Penn: Expanding Academic and Research Collaborations

The University of Pennsylvania and Shanghai Jiao Tong University in Shanghai announced an agreement to expand and enhance their ongoing academic and research collaborations, including when President Gutmann was in China earlier this month, identifying student and faculty exchanges, development of plans for research collaboration in regenerative medicine, formation of a joint Center of Excellence in Medical Imaging and exploring a jointly sponsored conference on International Financial Market Regulation.

"It is an honor to be here today with the party committee of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Madame Ma, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University President Zhang Jie as we announce a deepening collaboration between our two great institutions," Penn President Amy Gutmann said. "For many years, our two universities have enjoyed a warm and productive relationship, and it gives me enormous pleasure to extend this collaboration into new and exciting areas of academic and research endeavor."

Dean Thomas Robertson, of Penn’s Wharton School, said, “The Wharton School has enjoyed an especially close and fruitful relationship with SJTU’s Antai College of Management, going back 30 years, and we are eager to explore possible new initiatives with our esteemed colleagues.” (See Almanac September 9, 1980 and Septem-ber 16, 1980.)

The agreement signed by President Gutmann and President Zhang includes:

- Exploring a jointly sponsored conference on international financial market regulation with Penn’s Wharton and Law schools and their counterparts at SJTU.
- Development of plans for a research collaboration in regenerative medicine with Penn’s John Gearhart, a nationally renowned researcher in the field of stem cell research.
- Formation of a joint Center of Excellence in Medical Imaging between Penn’s School of Medicine and SJTU’s School of Medicine, as well as PhD graduate exchange programs in the biomedical sciences. Discussions are also underway for the creation of a joint immunology institute, involving key faculty at each institution.
- Identification of student and faculty exchanges and collaborative research opportunities between Penn’s School of Engineering and Applied Science, School of Nursing and Graduate School of Education and SJTU.

Previous collaborations between Penn and SJTU have included faculty exchanges, joint sponsorship of executive-education programs and training of doctoral students. SJTU, founded in 1896, is one of the oldest universities in China. It has 20 academic schools on six campuses, enrolling 38,000 full-time students pursuing undergraduate, master and doctoral degrees.

Tsinghua University in China

The University of Pennsylvania and Tsinghua University earlier this month announced an agreement to expand and enhance their ongoing academic and research collaborations, including developing a conference on undergraduate education to discuss best practices and skills development and identifying a major research collaboration spearheaded by Penn’s School of Engineering and Applied Science.

"It is an honor to be here today with Tsinghua University President Gu Binglin as we agree to enhance the longstanding and important academic relationship between our two great institutions," Penn President Amy Gutmann said. "For many years, Penn and Tsinghua University have collaborated on several exciting projects, and I am delighted to extend this important partnership into new areas of academic and research endeavor."

In addition to the Penn Engineering proposal, the agreement signed by the two presidents includes:

- Developing a conference on undergraduate education to discuss best practices and development of skills such as leadership.
- Exploring opportunities for renewed collaborations between Tsinghua and Penn’s Wharton School and Law School.

Previous collaborations include the Penn-Tsinghua T.C. Center, a successful partnership between the Penn School of Design and Tsinghua focused on creating healthier, productive, energy efficient strategies that will lead to high performance buildings and sustainable environments; student exchanges between the Penn Law School and Tsinghua; and faculty and student initiatives between Penn Engineering and Tsinghua.

Tsinghua University was founded in 1911 and is widely regarded as one of China’s top universities. It has 13 schools and 55 departments, with more than 25,900 undergraduate and graduate students studying such fields as science, engineering, humanities, law, medicine, history, philosophy, economics, management, education and art.

MLK Lecture in Social Justice: Danny Glover

Danny Glover, actor, producer and humanitarian will deliver the 9th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture in Social Justice at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow, at the Zellerbach Theatre in the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Glover has been on screen, stage and television for more than 25 years. In 2005, he co-founded Louverture Films, dedicated to the development and production of films of historical relevance, social purpose, commercial value and artistic integrity.

Mr. Glover has been involved in wide-reaching community activism and philanthropic efforts, with a particular emphasis on advocacy for economic justice and access to healthcare and education programs in the US and Africa. He served as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations Development Program, 1998-2004, and is a UNICEF ambassador.

The Center for Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania will present the lecture as part of Penn’s annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Symposium on Social Change. Ticket information is available at the Annenberg Center box office (215) 898-3900.

MLK Interfaith Program: Dolores Huerta

Penn will celebrate the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Commemoration with this year’s guest speaker Dolores Huerta, the president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation and co-founder of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW).

The Interfaith program will be held on Thursday, January 22, in Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall at 6 p.m. and will include remarks by Provost Ron Daniels, who will also present the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Involvement Awards.

Ms. Huerta has devoted her life to community organization and workers’ rights. In 1962 with Cesar Chavez she co-founded the American UFW which lobbied government and negotiates contracts to ensure just working conditions and pay for farm workers. As the main negotiator for UFW, she obtained many “firsts” of which farm workers had previously been denied. The Dolores Huerta Foundation is dedicated to creating grassroots communities and teaching political organization.

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Dr. Alexander: 2009 Inaugural Poet

The 2009 Presidential Inaugural Committee has selected Penn alumna Dr. Elizabeth Alexander to deliver an original poem at today’s inauguration of President Barack Obama. Dr. Alexander received her PhD in English in 1992 at the University of Pennsylvania, and taught here in spring 2006 as well as in 1987-88. She is currently a professor at Yale and a Pulitzer finalist. A spokesman for the Obama inauguration described Dr. Alexander as “incredibly gifted” and the fact that she is selected “demonstrates the important role that the arts and literature can play in helping to bring our country together.” This is only the fourth time a poet has been included at an inauguration for a US president.
Discussion on the proposed Penn Retirement Community:
Jim Saunders, President of the Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty (ASEF) in the School of Medicine, explained that the Penn Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty (PASEF) and ASEF sent out a questionnaire last spring to determine the interest in the development of a Penn retirement community. Dr. Saunders reported that 64% of respondents indicated interest in some type of Penn sponsored retirement community. As a result, PASEF and ASEF formed a working group to move forward with this initiative and the group had a good discussion with Executive Vice President, Craig Carnaroli. Dr. Saunders asked SEC members for their support for the working group to continue to move forward with this prospect. After some discussion, SEC members unanimously approved the following resolution:

The University of Pennsylvania Faculty Senate supports the efforts of the Penn Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty to pursue the possible creation of a Penn Retirement community.

Chair’s Report: Faculty Senate Chair Sherri Adams reminded SEC members that the Founder’s Day Symposium: Seeking Sustainability—Penn Explores the Local and Global Challenges will be held Friday January 16 from 3–5 at the School of Nursing. She asked SEC members to encourage their students to attend. Dr. Adams reported that the February SEC meeting will feature a discussion on diversity, led by a faculty panel and Associate Provost Vincent Price, and will be held in the Amado Room at Irvine Auditorium.

Past Chair’s Report: Faculty Senate Past-Chair Larry Gladney reported that Academic Planning and Budget discussed budget scenarios for 2010.

Faculty Affairs Update: Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs Vincent Price outlined five objectives for his office and included a progress report to date and challenges for the future. The first objective is to maintain and create academic personnel policies that support and enhance faculty from recruitment and promotion to retirement. The second objective is to diversify the faculty through effective recruitment and retention of faculty. The third objective is to increase the analytical capability of the office to facilitate understanding of internal and external trends. The fourth objective is to improve communication between the Provost’s office, schools, and departments. The fifth objective is to improve the operational capacity of the faculty affairs office. Dr. Price reviewed progress on many fronts: work with the Faculty Senate Tri-Chairs on mentoring and sabbatical leaves; better clarification of faculty tracks; brochures on family-friendly and retirement policies; publication of the Minority Equity Report and the Gender Equity Report on a regular cycle; building and refining the Faculty Information System; building a web-system to easily access forms, policies, procedures and run reports; and the launch of a department chair training program.

Safety and Security at Penn: Vice President for Public Safety Maureen Rush gave a status report on the recent sexual assault and home invasion of two Penn students in December. She reported that there is a $5000 reward for the arrest of the suspect and up-to-date information is available on the Division of Public Safety website: www.publicsafety.upenn.edu. VP Rush updated SEC members on the following aspects of the Division of Public Safety: the six departments of public safety, the patrol area that public safety encompasses, the diversity model for public safety, the challenges facing the Penn community, the collaborative efforts with the Penn community to resolve high profile incidents, the ways that public safety supports the Penn Compact, diversity activities with community groups, crime statistics, the division of public safety reorganization plan, the status of CCTV cameras and street lighting, UPenn Alert system and UPenn Emergency procedures.

Ballot: Selection of the 2009 Senate Committee on Committees membership. SEC members voted for 7 SEC members to serve on the 2009 Senate Committee on Committees.

Trustees’ Council of Penn Women
2009-2010 Grants:
February 13

The Trustees’ Council of Penn Women (TCPW) is pleased to announce its 2009-2010 Grants Program and encourages members of the University community to apply.

Grants ranging between $1,000-$5,000 will be available to individuals or organizations which promote:
• women’s issues
• the quality of undergraduate and graduate life for women
• the advancement of women
• the physical, emotional and psychological well-being of women

Favorable consideration will be given to projects that:
• affect a broad segment of the University population
• foster a greater awareness of women’s issues
• provide seed money for pilot programs that have the potential to become ongoing self-supporting programs

To apply, visit the TCPW website at www/alumni.upenn.edu/groups/tcpw/ and download the application from the TCPW Grant web page. Applications must be submitted no later than February 13, 2009. Awards will be announced in the Spring of 2009 and funds will be distributed in July 2009 for projects in the 2009-2010 academic year.

Third Annual Provost’s Undergraduate Research Mentoring Program: January 31

With the help of the Penn faculty, Penn undergrads can get a head start in real scholarly research.

The Provost’s Undergraduate Research Mentoring program (PURM), through the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF), has funds for faculty/student mentor matches. On a competitive basis, PURM will provide faculty members up to $2500 for advising and guiding an undergraduate as she/he assists in a summer project or in course development. An additional $3000 will be available to the student for a living or travel stipend.

Projects can be carried out on campus or elsewhere as the needs of the project dictate. Projects in all subject areas are eligible. The goal of these funds is to expose students to the reality of academic scholarship early in their undergraduate years to enable them to achieve some depth and substance and therefore better prepare them for graduate education.

Faculty may describe up to three project proposals. All projects will be announced and advertised to students currently in their first year. The top student applicants and their preferred mentors will receive funding for summer 2009.

Project proposals should arrive at CURF no later than January 31. Detailed information on the program and relevant forms can be found at www.upenn.edu/curf/research/grants/purm/. Questions can be addressed to Harriet Joseph, hjoseph@upenn.edu, (215) 898-6060 or to Wallace Genser, genser@upenn.edu (215) 746-6491.
We are pleased to announce that Penn has revised its Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Policy as well as its Nondiscrimination Statement effective on January 1, 2009. The new policy and statement reflect the University’s unwaivering commitment to equal opportunity and affirmative action. We appreciate all of the comments and suggestions received which helped to shape the new policy. We are especially grateful to the members of the University Council Committee on Diversity and Equity for their assistance and advice.

We wish to take this opportunity to note our continued opposition to the Solomon Amendment which was upheld by the United States Supreme Court in 2006 and is inconsistent with the University’s policy on equal opportunity. We will continue to express our objections to it as we seek to have it rescinded and to have the military adopt a more inclusive policy.

Policy on Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

The University of Pennsylvania’s special character is reflected in the diversity of the Penn community. Diversity is prized at Penn as a central component of its mission and helps create an educational and working environment that best supports the University’s commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and scholarship. We seek talented faculty, students and staff who will constitute a vibrant community that draws on the strength that comes with a substantive institutional commitment to diversity along dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, veteran status, interests, perspectives, and socioeconomic status.

Grounded in equal opportunity, nondiscrimination, and affirmative action, Penn’s robust commitment to diversity is fundamental to the University’s mission of advancing knowledge, educating leaders for all sectors of society, and public service. The University of Pennsylvania prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected class.

Penn is committed to ensuring that its academic, social, recreational programs and services as well as opportunities for admission and employment are available on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis without regard to an individual’s legally protected class status. Penn also has written affirmative action programs to address any underrepresentation of women, minorities, people with disabilities, and qualified covered veterans. The Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, in collaboration with the Division of Human Resources and the Office of the Provost, oversees the implementation and administration of the University’s equal opportunity, affirmative action, and nondiscrimination policies and programs.

The University recognizes the right of members of the community to raise questions and pursue complaints of discrimination and adheres to a strict policy that prohibits retaliation for doing so. Questions, complaints of alleged discrimination, or concerns regarding these policies or their implementation may be directed to the Executive Director, Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, Sansom Place East, Suite 228, 3600 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106, (215) 898-6993 (Voice) or (215) 898-7803 (TDD).

University of Pennsylvania Nondiscrimination Statement

(To be used in University publications)

The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected class status in the administration of its admissions, financial aid, educational or athletic programs, or University-administered programs or in its employment practices. Questions or complaints regarding this policy should be directed to the Executive Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, Sansom Place East, 3600 Chestnut Street, Suite 228, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106; or (215) 898-6993 (Voice) or (215) 898-7803 (TDD).

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Policy Reporting of Animal Welfare Concerns

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to describe the procedures that will be followed for addressing animal welfare concerns at the University of Pennsylvania.

Background: The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires the University of Pennsylvania Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), to review and, if warranted, investigate concerns involving the care and use of animals resulting from reports of noncompliance received from laboratory or research facility personnel, or public complaints (9 CFR 2.31[c][4]). The IACUC receives institutional support through the Office of the Vice Provost for Research (VPR).

Reporting Policy: The IACUC encourages the rapid reporting of concerns related to animal welfare and has established procedures to review and investigate any allegation of violations of University of Pennsylvania IACUC Guidelines, University Laboratory Animal Resources Standard Operating Procedures, Public Health Service Policy or United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Regulations implementing the AWA. Animal welfare reports can be expressed in writing, by telephone or in-person. Allegations should be detailed and specific. The course description, syllabus from previous years, images and bios of this year’s Fellows and past Fellows, as well as links to archived readings and webcasts, are available at the University’s Writing: Office of Regulatory Affairs, Paperback. E-mail: IACUC@pobox.upenn.edu

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Reservations, which are required to attend each program and participate in webcasts, can be made at whfellow@writing.upenn.edu. All events are free and open to the public. Additional information is available by contacting Jamie Lee Josselyn at (215) 573-9749 or whfellows@writing.upenn.edu.

2009 KWH Fellows

Robert Coover, Joan Didion and Mary Gordon will be the Kelly Writers House Fellows at the University of Pennsylvania for spring 2009.

Students in the Writers House Fellows Seminar, taught by Writers House Faculty Director Al Filreis, and funded by a grant from Paul Kelly, will study the work of all three Fellows.

“The program enables us to realize two unusual goals,” Dr. Filreis said. “We want to make it possible for the youngest writers and writer-critics to have sustained contact with authors of great accomplishment in an informal atmosphere. We also want to resist the time-honored distinction—more honored in practice than in theory—between working with eminent writers on the one hand and studying literature on the other.”

The course description, syllabus from previous years, images and bios of this year’s Fellows and past Fellows, as well as links to archived readings and webcasts, are available at the University’s Writing: Office of Regulatory Affairs, Paperback. E-mail: IACUC@pobox.upenn.edu

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Green Power Leadership Award
The University of Pennsylvania received a Green Power Leadership Award in the category “Green Power Partner of the Year.” Doug Walter, C’69, an architect in Denver, accepted the award on Penn’s behalf at the 2008 Green Power Leadership Awards event in Denver. Penn is a member of the Green Power Partnership which works with a wide variety of leading organizations—from Fortune 500 companies to local, state and federal governments, and a growing number of colleges and universities. The combined green power purchases of these organizations amounts to more than 1 billion kilowatt-hours of green power annually, which is equivalent to the amount of electricity needed to power more than 95,000 average US homes annually.

Professor Adkins: Baldwin Fellow
Mr. Terry Adkins, professor of fine arts in the School of Design, has been honored as a 2008 USA James Baldwin Fellow in Visual Arts by the United States Artists (USA). Mr. Adkins is an installation artist, musician, activist and cultural practitioner. Fellowships are awarded to artists who demonstrate artistic excellence, unique artistic vision, and significant contributions to their field. Fellows receive an unrestricted grant of $50,000. USA is the national artists’ advocacy organization.

Mr. Akiyama: Mayor’s Commission
Mr. Cliff Akiyama, lecturer in the Family and Community Health Division at the School of Nursing, was appointed by Mayor Michael Nutter to serve on the Mayor’s Commission on Asian American Affairs. Mr. Akiyama is also active in the community, serving on the Board of Directors of Women Organized Against Rape and the Japanese American Citizens League Philadelphia Chapter.

Dr. Allen: President of MESA
Dr. Roger Allen, professor of Arabic and chair of the department of Near Eastern languages and civilizations, was elected president of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), an international, nonprofit and nonpolitical learned society dedicated to promoting scholarship and encouraging public understanding of the Middle East region and its peoples. He becomes president in November.

Dr. Bale: Career Development Award
The Society for Neurosciences has honored Dr. Tracy Bale, assistant professor of neuroscience, department of animal biology in the School of Veterinary Medicine and assistant professor of neuroscience in the department of psychiatry at the School of Medicine, with a Career Development Award. Her research investigates the interface of sex differences in stress and disease, including affective disorders and obesity. The award recognizes achievement and promise in neuroscience for early career professionals. The Society for Neuroscience consists of basic scientists and clinicians who study the brain and nervous system, and represents the world’s largest source of emerging news on brain science and health.

2008 AAAS Fellows
Three Penn faculty members have been named 2008 Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science:
Dr. Daniel Koditschek, Alfred Fitler Moore Professor and chair of the department of electrical and systems engineering, SEAS; cited for information, computing and communication.
Dr. Yvonne Paterson, professor of microbiology, SOM; cited for her distinguished contributions to the field of cancer research, especially her pioneering work in immunotherapeutic and vaccination-related leadership as director of Postdoctoral Programs.
Dr. Susan Weiss, professor of microbiology, SOM; cited for her distinguished contributions to viral pathogenesis, particularly for elucidating the determinants of mouse coronavirus tropism and virulence in the central nervous system and liver.

Black Men at Penn Awards
The School of Social Policy & Practice’s Black Men at Penn celebrated their fifth anniversary last week. Mayor Michael Nutter delivered the keynote address. Seven recipients were awarded the Outstanding Community Service Award for their achievements and outstanding leadership and service in working to support the growth of the community. The awardees are: Mary Frances Berry, Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought, Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania; Jannie L. Blackwell, Councilwoman, District 3 Council, City of Philadelphia; John Chernet, Hall of Fame Basketball Coach/Educator Shirley Franklin, Mayor, City of Atlanta Kenny Gamble, Music Pioneer/Humanitarian Vernon Odum, Broadcast Pioneer, WPVI-TV Channel 6, Philadelphia Newscaster Maureen S. Rush, Vice President for Public Safety, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Bicchieri: Italian Knighthood
Dr. Cristina Bicchieri, Carol and Michael Lowenstein Professor of Philosophy and Legal Studies and director of the PPE program, has been knighted by the Italian government Cavaliere al Merito della Repubblica Italiana. This is one of the highest honors conferred by the Italian government for contributions in the field of arts and sciences.

Mr. Brestoff: US-Ireland Scholarship
Jonathan Brestoff, first year medical/PhD student, has been named a George J. Mitchell Scholar from the US-Ireland Alliance. Dr. Brestoff, whose focus is on preventing Type 2 diabetes and obesity and is patenting an obesity compound he discovered, will study in an Irish university for one year. The Mitchell Scholarship program recognizes outstanding young Americans who exhibit the highest standards of academic excellence, leadership and community service. The program seeks to link future American leaders with Ireland.

Dr. Casarette: Nationwide VA Leader
Dr. David Casarette, associate professor of medicine in the division of geriatric medicine, will lead a major initiative by the Department of Veterans Affairs to help improve the quality of health care veterans receive at the end of life. Dr. Casarette is also staff physician and director of the Palliative Care Service at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center. The Performance Reporting of Outcome Measures to Improve the Standard of care at End-of-life (PROMISE) Center will help the VA to identify best practices in palliative care and develop strategies for improving care at the end of life throughout its healthcare system.

Dr. Diamond: Heilmeier Award
The Faculty Awards Committee of the School of Engineering and Applied Science has selected Dr. Scott Diamond, Arthur E. Humphrey Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, as the 2009 recipient of the George H. Heilmeier Faculty Award for Excellence in Research. The Committee describes Dr. Diamond’s discoveries and innovations in high throughput screening and micro-array technology as having “revolutionized the field and are destined to have widespread impact.”

Dr. El-Deiry: ACS Research Professor
Dr. Wafik S. El-Deiry, professor of medicine, genetics, and pharmacology, has been appointed as an American Cancer Society Research Professor. His appointment, effective this month, is the first such appointment at Penn. The ACS Professorships are the most competitive and prestigious research grants the Society awards. Dr. El-Deiry is also the co-program leader of Radiation Biology & Imaging Program at the Abramson Cancer Center and associate director for physician-scientists training in hematology/oncology.

Dr. Ellenberg: NISS Board
Dr. Susan Ellenberg, associate dean for clinical research in the School of Medicine, has been elected to a three-year term on the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) Board of Trustees. The mission of NISS is to identify, catalyze and foster high-impact, cross-disciplinary and cross-sector research involving the statistical sciences.

Dr. Engheta: Fellow of APS
Dr. Nader Engheta, H. Nedwill Ramsey Professor of Electrical and Systems Engineering and professor of bioengineering in SEAS, has been elected Fellow of the American Physical Society “for development of concepts of metamaterial-inspired optical lumped nanocircuits, and for groundbreaking contribution to the fields of metamaterials, plasmonic nano-optimics, biologically-inspired imaging, and electrodynamics.” Fellowship is a distinct honor signifying recognition by professional peers and is limited to no more than one half of one percent of the APS membership.

Dr. Kazazian: Allan Award
Dr. Haig H. Kazazian, Jr., Seymour Gray Professor of Molecular Medicine in Genetics in the School of Medicine, received the American Society of Human Genetics’ (ASHG) Allan Award at the Society’s 58th Annual Meeting. Throughout his career as a genetic scientist, Dr. (continued on page 5)
Kazazian has made numerous seminal contributions in understanding and deciphering mechanisms that cause mutations leading to human disease. He received a $10,000 prize and an enameled medal. The Allan Award recognizes substantial and far-reaching scientific contributions to human genetics, carried out over a lifetime of scientific inquiry and productivity.

Penn Presbyterian Medical Center: Top 100 Cardiovascular Hospitals

Penn Presbyterian Medical Center was named to Thomson Reuters Top 100 Cardiovascular Hospitals for the sixth year. It is the only hospital in Philadelphia to be selected as one of the nation’s top 100. “This distinction recognizes Penn Presbyterian’s consistent expertise in cardiac care, a tribute to the entire cardiovascular team’s collaborative medical efforts to care for our patients with complex heart conditions,” said Michele Volpe, Penn Presbyterian Executive Director and CEO. More than half of cardiac inpatients travel from New Jersey and Delaware for treatment in complex arrhythmia management, interventional cardiology, noninvasive cardiology and cardiac imaging, preventive cardiology, vascular medicine, endovascular therapy, and women’s heart health.

Dr. Keller: ASHE Award

The Association for the Study of Higher Education posthumously awarded the 2008 Leadership Award to the late Dr. George Keller for his outstanding leadership in advancing the study of higher education. He was the former chairman of the higher education division at the Graduate School of Education. He died in 2007 at the age of 78 (Almanac April 3, 2007). This award is intended to recognize individuals who bring visibility and support to the field of higher education by demonstrating the contributions of the study of higher education to policy formation, or in gaining substantial resources for research and training in higher education.

Dr. Liberman: Linguistics Award

Dr. Mark T. Liberman, Trustee Professor of Phonetics, accepted the 2009 Linguistics, Language and the Public Award from the Linguistic Society of America, along with Dr. Geoffrey K. Pullum of the University of Edinburgh. The Language Log, founded in 2003 by Dr. Liberman, Dr. Pullum and Stanford professor Arnold M. Zwicky, is a collaborative science blog devoted to linguistics and written by a team of more than a dozen prominent linguists, almost all members of the Linguistic Society of America. The Award is given for a body of work that has had a demonstrable impact on the public awareness of language and/or linguistics.

Dr. Nichtberger: Entrepreneur Award

Dr. Steven Nichtberger, member of the board of overseers for the School of Arts and Sciences, has received the prestigious Ernst & Young National Entrepreneur of the Year award in the Emerging Company category. The award recognizes contributions of entrepreneurs who have demonstrated excellence and extraordinary success in areas such as innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their businesses and communities. To be eligible for the national award, entrepreneurs had to receive regional honors earlier last year. Dr. Nichtberger is co-founder, president and CEO of Tengion, Inc., a leader in the field of regenerative medicine.

Dr. O’Sullivan: Board Appointments

Dr. Ann O’Sullivan, professor of primary care nursing, has been appointed chair of the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing for 2009 and chair of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Committee of the National Council for State boards of Nursing for 2008-2009. Dr. O’Sullivan has been a member of both of these organizations for several years and has played a major role in acting as an expert on state and national regulatory issues for the School of Nursing.

Best Video Honors

Two freshmen in the College of Arts and Sciences, John O’Malley and Will Son have been selected as best-video winners in a national contest run by Facing Up, a non-partisan project exploring long-term challenges of the federal budget. They will share a cash prize of $500. Competition judges described the students’ video, *Man on the Street 2: Facts and Figures* as “an excellent slice of life on campus talking to students about the federal budget and national debt, serving up a few shockers and surprises along the way.” The video can be viewed online at http://facingup.org/man-street-2-facts-and-figures. They created the video as part of a freshman seminar course taught by Dr. Donald Kettl, professor of political science.

Dr. Pappas: IEEE Fellow

Dr. George Pappas, Joseph Moore Professor of Electrical and Systems Engineering and deputy dean for the School of Engineering and Applied Science, has been elevated to the status of IEEE Fellow, the highest membership grade in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Dr. Pappas’ research focuses on developing methods for control of next-generation hierarchical and distributed systems. A non-profit organization, IEEE is the world’s leading professional association for the advancement of technology.

Dr. Rommen: Alan Merriam Prize

Dr. Timothy Rommen, assistant professor of music, received the 2008 Alan Merriam Prize from the Society for Ethnomusicology for his first book, *Mek Some Noise: Gospel Music and the Ethics of Style in Trinidad*. The book award recognizes the most distinguished English-language monograph in the field of ethnomusicology published in the previous two years. His book examines how the beliefs of Full Gospel Christians are translated into sacred music as it is created and performed.

Dr. Schapiro: Northwestern President

Dr. Morton Owen Schapiro, Gr’79, has already made the list of Penn-made presidents, and now he’s being added again. Dr. Schapiro, outgoing president of Williams College, has been named president of Northwestern University. He will be their 16th president, effective September 1, 2009. Dr. Schapiro has been president of Williams since 2000.

For more Penn-made presidents, see www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/s15/s15pres.html.

Dr. Sipe: Fry Book Award

Dr. Lawrence R. Sipe, associate professor in the Reading/Writing/Literacy program at the Graduate School of Education, has been awarded the 2008 Edward B. Fry Book Award by the National Reading Conference, an association of literacy scholars, for “outstanding contributions to literacy research and practice.” His book is *Storytime: Young Children’s Literary Understanding in the Classroom*.

Dr. Volpe: Magnesium Grant

Dr. Stella Volpe, associate professor of nursing and Miriam Stirl Term Associate Professor in Nutrition, received funding for a new NIDDK study, “Magnesium and the Metabolic Syndrome Trial,” a randomized controlled trial assessing the effects of magnesium on metabolic syndrome. The National Institutes of Health is funding this.

Dr. Yim: Top Story of the Year

A robot, cKBot, built by Dr. Mark Yim that can fix itself after being scattered, has been named one of the Top 100 Stories of 2008 by Discover magazine. Dr. Yim, associate professor of mechanical engineering and applied mechanics, Gabel Family Term Junior Professor, and undergraduate curriculum chair in SEAS, cKBot can function independently and act cooperatively. One major application to such research is the military. According to the magazine, “The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, an agency of the US Department of Defense, is exploring how to endow robots and other military equipment with the self-sufficiency to function independently amid the explosions and changing landscapes of a war zone.”

"Venture a Guess" Winners

The Wharton Entrepreneurial Programs announced the winners of the Fall 2008 Venture a Guess Competition. The program is designed to help students learn about entrepreneurship at Penn through a fun and informative trivia contest. The winners of the trivia challenge on entrepreneurship are:

Grand Prize: Nate Weiner, BSE’09—a pair of domestic airline tickets, courtesy of Southwest Airlines
Entreprenuerial Mastery Prize: Linfu Zhang, W’12—a pair of domestic airline tickets courtesy of Southwest Airlines
Second Prize: Abhishek Hendi, BSE’10—iPod Touch courtesy of Computer Connection

CPCW Writing Apprenticeships

Three students have won apprenticeships from Penn’s Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing (CPCW).

Emily Schultbess, C’11, will work with political journalist Dick Palmieri; Heath Schrader, C’09, will work with Elizabeth Van Doren, editor & writer of children’s books; and Aaron Walker, C’09, will work with political and science writer Peter Tarr. CPCW was created in 2003 to promote advanced research, mentorship and apprenticeship experiences especially during the student’s junior and senior years.
Human Resources: Upcoming Programs

Your Body: From Head to Toe…Taking care of your health means being well informed, well prepared, and capable of making good choices when it comes to your body. This series of workshops, led by physicians and health experts from the University of Pennsylvania and the Health System, will address various health issues from head to toe. Steps you can take to maintain a healthier lifestyle.

Pre-registration is required for these workshops, which are sponsored by Human Resources. You are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch to the sessions. For more information and to register, visit upenn.edu/careers/continuing and select “Health Promotions” from the “Browse by Category” menu or contact Human Resources at (215) 898-5116 or suzsmith@upenn.edu.

Sleep Apnea Basics; January 28; 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.; free. Sleep apnea is a disorder that affects about 18 million Americans and has the potential for severe health complications. People with sleep apnea actually stop breathing for brief periods of time while asleep—sometimes up to 30 times or more per hour! This workshop will educate participants on how sleep apnea occurs, its common symptoms, risks when sleep apnea is left untreated, and treatments that are available. It is led by Dr. Indira Gurubhagavatula, assistant professor of medicine, Veteran’s Administration Medical Center, Division of Sleep Medicine, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Investing in a Volatile Market; Do you feel concerned about investing in today’s market? If so, you’re not alone. But Penn’s retirement vendors can help ease your worries. Vanguard will be hosting a series of e-Meetings this month that focus on today’s economy. You’ll learn about the difference between a bear and a bull market, gain some perspective on investing in an uncertain market, and better understand how to build a firm investment foundation. The sessions are open to all Penn faculty and staff, whether you’re investing with TIAA-CREF or The Vanguard Group. For information and to register, visit Penn’s Human Resources page at www.hr.upenn.edu.

—Division of Human Resources

National RecycleMania Competition

The University of Pennsylvania has joined more than 400 colleges and universities nationwide participating in RecycleMania, a competition for faculty, staff and students designed to encourage both recycling and waste minimization. Over a 10-week period (January 18 to March 28), campuses will compete in different contests to see which institution can collect the largest amount of recyclables per person, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per person, and have the highest recycling rate. Penn currently recycles approximately 18-20 percent of its waste with the goal of reaching 30 percent in waste diversion this year.

During the competition, there will be events for the Penn community aimed at increasing awareness and educating students about recycling and waste reduction. Discussion and lecture series and discussion in collaboration with the Penn Environmental Group on January 29 at 6 p.m. in the Class of 1949 Auditorium of Houston Hall, the Philadelphia Mayor’s Office of Sustainability Director, Mark Alan Hughes, will speak on how Penn and Philly are working towards a sustainable future. Additional events will include art and video contests, a panel discussion, film nights, and green giveaways.

At Penn, RecycleMania is a collaborative effort between many University groups under the Green Campus Partnership, including Business Services, Facilities and Campus Planning, SAS’s College of Liberal and Professional Studies, Center, Division of Sleep Medicine, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and the Undergraduate Assembly.

For information on RecycleMania events, to track weekly recycling totals and to find out about recycling at Penn, visit Penn’s RecycleMania at www.upenn.edu/recyclemania or e-mail recyclemania@pobox.upenn.edu. The national RecycleMania program (www.recyclemania.org) is supported by the US Environmental Protection Agency WasteWise program and the National Recycling Coalition and is coordinated as a project of NRC’s College and University Recycling Council. To learn more about Penn’s plans for a sustainable future, go to the Green Campus Partnership website at www.upenn.edu/sustainability.

New Dual Degree: Master of Environmental Studies/MBA

The University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School and School of Arts and Sciences have launched a new program to enable participants to earn a dual master of business administration/master of environmental studies degree in three years or less. This will groom environmental issues students for global leadership roles in environmental management, finance and other business specialties.

The students will take business classes full-time for three semesters at Wharton and spend a year in SAS’s College of Liberal and Professional Studies (LPS), where they can pursue an environment studies portion. LPS offers evening and summer classes, enabling students to work at the same time. Students will select a research focus in a concentrated field of study and develop a thesis, which can be done simultaneously with the LPS work, enabling some students to finish in two and a half years.

“Wharton is very pleased to establish this new multi-disciplinary degree that advances educational goals in both the business and environmental studies disciplines,” said Dr. Eric Orts, professor of legal studies and business ethics and director of the Initiative for Global Environmental Leadership (IGEL) at Penn. “It is a good example of the Penn Compact’s promise to integrate knowledge across disciplines.”

IGEL is supported by a group of leading companies, including BASF, GE, Exelon, Goldman Sachs, Interface, International Paper, Merck, Rohm & Haas, Suez Environment and Xerox. Wharton’s environmental and risk management track will help students develop a range of skills and knowledge in business practice. The MES degree will provide students with knowledge of environmental issues, technical environmental evaluation and provide practical field experience.

“This degree will close the gap between business and the environmental sciences,” said Yvette Bordeaux, director of the MES and other programs at LPS. “We envision that our students will develop new approaches solving the problems of sustainability in the business world.”

Potential students must apply and gain admission to both schools independently. Once admitted, they may choose the joint-degree program.

One Step Ahead

Securities & Privacy Made Simple

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

Credit Card Theft: “Skimming”

Over the last couple of years there have been several reports in the media about “skimmers” found attached to ATM machines and credit-pay gas pumps in the Philadelphia region, notably at several Wawa convenience stores. “Skimmers” are small electronic devices which read, store, and in some cases, transmit the digital information from the magnetic stripe of any credit or debit card passed through it—name, account number, expiration date, etc. “Skimming” has become a major factor in the growth of credit card and identity theft over the last decade, and it’s certainly not limited to convenience stores: any commercial or financial business where credit-card readers are present is a potential target for “skimming,” including restaurants. In 1999, two waiters in a New York City restaurant were convicted of “skimming” more than $300,000 from diners.

This highlights the fact that “skimming” is often an “inside job” carried out by one or more employees of the business, either on their own or in collaboration with outsiders. The devices used can range from “snapper” readers that fit on top of the legitimate reader to small pocket-sized devices that can be easily concealed and used by crooked waiters, clerks, etc. A similar device called a “card trap” installed on an ATM will fit over the card slot. An inserted card will not be returned, and when the frustrated customer gives up and leaves, the device is simply removed by the “skimmer,” who now has a valid credit card (and possibly even a PIN, if he’s been “shoulder surfing”).

Detecting “skimming” and “card trapping” is very difficult, and many victims only discover it when their statements arrive. Here are a few suggestions from law enforcement experts in this field to help combat it, though:

• Try to limit your ATM use to a few machines with which you are familiar and (better prepared to notice when something is different) and/or machines that are in more secure, controlled areas (such as bank lobbies or bus terminals). Also, ATM’s with security cameras are less vulnerable.
• When paying by credit card in person, be observant of how the employee handles your card, and try not to let the card be out of your sight.
• Many credit card companies are now issuing cards on which the information on the stripe is encrypted. Check with your card issuer to see if they currently do this, and if not, when they plan to implement it.
• Above all, check your account statements as soon as they arrive, and report any discrepancies immediately. Law enforcement authorities cite timely reporting as the major factor in identifying and prosecuting “skimmers.”

To receive weekly OneStepAhead tips via e-mail, send e-mail to list@lists.upenn.edu with the following text in the body of the message: sub one-step-ahead <your name>.

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

January AT PENN

LOCATION CHANGE

21 The panel discussion, Bruised and Broken: Abused Boys and Healing Men; will be held from 6-9 p.m. in the Terrace Room, Claudia Cohen Hall (Association of Black Social Workers; English; Psychology; Field Center; Penn Women’s Center).

ON STAGE

25 Brundibar and the Children of Theresienstadt; 3 p.m.; $10; Ibrahim Theatre, International House; Through January 30, info.: www.ihousephilly.org (International House).

READING/SIGNING

28 Fool Bodies: Cleanliness in Early America; Kathleen Brown, professor of history; 4:40 p.m.; McNeil Center (History).

TALKS

22 Mumbai Attacks and the Terror of the Aftermath; Asif Hashmi, anthropology; James Caron, South Asia Studies; Suiv Kaul, English; Rupa Viswanath, South Asia Studies; Robert Nichols, Stetson College; 5:30 p.m.; Penn Humanities Forum (South Asia Studies; South Asia Society).

Green IT

There are many things to be done at home and at work to demonstrate environmental responsibility. Penn’s IT staff from all across campus have been addressing that issue by collaborating to research potential ways in which users can “green up” their standard way of operating.

Simple suggestions to get started: 1) Print on both sides of the paper, either by using a duplex printer or by designating one of the paper drawers in your printer to hold used paper. 2) Make sure all your peripherals and chargers are turned off and unplugged when not in use. Plugging all peripherals into a single power strip makes this task easy.

Visit their recently expanded site: www.upenn.edu/computing/green for information and tips about how to conserve energy and dispose of e-waste.

Hugh Cam, National Cancer Institute; 3 p.m.; rm. 318, Lynch Laboratories (PGFi).

Fine Arts Lecture; Amy Stein, photographer; 5:30 p.m.; rm. B3, Meyerson Hall (PennDesign).

Structure and Mechanism of Cysteine-Sulfenic Acid Reduction in Peroxiredoxin by Sulfiredoxin; Thomas Jonsson, Wake Forest University; 12:15 p.m.; Seminar room, John Morgan Bldg. (Institute of Environmental Medicine).

27 GPS: A Genomic Approach for Measuring Regulated Protein Turnover; Hushe-Chi Sherry Yen, Harvard University; 3:30 p.m.; rm. 318, Lynch Laboratories (PGFi).

Is EPA Protecting Public Health? New Directions for Risk Assessment in the Next Administration; Thomas Burke, Johns Hopkins University; 4:30 p.m.; rm. G 50, Jon M. Huntsman Hall (Law).

TOUR

25 Highlights of the Collection; 11:30 a.m.; Tresher entrance, Penn Museum (Museum).

Deadline: Submissions for the Update are due every Monday for the following Tuesday’s issue. The deadline for the March AT PENN calendar is Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at noon. Submit your info. to www.upenn.edu/almanac/calendar/calendar-real.html. Events are subject to change.

‘Over and over until you get it right’

Sculptor and teacher James Fuhrman, C’65, coxswain 1962-65, created an artist’s print (above) as a tribute in honor of legendary rowing coach Joe Burke W’34 Hon’88, based on a conversation that he had with the late coach in 2007. The prints are giclee, digital drawings 8.5 " x 17" printed on Arches textured watercolor paper. Partial proceeds will be donated to the Joe Burke Rowing Fund.

“In April 2007, I sat with Joe and asked him, ‘What did you take away from all those years of rowing, and coaching?’ He said, ‘The idea of doing something over and over until you get it right.’ This print is part of the Contemplative Spaces, Works on Paper exhibition at the Burrell Gallery, University Club, now through February 20.

Crime Alert

The University of Pennsylvania’s Division of Public Safety issued an alert regarding the December 20 home invasion at 44th and Spruce Sts. There is a $3000 Reward for the arrest and conviction of the suspect. Tips must be given through the Citizens Crime Commission Tip Line by calling: 215-546-TIPS(8477).

There is a sketch of the man wanted for the robbery/rape on the DPS website: www.publicsafety.upenn.edu/
Teaching without Borders

Jonathan D. Moreno

There’s a story, or maybe an urban legend, about the most successful swimming coach in Yale history, a man who led the US Olympic team to numerous medals. According to this story he couldn’t swim a stroke. As one of my journalist friends likes to say, the story is too good to fact check.

Apocryphal or not, this story captures the way I (and, I suspect, many colleagues) feel about teaching, especially “interdisciplinary” teaching. A philosopher by training, here at Penn I teach bioethics in the Department of History and Sociology of Science and the Department of Medical Ethics. But that only begins to describe my irresponsible disregard of respectable disciplinary protocol.

I routinely cross borders without benefit of visa or in some cases formal credentials, including territories of ethics, history of medicine and science, medicine, law, military history, and political science. I like to think I’ve picked up a few medals along the way, but like most teachers I can’t tell you how or why. When challenged on the notion of interdisciplinarity I’m at still more of a loss to explicate my pedagogy. I’m not even always sure when I’m teaching from one discipline or several, and in candor I have preferred not to examine my classroom methodology too hard. Perhaps the twentieth century philosopher Michael Polanyi was right that there is tacit knowledge that cannot be transmitted but can be learned. Or perhaps I fear that if I take too close a look at what I do it will take the fun out of it, that such a loss of spontaneity would perhaps make me a better teacher in some technical sense but would on the whole impair my ability to transmit my love of subject to my students by rendering me too self-conscious about what I do.

One advantage of teaching within a discipline, as against, across or among disciplines, is that it tends to be grounded in a history and embodied in a literature. The socialization of a disciplinary graduate program at least gives us a sense of what we are supposed to know and be prepared to present before stepping into a classroom, whether we are actually prepared to convey the whole of the discipline or not. The old saw about staying one chapter ahead of the class was surely true in my case when I was a green philosophy professor. Yet there’s always the danger that while teaching, say, a certain Platonic dialogue, a student will ask a smart question about, say, what other dialogues dealt with the same issues. For the novice professor an honest answer will often be something like, “Sorry, six months ago I was hired to teach the philosophy of language but two weeks ago I was also assigned this class and what I’m talking about this morning is about as much as I know about Athenian philosophy other than what I read on the label of a bottle of Retsina.” However sincere and justifiable, such an answer is unlikely to inspire confidence, partly because everyone in the room knows that it’s not unreasonable to expect a philosophy professor to know what’s going on in Plato. So when I was starting out as a teacher of philosophy at least I knew what my students could reasonably expect me to know.

In 1979 no one knew what the qualifications for bioethical expertise were. Sociologists of knowledge observe that one way a field defines its territory is through its important textbooks. Thus Richard Rorty once said that a necessary condition for philosophical competence was mastery of The Critique of Pure Reason. When I started teaching bioethics, there was no remotely definitive text. Bioethics books, countable on one hand, were mostly anthologies of papers published in the two or three bioethics journals of the day, and who was to say whether those journals were selecting the “right” material for a new field? One could, indeed, keep one article ahead of the class, but there didn’t seem to be much theory tying the selections together or underlying rationale for their order. Perhaps the only reliable feature of these early bioethics texts was the section headings: euthanasia, justice and health care, organ transplants, and human experimentation ethics were on the list then as they are now.

So I did have the rudimentary textbooks, but I was still unprepared for that aspect of bioethics teaching that required some background in clinical medicine. We could read about the legal case of Karen Ann Quinlan and several analyses of the euthanasia issue written by lawyers and philosophers, but then students would ask questions about the diagnosis of a persistent vegetative state, about the prognosis of such a patient, about techniques for supportive medical care and the conditions in nursing homes. To say I was unprepared for such questions would be generously understated.

Fortunately, my first experiences teaching bioethics had me teamed with a physician. The model of a physician-humanist team is still common in medical school bioethics courses, as in our own here at Penn. It’s a labor-intensive system that embodies the challenges and the opportunities of the interdisciplinary classroom. I am confident that most of what I know about the clinical side of bioethics I have learned from my physician colleagues over the past 30 years. Similarly, as I gained confidence on the medical side I felt the need to be prepared to address related questions: the history of medical ethics and of medicine, the sociology and policies of health care systems, the economics of medicine and financing medical care. The disadvantage of this revelation was the horrible sense that I would never be fully prepared for my profession; the advantage was that I knew I would never be bored. Those nibbled-in-public dreams have a way of focusing the mind. More recently, as my interests have shifted from clinical ethics to the ethics of basic conditions in nursing homes. To say I was unprepared for such questions would be generously understated.

So today I’m immensely privileged to be surrounded by remarkably talented people from a wide variety of disciplines in both a school of arts and sciences and a medical school. They are my colleagues but, as I get older, I appreciate more and more deeply that they are also my teachers. In the end, I am the beneficiary as much as the instrument of the interdisciplinary teaching that has characterized the main part of my career.

Dr. Jonathan D. Moreno, a Penn Integrates Knowledge Professor, is the David and Lyn Silfen University Professor with joint appointments in Medical Ethics, School of Medicine, and History and Sociology of Science, School of Arts and Sciences

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.