Penn Nursing’s $10 Million Grant from NIH to Improve Sedation Management of Critically-Ill Children

The National Institutes of Health has awarded the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing a $10 million grant to investigate better ways of managing sedation for children on life-saving ventilators. The grant, the largest in the school’s history, will be devoted to conducting one of the most comprehensive studies ever undertaken in pediatric critical care.

The children, who range in age from infant to 18 years, are typically the victims of trauma, pneumonia, bronchiolitis, asthma and other conditions, and are often critically ill, requiring the insertion of ventilation tubes into the throat to assist breathing. The study will involve more than 2,750 patients in 18 of some of the most prestigious pediatric hospitals in the United States and Canada.

“This research asks an important question that will directly inform doctors how to care for critically ill pediatric patients,” said Dr. Andrea Harabin, program director for Acute Lung Injury and Critical Care Medicine, of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), which co-funded the grant.

“The truly collaborative, interdisciplinary approach used in this study is very exciting,” added Dr. Patricia A. Grady, director of the National Institute of Nursing Research, which is co-funding this grant along with NHLBI. “This approach may not only decrease the amount of time patients are required to be on a ventilator, it may shorten the time they spend in the hospital, improve their long-term outcomes, and lower the overall cost of care.”

“Our goal is to tightly manage sedation so that children can be weaned from mechanical ventilators earlier in hopes they will have fewer complications and spend less time in the hospital while continuing to ensure they are comfortable,” said associate professor of nursing Dr. Martha A.Q. Curley, the principal investigator of the study. “Too much sedation can actually prolong hospital stays by preventing the body from healing quickly and can cause health issues such as overdependence on medication.”

“Using their clinical judgment, nurses will implement a goal-directed comfort algorithm guiding titration of sedative drugs. This new procedure changes the collaborative nature of critical care to immediately benefit the patient by having nurses, those closest to the patient, make decisions about how best to help very sick children be comfortable,” said Dr. Curley.

Researchers will follow a team of physicians, nurses, clinical pharmacists, respiratory therapists and others who will jointly set daily goals for sedation management. Nurses will then administer medications in adherence with the overall goal, rather than awaiting a specific order. The new technique will be assessed to see whether the number of days spent on a ventilator can be safely and humanely reduced to promote patient recovery.

“Dr. Curley’s innovative program of research exemplifies a commitment to interdisciplinaryity in developing the evidence for best practices in managing care of children,” said Dean of the School of Nursing Dr. Afaf Meleis.

“Currently, patients can be sedated for long periods of time,” said Curley. “Our goal is to tightly manage sedation so that children can be weaned from mechanical ventilators earlier in hopes they will have fewer complications and spend less time in the hospital while continuing to ensure they are comfortable.”

Patkau Architects to Design New College House on Hill Square

The University of Pennsylvania has selected Patkau Architects of Canada as the designer for the new College House at Hill Square, the first new residential hall to be constructed at Penn in more than three decades. This project will bring together students, faculty and staff in a diverse community built on common intellectual interests.

The working version of the college house plan calls for low-rise buildings that partially enclose a Quad-like square and will feature approximately 340 units in a variety of room configurations. The existing green space on Hill Square will be redesigned to accommodate the building while still serving as a locus for gathering and recreation surrounding a diagonal sculpture.

School of Arts and Sciences 2008 Teaching Awards

Dr. Rebecca W. Bushnell, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Dennis DeTurck, dean of the College, announced the following recipients of the School’s 2008 teaching awards, to be presented on Thursday, May 1 at an awards reception that is open to the University community. The reception will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Upper Egyptian Gallery of the Penn Museum.

Ira H. Abrams Memorial Award for Distinguished Teaching

This year’s recipients of SAS’s highest teaching honor are Dr. Emma Dillon, associate professor of music, and Dr. Simon Richter, professor of Germanic languages and literatures.

Created in 1983, the Ira H. Abrams Award recognizes teaching that is intellectually challenging and exceptionally coherent and honors faculty who embody high standards of integrity and fairness, have a strong commitment to learning, and are open to new ideas.

Dr. Dillon is also the recipient of a Lindback Award this year (Almanac April 15, 2008). Of one of her courses on medieval music, a student comments that Dr. Dillon “draws out the truths of the medieval experience, locked away in the parchment of another time and brings it alive for her students.” A colleague writes that “a teacher like Emma comes along in our discipline once or twice in a lifetime.”

Dr. Richter is known for his innovative courses like The Devil’s Pact in Literature, Music and Film, and Looking for Lola: The Allure of a Cinematic Name. One of his teaching assistants observes that Dr. Richter “nurture[s] the ability to engage directly with work (texts, images, music, film, etc.) in a way that leads students to discover usually fresh and compelling insights.”

Dr. Dillon and Dr. Richter received their Awards during the School of Arts and Sciences 2008 Teaching Awards Ceremony, which was held at the Lincoln Library.

Dr. Emma Dillon

Dr. Simon Richter

Eli Glatstein

Robert Dunning Dripps Memorial Award for Excellence in Graduate Medical Education

Dr. Eli Glatstein, is a professor and vice-chairman of the department of radiation oncology in the School of Medicine. With more than 40 years of experience in the field, Dr. Glatstein is an internationally recognized clinician and educator. His advice and guidance are sought by medical students and residents as well as attending physicians. He is never too busy to discuss research or patient care with his students and colleagues. Under his mentorship, more than 20 physician-trainees, fellows, and junior faculty members have advanced to chief departments of radiation oncology.

Dr. Glatstein is an alumnus of the State University of Iowa and Stanford University School of Medicine. Prior to joining Penn Medicine in 1996, he was chief of the Radiation Oncology Branch of the National Cancer Institute and served as the chairman of the department of radiation oncology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. This award was established by the department of anesthesia in honor of Robert Dunning Dripps, the former chair of the department from 1943 to 1972. It recognizes excellence as an educator of residents and fellows in clinical care, research, teaching, or administration.

IN THIS ISSUE

2 Senate: SEC Actions; Center for Clinical Legal Studies; Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowship

3 Deaths: Ms. Beshubsky; Dr. Cass; Mr. Schneider

4 2008 Teaching Award Winners

6 RecycleMania; Tuition Benefit; Penn Perspective; One Step Ahead; Security & Privacy Tip; Central Netnews Service; Annual Housing Fair

7 Penn Relays; PennGEMs Program; Update; CrimeStats; Classifieds

8 Benchmarks: Surviving: The Body of Evidence; Penn Reading Project for Year of Evolution
The following is published in accordance with the Faculty Senate Rules. Among other purposes, the publication of SEC actions is intended to stimulate discussion among the constituencies and their representatives. Please communicate your comments to Sue White, executive assistant to the Senate Office, either by telephone at (215) 898-6943, or by e-mail at senate@pobox.upenn.edu.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions
Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Chair’s Report. Faculty Senate Chair Larry Gladney reported that the Senate Committees will be presenting their final reports at the May SEC meeting. Dr. Gladney updated SEC on the work of the Senate Committees: the Senate Committee on Faculty and the Academic Mission (SCOF) will be examining “who is teaching our students?”; the Senate Committee on Faculty Development, Diversity, and Equity (SCFDDE) has completed a study of all schools’ mentoring programs and best practices and will be looking at the Minority Equity Report; the Senate Committee on Students and Educational Policy (SCSEP) is completing their final report on graduate tuition reform; and the Senate Committee on Faculty and the Administration (SCOA) has wrapped up examination of the procedures for appointment of School Deans.

President’s Update for the Faculty Senate. President Amy Gutmann discussed local and national engagement with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, highlighting the University of Pennsylvania’s achievements and challenges for the future. President Gutmann led a discussion on an overview of local engagement topics including: Penn’s leadership role regarding sustainability, academic and financial partnership with the Penn Alexander School of plan for a magnet high school in West Philadelphia, accomplishments of the Netter Center for Community Partnerships, and enthusiasm looking forward to future collaborations with Mayor Michael Nutter. President Gutmann also led a discussion on national engagement topics including: Penn student volunteers who helped with recovery in New Orleans during spring break; the recent increase in Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services of the University’s debt rating to AA+ from AA; the challenges and strategies for positioning Penn to capitalize on all available research funding; and the new innovative financial aid program. President Gutmann also thanked the Senate leadership, and in particular Faculty Senate Past-Chair Neville Strumpf for her encore performance this year.

Committee on Committees Ballot. All Faculty Senate members voted on a ballot of names for specific 2008-2009 committees, as proposed by the 2008 Committee on Committees.

Discussion on Political Engagement. Assistant Professor Matthew Hartley and Professor Henry Teune led a discussion on the history and current climate of political engagement at American colleges and universities, with particular emphasis on Penn. Assistant Professor Hartley noted that universities have deep civic roots; however there is evidence that since the 1960s, students have become politically disengaged. In the past decade there has been a movement aimed at revitalizing civic engagement. Professor Teune highlighted his work with the Council of Europe to advance the contributions of higher education to democracy on college and university campuses. Professor Teune also reported that Penn is a leader for civic engagement, with numerous volunteer activities. SEC members had a robust discussion on the question; “to what extent are we responsible to this democracy?” noting the difference between civic engagement, which is strong, as opposed to political engagement and activism, which should be fostered on college campuses.

Harriet Joseph: Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships

Provost Ronald Daniels and Associate Provost for Education Andrew Binns are pleased to announce the appointment of Harriet Joseph as Director of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF), effective May 1, 2008.

Dr. Joseph is currently interim director of CURF. She has been at Penn for more than twenty years, including seven years as director of the Alumni Council on Admissions and six years as assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“At the end of our national search,” said Provost Daniels, “we found our ideal candidate here at Penn. I look forward to many more years of Harriet’s deep knowledge of this university, skill at mentoring and advising our students, and expertise at advancing exciting new research and fellowship opportunities.”

As an Associate Director of CURF since 2002, Dr. Joseph has played a leading role in the office’s initiatives and accomplishments over the past six years, including expanding the University Scholars program; helping Penn students win a wide range of prestigious fellowships and scholarships; and launching the Provost’s Undergraduate Research Mentorship Program, which pairs undergraduates with faculty members in summer research projects around the world.

“I am grateful to Harriet,” said Associate Provost Binns, “for the great work that she has done at CURF and the great work that I know she will continue to do, especially as we see CURF create more and more meaningful research experiences for our undergraduates.”

“I would also like to thank the members of our outstanding search committee, who worked so diligently to achieve this outstanding result.”

Dr. Joseph earned an EdD (1980) from Temple University, an MEd (1969) from Northeastern University, and a BA in history (1968) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Louis Rulli: Director of Center for Clinical Legal Studies; Douglas Frenkel Steps Down After 28 Years

Louis Rulli has been named director of the Gittis Center for Clinical Legal Studies at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Professor Rulli will succeed Douglas Frenkel, who is stepping down as director on June 30. Professor Frenkel will remain on the faculty at Penn Law, focusing on teaching, writing and dispute-resolution work.

Professor Frenkel has led Penn’s nationally renowned clinical program since 1980. Under his leadership, Penn Law has built a program that offers clinical courses in litigation, criminal defense, business/transactional representation, mediation, legislation, child advocacy and transnational lawyering, including partnerships with Penn’s Wharton School and the schools of Medicine and of Social Policy and Practice.

“During Doug’s tenure, the clinic program’s faculty, facilities, funding and enrollments have grown dramatically,” Dean Fitts said. “Generations of students have benefited from Doug’s commitment to preparing the best possible lawyers.”

“I’ve been privileged to be able to do this work for the past 28 years and blessed with great colleagues in that effort,” Professor Frenkel said. “The kind of lawyers and professional leaders that many of our program’s alumni have become is a source of great pride.”

Speaking Out

Speaking Out welcomes reader contributions. Short, timely letters on University issues will be accepted by Thursday at noon for the following Tuesday’s issue, subject to right-of-reply guidelines. Advance notice of intention to submit is appreciated. See www.upenn.edu/almanac/about/guideline.html for the Speaking Out Guidelines. — Eds.
Ms. Beshunsky, Athletics

Doris Dannenhirsch Beshunsky, former coach of the Pennguinettes, died March 30 at age 92.

As a student at Penn, Ms. Beshunsky organized a synchronized swimming team in 1946 with just eight female students who swam once a year to entertain visitors to campus on High School Day. In 1953, it became an official athletic society under the Women’s Physical Education Department and the Women’s Athletic Association.

She earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education in 1947 and 1948, respectively. She remained at Penn following graduation, serving as an instructor in the physical education department and later as coach of the Pennguinettes. She retired in 1977.

In 1989, Ms. Beshunsky was inducted as an honorary friar in the Friars Senior Society of the University of Pennsylvania and in 2001, she was inducted to Penn’s Athletics Hall of Fame. Her other accomplishments included being a member in the Rhode Island Aquatic Hall of Fame, the Pennsylvania Swimming Hall of Fame, and the first woman inductee in the Rhode Island Jewish Athletic Hall of Fame. Between 1955 and 1961, she was a member of the Philadelphia Board of Women’s Swimming Officials.

Ms. Beshunsky is survived by her husband, Sidney; children, Etta Miller, Stanley Bush, and Sidney; children, David, Debra, Susan and Karen; and two great-grandchildren.

Contributions in her memory may be made to The USA Committee, Sports for Israel, 1926 Arch St., #4R, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Memorial: Mr. van Merkensteijn

A memorial service will be held Friday, May 9 for Eric van Merkensteijn, lecturer for the Center for Organization Dynamics, who passed away February 14, at age 61. The service is from 3-4 p.m. in the Sweeten Alumni Center. All members of the University community are welcome.

Penn Nursing’s $10 Million Grant (continued from page 1)

ger periods of time than needed which can delay recovery,” Dr. Curley said. Only about nine percent of physicians surveyed indicate they consistently follow all elements of the new protocol on sedation management.

Some of the 18 sites will continue to manage the patient’s comfort as they do now, and others will use the new protocol, closely titrating sedative medications. Researchers will conduct telephone surveys six months after patients go home to determine the long-term effect of the change in care.

The study will be conducted over five years involving 18 sites.

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Dr. Cass, Economics

Dr. David Cass, Paul F. and E. Warren Shafer Miller Professor of Economics, died April 15 at age 71.

Before coming to Penn, Dr. Cass was a member of the economics department and the Cowles Foundation at Yale University from 1965 to 1970, and also served on the faculty at Carnegie Mellon University from 1970 to 1974. He had been at Penn since 1974, and was named the Paul F. and E. Warren Shafer Miller Professor of Economics in 1988. He also was a visiting scholar at numerous organizations and universities in Europe, including the University of Geneva where he received an honorary doctorate in economic science in 1994.

He made meaningful contributions to economic theory, including the introduction of the “Cass-Koopmans” growth model, and the discovery of the “Cass” criterion for Pareto efficiency in overlapping generations models. With Karl Shell, he discovered the importance of extrinsic uncertainty (sunspots) in economic dynamics. His work with many coauthors on incomplete financial markets was extremely influential.

Dr. Cass received many honors for his accomplishments. Most significantly, he was named a Distinguished Fellow of the American Economic Association in 1999 and elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003.

Dr. Cass served as editor for numerous economic journals. At the time of his death, he was serving as the director of CARESS (Center for Analytic Research in Economics and the Social Sciences). He had spent much of the spring organizing the 4th Annual CARESS-Cowles Conference on Equilibrium Theory and Its Applications, which was held at Penn this past weekend.

“After much soul searching, the remaining organizers decided that Dave would have wanted to the conference to go on,” said Dr. George J. Mailath, chair of the economics department.

Dr. Cass authored the book, The Hamiltonian Approach to Economic Dynamics along with publishing numerous articles.

Dr. Cass earned an AB in economics from the University of Oregon in 1955 and a PhD in economics from Stanford University in 1965.

Dr. Cass is survived by his children, Lisa and Stephen.

The economics department is establishing a fund in memory of Dr. Cass to benefit graduate education. There will be an event next fall to celebrate his contributions and accomplishments. Details will be posted on his department’s webpage and published in Almanac, when arrangements have been made.

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.

Mr. Schmeidler, Wharton

Peter Schmeidler, senior fellow at the Wharton Risk Management & Decision Processes Center, died April 14 of pancreatic cancer at the age 70.

He was with the Wharton Risk Center since 2001 and played an active role in research on the role of ISO 14001 in reducing and managing environmental risks and the role of third party inspections for improving food safety. Mr. Schmeidler was also the editor of the Wharton Risk Management Review, the Risk Center newsletter. He was retired from the Rohm and Haas Company after 40 years of service.

He earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in chemical engineering from Columbia in 1959 and 1961, respectively. He also obtained an MBA from Rutgers University, Camden in 1982. He has been an industrial consultant to the chemical engineering department’s senior class design project since 1977.

Mr. Schmeidler is survived by his wife, Lois; children, David, Debra, Susan and Karen; and three grandchildren.

Donations can be made to Temple Sinai, 2101 New Albany Road, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077.

Patkau Architects (continued from page 1)

The university campus is a natural walkway that celebrates 125 Years of Women at Penn. In line with Penn’s goals for environmental sustainability, the project aims to secure a rating of LEED Gold or higher on the scale developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

President Amy Gutmann said that additional on-campus housing is a priority of the University’s 30-year master plan, Penn Connects — A Vision for the Future.

“Our new Hill Square College House will not only help to meet the great demand for more on-campus living choices,” Dr. Gutmann said, “but, with a design that will fulfill our College House vision of a 24/7 learning community, the building also will enrich Penn’s undergraduate experience while bringing a vibrant, neighborhood feel to the vicinity around Hill Square.”

The College House at Hill Square will join Penn’s existing college houses: 11 unique undergraduate residences, which form the hub of intellectual, social and recreational life for students.

Patkau Architects is an internationally recognized and award-winning architectural design studio based in Vancouver, British Columbia. In more than 25 years of practice, both in Canada and in the US, the firm has designed a wide variety of building types for a diverse range of clients, including gallery installations to master planning, private houses to major urban libraries, sustainable building and emerging educational technologies.

Patkau Architects will be working in coordination with Philadelphia architecture firm Atkin Oshin Schade Architects, who have worked with Penn on projects as diverse as the Jaffe History of Art Building and the Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander School.

Additional information about Penn Connects and the new College House at Hill Square is available at www.pennconnects.upenn.edu.
The Leonard Berwick Memorial Teaching Award

Dr. Jeffrey Berns is a professor of medicine and pediatrics in the School of Medicine, and currently serves as interim chief of the renal-electrolyte and hypertension division. He came to Penn in 1999, after having been on the staff of Graduate Hospital for the previous 10 years. He earned his BA from Indiana University and MD from Case Western Reserve University; his Renal Fellowship was completed at Yale University. In addition to teaching clinical nephrology to students, residents, and fellows, Dr. Berns has taught medical students in the Module II Renal Course since coming to Penn and has been a course director since 2003. A colleague praises his “ability to bring basic science alive, from the laboratory bench and classroom blackboard to the bedside of patients and hallways of our medical services.” Another colleague comments that Dr. Berns is “a consummate educator—rigorous, knowledgeable, supportive of students, crystal clear in his communication.” A former student praises his “emphasis on understanding underlying mechanisms.” Another says Dr. Berns “embodies a unique combination of talents as a great clinician and educator.” The Leonard Berwick Award, established as a memorial, recognizes “a member of the medical faculty who in his or her teaching, effectively fuses basic science and clinical medicine.” It is intended to recognize those who are outstanding teachers, particularly among the younger faculty.

Blockley-Osler Award

Dr. Jody Foster, is a clinical associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania, the first female chair of the department of psychiatry at Pennsylvania Hospital and the executive medical director of Penn Behavioral Health Corporate Services. Dr. Foster is also a graduate of the Wharton MBA program. The most rewarding part of her job is teaching residents and medical students to care for the mentally ill in the community. She runs one of the city’s largest Crisis Response Centers in Philadelphia and provides outreach care to many of the homeless population. The Blockley-Osler Award is given to a member of the faculty at an affiliated hospital for excellence in teaching modern clinical medicine at the bedside of patients in the division of neuropsychiatry, brain imaging, schizophrenia, pharmacoepidemiology, and infectious diseases. His primary methodological research interests are in the areas of pharmacoepidemiology, survival analysis, psychiatric methods, and correlated data. Dr. Bilker’s clinical research focuses on neuropsychiatry, brain imaging, schizophrenia, pharmacoepidemiology, and infectious diseases. His primary methodological research interests are in the areas of pharmacoepidemiology, survival analysis, psychiatric methods, and correlated data. Dr. Bilker is the principal investigator of the Biostatistics Core of the Schizophrenia Center in the department of psychiatry. This award was established to recognize teaching excellence and commitment to medical education in the basic sciences. The recipients are selected on the advice of a committee composed of faculty and students.

Dean’s Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching at an Affiliated Hospital

Dr. Kevin Meyers is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Penn and assistant division chief and attending physician in the division of nephrology at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). He is director of the Nephrology Fellowship training and divisional education program. He obtained his medical degree in 1983 (cum laude) from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa and specialized from 1985 to 1989 in Pediatrics (FCP (SA)) through the College of Medicine in South Africa. He obtained a DTM&H (cum laude) in 1990. He trained in pediatric nephrology at CHOP and the University of Pennsylvania and is Board-certified in pediatrics and in pediatric nephrology. His clinical interests include the vasculitides, hypertension, dialysis and transplantation. His research interests include use of novel immunosuppressive protocols in children post kidney transplant, medication adherence, hyperension and cardiovascular well-being in children with kidney transplants. In 2007 he was honored with the Master Clinician award from CHOP. The award was established to recognize clinical teaching excellence and commitment to medical education by outstanding faculty members from affiliated hospitals. The recipients are selected on the advice of a committee composed of faculty and students.

Dean’s Award for Excellence in Medical Student Teaching by an Allied Health Professional

Dr. Kenneth Sullivan, clinical professor of psychology in psychiatry at the School of Medicine and associate chief of inpatient psychiatry at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center has been involved in medical student and resident education for over 25 years. Students describe him as a “phenomenon” who is a “fantastic teacher” and an “ideal role model.” Dr. Sullivan credits his inpatient psychiatry colleagues as providing daily examples of the epiphenomenon of academic psychiatry. This award recognizes outstanding teaching by allied health professionals (e.g., nurses, physicians assistants, emergency medical technicians). Recipients are selected on the advice of a committee composed of faculty and students.

The Scott Mackler Award for Excellence in Substance Abuse Teaching

Dr. Kevin Osterhoudt is an associate professor of pediatrics, an attending physician in the division of emergency medicine at CHOP, and serves as the medical director of The Poison Control Center. In addition to his clinical teaching at the bedside of young patients acutely harmed by substance abuse, Dr. Osterhoudt directs the professional and public education outreach programs of the Poison Control Center. A previous recipient of The Class of 1990 David Cornfield Bedside Teaching Award at CHOP, Dr. Osterhoudt has authored over 100 articles and chapters, many providing insight into the medical approach to substance abuse and poisoning. As a member of the Education Committee of the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT), Dr. Osterhoudt has served as the director of national ACMT scientific symposia. Dr. Osterhoudt, one trainee wrote, “He teaches always, and always makes you think.” Another stated, “I learned a lot from Kevin, not only about medicine, but about humanism.” This award was established by the Penn/VA Center for Studies of Addiction and the department of psychiatry. Dr. Mackler is known for his excellence in teaching medical students, residents, postdoctoral fellows, nurses and other Penn faculty in many different departments in the area of substance abuse.
The Special Dean’s Award

Dr. Robert L. Sadoff is a clinical professor of psychiatry and directs the Center for Studies in Clinical-Legal Psychiatry at the School of Medicine. He has developed a new initiative in forensic psychiatry, including a formal training program for residents and fellows in this growing subspecialty of psychiatry. Dr. Sadoff is the recipient of many of the national and international awards in his field, including the prestigious Isaac Ray Award that he received in 2006. In addition, he has received the International Philippe Pinel Award from the International Academy of Law and Mental Health (1995) and the Manfred Guttmacher Award for the best publication of 1992 in forensic psychiatry. He is also the recipient of the Nathaniel Winkelman Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Psychiatry (1988), the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society (1996), and the Earl Bond Award for Outstanding Teaching at Penn, Department of Psychiatry (1979) and the Golden AAPL Award (1996). He is currently establishing the Center for Forensic Studies at Penn, to include the School of Medicine, the Law School, the department of biomedical ethics, the School of Nursing and the School of Social Policy and Practice. The Center will serve in the training of the forensic fellows. He has been teaching here since 1972. The award honors unique contributions to medical education by faculty members, particularly in the development of new and innovative educational programs.

Medical Student Government Awards

MSG Basic Science Teaching Award

Dr. Skip Brass is a professor of medicine, pharmacology and pathology, and associate dean and director of the Combined Degree and Physician Scholars Programs. His research interests lie in the fields of hemostasis and vascular biology. He has trained numerous graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in his lab, and is a member of graduate groups in pharmacological sciences, biochemistry & molecular biophysics and cell & molecular biology. He is active in graduate and medical education in a number of ways, including co-directing Case Studies in Translational Research, a course specially designed for second-year MD-PhD students. In addition, he serves as an attending physician, course director for the hemostasis portions of Module II, an Advisory Dean for the combined degree students and as a member of the advisory committee for Biomedical Graduate Studies. In 2001, Dr. Brass won the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching from Penn (Almanac April 17, 2001). Dr. Brass also received teaching awards voted by the students of the School of Medicine in 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2002.

MSG Clinical Teaching Award

Dr. Tom Faust is an associate professor of clinical medicine in the School of Medicine. He received an MD from the University of Tennessee, a master of bioethics (MBE) from Penn, and a BA from Vanderbilt University. He reorganized and significantly improved the pathology course and Residency Scholar Program in Gastroenterology, which he now directs, impressing colleagues and students alike with his energy and enthusiasm for teaching. Several mentors report that his teaching encompasses the entire hospital environment, including fellows, residents, students, nurses, nurse practitioners, and medical assistants. Despite his knowledge and expertise, he comes across as “humble and easy to approach” in his devotion to students and patients. Dr. Faust is also the recipient of a Provost’s Award for Teaching Excellence by Non-Standing Faculty (Almanac April 15, 2008).

School of Arts and Sciences 2008 Teaching Awards

Dean’s Award for Mentorship of Undergraduate Research

This award recognizes faculty members who have excelled in nurturing students’ desires and abilities to conduct meaningful research. This year SAS honors Dr. Rogers Smith, the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Political Science, for his own mentoring and for the research opportunities he created through the Penn Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism. “He has a larger vision than helping a particular student write a particular project;” notes a colleague, “he wants to create an experience in which students can truly learn.” Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Award for Distinguished Teaching by an Assistant Professor

This award recognizes a member of the junior faculty who demonstrates unusual promise as an educator. This year’s recipient is Dr. Marija Drndic, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, who has taught introductory quantum mechanics and electromagnetism for engineering students as well as advanced quantum mechanics. “She is a brilliant communicator, sparks interest in the subject and facilitates the internalizing of concepts,” writes one student. “The atmosphere in her class is always full of energy.”

Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching by Affiliated Faculty

This award recognizes contributions to undergraduate education made by the School’s non-standing faculty. This year’s recipient is Dr. James Schlatter, senior lecturer in theatre arts. A colleague describes him as “an educator whose work is never confined to the classroom but extends to rehearsal rooms, one-on-one meetings, and a deep investment in the intellectual and artistic growth of each student he encounters.”

School of Medicine Teaching Awards (continued from page 4)
Summer and Fall Term Tuition Benefit Deadlines

Eligible faculty and staff can now request payment of the tuition benefit for the upcoming Summer Sessions I and II online at www.hr.upenn.edu/tuition. The deadline to request payment of the benefit for the Summer I term is June 15, 2008, while the deadline for Summer II term requests is August 15, 2008. Payment requests for the Fall 2008 Semester may be submitted starting June 1, 2008. Payment of the tuition benefit must be requested through the online tuition management system every term, so please log in to check your calendar!

If you have questions about Penn’s tuition benefit or the online tuition management system, please contact the Tuition Benefits Specialist at tuition@hr.upenn.edu.

The Penn Perspective

Here at Penn, each of us sees a small slice of the University from our own unique vantage point—our personal perspective. But getting a sense of the entire “University of Pennsylvania” from what we see on a day-to-day basis is nearly impossible. It’s like trying to solve a jigsaw puzzle with most of the pieces missing.

The Penn Perspective, a program that has been offered annually for the past twenty years, can give you the rest of those pieces, and help you put them together. Attendees will hear directly from the University’s academic and administrative leadership about what it takes to keep a large and complex institution functioning at such a high level for so long. Sign up to gain a greater appreciation for the role you play at Penn, to have a chance to meet and interact with other members of Penn’s vast community, and to get answers to the following questions:

• What does a Dean do?
• How does the admissions process work?
• What is life like for Penn students?
• How does the University maintain a sense of its history and tradition?
• How does Penn raise money?
• And much, much more.

The Penn Perspective is a two-day seminar, and will take place from 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. on June 10–11 in Houston Hall’s Bodek Lounge.

Attend the program, please pre-register on line at www.hr.upenn.edu (click on “Professional Development Seminars” from the “Browse by Category” menu), or contact Human Resources at (215) 898-3400. Lunch is provided both days, and there is a registration fee of $75 (to be paid by your department).

Division of Human Resources

Central NetNews Service to Be Terminated on June 30, 2008

Penn’s NetNews service—first offered at the University more than 25 years ago—will be retired on June 30, 2008. Alerts about the retirement of the service were posted several months ago on web pages for the NetNews service and supported newsreaders, and sent to active news groups.

Over time, the use of the NetNews service has declined dramatically as alternatives such as blogs, wikis, web-based groups, and RSS subscriptions have proliferated. Costs, however, have leveled off. While the service is still providing value to some users, given the existence of so many alternatives, and recognizing the need to spend wisely on IT services, the decision was made to end the central NetNews service in June of this year.

Decisions to discontinue online services at Penn are considered carefully and are made with the broad input of IT professional staff from ISC, the Schools, and the majority of the University’s administrative offices. Together, this group considered a range of services and costs and made a set of decisions that they believe are in the University’s best interest.

For information about viable alternatives to the NetNews service, please visit www.upenn.edu/computing/help/doc/netnews/alternatives.html.

If you have questions about the termination of NetNews at Penn, please contact your Local Support Provider (LSP).

—Michael Palladino, Associate Vice President, Information Systems & Computing

2008 Annual Housing Fair: May 7

Penn Home Ownership Services invites you to attend the 2008 Annual Housing Fair on Wednesday, May 7 from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. in the Hall of Flags at Houston Hall. This is an excellent opportunity to speak with industry experts about the national and local real estate markets, as well as to gain access to a wide array of housing-related information and resources for West Philadelphia and the wider community. Representatives from Penn Home Ownership Services will be on hand to discuss the mortgage programs that are available to full time employees through the University of Pennsylvania. There is no admission charge for this event and it is open to the public. For more information, contact Penn Home Ownership Services at (215) 898-7422.

—Nicole N. Hudson, Program Manager, Penn Home Ownership Services

Secure Deletion of Sensitive Information

No matter which operating system you use, it actually takes some thought and effort to make certain that a sensitive file you no longer need is completely deleted from your system. (And then, you’ll need to think about where backup copies may exist, and how to securely dispose of them as well.)

Simply dragging a file to the Recycle or Trash folder on your desktop is very much analogous to crumpling up a piece of paper and tossing it into the wastebasket—it’s a trivial matter to retrieve and restore the information.

Even if you “empty” the Trash, with most operating systems the space containing the file data is simply marked as unused and the data itself remains in place until the system overwrites it with new file data. Should your system be stolen or compromised, the readily available forensic tools that can retrieve data from deleted files with minimal time and effort.

Windows and Mac OS X come with built-in capability to “shred” unneeded yet sensitive files in such a way that the data cannot be recovered, even by forensic professionals. Many Unix and Linux versions also come with comparable utilities, and there are many commercial products that are available either as stand-alone products such as Diggs or as part of larger software suites such as PGP. If the file is stored on removable read-only media such as CDs or DVDs, many shredders for home and office use can physically destroy them in a secure fashion.

For help with secure file deletion, please contact your LSP. For a detailed discussion of secure file deletion, visit www.sans.org/reading_room/whitepapers/incident/631.php.

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

One Step Ahead Security & Privacy Made Simple

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

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**Research**

**Do you have high cholesterol?** Are you interested in participating in a research study? Are you worried about your risk of Diabetes or Heart Disease? Doctors at the University of Pennsylvania are launching a new study looking at the effects of a new medication to lower cholesterol, when given alone or together with FDA-approved cholesterol medication. The entire study lasts about four months and includes 11 short visits to the research center at The University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Participants will be compensated $500 for their time and effort. If you are at least 18 and have high cholesterol you may qualify for our research study. To find out more information, please contact Raj Movva MD at 215-615-4984 or email him at rajesh.movva@uphs.upenn.edu.

The University of Pennsylvania Health System Division of Endocrinology seeks women for a research study at least 60 years of age who have been told they need treatment for osteoporosis or who have had a fracture. For more information, please contact the Division of Public Safety at (215) 898-6036.

**Almanac is not responsible for contents of classified ad material.**

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"The exhibition promises to break new ground as the first of its kind to address aspects of human evolution in the broad context of mammals, and will be thought-provoking and insightful. It offers the framework and materials to address misconceptions. The [Museum] has the collections and intellectual resources to develop the exhibit. Although consciously avoiding 'intelligent design' in the exhibit, the 'future visions' section creates a forum for addressing controversial themes (cloning). The exhibit could become a lightning rod for anyone virtually every week because of the controversy surrounding it, has vast implications that affect every aspect of our lives. As the explanatory tool of all the related fields in the biological sciences, nothing makes sense except in the light of evolutionary process. Our new exhibit makes this point during Penn's Year of Evolution, which celebrates Charles Darwin's 200th birthday.

This exhibit has been in preparation for over four years, drawing on the resources and expertise of nearly every department within the Museum, for it takes an entire museum to make such an ambitious exhibit! Meeting at least once a week, team members parceled out sub-projects, expanded the fiscal base upon which the exhibit depends, renovated the third floor exhibition gallery, produced education and marketing tools, and confronted a large host of issues. In particular, a series of eight 2-day workshops engendered thought-provoking discussions that knitted together the theme, aims, and key messages of the exhibit, and produced a crisp, clear, and entertaining text to accompany its unique design.

So how is the vast topic of evolution treated in the Museum's unique contribution to knowledge? As aptly put by Gillian Wakely, the Museum's Merle-Smith Associate Director for Programs, "The exhibit is about you—the visitor."

The genesis of the idea came from Alan Mann's realization that students seemed to understand the broad impact of evolutionary process if they could witness it for themselves in their own bodies and minds. In order to evoke this response in the context of the exhibit, we challenge visitors to try to understand and define what it means to be human—to revel in the experience of humanness. We ask them to witness the evolutionary process and to contextualize the human experience. This part of the exhibit is peppered with over 200 touchable casts of both modern and extinct mammals and primates, including many of our human ancestors, our chimp relatives, and even comparisons to horses and whales.

Visitors are now ready to see evolutionary history in their own bodies. Using multimedia devices surrounding a massive model of a woman’s body, they see themselves not as perfect or perfectible beings, but as animals dealing with the various medical dilemmas that characterize the shared human experience—bad backs, difficult childbirths, teeth that do not fit in our jaws, as well as many other maladies that are best understood from an evolutionary perspective.

Finally, we challenge everyone to think about humans past and present and even the humans of the future. What implications do changing patterns in diet have on human health and disease? How will human environmental challenges influence the concept of human nature in the future? Our exhibit ends with the unknown and the healthy scientific speculation that is part of the fuller understanding of evolution—it is not progress and it is not predictable.

Exhibit Aims and Objectives

The evolutionary process and its outcomes have a profound impact on every aspect of our daily lives. With that theme in mind, the exhibit aims to shift our thinking about humans and evolution, to dispel some of our most commonly held misconceptions about evolution and its significance (e.g. that the process of evolution is complete and that humans are an ideal product of evolution), to show how humans are neither finished nor perfect products, but rather how we are limited as a natural result of the evolutionary process, and to portray the reality that evolution is an ongoing process of change, not improvement.

If the exhibit succeeds, our visitors will leave knowing that humans are part of the natural world—one species among the many mammals and primates all descended from a common ancestor—and that we are the product of the process of evolution, which has made us functional through a series of compromises, but not perfect, as can be seen in certain human ailments that may be the consequence of our evolution. Our visitors will appreciate the many ways in which our evolutionary past defines our bodies, our minds, our culture, and our destiny. They will understand that human societies and cultures have developed in different ways in response to specific environments around the world, but also in similar ways in response to the same basic human needs. They will have seen that scientists are constantly searching for, finding, and interpreting evidence of the evolutionary process, and they will begin to imagine the impact of future medical and biological developments on human evolution as they join us in exploring our shared history and potential future as human animals.

Janet Monge and Alan Mann are the Co-Curators of Surviving: The Body of Evidence. Dr. Monge, the Acting-Curator-in-Charge and Keeper of the Museum's Physical Anthropology Section, is also an Adjunct Associate Professor in Penn's Department of Anthropology. Dr. Mann, Professor of Anthropology at Princeton University, was Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania from 1969 to 2001.