

# UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA *Almanac*

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## Penn Medicine Dermatologist: \$3.9 Million NIH Grant to Further Understanding of Heart Attack—Psoriasis Link



Joel Gelfand

Over the next five years, Dr. Joel M. Gelfand, assistant professor of dermatology and associate scholar in the Center of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, will receive funding from the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Heart Lung and Blood Institute to study the relationship between psoriasis, cardiovascular risk factors and cardiovascular outcomes. This research will build a deeper understanding of the relationship between inflammatory diseases like psoriasis and myocardial infarction (heart attack), potentially paving the way for improved disease management strategies for the over 7 million Americans with psoriasis.

Dr. Gelfand spoke earlier this month at the 67th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology in San Francisco. He discussed his ongoing psoriasis research, which has identified an increased risk of developing serious medical conditions, including cardiovascular disease and diabetes, particularly when psoriasis is severe. For more information, please visit [www.aad.org/meetings/annual/](http://www.aad.org/meetings/annual/).

As with other major chronic illnesses, psoriasis can take a toll on patients' quality of life. The disease is characterized by thick, red, scaly skin plaques which can be localized or widespread

and appears as an inflammatory joint disease in some patients.

Affecting over two percent of the adult population in the United States, psoriasis is the most common inflammatory disease categorized by upregulated T helper cell type 1 (Th-1) and Th-17 activity. Increasing evidence has linked this Th-1 and Th-17 inflammation to the development of atherosclerosis and ultimately, myocardial infarction, suggesting that the underlying physiological mechanism that results in psoriasis may also be a risk factor for myocardial infarction. Other Th-1, Th-17 diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, have been shown to be independent risk factors for myocardial infarction.

For over 30 years, investigators have suggested that psoriasis may be associated with an increased risk of myocardial infarction. To date, however, there have been no large, broadly representative studies evaluating the impact of psoriasis severity on cardiovascular risk factors and outcomes such as heart attack, stroke, and cardiovascular death. Severity is determined by the extent of body surface area affected by the disease. Previously, Dr. Gelfand's research has indicated that severe psoriasis patients, as defined by treatment history, may have an increased risk of heart attack, stroke, and death, which is independent of traditional risk factors for these outcomes.

A series of population-based cohort studies will help Dr. Gelfand and his colleagues determine if patients with mild, moderate and severe psoriasis have a higher prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors, poorer control of cardiovascular risk factors, and an increased risk of myocardial infarction, stroke, and cardiovascular mortality compared to patients without psoriasis.

## \$1.7 Million Gates Foundation Grant to Enhance Global Understanding of Parasitic Genomes



David Roos

The University of Pennsylvania has received a \$1.7 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help researchers share data and develop tools to fight globally neglected diseases.

The project will be coordinated by Dr. David S. Roos, the E. Otis Kendall Professor of Biology at Penn, along with Dr. Christian Stoeckert

in the department of genetics and colleagues from the University of Georgia and the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute. A parallel award from the Wellcome Trust will be overseen by investigators at the Sanger Institute, Cambridge University and the University of York, along with Dr. Roos.

The two-year Gates Foundation award supports the implementation of genome database resources devoted to kinetoplastid parasites, including the organisms responsible for leishmaniasis, African sleeping sickness and Chagas' disease.

*TriTrypDB.org* leverages existing infrastructure to rapidly and economically provide researchers around the world with improved access to genomic-scale datasets. Available information includes complete genome sequences and other data such as comprehensive catalogs of the RNA and protein molecules manufactured by these human and animal pathogens.

The goal of this work is to exploit genomic-scale datasets in a cooperative effort to expedite the development of new treatments and diagnoses for use in the laboratory, clinic and field.

During the past two decades, the Roos laboratory has focused on harnessing modern techniques in cell biology and molecular genetics to investigate parasites' biology and interactions with their hosts. Dr. Roos has also been a lead-

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## G. Edward DeSeve: Advisor to Federal Stimulus Program for Obama Administration



Edward DeSeve

G. Edward DeSeve, senior lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government, has been appointed senior advisor to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Recovery Act Implementation, special advisor to the president and assistant to the vice president.

In his new role, Mr. DeSeve will have day-to-day responsibility for achieving the Obama administration's goals for the Recovery Act, managing distribution of the \$787 billion federal stimulus funds. He will focus on interagency coordination and lead White House efforts to make sure that the Recovery Act is implemented quickly and effectively. His management efforts inside the Executive Office of the President will complement the oversight work led by the independent Accountability and Transparency Board, chaired by Earl Devaney.

At Penn, Mr. DeSeve has taught graduate-level and undergraduate-level courses at Fels beginning in 1985, conducted research and authored *The Presidential Appointee's Handbook*.

For eight years he taught at the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy and was a senior fellow at James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership.

He previously worked in OMB as deputy director for management and served as chief financial officer of the Housing and Urban Development Department during the Clinton administration. Mr. DeSeve was also special assistant to Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey and director of finance for the City of Philadelphia under three mayors: Frank Rizzo, William Green, and W. Wilson Goode Sr.

Until recently, Mr. DeSeve was the chairman of Strategy and Solution Partners, which provided sustainability and consulting services to governments and nonprofits.

He earned a BS in labor economics from Cornell University and in 1971 he earned a master's degree in government administration in public finance from the University of Pennsylvania.

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## Payroll Tax Notice: New Income Tax Withholding and Advance Earned Income Credit (EIC) Tables

New withholding tables may reduce the amount of income tax withheld from your wages. The new tables, prescribed by the Department of the Treasury, reflect the Making Work Pay credit and other changes resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

You do not have to submit a Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, to get the automatic withholding change. If you do not want to have your withholding reduced (because, for example, you have more than one job or you are married and your combined income places you in a higher tax bracket), you may want to file a new Form W-4 with your employer. You may claim fewer withholding allowances on line 5 or request additional amounts to be withheld on line 6. For additional help, get IRS Publication 919, *How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding?* Or visit the Internal Revenue Service's website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and use the "Withholding Calculator."

Changes to the Federal tax tables will be reflected beginning with the March 27, 2009 weekly and the April 30, 2009 monthly pays.

—Payroll Tax & Individual Disbursement Services

### Are You Eligible for a Tax Credit?

If you're currently saving for retirement through Penn's retirement plans or contributing to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you may be eligible for a tax credit. Up to \$1,000 of your retirement savings could be returned as a tax credit if you meet certain income limits (see table below) and eligibility requirements.

You must be 18 years of age or older and not a full-time student in order to be eligible for the tax credit. In addition, if you're claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return, you're not eligible to receive the credit.

#### Saver's Tax Credit for Calendar Year 2008

Modified Adjusted Gross Income			Credit %	Maximum Tax Credit*
Married Filing Jointly	Head of Household	Single		
\$0 - \$32,000	\$0 - \$24,000	\$0 - \$16,000	50%	\$1,000
\$32,000 - \$34,500	\$24,000 - \$25,875	\$16,000 - \$17,250	20%	\$400
\$34,500 - \$53,000	\$25,875 - \$39,750	\$17,250 - \$26,500	10%	\$200

\* The maximum contribution taken into account for an individual is \$2,000.

Source: Internal Revenue Service

*Example:* Amy contributes \$2,000 to her employer's retirement plan for the 2008 calendar year. Because she's single and her modified adjusted gross income is less than \$16,000, she's eligible for a \$1,000 tax credit. The credit reduces the amount of taxes that she owes (or increases her tax refund) by \$1,000 at tax-filing time.

For more information about the saver's tax credit, visit the Internal Revenue Service's website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

—Division of Human Resources

## Cool Ideas on Hot Topics: 8th Annual Disability Symposium

The Eighth Disability Symposium will be held at the University of Pennsylvania on Friday, April 3. This year's symposium theme, *Cool Ideas on Hot Topics*, will present new ideas on the most current, exciting, and urgent topics on postsecondary disabilities in three plenary sessions and eight workshops. It will provide a forum for exchanging information and experiences with colleagues from many other colleges and universities during a full-day event that includes meals.

Featured speakers include: Salome Heyward, author and leading national legal expert on disability compliance in higher education; Daniel Gottlieb, practicing psychologist, author, and radio host; and Michael Baime, professor at Penn's School of Medicine, director of the Penn Program for Stress Management and the director of Mind-Body Programs for the Abramson Cancer Center.

The registration cost is \$50, including all meals, due to the generosity of Stephanie (W'86) and Marty Walcoe, whose support has made this symposium possible. Registration fee is waived for participants affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania, presenters, and students.

To register, visit [www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc/symposium.php](http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc/symposium.php) by April 1.

## Professional Development Workshop— Advanced Techniques for Genomics Research Single Cell Manipulations Using Laser Capture Microdissection

The Penn Genome Frontiers Institute (PGFI) is offering an advanced workshop for University of Pennsylvania faculty members. This free workshop will train faculty members in single cell manipulations using Laser Capture Microdissection (LCM). Participants will get hands-on experience with manipulation of single cells using the Zeiss P.A.L.M. system. Workshop members will also learn how to isolate and amplify RNA from individual cells, which can then be used for microarrays or other genomic techniques. Participants may also be invited to bring samples from their own labs to use in the workshop on May 11–15, 2009, 1–5 p.m., daily at the PGFI Educational Facility, Carolyn Lynch Labs, 433 S. University Ave.

Penn faculty from any school may apply at the PGFI Educational Facility web page at [www.genomics.upenn.edu/resources/research-facilities/cg.html](http://www.genomics.upenn.edu/resources/research-facilities/cg.html) by April 8, 2009. Class size is limited. Contact: (215) 898-6107 or [ef@genomics.upenn.edu](mailto:ef@genomics.upenn.edu).

PGFI is a university-wide institute dedicated to the advancement of the genome sciences at Penn. PGFI's mission includes advancing the development of new genomics technologies, facilitating interdisciplinary genomics research across schools, providing genomics training and educational opportunities to the Penn community and general public. More information can be found at [www.genomics.upenn.edu](http://www.genomics.upenn.edu).

## Barbara Cavanaugh: Associate Director for the Health Sciences Libraries and Director of the Biomedical Library

The Penn Libraries announce the appointment of Barbara Cavanaugh to the position of Associate Director for the Health Sciences Libraries and Director of the Biomedical Library, effective April 1. Her responsibilities include leadership of the Biomedical Library and oversight of the operations of the Dental and Veterinary School Libraries. She will play a key role in re-imagining Biomedical Library spaces and services in support of the joint renovation planning efforts between the Penn Libraries and the School of Medicine.



Barbara Cavanaugh

Ms. Cavanaugh has more than 25 years of medical library experience. She began her career at Pennsylvania Hospital Medical Library, Historic Library, and Archives. She also ran the School of Nursing and Medical Staff Libraries at Roxborough Memorial Hospital. Ms. Cavanaugh came to Penn in 1993 as the Health Sciences Libraries Liaison.

In 2001, Ms. Cavanaugh was promoted to head of Veterinary Libraries. That same year, she was a recipient of the Veterinary Medical Student Government's Commendation Award for Excellence in Teaching. As head of the Veterinary Libraries, she played a pivotal role in the planning and development of the School's new, cutting-edge facility, the Steven W. Atwood Library & Information Commons, in the School's new Vernon & Shirley Hill Pavilion.

"We are delighted to have Barbara in this major leadership role. Her experience with the Atwood Library will be invaluable as we re-envision the facilities and redefine the services offered by Penn's Health Sciences Libraries in response to the Medical School's planned renovations," said Carton Rogers, Vice Provost and Director of Libraries.

Ms. Cavanaugh is a member of the Medical Library Association, and is currently involved in a project funded by the Elsevier Foundation to support the information, healthcare, and medical education needs of Penn programs in Botswana. She has a BA from Temple University and an MS in Library and Information Science from Drexel University.

### Correction: 2009 Baccalaureate—May 17

In last week's issue, the article about the Baccalaureate Speaker gave the wrong date for the ceremony. The 2009 Baccalaureate Ceremony will be held in Irvine Auditorium on Sunday, May 17; Commencement is on Monday, May 18.

—Ed.

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—Ed.

## Announcing Secure Share File Exchange Service

Information Systems and Computing (ISC) is pleased to announce Secure Share, a new file exchange service that is now available to Penn faculty and staff. ISC developed this secure, web-based application in response to the increasing need to securely exchange documents that contain sensitive information. Secure Share is another component of Penn's security strategy, providing a campus-wide mechanism to ensure the safety and privacy of University data. *Though there should be a very limited need to exchange sensitive or confidential information electronically*, when members of the Penn community are required to do so, Secure Share provides a safe and easy-to-use mechanism.

### What is Secure Share?

Secure Share is a web-based application where authorized users may upload and download files to exchange documents securely, and the application ensures that files reach only the intended recipients. Files are encrypted when they are uploaded, downloaded, and while being stored, and e-mail notifications are sent to designated recipients when files are available for retrieval. Files are automatically deleted after they are retrieved by a designated recipient; files that are not retrieved within 30 days are deleted from the system. Secure Share should not be used as a document storage mechanism, but rather as a safe alternative to file exchange methods such as e-mail, FTP, and portable devices for sharing documents with sensitive information across campus.

### Benefits of Secure Share

Some of the key benefits of using Secure Share are:

- Reduces the University's exposure to data compromise issues such as identity theft
- Protects confidential data in documents, such as Social Security Numbers, financial information, health information, student grades, etc.
- Available to faculty and staff University-wide; eliminates the need for individual departments or Schools to develop in-house secure file exchange systems

## Christian Conroy: State Director of the Pennsylvania SBDC

Christian Conroy has been named state director of the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers.

The announcement was made by Dr. Steven J. Fluharty, vice provost for research at Penn and chair of the Pennsylvania SBDC Oversight Board.

Mr. Conroy, interim state director of the SBDC for more than a year, has been with the organization for 15 years, serving as associate state director for nine.

The Pennsylvania SBDC, hosted by Penn, is a consortium of 18 colleges and universities throughout the Commonwealth and is recognized as a national leader in delivering business management, education and information programs and services to owners and potential business owners.

Since 1980, the Pennsylvania SBDC has assisted entrepreneurs in starting more than 24,300 new businesses, obtained more than \$2.1 billion in start-up and expansion capital, expanded sales by \$8.7 billion and created over 104,800 new jobs for the Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania SBDC activities are supported by funding from the Commonwealth through the Department of Community and Economic Development and the US Small Business Association and by matching and in-kind contributions of regional host institutions.

- Helps ensure that those who request confidential data are properly authorized to receive it
- Data protected by encryption when uploaded, downloaded, and while stored on Secure Share
- Secure and easy-to-use application

### Access and availability

Secure Share is available to all Penn faculty and staff with a valid PennKey and PennKey Password at <https://medley.isc-seo.upenn.edu/secureShare/jsp/fast.do>.

### Sending files

When sending files via the application, users can:

- Upload any type of file
- Use the built-in directory to designate recipients
- Add multiple recipients to receive an uploaded file
- Upload multiple files and choose to send a single message that alerts recipients
- Optionally elect to send an e-mail to notify recipients that a file or files are ready for retrieval on Secure Share, with a direct link to the application

Note that an uploaded file cannot exceed 30 MB in size.

### Retrieving files

When a file is ready for retrieval, an e-mail is sent to the designated recipients. Please note the following regarding file retrieval:

- Uploaded files will remain available to recipients for 30 days
- Once a file has been downloaded by a recipient, it is only available on Secure Share to that recipient for the remainder of that day
- Once a file has been downloaded by all recipients, it will be deleted from Secure Share
- Recipients should contact the sender directly if they have problems retrieving a file

### More information about Secure Share

For more information, visit the Secure Share web site at [www.upenn.edu/computing/security/secure-share/](http://www.upenn.edu/computing/security/secure-share/). Questions about Secure Share can be addressed to [secure-share@lists.upenn.edu](mailto:secure-share@lists.upenn.edu).

—Robin H. Beck, Vice President of Information Systems and Computing

"David Dickson, district director of the SBA, and Dorothy Kaplan, deputy secretary of the DCED, join me in expressing great pleasure over the appointment of Christian Conroy as state director," Dr. Fluharty said.

"Christian emerged as the most standout candidate after an extensive national search and has displayed a remarkable dedication to the Pennsylvania SBDC. He is very well regarded by his peers across the Commonwealth and at the national level and will bring to the position a desire to sustain and grow the network for the benefit of all participants."

Mr. Conroy received his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Albany and a master's in liberal arts with a concentration in urban studies and non-profit management from Penn. He is certified in non-profit executive administration and fund raising management. He serves on several boards, including the National Association of Small Business Development Centers.



Christian Conroy

## University Club at Penn Annual Meeting: April 30

The Annual Meeting of the University Club at Penn will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2009, at 4 p.m. in the Club. In addition to annual reports, the Nominating Committee's list of nominees for new Board members will be presented, to be voted upon by the Members.

### Nominees to the Board of Governors:

Janet Marie Ansert, Division of Finance  
Nicholas A. Kefalides, School of Medicine  
Lawrence P. Montgomery, III,  
School of Dental Medicine  
James J. Riley, School of Medicine  
Joanne Spigonardo, Wharton School

Please attend to support the Board of Governors who acts on your behalf. After the meeting, members are invited to join the Board in light refreshments.

—Natalka A. Swavely, Club Coordinator

## Gates Grant to Enhance Global Understanding of Parasitic Genomes

(continued from page 1)

er in computational biology research, working with several international genome projects to develop a variety of bioinformatics resources. For example, the Malaria Parasite Genome Database, [PlasmoDB.org](http://PlasmoDB.org), is used on a daily basis by hundreds of researchers around the globe.

Paralleling the Human Genome Project, sequencing the genomes of several kinetoplastid parasites has raised hope for new treatments targeting the devastating diseases they cause. Current options for diagnosis and treatment are limited due to toxicity, drug resistance and other problems. Research efforts have been hampered not so much by a lack of information but by the inability to effectively integrate and mine the wealth of data now becoming available.

"In what may be considered the greatest period of scientific data acquisition in history, improving our understanding of any organism—including kinetoplastid parasites—depends on our ability to sort through mountains of data," said Dr. Roos. "Providing such information to investigators worldwide has been cited as the single highest priority by the community of scientists working to develop new drugs targeting these parasites, in order to benefit the underserved populations that suffer from the diseases they cause."

The success of genome databases developed by this team of researchers has driven progressive expansion to include multiple pathogen species. The Eukaryotic Genome Database, [EuPathDB.org](http://EuPathDB.org), is one of eight national Bioinformatics Resource Centers supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, facilitating research on a variety of biodefense, malaria and emerging pathogens. The Gates award enables further extension of this effort to encompass kinetoplastid parasites, a significant advance in efforts to improve global health.

### Almanac On-the-Go: RSS Feeds

 *Almanac* provides links to select stories each week there is an issue. Visit *Almanac's* website, [www.upenn.edu/almanac](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac) for instructions on how to subscribe to the *Almanac* RSS Feed.

## March Council Meeting Coverage

At the start of the March 25 University Council meeting, President Amy Gutmann asked for a moment of silence in memory of the recently deceased Trustee Emerita Leonore Annenberg, (*Almanac* March 17, 2009) who the president described as “a great American citizen and a great benefactor.”

Dr. Gutmann announced that the University-wide minimum stipend for graduate students will increase by 2% and stipends in the School of Arts and Sciences will increase by 3%. Since 2004, Penn has increased the base stipend for all graduate students by 24% and the base stipend for graduate students in SAS by 61%.

Her status report also noted that Penn is “doing our part to mitigate the impact that the economic crisis is having on our students and their families.” Undergraduate tuition for the coming year will increase by 3.75%—the lowest percentage increase in 41 years. Total charges will increase by 3.8% (see *Table on page 5*).

On the environmental front, her report noted that utility usage is the single largest source of Penn’s carbon footprint and a major cost to the University at \$85 million annually. Although Penn meets the Kyoto Protocol, which called for a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to the 1990 levels, FRES and the School of Design’s T.C. Chan Center will work to establish campus-wide carbon reduction targets and implement efficiency and conservation measures on campus.

Each year, the March meeting focuses on Penn’s budget and plans for the next academic year. The president turned to Vice President for Budget and Management Analysis, Bonnie Gibson who presented the current year’s budget and the tuition for next year:

### The University Operating Budget

She gave an overview of the FY2009 Operating Budget: *The* \$5.45 billion expenditure total includes \$2.609 billion for the Academic budget and \$2.843 billion for the Health System. The Academic budget is balanced; the Health System has a surplus of \$108.5 million after transfers to the School of Medicine. The Academic Expenditure budget is up 8.9% compared to FY08 actual, 7.0% compared to FY08 budget. It includes \$303 million in undergraduate and graduate student aid including stipends: up 13 percent.

\$301 million in Capital Transactions including \$157 million to fund projects (including SOM new research building, High Rise renovations, Franklin Field Pavilion, Music renovation, Mod VII Chilled Water and design of the Nanoscale Research Building,) \$106 million for equipment and library acquisitions, and \$38 million in external debt service.

The current Total Undergraduate Charges are \$48,148. Only 71% of the cost of a Penn education is covered by tuition and fees (audited Statement of Activities). The balance is supported by philanthropy (gifts and endowment). There are 55% of Penn students who receive financial aid from internal or external sources. The average freshman aid package is \$33,357. The average freshman grant is \$29,745. The average freshman loan is \$940; 70% of our grant aided freshmen this year have no loan packages.

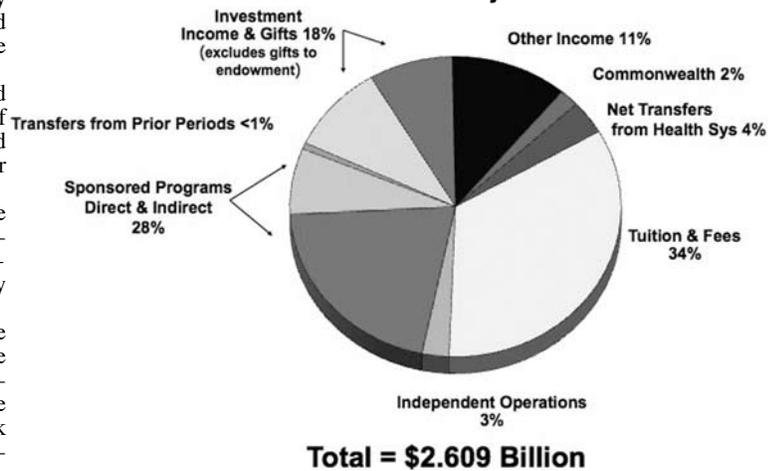
*The No-Loan Initiative:* In the current year Penn replaced loans with grants for all aid-eligible students from families with calculated incomes of \$100,000 or less, and reduced loans by 10% for all other income levels. Penn will replace loans with grants for all aid eligible students in FY10. This means no charges for the typical students from a family with income of less than \$40,000; no tuition for the typical student from a family with income of less than \$90,000.

*Graduate and Professional Tuition:* PhD tuition will increase by 3%. Research Masters tuition increased at same 3% rate. As always, professional tuition continues to be set by the individual schools. This year increases range from 0% to 5%.

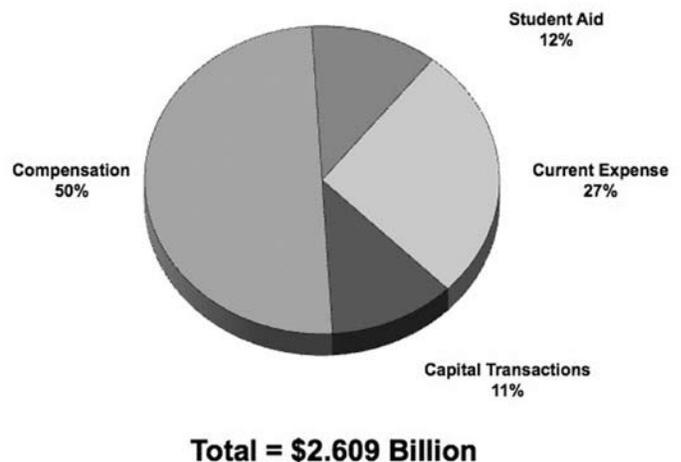
*PhD Overview:* In FY2008 Penn had 3,136 PhD students across 9 schools and 52 Graduate Groups. Almost all PhD students are fully funded for a period of 3 to 5 years (3 in those schools where students generally enter the program with a masters degree, 5 in others). Full funding includes the remission of tuition and fees, a stipend, and health insurance in each of the funded years. Some Schools pay a higher stipend to cover health insurance. A 5-year standard funding package (SAS Humanities) for students entering in the fall of 2009 is worth over \$250,000 in constant FY10 dollars.

*Summary:* Penn began the current academic year with the financial strength due to sound fiscal management and prudent investment strategies. Because endowment income comprises only 9% of Penn’s budget we are better able to negotiate the economic downturn than some of our peers. We will continue to invest in our highest priorities, including undergraduate and graduate financial aid.

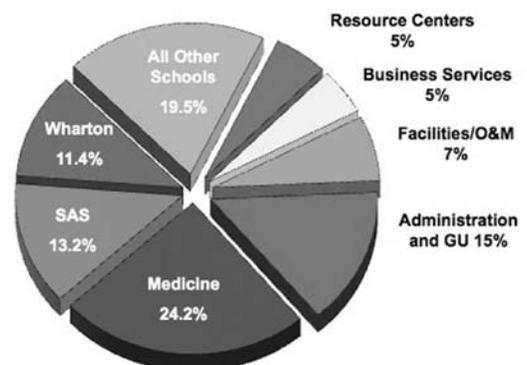
### FY 2009 Academic Budget Total Revenue & Transfers by Source



### FY 2009 Academic Budget Expenditures by Expense Type

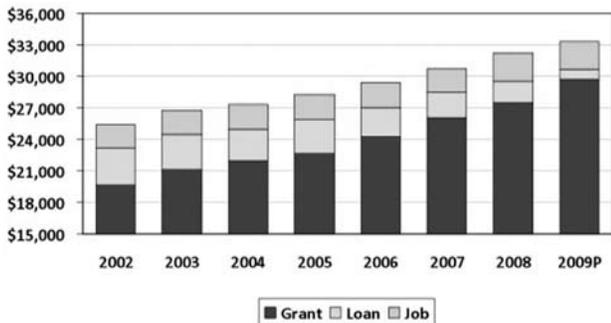


### FY 2009 Academic Budget Expenditures by Responsibility Center Category



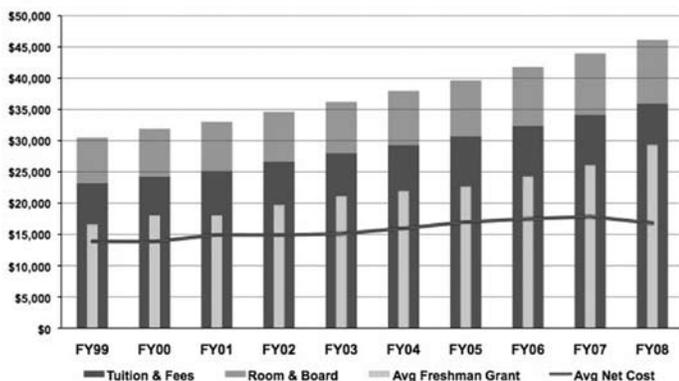
(coverage continues on page 5)

## Average Grant Aided Freshman Package



- Average loan component has dropped by 73% while the average grant component has increased by 51%
- Grant now makes up 89% of the average grant aided freshman package compared to 77% in 2002

## Growth in Financial Aid vs. Total Charges



## Fiscal Year 2010 Peer Institution Undergraduate Total Charges Comparison

	FY2009 Total	FY2010 Total	% Change vs. FY2009	\$ Over (Under) Penn
NYU	\$ 50,282			
Chicago	49,329			
Columbia	49,306			
Georgetown	50,224	51,671	2.9%	1,685
Washington	49,274	51,329	4.2%	1,343
Johns Hopkins	49,278	51,190	3.9%	1,204
Cornell	48,194	50,064	3.9%	78
<b>Penn</b>	<b>48,148</b>	<b>49,986</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>0</b>
Dartmouth	47,694	49,974	4.8%	(12)
Duke	48,034	49,895	3.9%	(91)
Northwestern	48,419	50,166	3.6%	(180)
M.I.T.	47,250	49,142	4.0%	(844)
Brown	47,740	49,126	2.9%	(858)
Harvard	47,215	48,868	3.5%	(1,118)
Stanford	47,212	48,843	3.5%	(1,143)
Yale	46,000	47,500	3.3%	(2,486)
Princeton	45,696	47,020	2.9%	(2,901)

Princeton and Stanford fees are not finalized and are not included.  
 NYU, Chicago, and Columbia have not announced FY2010 charges.

## New Initiatives

Interim Provost Vince Price had Associate Provost for Education Andy Binns present an overview of two new initiatives being launched in collaboration with SCUE. The Online Course Evaluation is being implemented this semester to provide feedback more quickly and efficiently as well as less costly than the traditional paper approach, which required tedious sorting and scanning of forms. The faster feedback will allow faculty to improve their teaching based on the students' comments that will still be anonymous. Dr. Binns said that in-class reminders by faculty will be important to encourage student participation. The system will ultimately allow faculty to develop their own questions and be the only ones who have access to the answers. He also said that the Online Syllabus allows faculty to upload a PDF of their syllabus, or even a version from a prior semester to give students more information when selecting classes. Although it is voluntary, he urged faculty to participate.

## Involvement in Philadelphia

### Civic Engagement

There was also a presentation on Penn's involvement in West Philadelphia and the greater Philadelphia community. Dr. David Grossman, director of Civic House and Civic Scholars Program, described student civic engagement. He noted that Civic House, founded ten years ago, collaborates with the Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships, the Fox Leadership Program and other centers, programs and schools on campus. Numerous Penn students are involved with volunteer initiatives at several locations in the area: nearly 7,000 students are engaged in volunteer activities at least 20 hours per semester. Almost 2,000 students took Academic Service-Learning (ABCS and related courses) last year. The Civic Scholars, an experience in civic engagement and research for students who want to commit to a four-year experience in a sustained way, involves 15 students in a class. There are now freshmen and sophomores who had been invited upon admission to Penn; this was instituted in fall 2007.

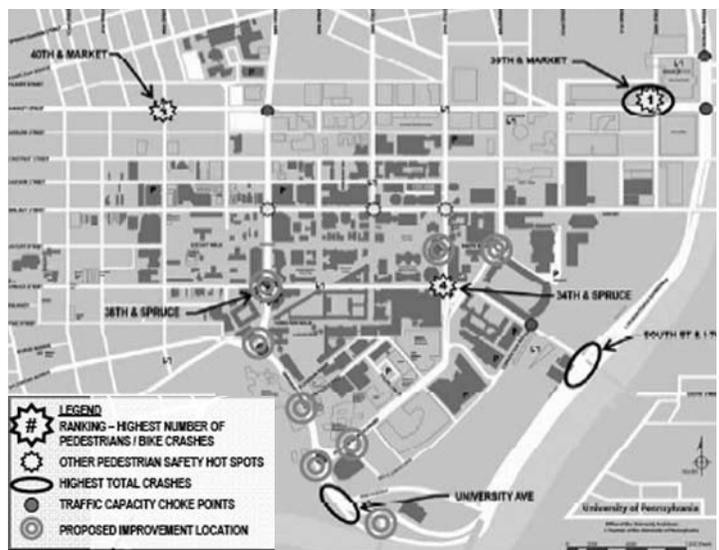
### Circulation Study

Vice President for Facilities and Real Estate Anne Papageorge, along with Vice President for Business Services Marie Witt presented the Campus Circulation Study that was done to assess the impact of Penn Connects, the Campus Master Plan on the area. The goals of the study included a focus on pedestrian, bicycle and transit modes, moving toward a sustainable approach to campus development, improving safety for all modes, identifying and prioritizing the actions that should be taken to implement the transportation plan. With construction and development taking place at numerous corners of the campus, there will be many more "peak hour trips" adding to the congestion that already exists. The report indicates the need to encourage modifications to roadways and to commuter choices to prepare for the near and long-range future.

Improvements are proposed for key pedestrian crossings (see below) such as 34<sup>th</sup> and Locust Walk, 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and Smith Walk, 38<sup>th</sup> Street and Spruce Street, University Avenue/38<sup>th</sup> Street and Woodland/Baltimore Avenue, University Avenue and Curie Blvd., and University Avenue and Civic Center Boulevard.

Bicycle use was addressed: bike lanes and bike racks are heavily used; bike racks at building entrances contradict bike dismount pedestrian zones in campus areas where bike riding is prohibited. Penn will partner with UCD and Drexel to improve the Bike Network so that there are not gaps, and to maintain bike facilities and bike parking clusters. Improvements to transit schedules and routes would encourage more ridership as would safer stations and facilities and more service during peak and non-peak hours. Penn has 6,800 parking spaces in addition to the UPHS 1,615 spaces, and there is no waiting list. There is lower cost parking for motorized vehicles such as Vespas. Penn will prioritize the recommendations and discuss them with the stakeholders on and off-campus.

## Proposed Improvement Locations



# Honors & Other Things

## Ms. Durain: VP of ACNM

The Associate Director of Penn Nursing's Midwifery program, *Dawn Durain*, was elected vice president of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM).

"I look forward to contributing to continued productivity with the Board of Directors," said Ms. Durain. "I hope that my work and my presence will result in the continuing productivity of the Board and the continued responsiveness of the ACNM to our members and the women to whom they offer care."

Ms. Durain has served on the ACNM Board of Directors as Region II Representative since 2007 and will serve as ACNM Vice President through May 2011.

## Dr. Gonatas: Pathology Awards

*Dr. Nicholas Gonatas*, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, will receive two awards: On April 20, he will receive the American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) Gold Headed Cane Award. The Award is presented in recognition of long-term contributions to pathology, including meritorious research, outstanding teaching, general excellence in the field and leadership in pathology.

During the June meeting in San Antonio, the American Association of Neuropathologists will award Dr. Gonatas this year's Meritorious Award for his contributions to neuropathology.

## Dr. Guyer: VP of ASA

*Dr. Paul Guyer*, the Florence R.C. Murray Professor in the Humanities in the School of Arts and Sciences, has been elected vice president of the American Society for Aesthetics (ASA). Founded in 1942, the ASA is dedicated to promoting research, discussion and publication in aesthetics—where aesthetics is understood to include all studies of the arts and related types of experience from a philosophical, scientific or other theoretical standpoint. Having taken on the duties of vice president on February 1, Dr. Guyer will serve as the organization's president from 2011 through 2013, followed by a two-year term as past president.

## Dr. Krippendorff: Top Design Educator

*Dr. Klaus Krippendorff*, the Gregory Bateson Professor of Communication in the Annenberg School, was named one of the hundred most influential design educators of the 20th century in the book *Designlehren*, by German designers K. Buchholz, J. Theinert and S. Ihden-Rothkirch (2008). In the design community, Dr. Krippendorff is known largely for advocating a cultural and communication approach to the design of technology. He created (with Reinhart Butter of Ohio State University) the now widely accepted concept of "product semantics."

## Penn-Made President: Dr. Lariviere

The University of Oregon announced *Dr. Richard Lariviere* as its newest president, effective July 1, 2009. Dr. Lariviere earned his doctorate in Asian studies from Penn in 1979. See *Almanac* November 18, 2008 for other Penn-Made Presidents.

## Dr. Lazar: Korsmeyer Award

*Dr. Mitchell Lazar*, Sylvan H. Eisman Professor of Medicine & Genetics in the School of Medicine, is the recipient of the 2009 Stanley J. Korsmeyer Award. The American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) recognized Dr. Lazar for his outstanding contributions to understanding the transcriptional regulation of metabolism. In addition, the trainees he has mentored have gone on to successful careers in academia and industry. Dr. Lazar will receive a \$10,000 honorarium from the ASCI and will deliver the Korsmeyer Award Lecture on April 26, at the ASCI/AAP Joint Meeting. Dr. Lazar is also the director of the Institute for Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism at Penn.

## Dr. Pinto-Martin: Distinguished Researcher

*Dr. Jennifer Pinto-Martin*, Viola MacInnes/Independence Professor of Nursing in the School of Nursing, is the recipient of the 7th Annual Claire M. Fagin Distinguished Researcher Award. The School of Nursing and Dean Afaf Meleis will host an event on April 7 that features a presentation by Dr. Pinto-Martin followed by a reception in her honor. Dr. Pinto-Martin is director of the Master's in Public Health Program and serves as a mentor and advisor to a number of graduate and undergraduate students.

## Ms. Rush: Board Officer

*Maureen Rush*, vice president of public safety, was elected secretary to the Board of University City District (UCD). Established in 1997, UCD is a nonprofit, neighborhood-based organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in the 2.2 square mile area of West Philadelphia, known as University City.

Ms. Rush also has been elected to the board of the Philadelphia Police Foundation as vice president. The Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides resources to strengthen the Philadelphia Police Department.

## Dr. Schuyler: J. C. Harrington Medal

*Dr. Robert L. Schuyler*, associate professor of anthropology and associate curator-in-charge, Historical Archaeology Section, Penn Museum, has been awarded the 2009 J. C. Harrington Medal in Historical Archaeology by the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA). The award is given for a lifetime of contributions to the discipline of historical archaeology centered on scholarship. Dr. Schuyler was honored for his research and his activities as an educator and builder of the discipline.

## Dr. Zaoutis: Pediatric Award

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) selected *Dr. Theokolis Zaoutis*, assistant professor of epidemiology and pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, as the recipient of the SHEA Pediatric Investigator Award. This award is intended to recognize the work of investigators in infection control and healthcare epidemiology whose contributions in their field have been exemplary.

## Model Supervisor Award Finalists

Penn's success as a world-renowned institution is reflective of the talent, creativity and dedication of all who work here. Because staff members play an important role in this process, the Models of Excellence Program is held annually to honor and recognize those individuals who embody the University's standards for model staff members and supervisors.

The Model Supervisor Award is given annually to an outstanding Penn supervisor who demonstrates exemplary supervisor behaviors and serves as an outstanding role model for others to emulate.

The Division of Human Resources announced the finalists for the 2009 Model Supervisor Award. They are:

- *Patricia Brennan*, director of Special Services, Public Safety
- *John Gustafson*, assistant manager, Transportation Services, Transportation and Parking, Business Services
- *Melissa von Stade*, director of Development, Morris Arboretum, Alumni & Development Relations

The Model Supervisor Award winner will be announced live by President Gutmann at the Models of Excellence Awards Ceremony. For information about the Models of Excellence Program see [www.hr.upenn.edu/Quality/Models](http://www.hr.upenn.edu/Quality/Models). The ceremony and reception will be held on April 16 from 4:30–6:30 p.m. at the Annenberg Center. For more information or an invitation to the ceremony, contact Human Resources at [QOWL@hr.upenn.edu](mailto:QOWL@hr.upenn.edu) or (215) 898-1012.

## Penn Alexander School Honors Regional Spelling Bee Championship

*Sowsan Salaam*, 6th grade, is the winner of this year's Philadelphia Tribune/Scripps Howard Regional Spelling Bee Championship. The student will compete in the national competition in Washington, DC in May. This is the third straight year a student from PAS has won.

## Physician Scientist Training

*Jalisa Smith* and *Tsion Habtamu*, 7th grade, were 2 of 60 students nationwide accepted into the 2009 Physician Scientist Training Program run by Temple University.

## George Washington Carver Science Fair

The following PAS students, took home awards from the citywide 2009 Carver Science Fair:

### First Place:

*Hannah Hanson*, 4th grade—Life Science  
*Mitchell Berven-Stotz*, 5th grade—Physical Science

*Ella Comberg*, 5th grade—Consumer Project  
*Camille Coleman*, *Ruby Johnston* and *Isaiah McQueen*, 5th grade—Team Project  
*Ella Serpell*, 5th grade—Human Science Award

### Second Place:

*Dylan Yachyshen*, 4th grade—Physical Science

### Honorable Mention:

*Ella Peterson*, 4th grade—Earth Science  
*Paul Lorec*, 5th grade—Earth Science  
*Cordelia Ilton*, 6th grade—Earth Science

### Special Awards:

*Ella Comberg*, 5th grade—Women in Science & Engineering Award

*Camille Coleman*, *Ruby Johnston* and *Isaiah McQueen*, 5th grade—Educational Advancement Alliance for Excellence in Science

*Cordelia Ilton*, 6th grade—The Academy of Natural Sciences Environmental Award

*Dylan Yachyshen*, 4th grade—Naval Science Award and Vince Russo Award for Excellence in Data Presentation

## Women of Color Day at Penn Awards

For the 22nd consecutive year, Penn and UPHS presented Women of Color Day at Penn, an effort to increase awareness of the concerns, talents and achievements of women of color. The accomplishments of these women were recognized at the Annual Women of Color at Penn Awards Luncheon on March 6.

### Faculty/Staff Honoree

**Karen Maxwell Hudson** is an adjunct professor in the School of Social Policy & Practice. She provides exceptional direction as the program manager of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's (CHOP) Homeless Health Initiative. She is a graduate of Penn's School of Social Work and Insights, a minority leadership training program at CHOP. Besides being a full-time employee at CHOP, Ms. Hudson is a PhD candidate in public health at Walden University.



*Karen Hudson*

A dedicated community worker, she is a board member of Cradles to Crayons, a volunteer for Cub Scout Pack 54 and a block captain in her Yeadon neighborhood.

With passion, dedication and humility, Ms. Hudson encourages others to serve children and families in shelters. She has forged bridges with shelters across West Philadelphia and the region. She motivates and inspires trust in volunteers, shelter staff and families. Ms. Hudson has provided hope and inspiration to some of Philadelphia's most disenfranchised populations. She guides families towards change by sharing resources and helping them to navigate the medical system. She has been a compassionate champion for marginalized populations. Ms. Hudson believes empowering families through education and awareness is the means for positive change.

Ms. Hudson models racial equality and harmony as she unifies and inspires volunteer of various creeds and faiths. It is because of her tireless service to families and children that we recognize Karen Maxwell Hudson as the 2009 Women of Color Staff/Faculty Honoree.

### Graduate Student Honoree

**Christa Heyward** is a PhD student in biomedical graduate studies in the School of Medicine.



*Christa Heyward*

In addition to being an outstanding student, Ms. Heyward has held a number of leadership positions as a student at Penn. She has contributed to the enhancement of student cultural and academic life through her involvement in the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) and in the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association (BGAPSA). She has served as the BGAPSA Events Planning Chair (2005-2006), BGAPSA Treasurer (2006-2007), and she served as GAPSA's first Pluralism Chair (2007-2008). She is currently GAPSA's Vice Chair for Finance, where her integrity and attention to detail is serving all graduate students at Penn.

Ms. Heyward has been a strong advocate for women and was a founding member of the Penn Graduate Women in Science and Engineering (PGWISE). She has also improved the University's policies and resources for students with children by advocating for funding for a family Resource Center and the creation of a University-Wide Family Leave Policy for PhD students. Ms. Heyward was an invited participant at the Ivy Summit meeting of graduate and professional student leaders where she represented all Penn graduate and professional students (2007-2009). She has also served for two years on the University Council Committee on Diversity and Equity (2007-2009).

Ms. Heyward is an outstanding graduate individual who takes pleasure in public service. She seeks out ways to effect positive change and brings a natural ability to interact well in both diverse and like-minded groups of people. She has excelled as a researcher, an elected government leader, an advocate for minority voices and a single mother. It is for these contributions that we recognize Christa Y. Heyward as the 2009 Women of Color Graduate Student Honoree.

**Undergraduate Student Honoree**  
**Sheyla Medina** is a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences. She is an extraordinary student who works hard academically but is also an outstanding Penn citizen. Ms. Medina has worked to address a number of major issues at Penn and in the community. As a member of the Allies, the gay straight alliance, she worked to address issues impacting the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities on campus and in Philadelphia. She was a student volunteer for "A Day Without an Immigrant," a program to demonstrate the importance of immigrant work to our lives and our economy, and to advocate for immigration reform. She also helped start the Latino Ivy League conference at Penn which works towards a goal for greater representation of Latinos in higher education.



*Sheyla Medina*

As a McNair fellow, Ms. Medina conducted research on global food markets and their connection to obesity in female adolescents in Lima, Peru. She worked with the Women's Campaign International to assist in documenting women's leadership development in Colombia and Sri Lanka and she worked closely with the Mexican consulate in Philadelphia using her Spanish skills to assist with outreach to Latina immigrants. In addition, Ms. Medina worked as a translator with Latino camp workers in New Jersey to examine the effects of pesticides on laborers.

Many students focus on campus activities but Sheyla has made an effort to outreach into the communities that surround and support Penn. She works to empower her peers and is also deeply concerned about the needs of workers and minorities in the Delaware Valley. It is because of her sense of community and commitment to improving the quality of life for all people that we recognize Sheyla Medina as the 2009 Women of Color Undergraduate Honoree.

—2009 Women of Color Committee

## SAS 2009 Dean's Scholars

The School of Arts and Sciences has named 20 students from the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Liberal and Professional Studies, and the Graduate Division as 2009 Dean's Scholars. This honor is presented annually to SAS students who exhibit exceptional academic performance and intellectual promise. The 2009 Dean's Scholars will be formally recognized as part of the Levin Family Dean's Forum, which will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, in the Penn Museum's Harrison Auditorium (*Almanac* March 24, 2009).

### The College of Arts and Sciences

**Phillip Benedetti**, Biochemistry, Chemistry and Economics

**Thomas Dreisbach**, Germanic Languages and Literatures

**Farhaan Hafeez**, Biochemistry & Biophysics

**Kendall Hoechst**, English and Psychology

**Sumeet Khetarpal**, Biochemistry & Biophysics

**Benjamin Laitman**, Biological Basis of Behavior and Anthropology

**Alexander Lessie**, Classical Studies

**Stefan Sabo**, Mathematics

**Hayley Walker**, Biological Basis of Behavior

### The Graduate Division

**Carolyn Baugh**, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

**Roger Grant**, Music

**Justin Leidwanger**, Art and Archaeology of the Mediterranean World

**Edward Lybeer**, Comparative Literature

**Neil Mehta**, Demography

**Jean-Francois Mondon**, Linguistics

**Barbara Jane Morgan**, Chemistry

**Karen Tani**, History and Law

**Keren Yarhi-Milo**, Political Science

**College of Liberal and Professional Studies**

**Justin Alexander**, Philosophy

**Gregory Kelder**, Environmental Studies

**RealArts@PENN Interns 2009**

RealArts is a program for all Penn students sponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences. It was created in 2007 to integrate art-world practice into the intellectual life of the University. The interns for this summer are:

**Elizabeth J. Baker**, junior English major with a concentration in cinema studies and a minor in political science—MTV Networks.

**Steven Wayne**, a creative writing student, double minoring in psychology and jazz & popular music—*Rolling Stone* magazine.

**Jillian Dent**, junior English major—Brooklyn Films in LA with producer/director Jon Avnet (*Risky Business*, *Uprising*, etc.), a Penn alumnus and overseer in SAS.

**Sara Estela**, junior majoring in comparative literature—Women Make Movies.

**Lucia della Paolera**, English major with a minor in music—At Shore Fire Media in NYC, a standard-setting public relations and marketing group.

**Ilana Millner**, junior English major with a concentration in creative writing and a fine arts minor—Grand Central Publishing (former Warner Books).

**Benjy Brooks**, a fine arts major with a concentration in animation—will write along-side two screen and stage writers, David Stern and Stuart Gibbs, both Penn alumni.

*Honors & Other Things: continues on page 8*

# Honors & Other Things

## Dr. Bowles: NQF Steering Committee



Kathy Bowles

Dr. Kathy H. Bowles, associate professor in the School of Nursing, was appointed to the National Quality Forum Steering Committee on Care Coordination.

The National Quality Forum is a not-for-profit organization created to develop and implement a national strategy for health care quality measurement and reporting. In 2008, the NQF deemed Care Coordination one of six national

priorities for the improvement of health care in the United States. The Steering Committee will work to develop, endorse, and devise measurements for a list of preferred practices in care coordination.

## Penn Leads in Radiological Security Upgrades

The National Nuclear Security Administration's Thomas D'Agostino delivered remarks on US radiological security at the University of Pennsylvania on March 27 along with Penn's Executive Vice President Craig Carnaroli. Penn, along with the City of Philadelphia, was recognized for their national security leadership in being the first civilian site in the United States to complete comprehensive radiological security upgrades and emergency response training under NNSA's Global Threat Reduction Initiative and NNSA's federal partners. Established by Congress in 2000, NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency within the US Department of Energy.

## Penn Vet World Leadership Award

Dr. Frederick A. Murphy has been selected as the 2009 recipient of the Penn Vet World Leadership Award. Dr. Murphy is the James W. McLaughlin Professor in Residence at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Dr. Murphy has made significant contributions that benefit society and advance the veterinary profession through his research work on viruses impacting animals and humans.

The award, to be presented on April 20 at Penn, provides the recipient with \$100,000 in unrestricted funding, the largest monetary award in veterinary medicine, underwritten by the Vernon and Shirley Hill Foundation.

## Wharton: BusinessWeek Rankings

The Wharton School's undergraduate program is ranked #3 in the country in *BusinessWeek's* fourth annual ranking of the "Top Undergraduate Business Programs." Wharton was recognized for outstanding faculty and high-caliber students and alumni as well as rating high among recruiters and maintaining a high median starting salary range for graduates.

## Fencing Champs

For the first time since 2001, the Penn Men's Fencing Team won the Ivy League Championship, beating both Harvard and Yale and the second round robin. This is the 16th Ivy championship they've won in the program's history.

The team also won the six-weapon championship at the Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championships for the first time in program history.

## Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics Awards

### Transdisciplinary Award Program

We are delighted to announce the fourth round of successful applications for the Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics' (ITMAT) Transdisciplinary Award Program (TAPITMAT), supported by the School of Medicine. The quality of all applications was extremely high and the funding decisions, made by members of the Internal Advisory Board, were extremely difficult.

The selected projects range across the breadth of biology, integrate diverse disciplines and investigators from many schools of Penn, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and the Wistar Institute reflecting their interaction in the context of the Clinical and Translational Science Award. They are uniformly of high scientific quality, interdisciplinary and translational in nature.

ITMAT is delighted with the number and quality of applications responsive to this call for awards and will continue to develop the program further in future years.

#### Recipients:

*Exposure to prenatal inflammation and adverse neurobehavioral outcomes*—Dr. Michal Elovitz, department of obstetrics and gynecology, School of Medicine and Dr. Edward Brodtkin, department of psychiatry, School of Medicine

*Development of a Novel Therapeutic Strategy for Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy (LGM-D2B)*—Dr. Khurana Tejvir, department of physiology, School of Medicine; Dr. Samuel Lamitina, department of physiology, School of Medicine and Dr. Paola Arratia, department of mechanical engineering and applied mechanics, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

*Structural basis for ALK inhibition therapies*—Dr. John Maris, department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine; Dr. Mark Lemmon, department of biochemistry and biophysics, School of Medicine, and Dr. Yael Mosse, department of pediatrics, School of Medicine

*Development of New Antibiotics against Mycobacterium tuberculosis based on the Oxidative Phosphorylation System*—Dr. Harvey Rubin, department of medicine, School of Medicine, and Dr. Jeffrey Winkler, department of chemistry, School of Arts and Sciences

*Development of small molecule inhibitors of human complement factor B*—Dr. Wenchao Song, department of pharmacology, School of Medicine and Dr. Zhijun Li, department of chemistry and biochemistry, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia

*Therapeutic Development for Friedreich Ataxia*—Dr. Robert Wilson, department of pathology and laboratory medicine, School of Medicine; Dr. Amos Smith, department of chemistry, School of Arts and Sciences; and Dr. Donna Huryn, department of chemistry, School of Arts and Sciences

For more information, please visit our website at [www.itmat.upenn.edu](http://www.itmat.upenn.edu).

—Dr. Garret A. FitzGerald, Director, ITMAT

### Chemical Biology in Translation Program

The Chemical Biology in Translation (CBIT) Program of the Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics (ITMAT) announces its third round of successful applications for High Throughput Screening (HTS).

CBIT's mission is to work with Penn, CHOP, and Wistar scientists to screen biological targets of clinical relevance against chemical libraries through the use of robotic instrumentation. Small molecules identified through HTS are then subject to hit-to-lead optimization chemistry. CBIT is co-directed by Drs. Scott L. Diamond and William DeGrado.

#### Recipients:

*Inhibiting the c-Myb Protooncogene* (Dr. Alan Gewirtz, department of medicine, School of Medicine)

*A High-throughput Chemical Screen to Discover Modifiers of TDP-43 Cellular Toxicity in a Yeast TDP-43 Proteinopathy Model* (Dr. Aaron Gitler, department of cell and developmental biology, School of Medicine)

*High Throughput Screening of the BRCA1-Associated BRCC36 Metalloprotease* (Dr. Roger Greenberg, department of cancer biology, School of Medicine)

For more information, please visit the ITMAT website at [www.itmat.upenn.edu](http://www.itmat.upenn.edu) or the Penn Center for Molecular Discovery (PCMD) website at [www.seas.upenn.edu/~pcmd/](http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~pcmd/).

—Dr. William DeGrado, Co-Director, CBIT  
—Dr. Scott Diamond, Co-Director, CBIT  
—Dr. Garret A. FitzGerald, Director, ITMAT

### Program in Targeted Therapeutics

The Program in Targeted Therapeutics (PTT) of the Institute for Translational medicine and Therapeutics (ITMAT) announces its first round of successful applications for Pilot Grants.

The mission of these grants is to support early-stage experimental preclinical studies in targeted therapeutics and thus assist investigators in obtaining key data to seek extramural funding. PTT is directed by Drs. Vladimir Muzykantov and Andrew Tsourkas.

#### Recipients:

*A novel HDL particle for imaging atherosclerotic plaques* (Dr. Rong Zhou, department of radiology, School of Medicine and Dr. I-Wei Chen, department of material science and engineering, School of Applied Science and Engineering)

*Magnetically targeted delivery of drug-loaded non-polymeric biodegradable nanoparticles for prevention of in-stent restenosis* (Dr. Michael Chorny, department of pediatrics, School of Medicine)

For more information, please visit the ITMAT website at [www.itmat.upenn.edu](http://www.itmat.upenn.edu).

—Dr. Vladimir Muzykantov, Director, PTT  
—Dr. Andrew Tsourkas, Associate Director, PTT  
—Dr. Garret A. FitzGerald, Director, ITMAT

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**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/guidelin.html#op](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/about/guidelin.html#op) for the Speaking Out Guidelines. —Ed.

## Human Resources: Upcoming Programs

### Professional and Personal Development

Improve your skills and get ahead in your career by taking advantage of the many development opportunities provided by Human Resources! You can pre-register for programs by visiting the online course catalog at [www.hr.upenn.edu/coursecatalog](http://www.hr.upenn.edu/coursecatalog) or by contacting Learning and Education at (215) 898-3400.

**Sexual Harassment Awareness.** April 8; noon–1 p.m.; free. As an employer and as an educational institution, Penn is committed to eradicating sexual harassment. Sexual harassment in any context is reprehensible, and it is a matter of particular concern to an academic community in which students, faculty, and staff must rely on strong bonds of intellectual trust and dependence. This program will familiarize you with Penn's sexual harassment policy and with your responsibility to create and maintain a respectful workplace, free of inappropriate behavior or conduct that could be construed as prohibited harassment.

**Brown Bag Matinee—Focus Your Vision.** April 14; noon–1 p.m.; free. Take a virtual vacation from your desk as you travel with former National Geographic photographer Dewitt Jones in this video presentation. *Focus Your Vision* creatively uses the striking photographic work of Jones to teach us the importance of direction and purpose as we set goals to accomplish in our personal and professional lives. You'll learn seven concepts that are key to focusing successfully through this innovative and unusual training film.

**Administrative Professionals Day—Exploring Your Life and Career through Journaling.** April 22; noon–1:30 p.m.; \$25. Communicat-

ing, problem-solving and collaborating are just a few of the skills essential to the work of administrative professionals. But did you know that journaling can actually help you enhance these skills? The journal is one of the most effective tools for developing creative potential and obtaining a more balanced lifestyle, at work and at home. But most of us don't use the journal for all that it can be. This workshop will debunk myths about the shoulds and traditional how to's of journal keeping and show you how journaling can help enhance your personal and professional wellbeing. No writing experience or expertise is necessary. This annual event in honor of our administrative professionals includes both lunch and door prizes.

**Career Focus Brown Bag—Your Next Job at Penn.** April 24; noon–1 p.m.; free. This workshop will focus on strategies for finding your next job at Penn. Using both formal and informal job search methods will help you maximize your opportunities. We'll talk about clarifying your goals, networking and how to focus on your strengths and skills in your resume. Whether you're looking to change direction in your career or move up to your next challenge, an attractive and effective resume is a must.

**Mentors@Penn Information Session.** April 29; noon–1 p.m.; free. Mentoring provides many benefits and opportunities, whether you are a mentor or mentee. Through a mentoring relationship, you can learn and grow, increase your own job satisfaction, and focus on your professional and career goals. At this information session, you'll learn more about the Mentors@Penn program and find out how to apply.

—Division of Human Resources

## Open Enrollment Reminder: April 6–April 17

Open Enrollment is just around the corner. Don't miss your annual opportunity to modify your healthcare elections. From April 6–April 17, you can make changes to your benefits 24 hours a day, 7 days a week using Penn's online enrollment site at [www.pennbenefits.upenn.edu](http://www.pennbenefits.upenn.edu). Any changes made during Open Enrollment will be effective as of July 1, 2009.

Also remember to mark your calendars for the Open Enrollment and Health Fair on April 14 in Houston Hall from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Register now for a free cholesterol and glucose screening at the fair by visiting the Human Resources online course catalog at [www.hr.upenn.edu/coursecatalog](http://www.hr.upenn.edu/coursecatalog) (click on "Course Catalog" at the top of the screen, then select "Health Promotions" from the "Browse by Category" menu).

### Going Green: The Paperless Route

You can help Penn reduce waste and "go green" by selecting the paperless option. Choose to review your enrollment materials online instead of receiving paper enrollment guides. You'll still have access to all the details you need about your benefits, and you'll still be notified when you're eligible to make changes (i.e., Open Enrollment each year or a mid-year change to your benefit eligibility status). If you'd like to go paperless, visit [www.pennbenefits.upenn.edu](http://www.pennbenefits.upenn.edu) or call the Penn Benefits Center at 1-888-PENN-BEN (1-888-736-6236).

### A New Look to This Year's Open Enrollment Materials

In this difficult economic environment, we're all looking for ways to reduce or contain costs. To contribute to the University's efforts, the Division of Human Resources is committed to reducing the amount of paper we generate and distribute. That's why this year's Open Enrollment material will look quite different from what we've distributed in previous years.

You should receive your Open Enrollment materials this week. As part of the mailing, you'll still receive your personalized enrollment worksheet listing the plans you're eligible for and the corresponding costs. You'll also find highlights of this year's Open Enrollment such as dates, what's new, and how to make changes.

Then, simply visit the Human Resources website at [www.hr.upenn.edu](http://www.hr.upenn.edu) to find more detailed information, including specifics on what's changing, medical plan comparison charts, and more. You'll still have access to all the details you need to help you make the best decisions for you and your family, just in a different format.

In addition to aiding the University's cost reduction effort, decreasing the size of the Open Enrollment materials also contributes to Penn's sustainability effort. To further support that goal, these materials are printed on recycled paper.

We welcome your feedback about our communication efforts; please email us at [askhr@hr.upenn.edu](mailto:askhr@hr.upenn.edu) if you'd like to send a comment. And remember, more information about Penn's benefits can always be found at [www.hr.upenn.edu](http://www.hr.upenn.edu) or by calling the Penn Benefits Center at 1-888-PENNBEN (1-888-736-6236).

## Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day: Registration Coming Soon

At Penn, we understand the importance of raising a family and providing children with positive and productive experiences early on. That's why we take the opportunity each year to host Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day—an annual event that encourages, inspires and introduces youngsters to the workplace.

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day will take place this year on Thursday, April 23. Faculty and staff will have the opportunity to bring children ages 9–15 to Penn's campus to enjoy an exciting array of activities.

Registration for the event will begin on *Thursday, April 9* at 8 a.m. Some of the activities planned this year include:

- Exploring the Penn Museum
- Cupcake decorating
- Career discovery
- Rock climbing
- Nutrition lessons: Eat This or Eat That?
- Touring Penn's Robotics Lab in the School of Engineering and Applied Science
- Visiting WXPN, Penn's public radio station
- Physics lesson on static electricity
- Science experiments with the Society of Women Engineers
- Getting a personalized Penn KidsCard to commemorate the day



You'll also have the opportunity to stop by the PennCard Center and get a free, specially-designed souvenir Penn KidsCard to commemorate your day on campus. The PennCard Center will take your child's photo and print his or her very own KidsCard while you wait. The cards come in two designs: one for younger kids and one for older kids (pictured).

Keep in mind that pre-registration is required to attend the activities and participants must have supervisory approval and accompany their young guests to all activities. For more information, visit [www.hr.upenn.edu](http://www.hr.upenn.edu) or contact Human Resources at (215) 898-0380 or [gowl@hr.upenn.edu](mailto:gowl@hr.upenn.edu)

—Division of Human Resources



[www.makinghistory.upenn.edu](http://www.makinghistory.upenn.edu)

### 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. Call (215) 898-5274 or e-mail [almanac@upenn.edu](mailto:almanac@upenn.edu).

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

## The PHF's 10th Anniversary Finale—The Loathly Lady Opera: April 1

*The Loathly Lady*, an original, sung-through comic opera conceived at the cusp of musical theater, will premiere April 1 for one night only at Irvine Auditorium. The premiere is the gala finale of the Penn Humanities Forum's 2008-2009 10th-anniversary year.

The opera is based on Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Wife of Bath's Tale," written around 1400, in which a wayward Arthurian knight has "a twelvemonth and a day" to discover what women want most—or die. During his quest, he meets a series of opinionated characters from the future, including Jane Austen's Emma, Sheherazade, Shakespeare's Titania, Eliza Doolittle, the Lady of Shallot and Virginia Woolf. Magic and psychoanalysis come to blows in the figures of Merlin and Freud. But, though everyone has an answer, it is not until a Loathly Lady appears that the knight discovers the truth, and that is far from the end of the story.

The opera score is by Paul Richards of the University of Florida, whose musical compositions have been performed across the U.S. and six continents. Words are by scholar-critic Wendy Steiner, of Penn, whose numerous books include *The Scandal of Pleasure* and *Venus in Exile*. Image projections are by the London-based artist John Kindness, whose solo exhibitions and public art have appeared in London, New York, Dublin and Belfast. Period-instrument expert John DeLucia developed the musical concept behind the opera.

"*The Loathly Lady*," Dr. Steiner said, "is a romp through 600 years of 'the woman question' as well as 600 years of music."

Scored for a full complement of period instruments, its stars are virtuosos in the early music field: Julianne Baird in the title role, three members of Anonymous 4 (Ruth Cunningham, Susan Hellauer, Jacqueline Horner-



Kwiatk), baritone Thomas Meglioranza, countertenor Drew Minter, tenor Jeffrey Behrens, the viola da gamba consort Parthenia and the winds, brass and percussion of Piffaro, the Renaissance Band. Gary Thor Wedow will conduct.

The premiere celebrates the 1999 founding of the Penn Humanities Forum, a center within Penn's School of Arts and Sciences promoting both research and public lectures, art exhibitions and concerts. Tickets are \$25 and \$30, and student discounts are available. Additional information about the opera, including an animated film pilot advised by artist Joshua Mosley, is available at [www.english.upenn.edu/~wsteiner/loathlylady.htm](http://www.english.upenn.edu/~wsteiner/loathlylady.htm) or [www.phf.upenn.edu](http://www.phf.upenn.edu) or by calling Jennifer Conway at (215) 898-8220.

## The Penn Relays: Celebrating 115 Years

A Philadelphia staple, the Penn Relay Carnival is one of the oldest and longest-running track and field events in the world. The 2009 running marks the 115th year of the Relays and will take place April 23-25 at the historic Franklin Field.

In its storied history, the Relays have provided competition for more athletes than any other track event in the world and attracted some of the world's top athletes like Tyson Gay, Jeremy Wariner, LaShawn Merritt, Allyson Felix, Sanya Richards and Lauryn Williams. The Relays also offers races and events at the high school, collegiate, Olympic Development and masters levels.

Along with top competitors, the Relays attracts notable track and field enthusiasts, as well as former athletes. Philadelphia native Bill Cosby is a life-long supporter of the Penn Relays as well as a former participant. Other notable visitors to the Relays include Olympic greats Carl Lewis, Bruce Jenner, Roger Bannister and Michael Johnson as well as R&B music mogul Russell Simmons and filmmaker Spike Lee among others.

Away from the athletic action, the Carnival Village and street vending provide an enriching cultural experience with food from around the world. The Relays enjoys a large Caribbean following that brings an exciting flair to the weekend's festivities.

Online at [ThePennRelays.com](http://ThePennRelays.com), fans can access up-to-date information as well as new features including live blogs, videos, auctions, photo store, merchandise, and more. Users can also sign up for a Quaker E-Pass to receive weekly emails and access premium website features.



All Penn faculty, staff and students are invited to attend free of charge on Thursday, April 23 and Friday, April 24 by showing their PennCard at the Penn Athletics Ticket Office. General admission ticket prices for Saturday start at \$25. Tickets are available by calling 1-888-PENN-TIX or by going to [ThePennRelays.com](http://ThePennRelays.com). At the Penn Relays, there is an average of one race every five minutes over 33 hours of competition. The Relays' website will try to keep pace with up-to-the-minute results, features, video, blogs, previews and podcasts, news and updates.

The Penn Relays is one of the many events you and your child can attending during this year's Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day scheduled for Thursday, April 23. See page 9 or Human Resources' website at [www.hr.upenn.edu](http://www.hr.upenn.edu) for more information.

## One Step Ahead

Security & Privacy  
Made Simple

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

### Be Careful with Facebook Apps

As an older generation joins their co-workers, old friends, and maybe a few uncomfortable teenagers on Facebook, it's time for a primer on privacy:

1. Be careful with Facebook apps.
2. Check and recheck your privacy settings.

Facebook apps are software programs usually intended to allow users to connect, interact, and entertain themselves. Some apps, like Photos and Wall, were written by Facebook, but the vast majority are written by 400,000+ third-party developers.

When you install an app, the developer can see everything on Facebook that you can see: all of your personal information, and everything that you can see about your friends and Network neighbors. (Networks are groups of Facebook users. Most Penn faculty, staff, students and alumni are in the UPENN network.) Similarly, your personal information is available to developers through any apps installed by your friends or Network neighbors. App developers can store this information on their servers outside of Facebook and must agree not to misuse their privileged access, but Facebook has no controls to prevent or detect abuse. To protect your privacy, you can limit what developers can see about you through your friends' apps, but that is not the default setting.

So be sure to check your privacy settings regularly at [www.facebook.com/privacy](http://www.facebook.com/privacy). Click on Applications to control what information third-party developers can see about you through your friends' and Network neighbors' Facebook apps, and to avoid having your purchases at eBay, Travelocity and Blockbuster and other sites advertised to your friends by Facebook Beacon. Click on Profile to control who can see your birthday, phone number, friends, activities, interests, and more. Click on Search to control who can search for you with search engines like Google. Click on News Feed and Wall to control who can see your chat conversations and posts exchanged with friends, and to opt out of Social Ads that announce your online purchases and group activities.

To see what apps you have installed, log on to Facebook, and click on Settings->Application Settings.

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

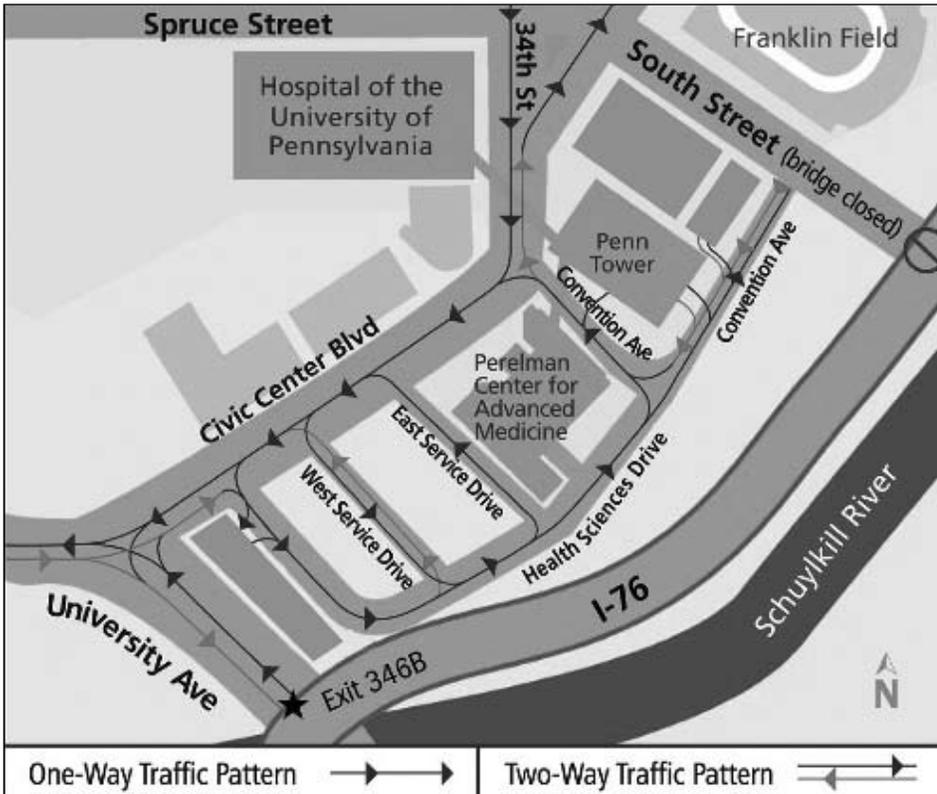
To receive weekly OneStepAhead tips via e-mail, send e-mail to [listserv@lists.upenn.edu](mailto:listserv@lists.upenn.edu) with the following text in the body of the message: sub one-step-ahead <your name>.

### New Traffic Pattern

On or about April 4, 2009 drivers should expect a new traffic pattern between University Avenue and South Street (in the vicinity of Penn's medical complex). Civic Center Boulevard will become one-way southbound from the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania to Health Services Drive. Health Services Drive will become one-way northbound. This new traffic pattern was designed to ease the traffic flow and enhance emergency vehicle access to the hospital buildings.

### Live Traffic Webcams

The University of Pennsylvania Health System has installed two traffic cams to help motorists view traffic conditions in the areas of Civic Center Boulevard (looking toward University Ave) and 33rd & Market Streets. These cameras provide a live aerial view of the streets and refresh every five minutes. To view the webcams, visit: <http://pennhealth.com/alerts/webcams.html>



### Call For Submissions: The Vitreous: Of Eyes and Optics

Vitreous Humour—the clear colorless gel that fills the space between the lens and the retina of the eyeball of humans. Often referred to as the vitreous body or simply “the vitreous.”

The Klein Art Gallery is currently accepting submissions for its upcoming juried exhibition *The Vitreous: Of Eyes and Optics*. The exhibition will be on view from July 17 to September 5, 2009. *The Vitreous: Of Eyes and Optics* will explore the science and technology of sight, vision and optics through contemporary art practices. The exhibition is open to all artists though an emphasis will be placed on artwork that engages new media and emerging technologies.

To download the Call for Submissions form, for more information and exhibit updates, visit [www.kleinartgallery.org](http://www.kleinartgallery.org)

Deadline for Submissions is *Friday, May 15, 2009*; Mail to:

Esther M. Klein Art Gallery  
University City Science Center  
3711 Market St., Suite 800  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

The Esther M. Klein Art Gallery at Science Center is a non-profit exhibition venue that explores the intersection between art, science, and technology. The Esther M. Klein Art Gallery is located at 3600 Market St. in Philadelphia. The gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**AT PENN Deadlines:** Submissions are due every Monday for the following Tuesday's Update. The deadline for the May AT PENN calendar is *Tuesday, April 14*. For information see [www.upenn.edu/almanac/calendar/caldead-real.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/calendar/caldead-real.html).

Events are subject to change. Information can be found on the sponsoring department's website. Sponsors are listed in parentheses. For locations, call (215) 898-5000 or see [www.facilities.upenn.edu](http://www.facilities.upenn.edu).

The April AT PENN calendar is now available online at [www.upenn.edu/almanac](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac) and is also in the centerspread of the issue.



*Almanac*

### The University of Pennsylvania Police Department Community Crime Report

**About the Crime Report:** Below are all Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Society from the campus report for **March 16-22, 2009**. Also reported were 12 crimes against property (including 8 thefts, 1 burglary and 3 cases of fraud). Full reports are available at: [www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v55/n27/creport.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v55/n27/creport.html). Prior weeks' reports are also online. —Ed.

This summary is prepared by the Division of Public Safety and includes all criminal incidents reported and made known to the University Police Department between the dates of **March 16-22, 2009**. The University Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from the Schuylkill River to 43rd Street in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police. In this effort to provide you with a thorough and accurate report on public safety concerns, we hope that your increased awareness will lessen the opportunity for crime. For any concerns or suggestions regarding this report, please call the Division of Public Safety at (215) 898-4482.

03/18/09	9:05 AM	4000 Ludlow St	Male wanted on warrant/Arrest
03/18/09	11:03 PM	3600 Spruce St	Complainant assaulted/Arrest
03/20/09	2:15 AM	4000 Locust St	Male cited for public urination
03/20/09	4:21 AM	Unit 40	Intoxicated driver arrested
03/21/09	11:19 PM	40th and Spruce St	Officer assaulted/Arrest

### 18th District Report

7 incidents with 2 arrests (including 1 robbery and 6 aggravated assaults) were reported between **March 16-22, 2009**, by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

3/16/09	5:50 AM	4900 Sansom St	Robbery
3/16/09	3:40 PM	5100 Spruce St	Aggravated Assault/Arrest
3/17/09	1:00 PM	4500 Springfield Ave	Aggravated Assault
3/17/09	1:25 PM	4900 Baltimore Ave	Aggravated Assault
3/17/09	4:45 PM	5731 Pine St	Aggravated Assault
3/18/09	4:00 PM	3600 Ludlow St	Aggravated Assault
3/22/09	6:19 PM	5023 Pine St	Aggravated Assault/Arrest

Suite 211 Sansom Place East  
3600 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106  
Phone: (215) 898-5274 or 5275 FAX: (215) 898-9137  
E-Mail: [almanac@upenn.edu](mailto:almanac@upenn.edu)  
URL: [www.upenn.edu/almanac](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac)

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

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### Designing A Robotic Beachcomber

Legged locomotion on flowing ground like sand or other granular media is unlike locomotion on hard ground. Feet or wheels experience both solid- and fluid-like forces as each step impacts the surface of the ground.

Now, a team of engineers from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Engineering and Applied Science, in conjunction with Georgia Institute of Technology and Northwestern University have tested a bio-inspired robot with an improved aptitude for walking on granular surfaces, an advance for everyone from the commercial auto industry and defense industries to beachcombers.

Most living things, even cockroaches, suffer significant performance loss on flowing materials like sand. In laboratory experiments, the team studied the performance speed of a small, 2.3 kg, six-legged robot called SandBot as it ran on a bed of granular media, in this case poppy seeds.

The design, based upon the way desert animals move through sandy terrain, is an attempt to reach the perfect design, a series of robotic machines that can traverse the Earth's, and perhaps neighboring planets', most frustrating landscapes.

The problem is simple to visualize. If robotic, or even human limbs move too fast over granular matter they dig into the ground. Moving too slowly, while effective, has just as many drawbacks.

Researchers, including Dr. Daniel Koditschek, chair of the department of electrical and systems engineering at SEAS, seemed to have hit upon a possible solution. Desert creatures, for anyone who's watched a tiny lizard appear to dance on hot pavement, move in herky-jerky motions and do not move over granular materials at a constant rate of speed. Instead, they tread lightly and slowly when contacting the ground, but quickly in between each step, as their legs move through the air.

Dr. Koditschek and his team tried the same thing with SandBot. With this new approach, the robot was able to traverse the makeshift sand trap 15 times faster than the Mars rovers.

By accelerating more slowly into the poppy seed bed, the robotic limbs sunk lower into the ground. Once the grains have been compacted underneath the robotic appendage, much like sand packed tightly into a beach pail, the legs slide through the sandy cavity, pushing the robot forward.

Better understanding of the physics of both a successful design and granular matter should guide development of future versions, similar to the well-developed models of aerial and aquatic craft.

Analysis of physical models such as SandBot can also inform locomotion biology in understanding how animals appear to move effortlessly across a diversity of complex substrates. Such devices will begin to have capabilities comparable with organisms seen in nature, often the most efficient designs.

### Stressed Parents More Likely to Abuse Children

Socially isolated, highly stressed parents are more likely to abuse or neglect their children than are their more sociable, serene peers. Research also suggests that a strong social network can have a buffering effect on the corrosive effects of stress.

To evaluate an intervention designed to mitigate parental isolation and stress, researchers from the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education (GSE) conducted a randomized field trial with 116 socially isolated Head Start parents, 40 of whom had a history of child maltreatment.

The Penn GSE research team—Dr. John Fantuzzo and Dr. Howard Stevenson, along with Saburah Abdul Kabir and Marlo A. Perry—presented their findings in “An Investigation of a Community-Based Intervention for Socially Isolated Parents with a History of Child Maltreatment” in the *Journal of Family Violence*.

The intervention, called COPE (Community Outreach through Parent Empowerment), was designed by Dr. Stevenson. A community-based program, it incorporates two major components: an informal parent support group and group-training sessions that focus on lessening parental stress through friendships and other social connections. “Whereas the content of the sessions was focused on stressors,” the authors explain, “the process of the sessions emphasized connecting isolated and vulnerable parents with other Head Start parents.”

The study revealed that, post-intervention, parents who had received the COPE training reported lower stress levels than did the control group. They were also more likely to talk with other Head Start parents and to participate with them in Head Start and other activities.

While the authors acknowledge the need for further research, the study makes a strong argument for the intervention, particularly in the Head Start context. Rather than stigmatizing and imposing a solution, it provides mental health treatment for at-risk parents and enlists their peers as leaders in its training.

### Health Insurance: An Investment to Cover Young Adults

Could offering a cash bonus for not consuming more than a threshold value of medical care hold the key to providing health insurance for 19-29 year olds, who account for nearly half of all uninsured adults?

“Some young adults can't afford to buy health insurance, but many can,” Tom Baker, professor in Penn Law, said. “Instead of forcing them to buy something they don't value, or making others subsidize that purchase, we suggest designing a product they would be willing to pay for.”

Professor Baker, along with Peter Siegelman of the University of Connecticut Law School, have a plan they call “Tontines for the Invincibles,” which is based on an annuity scheme that was popular in the late 1800s. Tontine life insurance policies paid a deferred dividend to policyholders who survived and faithfully paid their insurance premiums for a defined period, usually 20 years. The amount of the dividend depended on how many people were left in the insurance pool when the dividend was paid. Tontine health insurance could be structured to pay a cash bonus to subscribers who never have to use their health insurance.

In their research paper, “Enticing Low Risks into the Health Insurance Pool: Tontines for the Invincibles and Other Ideas from Insurance History and Behavioral Economics,” Professors Baker and Seligman write that the tontine feature could make buying health insurance more palatable to young adults because it frames the purchase as a smart investment, rather than spending money for something they think they don't need.

Their paper is available on the Social Science Research Network's website at [http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1350423](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1350423).

### For Psychiatric Services, Wait for the Beep

Two-thirds of patients referred for psychiatric services following an emergency room visit are likely to reach only an answering machine when they call for help, compared to about 20% of patients calling medical clinics with physical symptoms. Only 10% of all calls to mental health clinics in nine US cities resulted in an appointment scheduled within two weeks, according to the School of Medicine's study published in *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.

“Our results indicate that even the most motivated patients will have difficulty obtaining timely appointments and pursuing treatment for mental health complaints, despite prior studies that fault patient non-compliance for poor follow-up rates for psychiatric conditions,” said lead author Dr. Karin V. Rhodes, assistant professor of emergency medicine and director of Penn's Division of Emergency Care Policy Research.

Since emergency departments are safety net providers for uninsured and underinsured patients, they are frequently the location where mental illnesses like depression are first identified. But because emergency departments are designed to treat acute illnesses and injuries, these patients are most often referred for psychiatric care in the community.

The study findings showed that even private insurance did not ensure access: If and when a caller was able to reach clinic personnel, only 67% of privately-insured and 33% of Medicaid patients were able to make an appointment. Researchers used an “audit study” design in which trained research assistants posed as patients calling to obtain an appointment after being diagnosed with depression in a local emergency room the night before and referred for urgent follow-up to the number being called.

Results from calls to a random sample of mental health clinics in nine US cities revealed that callers were able to reach appointment personnel only 31% of the time, compared with 78% of calls to medical clinics for physical complaints. The “depressed” callers also had to make more calls overall in order to get services; 15% of successful mental health callers had to make five or more attempts before reaching clinic personnel, compared to 3% of callers with medical complaints.

When callers who reached appointment personnel could not get an appointment, due either to insurance or capacity constraints, roughly 75% received information about alternative providers, but only half of them were given a name and contact information for that provider. About 14% were referred back to an emergency department. Among callers who secured appointments, 61% had to be scheduled for during regular business hours because clinics did not offer night or weekend hours.

While it is relatively inexpensive to combine resources to outsource appointment scheduling, it is likely that mental health clinics are both short staffed and lack the financial incentives required to reduce barriers to timely appointments. The researchers say this is a troubling trend, as evidence suggests that making it easier to access depression care after an emergency department visit might be lifesaving.

“More work is needed to assess whether depressed patients, who by definition are likely feeling hopeless and low in energy, interpret these access barriers as further evidence of their inability to function or as a rejection, and the extent to which these access barriers exacerbate depression and/or lead to suicidal thoughts,” Dr. Rhodes said.