer Control, Prevention and Research Advisory Board. The board advises the Secretary of Health on cancer-related health matters.

IEEE Award: Dr. Van der Spiegel

Dr. Jan Van der Spiegel, professor in the electrical and systems engineering department, has been awarded the 2007 IEEE Educational Activities Board Major Educational Innovation Award. The award honors individuals who have distinguished themselves for outstanding educational innovation in a field of interest in the IEEE.

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Below are the latest University Research Foundation Award Guidelines, revised as of September 2007. The Guidelines and additional information may be found online at www.upenn.edu/research/FoundationGuidelines.htm. For the recipients of the Fall 2006 awards, see Almanac February 6, 2007. The recipients of the Spring 2007 Awards were published in Almanac July 17, 2007.

University Research Foundation Award Guidelines: October 31

Statement of Purpose and Guidelines

The University Research Foundation (URF) is an intramural resource to support research for faculty for a variety of purposes, including:

1. Helping junior faculty undertake pilot projects that will enable them to successfully apply for extramural sources of funding, and aid in establishing their careers as independent investigators.

2. Helping established faculty perform exploratory research, particularly on novel or pioneering ideas, to determine their feasibility and develop preliminary data to support extramural applications.

3. Providing support in disciplines where extramural support is difficult to obtain and where significant research can be facilitated with internal funding.

4. Providing limited institutional matching funds that are awarded contingent upon a successful external peer-reviewed application that requires an institutional match.

Conference Support Guidelines are on the next page.

Scope

Disciplines. The URF supports research in all disciplines, including international research. For purposes of review, applications are assigned to four broad disciplinary areas: Biomedical Sciences, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Engineering, and Social Science and Management, see www.upenn.edu/research/ReviewPanels.htm.

Term. Grants are given for a single year only. Applications for a renewal of a previously funded project may be submitted but usually receive low priority. Funds must be spent within 12 months of the beginning of the grant, and may not be “banked” for future use. Unexpended funds must be returned to the Foundation. If well justified in writing, carryover of unexpended funds may be possible with approval by the Vice Provost for Research. Request for carryover of unexpended funds should be made in writing two (2) months prior to the expiration of an award. No extensions will be considered if request is made after award is expired.

Budget. Applications up to $50,000 will be entertained. Eligibility. Applications limited to University faculty, in any track, at any professorial level. Instructors and Research Associates may apply but need to establish (by letter from the Department chair) that the applicant will receive an appointment as an Assistant Professor by the time of the award.

Conference Support: Scholarly conferences of a research nature will be considered for funding at the level of up to $3,000 per conference (See Conference Support Guidelines on page 5.)

The Application

Applications that fail to meet these guidelines will not be reviewed.

Dates. Applications are accepted twice each year, for October 31 and March 15 deadlines. If the date falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is the next working day. Every effort will be made to process applications and notify applicants of the outcome within 10 weeks after the deadlines.

The application. Clarity and brevity will enhance the likelihood of success. Please number all pages at the bottom right-hand corner. Use one-inch margins and a 12-point font. Applications should be limited to 10 pages (applications over the page limit will not be reviewed) and must include in this order: (Checklist can be downloaded for your use; does not need to be submitted.)

1. A completed Research Foundation Proposal Cover Sheet, downloadable at www.upenn.edu/research/FoundationGuidelines.htm. Applications should be classified under one of the four Statement of Purpose categories listed above.

2. An abstract of no more than 200 words, written for the educated nonspecialist.

3. A description of no more than 5 single-spaced pages of the research proposed. Proposals must provide background, hypothesis or purpose of the research, significance of the research, methods used, work to be undertaken, and outlook for future extension of the research and its potential for external funding (see Review Process).

Note: an application formatted for another sponsoring agency or failing to conform to these guidelines will not be reviewed.

4. A Research Foundation Budget Form, supplied as a link, must be used justifying each item requested. Allowable items include research costs associated with supplies, salaries of non-faculty personnel and travel expenses essential to the project. Equipment costs of up to 100% of the proposed budget may be eligible for funding but such requests must be justified in the application as essential to the research. In addition, if all or most of the budget is to be used for equipment, the applicant must document that other resources are available to conduct the proposed research. Specific research objectives should be identified and described. The review will focus not on the equipment being requested but on the scientific program to which it will be applied. Equipment requests for multiple user items will enhance the likelihood of success. Faculty salaries, including summer salaries or release time, are not funded. Because the URF supports research that is not necessarily a continuing endeavor, the budget must prioritize items in the order of their importance to the project (not simply list all items requiring support for which support is requested) in the comment section of the budget form.

5. Reserve space clearly stated, including other current funding (direct and indirect costs) with a list of titles, amounts, sources, and grant periods, expired funding for the prior three years, and pending applications (include notification date of pending applications), as well as faculty research funds and funds associated with professorial Chairs. Prior grants from the University Research Foundation must be itemized, with dates, title, and amount of funding, plus a statement about whether external funding was received as a result of the URF grant. Other research support for co-investigators should be similarly identified in detail.

6. Regulatory issues. If research involves human subjects, animals, biohazards, or other regulatory issues, the application should identify those concerns and provide documentation that they will be addressed. Please note that IRB approval may be required for human subject research in all disciplines, including the sociobehavioral sciences and humanities. If IRB, IACUC or Environmental Safety review and approval is required, it may be obtained after the application has been approved, but before funds are provided or research has been initiated. For advice please consult the Office of Regulatory Affairs, see www.upenn.edu/regulatoryaffairs.

7. A single page biographical sketch for the principle investigator and all co-investigators. The biographical sketches do not count against the page limit.

8. Assistant Professors in all tracks (including Tenure, Clinician Educator, and Research track) are required to include a letter from their Department Chair indicating their career plans within the department, future commitment of independent space and of department or School resources including all department funding (startup packages, etc.). In addition, the letter should establish that the applicant will be working as an independent investigator or scholar. Such additional documentation can be provided as an appendix and will not be included within the page count.

9. Conflict of interest. The applicant should explicitly make a statement about whether or not the application involves any potential conflict of interest, and any such conflicts should be described. For instance, if the research could forward the interests of a company in which the applicant has a financial interest, this should be disclosed. Conflict of interest documentation (if required) can be provided as an appendix to the body of the application and will not be included in the page count, see www.upenn.edu/researchservices/docs/findisc.doc.

10. Resubmitted applications that were not funded in a previous cycle must be identified and described. The review will focus not on the equipment being requested but on the scientific program to which it will be applied. Applications for re-funding for the prior three years, and pending applications (include notification date of pending applications), as well as faculty research funds and funds associated with professorial Chairs. Prior grants from the University Research Foundation must be itemized, with dates, title, and amount of funding, plus a statement about whether external funding was received as a result of the URF grant. Other research support for co-investigators should be similarly identified in detail.

Submission. An original of the complete proposal with the original signatures of the PI, Chair and Dean should be submitted to the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, 118 College Hall/6303 on or before 5 p.m. on the deadline date. In addition, please send a PDF version:

1) PDF file name must be the last name of the principal investigator.

2) Full proposal must be one PDF document to include the fully signed cover sheet, budget sheet and all attachments in the exact same order as the submitted original proposal.

3) Email to: vpr@pobox.upenn.edu.

4) Must be received on or before 5 p.m. of the deadline date.

Review Process

Applications are reviewed by one of four faculty committees, Biomedical Sciences, Humanities, Natural Science and Engineering, and Social Science and Management, see www.upenn.edu/research/ReviewPanels.htm. Funding is spread equitably across the major disciplines. Each application is reviewed for a variety of attributes, including:

- scholarly merit, creativity and innovation
- feasibility
- significance of the research
- time-limited opportunities that require immediate funding
- prospects for future extramural funding
- matching support from other sources
- availability of alternate funding sources

(continued on next page)
University Research Foundation Conference Support Guidelines: October 31

Scope
The conference support program is designed for scholarly meetings that will be convened on the Penn campus, thereby providing enrichment opportunities to interested faculty, students, and staff, most frequently in the format of a 1-2 day colloquium. The intent is to support meetings that are designed to enhance existing research and scholarly programs, particularly in disciplines where external funding is difficult to obtain. High priority will be given to inter- or cross-disciplinary conferences that include faculty from more than one School.

The Application
Funding will be limited to no more than $3,000 per event, and should be dedicated to reimbursing the speakers for travel and accommodations, but not for meals and entertainment. It is expected that funding from the University Research Foundation will supplement funding from other sources and will not be the sole source of funding for the meeting. Applications must be brief, usually no more than three (3) pages, and should include: (Checklist can be downloaded for your use; does not need to be submitted.)

• A completed Conference Proposal Cover Sheet, with all signatures, download must be used and the appropriate review committee must be indicated, www.upenn.edu/research/ReviewPanels.htm.
• A description of the purpose of the meeting
• A proposed program agenda (appendix)
• A proposed list of presenters (appendix)
• The number of Penn students and faculty expected to attend
• An explanation of the benefit to Penn students and faculty
• An explanation of the benefit to scholarly or research programs at Penn
• Relationship of the meeting to department, institute or center programs

• The names of faculty who are organizing the meeting
• Identity and contact information for the business administrator responsible for administration of the funds
• Evidence of matching funding from institutional or external sources
• Evidence of institutional support in the form of no cost facilities and AV support
• A Research Foundation budget form, link, itemizing the types of proposed expenditures (appendix)

Submission
Submission. An original of the complete proposal with the signed cover sheet should be submitted to the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, 118 College Hall/6303 on or before 5 p.m. of the deadline date. In addition, please send a PDF version:
1) PDF file name must be the last name of the principal investigator.
2) Full proposal should be one PDF document to include the signed cover sheet, budget sheet and all attachments in the same order as the hard copy.
3) Email to: vpr@pobox.upenn.edu
4) Must be received on or before 5 p.m. the deadline date.

Review Process
Applications for the Conference Support Program are processed in the same cycles, and will be reviewed by the same committees that review URF research applications. Please identify which Review Committee will review your conference proposal (Biomedical Sciences, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Engineering, and Social Science and Management). See www.upenn.edu/research/ReviewPanels.htm.

Questions should be directed to: Irene Soroka, (215) 898-3606, vpr@pobox.upenn.edu, Vice Provost for Research, 118 College Hall/6303.

School of Medicine: Morris K. Udall Parkinson’s Disease Centers of Excellence

The University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine will receive $1.5 million annually from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) over the next five years to study the molecular mechanisms that underlie the cognitive and movement aspects of Parkinson’s disease, as well as enhance the care and treatment of patients and training of physicians. The Penn Udall Center is the only center to focus on dementia and Parkinson’s disease.

Parkinson’s is one of the most common neurodegenerative diseases, second only to Alzheimer’s disease in the number of people affected. Estimates suggest that approximately 750,000 Americans have Parkinson’s.

“This grant will enable us to better leverage our achievements in clinical care for Parkinson’s patients with our strong background in research on the basic sciences behind neurological disorders,” said Center Director Dr. John Trojanowski, director of Penn’s Institute on Aging. “The theme of the Udall grant is cognitive impairment, a very much neglected aspect of Parkinson’s disease. This grant will bring together movement disorder physicians with experts in cognition and neuropsychiatry.”

“NINDS funding will help us build on our existing Parkinson’s efforts as well as recruit new faculty to the research program,” said Dr. Arthur Rubenstein, EVP of the University of Pennsylvania for the Health System and Dean of the School of Medicine. “The award is a testament to the characteristics collegiality and team approach to science at Penn. This award will further add to our international reputation for multidisciplinary research excellence in neurodegenerative diseases of aging.”

The Penn Udall Center is based on 20 years of basic research on neurodegenerative diseases within the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research and clinical programs at the Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorder Center, both within the UPHS.

Dr. Trojanowski will coordinate the Center’s overall operations and conduct neuropathology and genetics research. Dr. Howard Hurtig, will investigate potential markers of Parkinson’s-related neurodegeneration, as well as lead educational efforts for physicians and the lay community. Dr. Andrew Siderowf, and Dr. Murray Grossman, will help mark out the nature of cognitive impairments in Parkinson patients. Dr. Virginia M.-Y. Lee and Dr. Benoit Giasson, will study the nature of these impairments in mouse models. Dr. Sharon Xie, will oversee data management and bioinformatics for the initiative.

The Udall Centers of Excellence were developed in honor of former Congressman Morris K. Udall, who died in 1998 after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease. The first center was named in 1997. Joining the existing 13 Centers, the Penn Udall Center has several objectives:

• Develop a new rating scale of activities of daily living for Parkinson’s patients to distinguish between cognitive and motor impairments.
• Investigate the neural basis of cognitive deficits in Parkinson’s disease, using MRI, among other techniques.
• Conduct studies with animal models of Parkinson’s disease to elucidate the role of alpha-synuclein proteins in disease pathology.
• Study the role of protein aggregations in Parkinson’s dementia pathology.

“Most significantly, advances in understanding how the accumulation of nerve-cell debris formed by the Lewy body protein alpha-synuclein causes motor and cognitive impairments in Parkinson’s disease are leading to the identification of exciting new targets for drug discovery aimed at stopping or slowing Parkinson’s,” said Dr. Trojanowski. “The Parkinson’s brain is flooded with deposits of alpha-synuclein misfolded protein and understanding how this happens suggests several novel therapies.”

One approach is to unplug the normal protein disposal mechanisms in sick nerve cells so pathological alpha-synuclein is cleared and no longer accumulates. This strategy will prevent sick nerve cells from being damaged by the alpha-synuclein debris. Alternatively, reducing the amount of pathological alpha-synuclein in sick nerve cells will help the normal disposal mechanisms in the brain to work effectively. “These success stories from the lab offer real hope for better patient therapies to stop or slow the progression of Parkinson’s,” Dr. Trojanowski said of the new Center’s overall aim.
Help with the Hiring Process

Filling an open position can be stressful and time-consuming. But did you know that Human Resources can help? Our Recruiters can assist you through all phases of the hiring process, including:

• Tracking applicants—Learn how you can use the applicant tracking system to efficiently manage your hiring process.
• Interviewing—Practice your interviewing skills, learn helpful tips, and develop effective questions in a one-on-one refresher course.
• Salary setting—Consult with an expert on how to set a fair and equitable salary for your open position.

We’re here to help! For more information, including a list of our Recruiters and their areas of responsibility, visit our website at www.hr.upenn.edu/recruitment/hiringofficer or call (215) 898-1303.

Introductory Period

If you’ve just started working at Penn, or if you’ve recently hired a new staff member, there’s something you should know: all new regular staff members are subject to an Introductory Period during their first four months of employment at Penn (this time period may be extended in certain circumstances, but only after consultation with Human Resources). The Introductory Period is designed to help new staff members successfully transition into their roles with the University, and to enable supervisors to determine if they’ve made the right hire.

Communication is integral during this period. A new staff member needs to understand the job expectations as well as the criteria that will be used for assessing his/her performance. Supervisors are responsible for providing this information when they make a new hire. Then, frequent feedback during the Introductory Period can help ensure that things stay on track.

If you’re a supervisor, it’s critical that you provide your new staff member with the tools they’ll need to perform well. These tools include:

• a copy of the staff member’s job description;
• an Introductory Period Performance Plan, which you should review with the staff member during his/her first week of employment, and
• the appropriate orientation to the University, school/college and department.

If you’re a new staff member, you should ask for these things if you haven’t already received them and ask questions if you don’t understand what’s expected of you. It’s to the benefit of everyone involved if both the new staff member and his/her supervisor clearly understand the job expectations and keep up an open line of communication.

You can find more information on the Introductory Period Review Process at www.hr.upenn.edu/staffrelations/introperiod/default.asp. If you have any questions or need assistance in developing the Introductory Review Performance Plan, please contact the Division of Human Resources at (215) 898-6093.

—Division of Human Resources

Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology: Pilot Project Funding

The Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology (CEET) announces the availability of pilot project grants for partial support for unfunded research in environmental health or toxicology. Awards of up to $25,000 will be made. Any member of the standing faculty or research track faculty in the 12 professional schools at the University of Pennsylvania, or our affiliates (CHOP and Monell) will be eligible to apply for Pilot Project Grant support provided that the project is related to either environmental health or toxicology research or the community outreach and education mission of the Center. The research being proposed cannot be funded by an external funding agency. Projects that focus on environmental triggers of adverse endocrine or reproductive disorders and the identification of biochemical markers of adverse endocrine or reproductive impacts are particularly encouraged. In addition projects focused on environmental agents that may affect genetic imprinting will also be reviewed favorably.

Preference will be given to first-time applicants that are junior faculty. Senior or established faculty will also be eligible to apply provided that the research they propose is unfunded and fits into the mission of the Center. Preference will also be given to senior faculty who wish to embrace environmental health or toxicology research as a new direction. Applications that support collaborative research that may be used to gather pilot data for a multi-investigator award will also be considered. If funded, a progress report is required at the end of the funding period and awardees must present their findings at a CEET Chalk Talk. The Center grant must be acknowledged on all publications resulting from the supported research.

The following should be submitted for the internal review by November 1:

• Title of application;
• Personnel information, name, position, title, and contact information;
• 2-page NIH Biosketch;
• List of Current and Pending grant support;
• An abstract;
• A statement to indicate how this project would lead to extramural funding;
• Specific aims;
• Significance which must state relevance to environmental health or toxicological research;
• Preliminary studies;
• Methods;
• References; and,
• Budget—Can range from $8-$25K, items that can be requested include salary of support personnel, supplies and minor equipment. Investigators cannot claim salary support for themselves.

The maximum length of the application should not exceed 10 pages. Mail completed applications to: Mary Webster, Department of Pharmacology/CEET, 130D John Morgan/6084, webster@mail.med.upenn.edu.

All applications will be reviewed by a committee of senior faculty and external experts and recipients will be notified by December 15.

Celebrate Japan!: September 29

(At left) A Japanese calligraphy demonstration—one of the activities at this year’s Celebrate Japan! on September 29, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.—at the Penn Museum. The day also includes presentations on sushi preparation and flower arrangement; a kimono display and dressing lecture, and Japanese games. This event is free with Museum admission donation ($8 general admission; $5 students and seniors; free for children under 6, Museum members and PennCard holders).

One Step Ahead

Security & Privacy

Made Simple

Another tip in a series provided by the Offices of Information Systems & Computing and Audit, Compliance & Privacy.

Your Life Online

The online world gives us unprecedented opportunities to chat with people around the globe about current issues, to network professionally and socially, and generally to express ourselves. These are amazing and positive developments.

But think about privacy risks when posting to blogs and similar services, and uploading to video-sharing sites. Electronic postings may be permanent and may define you now or at any future point. Statements and pictures posted online now, in jest or to convey a message to a defined group, may come back to haunt you in the future. Employers commonly use search engines to gather background information on job applicants. Consider who else may search the web on your name and what they may find.

Online networking sites raise similar privacy issues. Once you post data about yourself, you may never be able to take it back. Do you want the world to know your street address or your winter break plans? Maybe you’re comfortable sharing only your email address and only with a designated group of people. Check for privacy options available through most online services and make choices that are right for you about what you share with whom. Be aware, however, that choosing the right privacy options does not provide any guarantee against potential hackers who may gain access to all site data.

Temporary Postings are Easily Made Permanent: You may think that what you’re posting is temporary or limited in view. Bear in mind that websites like Internet Archives capture snapshots of the entire web and preserve data—even data taken down locally—for the world to see perhaps for decades.

For additional tips, see the One Step Ahead link on the Information Security website: www.upenn.edu/computing/security.
Call for Artwork

The Burrison Gallery is calling for art for its 2007-2008 exhibitions. All artists are invited to submit proposals. The Burrison Gallery is an online competitive exhibition program and is open to all artists. The proposals will be reviewed by a panel of guest artists and the selection committee. The proposals are due by March 31, 2007. For more information, please visit www.burrison.org.

The Academic Career Conference

The Academic Career Conference features topics of interest to doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows who are looking for academic jobs and planning on academic careers. Speakers are faculty members and administrators from UC and other universities.

Blighted, Borders and Human Needs

The Inaugural Lecture of the Penn Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism (DCC)–Immigration: Global Trends and Issues on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionality will be held on Sept. 20, 4-6 p.m.; Kirby Auditorium. A reception will follow at 3:30 p.m.

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Wanted: Work-Study Students

Duties of students who work at Almanac include administrative tasks, desktop publishing, web and database maintenance, research, and proofreading.

Positions are available at Almanac for this academic year. Please e-mail your resume to Natalie Woulard at stevemn@upenn.edu. Position descriptions are posted on the Student Employment web site.

The University of Pennsylvania Police Department

The University of Pennsylvania Police Department's Community Crime Report

About the Crime Report: Below are all crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Society from the campus report for September 3-9, 2007. Also reported were 19 Crimes Against Property (including 14 thefts, 1 robbery, 1 burglary and 3 cases of fraud). Full reports are available at: www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v24/n4/crime.html. Prior week's 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 September 3-9, 2007. 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.

18th District Report

11 incidents with 1 arrest (including 9 robberies and 2 aggravated assaults) were reported between September 3-9, 2007 by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th St. & Market St. to Woodland Ave.:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Incident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/07</td>
<td>2:41 AM</td>
<td>3100 Walnut St</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/07</td>
<td>2:44 PM</td>
<td>3910 Powelton Ave</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/07</td>
<td>3:46 PM</td>
<td>38th and Spruce Sts</td>
<td>Offender cited for disorderly conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/07</td>
<td>6:46 PM</td>
<td>3731 Walnut St</td>
<td>Offender attempted unauthorized transaction/Arrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/08</td>
<td>2:17 AM</td>
<td>200 34th St</td>
<td>Male arrested for drunk driving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/08</td>
<td>8:57 AM</td>
<td>100 39th St</td>
<td>Female arrested for drunk driving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/09</td>
<td>12:45 AM</td>
<td>40th and Spruce Sts</td>
<td>Male wanted on warrant/new date issued</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania Police Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, color, national or ethnic affiliation, 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 availability; athletic and other University-administered programs or employment. Questions or complaints regarding this policy should be directed to Joanne Arnold, Executive Director, Office of Affirmative Action, 3600 Chestnut Street, 2nd floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106 or (215) 889-6993 (Voice) or (215) 889-7803 (TTY).
Connecting Students with the Unfamiliar

David Wallace

Teaching at Penn is a pleasure because the students, from the start, are on your side. Students elsewhere might pull down the seedcap, lean back and see how you do: but Penn students want you to be the best possible professor. This is in part so they can be sure of having made the best possible choice in picking this class: but it still helps, and they will work hard to prove themselves right. Such an attitude particularly helps those of us teaching subjects that might be quite new, even alien, to the prior experience of Penn students; in my case, this is medieval English literature.

The English Department at Penn has a terrific culture of teaching, with superb administrative support: year after year, its faculty and graduate students near-sweep the SAS teaching awards. As English professors, we are all obsessed with English and every class, for us, is a writing class. This does not always win rave reviews (“He seems obsessed by punctuation and grammar.”) To which we must reply: guilty as charged. Graduate students in the English Department follow a trajectory of teaching, from TA-ing to the devising of independent courses; many of our best teachers are advanced graduate students. And the teaching of, and learning from, senior associates has been a special joy. One class began with four of them in the front row. After two weeks the two women moved to the back of the class and the men stayed put. “Why did you move?” I asked the women. “Because we were talking too much,” they said. “Why did you stay put?” I asked the men. “Because we are too deaf to hear from back there,” they replied. Through them I have come to meet some very fine people and gained access to a wider Philadelphia world.

I teach medieval poetry. Colleagues think I have a hard row to hoe, but au contraire: I feel sorry for colleagues who teach later periods. Pre-modern literature—Chaucer, Dante, Shakespeare, Milton—is written to be read aloud, performed and declaimed in large public spaces. Modern novels are read in a room of one’s own; it is thus tricky to translate this private experience to the public domain of the classroom. This can be true of modern verse too: except in the case of our own Charles Bernstein, whose Pennsound recording project restores voice and personality to modern poetry. It has been great fun collaborating with Charles, and with his students and other poets, in various medieval/modern experiments.

But the Middle Ages did happen a very long time ago: before even I was born, I tell my students. But then I ask them to point to themselves. Point to yourself. I then ask them why they are pointing to their hearts: since when did the self reside in the torso, and not in the cranium? Since the Middle Ages, of course. We can then think of other medieval conceptions carrying forward without our hardly noticing: romantic love (and St. Valentine’s Day); universities and academic disciplines (with the original threat of having knowledge beaten or disciplined into you: cf. R. Bushnell, A Culture of Teaching); Crusades and jihads; and a whole continent “discovered” by an Italian looking and thinking through such “medieval” categories.

Medieval texts offer tremendous educational opportunities: a chance to engage with a culture looking and sounding like ours, yet differing from it; an encounter with otherness grounded upon common (but not too quickly universalized) humanity. Similar opportunities present themselves through teaching foreign languages: but things move along more quickly with Middle English, since modern English derives from the Franco-Germanic union (plus Celtic and Norse) that began after 1066. One pop exercise that students particularly enjoy is etymologize that: trying to figure out how a familiar English name was formed (try daisy, dandelion, or—for readers of Hamlet—mole). My Chaucer class begins with words, lexicon, and builds up from there. The first exercise requires students to study several hundred lines of Middle English, and to identify some 50 words in a class test (and nobody can know what wight means, I tell them, unless they study). Next comes translation from Middle English: this continues to hold attention upon the details of the text. The next assignment introduces the concept of critical commentary: I first assign a particular passage and ask them to tell me why these particular lines are important; I then invite them to pick their own passages and convince me of their special significance. All this builds towards essay writing: for the most crucial stage of composition, I tell them, comes in choosing the five or six passages that will—through detailed and particular analysis—form the backbone of their argument. This helps produce evidence-based essays, rather than generalized waffle. Having written a shorter essay, students then proceed to a research paper: this requires background reading, office or e-consultation, a one-page outline, and (finally) independent imagination. Students are encouraged to tell me things I don’t already know, and to draw from their own areas of special interest (childbirth and Trouluta texts; chemistry and alchemy; financial accounting and Purgatory; military science and chivalry).

While all this is going on, throughout the semester, we learn to read Middle English aloud. Students begin by repeating lines after me; they then each read a line along the row (this avoids excessive embarrassment, preserving semi-anonymity); then a sentence; then a passage. The point here is to enjoy a poetry that was written to be read aloud (silent reading being a postmedieval invention) and to grasp that every reading is an act of critical interpretation. Sometimes in class we break down into groups to prepare a reading. One student will be the designated reader; one the translator or glossator; and the others the exegetes. Preparation time allows me (and my TAs) to move between groups; each group then gets to present and to face questions from the whole class.

The choosing of course titles, I have learned, directly impacts enrollment. “King Arthur and his Knights” attracts a good number of men; “Masculinity, Chivalry, and Romance,” applied to the very same course materials, attracts far fewer (most men being unwilling to analyze masculini- ty). Courses on premodern women enroll mostly women. My general approach here might be summarized by the question: how did women, given less than ideal circumstances, nonetheless achieve meaningful lives? The parenthetic qualification “less than ideal circumstances” cannot be leapt over lightly (especially by a male instructor), but the aim here is again to achieve some measure of respect and understanding for historical difference. And to consider how life imperatives change: in Catholic medieval England, virginity was rated highest (100% spiritual return), with widowhood second (66%) and youth third (33%). In Renaissance Protestant England, woman’s highest duty is marriage and production of offspring. To what extent, however, might cultures mourn the lost option of an all-female society? The teaching of courses on women puts me on the sharpest learning curve. I have learned, for example, that Penn women students discuss issues of sexuality and gender with relative comfort. But the uses of beauty, as employed by premodern women such as Margaret Cavendish, leaves them ill at ease (bombarded as they are, one realizes, by endless images of unrealistic and unattainable female perfection).

Teaching at Penn is immensely rewarding; thanks for the opportunity.

David Wallace, Judith Rodin Professor of English, was awarded the Ira H. Abrams Award for Distinguished Teaching, School of Arts and Sciences, 2007. He has been appointed Clarendon Lecturer in English, Oxford University (October 2007) and Bain-Swiggett Visiting Professor of Poetry, Princeton University (Spring 2008).

This essay continues the series that began in the fall of 1994 as the joint creation of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Lindback Society for Distinguished Teaching.

See www.upenn.edu/almanac/teach/teachall.html for the previous essays.