J. Larry Jameson to Lead Penn Medicine

Dr. Larry Jameson, a renowned endocrinologist and medical executive, has been named the 10th dean of Penn Medicine. He will assume his new role this July, succeeding Lewis Landsberg, who has served in the position since 2005. The appointment was announced earlier this month by Penn President Amy Gutmann.

Jameson, a world-renowned expert in endocrinology, has a long history at both the University of Pennsylvania and Northwestern University. He is currently the Robert S. Cutter Professor of Medicine and chair of the Department of Medicine at Northwestern University. Prior to his appointment at Northwestern, he served as executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, where he has served since 2007. In this capacity, he has been instrumental in advancing Penn Medicine's clinical, educational, and research programs to even greater heights of quality and prominence and influence the practice of medicine worldwide.

“Larry Jameson is a strong leader who brings deep experience and proven success in leading high quality academic and clinical programs,” said Penn Provost Vincent Price, who chaired the search committee that advised Dr. Gutmann during the search. “I am excited to work with him to continue propelling forward the vision for Penn that President Gutmann has articulated in the Penn Compact.”

As vice president and dean at Northwestern, Dr. Jameson has focused on interdisciplinary research and clinical programs. Before becoming vice president and dean, he was the Irving S. Cutter Professor of Medicine and chair of the department of medicine at Northwestern for seven years, where he led initiatives that increased research funding and clinical activity, redesigned residency and physician-scientist training programs, and developed new faculty mentoring and leadership programs.

Dr. Jameson began his tenure at Northwestern in 1993 as chief of the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Molecular Medicine. Earlier in his career, he was associate professor of medicine at the Harvard Medical School and chief of the Thyroid Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital.

An internationally recognized researcher, Dr. Jameson's pioneering work in molecular endocrinology has greatly improved understanding of the transcription of endocrine genes and the genetic basis of reproductive and metabolic disorders. His work has helped bridge laboratory studies with clinical endocrinology, a vitally important experience as Penn Medicine prepares to open a new Translational Research Center adjacent to the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine and Roberts Proton Therapy Center.

Dr. Jameson has authored more than 300 scientific articles and chapters, including studies that have been published in leading journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine, Nature Genetics, Science, and the Journal of Clinical Investigation.

Dr. Jameson is an editor of Harrison’s Principles of Internal Medicine, the most widely used textbook in the field worldwide. He is co-author of DeGroot and Jameson's Endocrinology, the most comprehensive text in endocrinology, now in its sixth edition, and he is author of the award-winning Jameson’s Principles of Molecular Medicine, which serves as a principal text in this interdisciplinary field, fostering the bedside clinical application of basic scientific research.

Dr. Jameson was elected to the Institute of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. He has served as president of the Endocrine Society, as a member of the medical advisory board of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Larry Jameson

In this issue:
2 Senate: SEC Agenda; Penn Vet Medicine Leadership
3 Call for Honorary Degree Nominations; Toxicology Pilot Project Grants; Executive Director of Student Affairs
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6 Human Resources: Upcoming Programs; Celebrating National Constitution Day at Penn; A Facelift for 3815 Walnut
7 Update; ICA Fall Opening; $25 Minimum Order for Office Supply Orders; CrimeStats; Classified Ads
8 Talk About Teaching and Learning

(continued on page 2)
Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital (Ryan-VHUP) at the School of Veterinary Medicine has named Patricia B. DeAngelis Executive Director while Melissa von Stade has been named assistant dean of advancement and communications for the entire Penn Vet entity.

"We are thrilled to welcome Pat and Melissa to our team," said Joan Hendricks, the Gilbert S. Kahn Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine. "I am confident that the combination of their experience, leadership skills and outstanding development skills will be positive assets to Penn Vet and its faculty, staff and students and be instrumental as we look to shape our future and continue to lead in our mission of veterinary excellence."

As executive director of Ryan-VHUP, Pat DeAngelis is responsible for the entire business workings of Ryan-VHUP and will work in close partnership with the School’s chair to optimize support for Penn Vet’s academic missions.

“I am honored to be joining the extraordinary team at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital," said Ms. DeAngelis. “Their reputation for excellence in research, education and service is world renowned and the passion they exhibit in all aspects of their work is unparalleled. I look forward to working with my new colleagues as we continue to advance the care of animals and the field of veterinary medicine.”

Most recently, Ms. DeAngelis has served as CEO and president for DeAngelis Business Solutions, where she provided strategic business, change management and leadership development consulting to companies and non-profit organizations. She has also worked for Nazareth Hospital as CEO and president, during which time she led the $140 million organization through a financial, clinical and cultural turnaround. Other experience includes time at St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, DE and St. Agnes Medical Center in Philadelphia.

Having earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing from Hahnemann University and University of Pennsylvania, respectively, Ms. DeAngelis was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Holy Family University.

Ms. DeAngelis serves on the boards of Father Judge High School in Philadelphia; Manor College in Jenkintown; and The Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, United States Province, in Haverford.

As assistant dean of advancement and communications, Melissa von Stade is responsible for the management and oversight of the entire development, alumni relations and communications team of both the Philadelphia and Kennett Square campuses of the Vet School, and works closely with faculty and administration in the School’s hospitals, clinical studies and research areas. She joins Penn Vet most recently from the University of Pennsylvania’s Morris Arboretum, where she served as the director of development.

“I am honored to be coming on board at Penn Vet,” said Ms. von Stade. “I am so looking forward to working with this team of professionals who are dedicated to the field of veterinary medicine and jointly focused on the school’s mission of education, research and service. I’m excited about the possibilities that exist for Penn Vet. The groundwork has been laid and I look forward to being part of this world-renowned team.”

Prior to joining Penn at Morris Arboretum in 2003, Ms. von Stade worked as a vice president at the Wayland Group based in Sudbury, MA. In that role, she provided resource development, strategic planning and capital campaign counsel to more than 45 non-profit organizations. She has also worked at Harvard University as the acting director of development for the John K. Fairbank Center for East Asian Research; the director of the Harvard Graduate Society Annual Fund; and as a fund officer. In these increasingly visible roles, Ms. von Stade has managed volunteers, hundreds of thousands of dollars in fundraising budgets and created effective campaign committees and programs.

Ms. von Stade earned her bachelor of arts degree from Denison University. She has had a menagerie of companion animals throughout her life and, as a result, has gained a keen appreciation for veterinary medicine. Currently, she and her family care for two Springer spaniel dogs, Maddie and Phoebe.
Call for Honorary Degree Nominations: November 1

Dear Colleagues,

We invite you to nominate candidates to receive honorary degrees from the University of Pennsylvania at the 2011 Commencement ceremony and beyond. Candidates should exemplify the highest ideals of the University, which seek to educate those who will change the world through innovative scholarship, scientific discovery, artistic creativity and/or societal leadership.

We encourage you to involve your faculty colleagues, within and across departments and schools, in the nomination process. Nominations should explain how nominees meet the criteria for selection and outline the nominee’s achievements and contributions. Please include as much biographical and other supporting information as possible, but do not contact the nominees, who should not know that they are being considered. We particularly encourage nominations from departments and schools whose fields have not been recognized by the award of honorary degrees in recent years. Please note that it is University policy not to consider Penn standing faculty, trustees, or school and center overseers for Penn honorary degrees.

Nominations are welcome any time, but for consideration by this year’s University Council Committee, it would be very helpful to have them in hand by November 1. Review is ongoing and candidates may ultimately be selected several years after their initial nominations. The University Council Committee’s recommendations are forwarded to the Trustee Committee on Honorary Degrees and Awards, which makes the final selection.

The list of previous University of Pennsylvania honorary degree recipients can be found at www.upenn.edu/commencement/hon/awards.html.

Please send signed letters of nomination on your official stationery to: University Council Committee on Honorary Degrees, c/o Office of the University Secretary, 211 College Hall/6303. Nominations may also be faxed to (215) 898-0103. If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Sniffen at sniffen@upenn.edu or (215) 573-5047.

Penn emeritus faculty are eligible to receive honorary degrees through a special nomination process. University deans will propose candidates from their schools for consideration by the Council of Deans, which will forward successful nominations to the University Council Committee on Honorary Degrees.

Honorary degrees are important state- ments of Penn’s values and aspirations, and we strongly encourage your participa- tion in this process.

—Amy Gutmann, President
—Carol Ann Muller, Chair, University Council Committee on Honorary Degrees

Toxicology Pilot Project Grants: October 15

The Penn-Nanotoxicology Alliance—a collaboration between the Center of Excellence in Environmental Nanoscience (CEET), Targeted Therapeutics and Nanomedicine Program of the ITMCT/CTSA, the Nanotechnology Institute (NTI), and the Nano-Bio Interface Center (NBIC)—announced the availability of pilot project grants for 12-month seed efforts that address any and all research topics related to the toxicology of nanoparticles and nanostructured materials. These funds are being made available from the Vice Provost for Research and the School of Medicine. Projects that characterize the physical and chemical properties of engineered nanoparticles, explore their basic biology and pathobiology, and provide a pathway to the clinical and commercial deployment of environmentally safe nanoparticles are particularly encouraged, as are projects that have the potential to generate new or develop existing intellectual property.

Awards of up to $25,000 will be made and a start date of November 1, 2010 is anticipated. Any member of the standing faculty or research track faculty in the 12 professional schools at the University of Pennsylvania, or our affiliates (CHOP and Monell) are eligible to apply. Applications from Penn researchers who collaborate with researchers at other NTI affiliated institutions will be considered. The NTI Affiliated Institutions are: CHOP, Drexel University, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Haverford College, Lankenau Institute for Medical Research, Millersville University, Thomas Jefferson University, University of Pennsylvania, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Temple University, Villanova University, and Widener University. The research being proposed should represent a new idea or direction, and cannot already be funded by an external funding agency.

Proposals will be evaluated based on technical merit, impact, feasibility, likelihood of success, and appropriateness of needed facilities and equipment. A successful track record of research, commercial or clinical deployment, and interdisciplinary collaborations are all advantageous.

Hikaru Kozuma: Executive Director of Student Affairs

The Division of the Vice Provost for University Life (VPUL) announced that Hikaru Kozuma has been named Executive Director of Penn’s Office of Student Affairs, effective July 1.

Mr. Kozuma, who goes by Karu, came to Penn from Columbia University, where he had served for eight years in student affairs leadership, most recently as Director of Residential Programs. He is also the current National Co-Chair for the Asian Pacific Islander Knowledge Community for NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

Originally from New York City, Mr. Kozuma attended Middlebury College, majoring in English and minoring in American history. Upon graduation, he worked for Middlebury for three years, serving as a resident director and housing director. After completing the master of education in higher education administration at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education, he returned to New York to join the Columbia University student affairs staff.

"Excitement and enthusiasm do not capture how much I am looking forward to joining the Penn family," he said. "I am humbled by the opportunity given to me to be part of this great educational institution, and I hope to learn a great deal from the students, staff, and faculty."

Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs Dr. Ajay Nair praised Mr. Kozuma, "Karu is an exemplary student affairs professional. He was a transformative leader at Columbia University, and I am sure he will bring the same level of energy and passion to the University of Pennsylvania."

Mr. Kozuma will provide leadership and direction for VPUL student affairs programs and services. Mr. Kozuma will have direct oversight of the newly-reorganized Office of Student Life (formerly, the Office of Student Life) and will convene the work of staff members responsible for student activities and governance, pre-orientation programs, University Life leadership training programs, and campus-wide special events. He will work with other University Life directors, the Undergraduate Assembly, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, academic departments, and student affairs officers in Penn schools and centers to develop programs that support University and VPUL divisional initiatives.
My enthusiastic greetings to the great Class of 2014 and to all of the students who have transferred from other institutions! Smart move, transfers! Welcome all to the University of Pennsylvania! It is my pleasure and honor to address you in front of College Hall, one of Penn’s finest and oldest buildings. Over the past 137 years, generations of students have walked its corridors, learned in its classrooms, and, occasionally, napped in its shadow.

Yes, napped. Despite what you may have heard, students here do sleep. Knitting up the ‘ravelled slave of care,’ as Shakespeare put it, is just as necessary as hitting up the well-stocked stacks of Van Pelt.

This evening, you officially join those generations. Together, we celebrate more than your admission to the School of Nursing, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Wharton School, or the College of Arts and Sciences. Together, we celebrate your bright beginning as a proud member of the Penn community.

And what a community it is! Bearers of the Red and the Blue are 290,000 strong, more than a quarter of a million, our graduates have applied their knowledge and made lasting contributions to humanity. Put simply, Penn’s dreamers become the world’s doers.

They have developed life-saving medical treatments; they have nursed the sick back to health; they have built businesses from the ground up, and they have transformed communities around the world with the products of their creative imaginations.

They are Rhodes Scholars, Nobel Laureates, educators, and Olympians. They are authors, artists, and inventors. Poets, pioneers, and Pulitzer Prize winners.

Quakers have sat on the United States Supreme Court, marched for Civil Rights, and walked weightlessly outside of the International Space Station. It seems the only thing that a Penn graduate hasn’t done is become President of the United States. But I am sure that more than one of you is equal to the task.

Yet less than a year ago, you were working on your application and wondering whether you would stand out in the most crowded field in Penn’s history—26,938 of your peers, to be exact, applied for admission with you.

Staring at a blinking cursor, you asked yourself, “Why Penn?” You started to answer, deleted the answer, and started over. You took a break. Maybe you bemused your plight in a status update. And then you started over again. Why Penn?

Yes, it’s a tough question. And because you answered it for us, I am going to answer it for you.

Why Penn? Because we want you to pursue your passion and combine it with purpose. Your dedication to learning is part of what drew you here, and part of what we found so appealing about you. Now, you have the precious opportunity both to explore broadly and to focus intensely on what matters most to you.

I love hearing stories of students who combine their passion with a purpose. One of my favorite examples is the Hydros Bottle. Tired of buying water and wasting plastic, two graduates from the Class of 2009 invented a reusable, filtered water bottle. Today, the product is on store shelves, and sales are helping fund the construction of sorely-needed water distribution systems in Cameroon.

Of course, not all of you know what you want to do and how to make it happen from the moment you set foot on campus. Why Penn? Because you’ve demonstrated great potential, and we’re prepared to help you. Your classes will be challenging. Your professors will demand your best work, and they will be happiest when you succeed. If you have a question, ask it. “A prudent question,” as Francis Bacon said, “is one-half wisdom.”

So: Why Penn? Because, here, you will put knowledge to work for humanity. Don’t wait until after Commencement to pursue independent research and apply what you have learned in the classroom.

Visit our Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships—CURF, as members of the Penn community refer to it. The Center’s staff will help you identify opportunities to do research alongside our world-renowned faculty members.

Get involved in West Philadelphia. Check out Civic House, the Fox Leadership Program, and the Nutter Center for Community Partnerships.

Below are the remarks given by Lee Spelman Doty.
Below are the remarks given by Provost Vincent Price to the Class of 2014 on September 7, 2010.

An Education in Balance

As Provost, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Penn. Tomorrow, you begin your undergraduate studies. Tonight, you can relax. You’ve met your roommates, unpacked your bags, and chosen your classes. You’ve visited a dining hall. And you’ve explored the campus, if only a little.

Now if you have a good memory of your previous visits to campus, or a keen eye for detail, you may have noticed what’s missing here on College Green.

In late June, a tremendous summer storm barreled through Philadelphia. A number of trees on campus were damaged, including a significant one that was just to my left. Every morning, I looked out my window, just over there at this 114-year-old tree; Penn’s largest and most majestic American elm.

Incidentally, the tree was damaged by wind, not struck by lightning, so there’s no direct Ben Franklin connection.

The elm wasn’t totally uprooted in the storm, but half had splintered and required removal. I was pleased to see, after the clean-up, that the other side had been saved.

But two weeks later, I was dismayed to see that it, too, was being taken down.

It turned out that the two sides of the tree were interdependent, the one balancing the other. I learned that the remaining half, though it appeared healthy, would not survive.

Why mention that tree tonight? Well, there are a few parallels here, to Penn itself and to the education it will provide.

A tree is full of dualities.

It is solitary, but also part of a vast, communal fabric.

It is a practical and useful object—something that gives shade, and even a degree of shelter—but also beautiful, with its own history and cycles of regeneration.

For the rest of your career, you can expect such dualities.

We see it and rely on it each day, yet we’re not always aware of its importance.

Penn, too, was founded with a dual purpose. Franklin’s Publick Academy, as he called it, was to teach both the practical and the theoretical—what he termed the useful and the ornamental. The specific, and the broad. Two branches of learning, each reliant on the other, to provide a complete education that would serve society.

And two languages. In Franklin’s plan, classes would be taught in classical Latin, but also in English. He further insisted on a multidisciplinary education, long before that term was invented. A Penn education meant exposure to the liberal arts and also to what he called the Professions: science, medicine, business, engineering, and accounting. This was all very new at the time, quite unlike the education at Harvard, Yale, or Princeton.

Which brings me to the dual aspects of your education here, each complementary to the other: independence and responsibility.

During your four years, you will have the opportunity—the freedom to take classes in many different disciplines. Now is the time to take some academic chances—that course in art history, or Japanese, or microfinance, or astronomy—before you have the demands of a major or a specific field of study.

This is an independent journey. Your professors, your advisor, your classmates and friends—all will help to guide you along the way. But no one will pick your classes, or wake you in the morning, or tell you when to go to bed. Of this last, I’m quite certain.

With that independence comes responsibility: You are responsible for your intellectual and civic development.

Responsible for making smart choices, from your performance in the classroom to your conduct on campus.

Responsible for making the most of this four-year opportunity.

Responsibility and independence are best realized in balance, each dependent on the other.

Plan, but don’t fear being in the moment.

Consider the future, but don’t obsess about it.

Work hard, but enjoy yourself.

And this may sound like odd advice coming from Penn’s Chief Academic Officer, but please don’t over-think every decision.

With Penn, Franklin tried something new. I hope you will too.

Keep in mind that a major is not a profession. Take a class just because it seems interesting, or unusual. Join a club or a group or a team, not because you’re good at something, but because you’re not. This is the way to become well educated, and well balanced.

I’m told a new tree will be planted where the great elm once stood. I understand we haven’t found the perfect specimen just yet. You see, even in horticulture, we’re extremely selective in choosing our newest “class members.”

Two branches of learning, each reliant on the other, to provide a complete education.

As you embark on your own transformative journey, know that Penn’s alumni community will be there to support and encourage you—every step of the way.

You have made a lifelong commitment to Penn and you can be assured that the Penn alumni community will make a lifelong commitment to you! You are part of the Penn tradition, and your experience starts here.

Enjoy every minute of your Penn experience!

On the Red & Blue

Founded by Ben Franklin in 1740, Penn is a place steeped in tradition. One of the deepest held of these traditions is the commitment of Penn alumni to their alma mater. They are truly the foundation of this great university... and I mean that literally! In buildings and walkways all over campus you will notice ivy stones, pieces of bedrock inscribed with a class year. You will place your own ivy stone on campus when you graduate, as hundreds of classes have done before you, a small physical token of your presence here. But the impact of our alumni is so much greater than bricks and mortar.

Penn Alumni are passionate about their University. We love hearing that this is the best class ever to have entered these halls. The reputation Penn enjoys today, under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Gutmann, would not be possible without the tireless commitment of our alumni who give so generously of their time and resources.

Our alumni love to come back to campus and share their insights with students. Penn alumni are a great source for career advice; when the time comes, Penn alumni support our athletic teams and cultural institutions, attending events with great enthusiasm.

Often inspired by the aid they themselves may have received as students, Penn alumni have provided thousands of scholarships to make sure that the most talented students can attend Penn. Alumni have endowed professorships ensuring our ability to attract the best faculty in the world to this campus. It is a virtuous circle... the best students want the best faculty and the best faculty want the brightest students...Penn alumni help make this happen!

As you embark on your own transformative journey, know that Penn’s alumni community will be there to support and encourage you — every step of the way. You have made a lifelong commitment to Penn and you can be assured that the Penn alumni community will make a lifelong commitment to you! You are part of the Penn tradition, and your experience starts here.

Enjoy every minute of your Penn experience!

www.upenn.edu/almanac   5
Human Resources: Upcoming Programs

Metabolism and Calorie Needs: Finding a Balance; September 15; noon–1 p.m.; free
Calorie consumption is an important part of weight loss. Regardless of whether your diet focuses on fat or carbohydrate intake, you’ll gain weight if you take in more calories than your body needs. Come to this workshop to learn about and better understand the concept of metabolism and calorie requirements. It will be led by Terri Brownlee, regional director of nutrition for Bon Appétit Management Co.

Want to Lose Weight and Keep it Off?
It’s no secret that a nutritious diet and regular exercise are important to our health and well-being. But it can be difficult to maintain a healthy lifestyle year-round. If you want to learn how to eat right, lose weight and stay healthy, consider joining Weight Watchers at Penn.
Meetings are held on campus every Tuesday, giving you the support and flexibility you need to succeed and stay on track. You’ll learn how to make informed decisions about your nutrition and exercise choices. Plus, you can save money by joining Weight Watchers today! From now until October 5, you can become a member for less than half the regular price.

For more information, including rates, meeting details and to participate, visit the Human Resources website at www.hr.upenn.edu/Quality/Wellness/WeightWatchers.aspx.
—Division of Human Resources

Celebrating National Constitution Day at Penn: Friday, September 17

Constitution Day commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787 by 39 brave men who gave us the framework for our democracy. Penn celebrates this national observance of our founding document with the following activities:

The School of Arts and Sciences’ 60-Second Lecture will feature Penn Law professor Sarah Barringer Gordon’s address, A Constitutional Moment: Freedom of Religion in One Minute. This event will be held on September 17 at Stitelter Plaza, 37th and Locust Walk, at 11:55 a.m.

Rain Location: Reading Room, Houston Hall.

The Penn Program on Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism is hosting Ethnicity Without Groups, featuring UCLA sociologist Rogers Brubaker. This free event will be held on September 23 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Houston Hall’s Class of ‘49 Auditorium.

The Penn Bookstore will display an assortment of Constitution-themed books and Penn Leads the Vote will conduct a voter registration drive in the bookstore foyer on Constitution Day from noon-2 p.m.

Voter Registration Information
OGCA is distributing voter registration forms to all schools and centers this week. The General Election on November 2, 2010 is Monday, October 4, 2010. Forms will also be available at these locations:

- College Hall Information Desk
- ARCH, 3602 Locust Walk
- Civic House, 3914 Locust Walk
- Houston Hall Front Information Desk
- Silfen Center, Williams Hall
- Graduate Student Center, 3615 Locust Walk
- Greenfield Intercultural Center, 3708 Chestnut
- Penn Women’s Center, 3643 Locust Walk
- LGBT Center, 3907 Spruce Street

For more information, contact Penn’s Office of Government and Community Affairs at ogca@exchange.upenn.edu or (215) 898-1388.

Correction: In “Honors & Other Things” in the September 7, 2010 issue, Dr. Eli Glattstein, professor of radiation oncology, and vice chair of the department in the School of Medicine, was incorrectly identified as clinical director of the department. Almanac regrets the error.
—Ed.
22 Penn Science Cafe: Do Genomes Compute?; Junhyong Kim, biology; 7 p.m.; The Mar Bar, 40th & Walnut Streets; RSVP: jreese@upenn.edu (SAS).

$25 Minimum Order Value for Office Supply Orders

Penn Purchasing Services, together with Tetrose and Office Depot, are announcing an important new initiative for the University. We are now recommending a minimum order value of $25 for all office supply orders, which will eliminate an estimated 6,000 credit card purchase orders annually. This simple change supports the University’s Climate Action Plan by lowering Penn’s carbon footprint and reducing waste. By eliminating purchase orders for office supplies under $25, and thereby eliminating over 3,000 packages, the environmental benefits yielded would be a reduction of over 17,000 lbs. of CO2, and eliminating over 8,500 lbs. of packaging waste (cardboard and pillows). Penn Purchasing Services will be soliciting feedback from departments about this new initiative. Anyone who has a question or a comment should contact Rich Beynon at rbeynon@upenn.edu.

ICA Fall Opening Reception

A free reception on Wednesday, September 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) celebrates the opening of three new exhibitions, including Mineral Spirits: Anne Chu and Matthew Monahan, featuring the artists’ distinctive takes on the figure. Pictured is Monahan’s Untitled, 2007, charcoal on paper on canvas with wood. Visit www.icaphila.org for exhibit information.

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 August 30-September 5, 2010. Also reported were 13 crimes against property (including 11 thefts, 1 narcotics offense and 1 burglary). Full reports are available at: www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v57/v5703/index.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 August 30-September 5, 2010. The University Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from the Schuylkill River to 43rd Street in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police. In this effort to provide you with a thorough and accurate report on public safety concerns, we hope that your increased awareness will lessen the opportunity for crime. For any concerns or suggestions regarding this report, please call the Division of Public Safety at (215) 898-4482.

18th District Report

9 incidents with 4 arrests (including 4 robberies and 5 aggravated assaults) were reported between August 30-September 5, 2010 by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

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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 August 30-September 5, 2010. 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.

The University of Pennsylvania Police Department
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On Domestication of a Complex and Unusual Material

Ilya Vinitsky

And when he came to the place where the wild things are, they roared their terrible roars and gnashed their terrible teeth and rolled their terrible eyes and showed their terrible claws till Max said, “Be still” and tamed them with the magic trick… — Maurice Sendak

In this short essay I would like to share some thoughts about helping students get excited about topics that (maybe) are not initially exciting to them but, on the contrary, alien and frightening. I will focus on a concrete example—teaching War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy, a 1,300+ page novel which is a monster in whose company it is a genuine pleasure to read. I believe that most of us pursue the same goal—helping students to overcome their (quite natural) fear of the complex and unusual material and, in this sense, a discussion of general pedagogical objectives of these “rules” can be helpful for other instructors. My “magic trick” is domestication of the material, which is based on the specific qualities of this material and aims at:

1. helping students understand that learning about the complex and unusual subject is something to be proud of (My “Basic Rules” starts with “Yes, you are surely brave since you decided to read this huge text written many years ago about people who lived in a country 4,500 miles away from Philadelphia. When you finish reading you may tell your relatives and friends that you did this Heracles labor (I assume that in this case a metaphor “monster” transforms into Lernean’s Hydra) and they will be proud of you. You may feel slightly frightened and dizzy in the beginning, but when you reach the open waters of the quietly expanding novel you will enjoy swimming. It is certainly not swimming to and fro in a pool; there is a strong current and the destination is unknown, but isn’t it a pleasure to follow the stream with all your efforts?”);

2. helping them understand that their work is not just an intellectual exercise but an opportunity to respond themselves to what they are learning about (I tell my students, “Do not be afraid of being too emotional, even sentimental, while reading: Tolstoy knows how to infect you with his ideas by acting upon you emotionally first of all.”);

3. encouraging them to personalize what they read and see themselves in their reading (for example, “What Tolstoy describes has very likely happened to you, so you simply see a glimpse or reflection of your own emotional world in the characters’ perceptions. In fact, the distance between you and Tolstoy’s early 19th century Russian heroes may be really thin. Does hospitable Old Count Rostov ever resemble your (maternal or paternal) grandpa or, maybe, your uncle, or your close friend’s granddad? Do you have a cousin like Sonya? Have you ever asked the questions Pierre Bezukhov is fascinated with? While reading this novel you do start feeling as if you are at home.”);

4. providing them with a helpful way of dealing with the work’s unique structure and philosophy (I tell students “Do not search for a single plotline or a single major character. The novel has several closely interwoven stories and several characters each of whom can be called major when he or she is in the author’s focus. This form provides you with an opportunity to perceive the world seen from different points of view and—at the same time—to feel that each perception grasps just a part of the whole, which cannot be expressed fully in words.”);

5. asking them to make sense of both the text and its context (my handout explains, “It is always a good idea to do your homework and uncover the intriguing historical context of Alexander I’s reign and Napoleonic wars which serve as a background for the novel. It will help you realize something really important in War and Peace, something we miss nowadays. What I mean is the Romantic sense of history as an exciting (yet sometimes frustrating) non-stop movement towards an unknown goal, the movement you are nill-willy involved in”).

Finally, I ask each student to keep a diary of a given character of the epic and to participate in discussions on his or her behalf. This theatrical device helps us not only to make the discussion lively, but to understand how the great text with several main heroes functions, how the reality effect is achieved by the author, and how Tolstoy’s favorite ideas “grow” in the ideological biographies of his characters. What I mean is that each student obtains his or her own area of responsibility and controls a zone of his or her character, paying close attention to the minutest changes in the character’s external or internal life, such as social background, physical appearance, events, hopes, fears, errors, or revelations. At the end of the semester, students write essays based on their knowledge and understanding of their characters as related to other heroes of the epic. Again, in doing so, students reach the higher level of control over and domestication of this huge text (my role is just to navigate the discussion by encouraging dialogue between students-characters and emphasizing the issues which were central for the author). Monsters are usually scary (or funny, or pathetic as in Sendak’s book). I want my students to realize that War and Peace is a monster in whose company it is a genuine pleasure to spend a few weeks.

Can some of my techniques be helpful in a non-literature class? I hope, yes. Of course, a literary work is not a math problem or a chemical reaction, but those who confront a difficult literary text, a math problem, or a chemical reaction are the same human beings, with their fears, biases and expectations. Domestication of the complex material encourages students of different disciplines to see personal connections, helps them understand that the task is relevant and exciting, and gives them the chance to “own” part of the job and convey their excitement. There are many seemingly “frightful creatures” in our teaching animal parks and we must know how to help our students make friends with them.

Ilya Vinitsky is Associate Professor and Chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures. He was a recipient of the School of Arts and Sciences’ 2010 Ira Abrams Award.