Endowing a Chair in Honor of Law Dean Michael A. Fitts

In the 12 years that he has served as Penn Law Dean, Michael A. Fitts has helped to establish 16 named faculty chairs. Now, the 17th has been named after him.

At the annual Benefactors Dinner in November, the Law School’s Board of Overseers announced a gift of $4.2 million which will endow the Michael A. Fitts Distinguished Professor of Law.

“Mike has worked tirelessly on behalf of Penn Law, recruiting stellar faculty, championing curricular innovation, spearheading a complete renovation of the Law School campus, and recently completing a record-breaking capital campaign,” said Paul Haaga, chair of the Law School’s Board of Overseers. “The Fitts chair is a fitting acknowledgment of those accomplishments and a token of the Overseers’ gratitude for Mike’s extraordinary leadership over the past 12 years.”

Dean Fitts first became dean in 2000 and has been a professor at the Law School since 1985. His second term as dean, which was extended in 2010 (Almanac October 26, 2010), will continue until June 30, 2015.

During his tenure, the Law School has created cross-disciplinary programs that are unrivaled among the leading law schools and has expanded the size and academic breadth of its standing faculty with the appointment of more than 25 renowned scholars and promising young intellectuals.

$25 Million Gift to Penn to Create Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics

The University of Pennsylvania has received a $25 million gift from alumnus Ronald O. Perelman to create the Ronald O. Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics, which will provide a new home for Penn’s departments of political science and economics in the School of Arts & Sciences. The Center will be located in the West Philadelphia Trust Building at 36th and Walnut streets in the heart of Penn’s campus.

“Ron Perelman’s extraordinary generosity will enable us to create an outstanding center for political science and economics, two of Penn’s most popular undergraduate majors,” Penn President Amy Gutmann said.

“The Ronald O. Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics will transform the existing space into a magnificent new building that will combine two key academic departments in one central location.”

The building currently houses several administrative offices along with the office of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). They will all be relocated on campus.

“I am proud to continue my support of this extraordinary institution that means so much to me and my family,” Mr. Perelman said. “This gift underscores my deeply held belief that our next generation must be given the tools to not only understand but positively impact government and the increasingly complex global economy.”

Mr. Perelman is the son of Raymond G. and the late Ruth Perelman, who in 2011 made a $225 million gift to Penn’s School of Medicine, now the Raymond and Ruth Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. The gift was the largest single gift in the University’s history.

A member of Penn’s Board of Trustees, Ronald O. Perelman holds both graduate and undergraduate degrees from Penn’s Wharton School. A frequent donor to the University, his previous gifts include $20 million to create Perelman Quadrangle, making it possible for the University to restore the buildings at the historic core of its campus: Houston Hall; Irvine Auditorium; Cohen Hall, named for Perelman’s former wife, the late Claudia Cohen, a graduate of the College of Arts & Sciences and the first woman editor of The Daily Pennsylvanian; College Hall; and Williams Hall. At that time, it was the largest single gift for campus life in Penn’s history. Mr. Perelman has also supported undergraduate financial aid, the Wharton School, Athletics and Medicine.

“With this gift, Mr. Perelman has single-handedly assured the vitality of the social sciences at Penn by providing for a home for our truly outstanding political science and economics faculty,” said Rebecca Bushnell, dean of the School of Arts & Sciences. “I know that the impact of this gift will be felt across the School for years to come.”

Mr. Perelman is chairman and CEO of MacAndrews & Forbes Holdings Inc., a diversified holding company with interests in consumer products, defense, entertainment, financial services, education, biotechnology and gaming. An active philanthropist, he is the founder of the Revlon/UCLA Women’s Cancer Research Program and has established the department of dermatology in his name at NYU Medical Center, The Ronald O. Perelman Heart Institute at New York Presbyterian Hospital and The Ronald O. Perelman and Claudia Cohen Center for Reproductive Medicine at Weill Cornell. Committed to women’s health, the arts and education, Mr. Perelman was president of the Guggenheim Museum and serves on the boards of Carnegie Hall, the University of Pennsylvania, the New York Endowing a Chair in Honor of Law Dean Michael A. Fitts....

Source: Almanac (University of Pennsylvania)

Vice President for Information Technology: Thomas Murphy

Provost Vincent Price and Executive Vice President Craig R. Carnaroli are pleased to announce the appointment of Thomas H. Murphy as Vice President for Information Technology and University Chief Information Officer (CIO), effective February 25, 2013.

Mr. Murphy is currently chief information officer of DaVita HealthCare Partners, where he is responsible for all information technology supporting the company’s business and clinical operations. For the prior eight years, he was senior vice president and chief information officer of AmerisourceBergen, an $80 billion provider of pharmaceuticals and health care services. He has been a leader in information technology across multiple industries, as chief information officer of Royal Caribbean Cruises, Bristol Hotels & Resorts, the Cendant Corporation and Omni Hotels. His accomplishments include a $500 million Business Transformation Program and new Innovation and Collaboration Lab at AmerisourceBergen; a $300 million global redesign of mission critical systems at Royal Caribbean Cruises; and a comprehensive six-year IT strategic plan at Omni Hotels.

He was elected to the CIO Hall of Fame in 2010 and named one of the Best CIOs in America in 2010 by Business Trends Quarterly, a Top CIO of 2011 by SmartCFO Magazine, one of the Premier 100 IT Leaders of 2002 by ComputerWorld, and one of the Top 100 Innovators of 2001 by CIO Magazine.

“We are delighted to bring to Penn an experienced and dynamic leader in information technologies,” said Provost Price. “Tom Murphy has an exciting track record of guiding complex, decentralized organizations; implementing new ideas; and forging a wide range of creative collaborations. He will be a wonderful partner in advancing Penn’s deep-rooted spirit of technology...”

Source: Almanac (University of Pennsylvania)
The following agenda is published in accordance with the Faculty Senate Rules. Any member of the standing faculty may attend SEC meetings and observe. Questions may be directed to Sue White, executive assistant to the Senate Office either by telephone at (215) 898-6943 or by email at senate@pobox.upenn.edu

**Section IV.3(c) of the Council Bylaws provides that a University Council meeting “shall incorporate an open forum to which all members of the University community are invited and during which any member of the University community can direct questions to the Council.”**

All members of the University community are invited to bring issues for discussion to the

**University Council Open Forum**

**Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 4 p.m.**

**Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall**

Individuals who want to be assured of speaking at Council must inform the Office of the University Secretary (ucouncil@pobox.upenn.edu) by Tuesday, February 12, 2013. Please indicate the topic you would like to discuss. Those who have not so informed the Office of the University Secretary will be permitted to speak only at the discretion of the Moderator of University Council and in the event that time remains after the scheduled speakers.

Please see the format given below. Questions may be directed to the Office of the University Secretary (215) 898-7005 or ucouncil@pobox.upenn.edu

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**Format for University Council’s Open Forum**

February 20, 2013

The University Council will devote a substantial portion of its February 20, 2013, meeting to a public forum. The purpose of the Open Forum is to inform Council of issues important to the University’s general welfare and of the range of views held by members of the University. The forum is open to all members of the University community under the conditions set by the Bylaws, following guidelines established by the Steering Committee of Council:

1. Any member of the University community who wishes to do so may attend the Council meeting.
2. Individuals who want to be assured of speaking at Council, however, must inform the Office of the University Secretary (ucouncil@pobox.upenn.edu) by Tuesday, February 12, 2013, indicating briefly the subject of their remarks. Those who have not so informed the Office of the University Secretary will be permitted to speak only at the discretion of the Moderator of University Council and in the event that time remains after the scheduled speakers.
3. Speakers should expect to be limited to three minutes with the possibility of additional time in cases where members of Council engage the speakers with follow-up questions or remarks. The Moderator may restrict repetition of views. Speakers are encouraged to provide Council with supporting materials and/or written extensions of their statements before, during or after the Council meeting.
4. Following the deadline for speakers to sign up in the Office of the University Secretary, the Chair of Steering and the Moderator of Council will structure the subject matter themes, speakers and times for the Open Forum session. In the event that there is not enough time available at the meeting to provide for all those who have requested to speak, the two officers may make selections which accommodate the broadest array of issues having important implications for Council’s work and represent the breadth of Council’s constituencies. The resulting order of the Open Forum of University Council will be made available no later than the Tuesday before the meeting, to be published on the Office of the University Secretary website (www.upenn.edu/secretary/councilopenforum.html) and, if deadline constraints allow, in The Daily Pennsylvanian and Almanac.
5. Speakers’ statements should be framed so as to present policy issues and directed to University Council as a body through the Moderator. The Moderator will have discretion to interrupt statements that are directed against persons and otherwise to maintain the decorum of the meeting, as provided for in the Bylaws. In cases where questions or positions can be appropriately addressed by members of Council, or where a colloquy would seem to be productive given the time constraints of the meeting, the Moderator may recognize members of Council to respond to speakers’ statements, with opportunities for follow-up by the speakers.

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**January Council Coverage**

At the January 30 University Council meeting, there was a presentation by Dr. Larry Jameson, dean of Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine and EVP of the University for the Health System, on how the school and UPHS is integrated with Penn and the community. Dr. Jameson focused his talk, The University and Penn Medicine: An Essential Partnership, on the interconnected aspects of their approaches to medicine. He noted that much has changed since the nation’s first medical school opened here in 1765; they are now gearing up for their 250th anniversary in 2015.

From its early home in the John Morgan Building to the new state-of-the-art facilities like the Perelman Center and the Smilow Center, now the goal is to integrate knowledge from the clinical research to the bedside diagnosis. At Penn Medicine there are 1,975 full-time faculty and more than 2,000 physicians. Dr. Jameson stressed the multidisciplinary training and inter-professional education which spans several schools at Penn including Nursing, Dental Medicine and Wharton.

The faculty has the oldest program in the US for MD-PhD dual degrees with 150 students currently enrolled. There are also other dual degrees at Penn such as the MD-MBA. He noted that there are 700 PhD candidates in the biomedical graduate studies and another 800 post doctoral students, as well as 300 masters students.

Dr. Jameson said that Penn Medicine has more than 20 centers and institutes such as the Leonard Davis Institute, the Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the Center for Public Health Initiatives, the Mahoney Institute for Neurological Sciences and the Botswana Partnership. Penn has also established partnerships with students through CURF and with other schools at Penn through the PK program.

Many of these initiatives have been possible, he said, due to the high-impact gifts that Penn Medicine has received in the past few years. The school has a Five Year Strategic Plan that focuses on innovation, integration and impact.

**Diversity**

Under ‘New Business,’ President Amy Gutmann spoke about her commitment to increasing diversity, in response to an op-ed letter by several faculty members that had appeared in The DP the day before the meeting. Their letter expressed their concerns that there is not more diversity among the highest levels of the University administration and among the faculty.

Dr. Gutmann said, “Increasing diversity at every level of our university has always been and remains one of my highest priorities.” She mentioned the increases in the diversity of the undergraduate student body, which in the past eight years has gone from 12% under-represented minorities to 20%. She also noted the Action Plan for Faculty Diversity and Excellence (Almanac September 6, 2011) which includes Penn’s commitment of $100 million over five years. She said that new Presidential Professors will increase the pipeline—Presidential Tenure Professors, supported in part by a $2 million grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts (Almanac December 6, 2011), are awarded to exceptional scholars, of any rank, who contribute to faculty eminence through diversity across the University. The Board of Trustees and Overseers have been called to diverse as the University as possible, she said. She did acknowledge that progress “has been slow” in some areas, such as academic administration, but Penn is committed to keeping diversity as a “cornerstone of our strategic efforts.”
Dr. Mikuta, Gynecologic Oncology

Dr. John J. Mikuta, former chief of the division of gynecologic oncology and Franklin Payne Professor Emeritus of Gynecologic Oncology at the Perelman School of Medicine, passed away January 25 at age 88.

Dr. Mikuta spent his entire career at Penn. After earning both his BA and MD from the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Mikuta interned at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) from 1948 to 1949 and was a resident in obstetrics and gynecology there from 1951 to 1954. Between his internship and residency, he served in the US Army at Osaka General Hospital and as assistant chief of the medical service at Camp Breckenridge Army Hospital.

Dr. Mikuta served as chairman of Penn’s division of gynecologic oncology for 30 years, stepping down in 1993, but continued to see patients for another ten years. He was appointed assistant professor in 1962 and was promoted to full professor in 1972. In addition to his faculty appointments at HUP, Dr. Mikuta held administrative positions at Philadelphia General Hospital (1951 to 1970) and Pennsylvania Hospital (honorary staff since 1975).

“He was so personally influential that he inspired a lot of people who wanted to do what he did,” said Dr. Stephen Rubin, who succeeded him as division chief. “He was a consummate physician and surgeon. He emphasized the importance of treating the whole patient and not just her disease.”

Considered one of the founding fathers of the specialties of gynecologic oncology, he was among the co-founders of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists in 1969, and he served as its president in 1973. Dr. Mikuta was a member of many national professional and scientific societies, including the American Association for Advancement of Science, the American Gynecological Society, and the American Cancer Society, just to name a few. Former oncology fellows honored him with a Festchrift in 1990 and by establishing the honorary John J. Mikuta Society in 1984.

In recognition of his many contributions to the alumni community and his remarkable commitment to Penn Medicine, Dr. Mikuta received the inaugural Penn Medicine Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008.

Additionally, he was recognized by the department of obstetrics and gynecology through the creation of the John J. Mikuta, MD, Award for Professionalism in Women’s Health. He was a faithful supporter of medical education at Penn through the John J. Mikuta, MD, Endowed Scholarship, which he established.

Dr. Mikuta is survived by his wife, Margaret; daughter, Ann M. Murray; sons, Mark and Paul; a brother, Daniel; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorial contributions can be made to the John J. and Margaret Mikuta Scholarship Fund, c/o Penn Medicine, 3535 Market St., Suite 750, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3309.

Dr. Paul H. Mueller, former research professor of biochemistry and biophysics in the Perelman School of Medicine, passed away December 16, 2012, at the age of 89. Dr. Mueller was born in Heinsberg, Germany and earned his medical degree from the University of Bonn, in Germany in 1951. He came to the United States in 1953 on a Fulbright Fellowship to work with Lorente De Nô at The Rockefeller Institute (now The Rockefeller University), in New York.

Following the fellowship, Dr. Mueller served as a lecturer at the University of Cologne, in Germany. In 1957, he joined a group of researchers at the Eastern Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute in Philadelphia. In 1974, he joined the department of biochemistry and biophysics at the University of Pennsylvania as an adjunct professor and became a research professor in 1981. He left Penn in 1992.

Dr. Mueller was one of the pioneers of the field of lipid bilayers, as well as neuromorphic engineering, bioinspired smart electronics and biomimetic systems.

Although Alan Lloyd Hodgkin and Andrew Huxley had developed mathematical equations to model a nerve action potential in their Nobel-awarded work, the biological meaning of the capacitance term was not understood. Dr. Mueller and his colleague Dr. Donald Rudin successfully made synthetic phospholipid bilayer membranes (BLMs or black lipid membranes), in 1963 with a capacitance that was similar to that of nerve membranes. Follow up work doping one side of the bilayer (BLM) with proteins resulted in a cation conductance similar to that of the ion selective channels of nerve membranes. Further, the conductance was voltage dependent and, in combination with proteomic, could give rise to full-blown action potentials. The consecutive search for molecules that would open the bilayer to ion permeation led to many discoveries including the cation carriers valinomycin, nonactin, the entiatins A and B, and the channel-forming gramicidins (A, B, and C). Planar lipid bilayers have become a major research tool for studying ion-conducting channels, vesicle membrane fusion and reconstitution of biological channels and transporters. It was the early seminal results of Dr. Mueller that led to the foundation of Corticon, Inc., which developed other neuromorphic systems for vision, audition and neural information processing in the 1990s and into the 2000s. Importantly, Dr. Mueller’s collaborations with engineering faculty at numerous institutions inspired a new generation of leaders.

Dr. Mueller is survived by his wife, Mao-Zhu Zhang.

Ms. Potter, Physics & Astronomy

Ms. Mary Jane Potter, a retired drafter in the department of physics & astronomy in the School of Arts & Sciences, passed away January 23. She was at Manor Care in King of Prussia where she had been recovering from a fall and a subsequent operation at Pennsylvania Hospital for a broken hip. She was 85 years old.

Ms. Potter worked at Penn from 1963 to 1989. She is survived by her niece and nephew, Patricia and Robert Montemeyer.

Memorial contributions may be made to the SPCA or a local animal shelter.

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) 898-8747 or email almanac@upenn.edu

However, notices of alumni deaths should be directed to the Alumni Records Office at Room 517, Franklin Building, (215) 898-8136 or email record@ben.dev.upenn.edu
Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and the NYU Medical Center, among others.

Consistently ranked among the top 10 programs in the country, Penn’s department of economics is home to 31 outstanding scholars specializing in empirical and theoretical microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics, the latter a field made famous at Penn by the Nobel Laureate Lawrence Klein. Among its many distinguished faculty are development economist Jere Behrman; Andrew Postlewaite, a top scholar of behavioral economics and game theory; and Holger Sieg, one of the world’s leading public finance economists. The undergraduate economics major is one of the largest in the College of Arts & Sciences, and its courses are also critical to the popular majors in international relations and philosophy, politics and economics, as well as to the curriculum of Wharton. Its PhD program is one of the nation’s best in this field and places its graduates in top universities and in a variety of public and private sector roles.

The department of political science is a nationally-renowned program focusing on American politics, international relations, comparative politics and political theory. Its 31 eminent faculty include world-famous scholars John Dilecto (American political parties), David M. Close (international political economy), Frank Kafkin (American politics), Robert Oellerich (American politics) and Andrew Schlesinger (international relations). The undergraduate political science major is one of the largest in the College of Arts & Sciences, and its courses are also critical to the popular majors in international relations and philosophy, politics and economics. The department also has a top PhD program that places its graduates in top universities and in a variety of public and private sector roles.

**Vice President for Information Technology:** Thomas Murphy

logical innovation and entrepreneurial thinking.” “Penn is a dynamic institution and campus. Our success depends on a strong systems infrastructure, innovative practices and outstanding leadership,” said Murphy. Tom Murphy, Penn is gaining a professional of vast talent in all of these disciplines,” said Executive Vice President Camarolli. Mr. Murphy earned a BA in marketing and English from the University of Richmond in 1984. He succeeds Robin Beck, who is retiring from Penn after serving as vice president of information systems and computing since 2001 and has agreed to extend her tenure at Penn to the end of February to support this transition.

**Correction: International Postage — $1.10**

In the January 29 issue, the notice from Penn Mail Services about the US Postal Rate increases contained inaccurate information about the new rate for international postage. The rate for Letters to all international destinations including Canada and Mexico is $1.10. The United States Postal Service has introduced Global Forever®, a new international rate stamp which offers a single price for any First-Class Mail International 1-ounce letter to any country in the world. It may also be used to mail a 2-ounce letter to Canada. The new detailed rate charts are available at www.usps.com/new-prices.htm —Ed.

**Gift to Create Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics**

(continued from page 1)

Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and the NYU Medical Center, among others.

Interim Associate Vice Provost for Research and Executive Director of CTT: John Swartley

Provost Vincent Price and Senior Vice Provost for Research Steven J. Fluharty are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. John S. Swartley as Interim Associate Vice Provost for Research and Executive Director of the Center for Technology Transfer (CTT).

Dr. Swartley has served since 2009 as the deputy director of the CTT, which he first joined in 2007 as senior director of new ventures. In conjunction with the executive director, Dr. Swartley has overseen all of the CTT’s technology commercialization efforts, new venture formation and translational innovation activities based on Penn discoveries and faculty expertise. He also led the establishment and launch of the CTT’s UPstart Company Formation Program, a groundbreaking new model for University venture creation.

Prior to joining Penn, Dr. Swartley was senior vice president and general partner of BCM Technologies, the venture capital subsidiary of Baylor College of Medicine, with responsibility for a portfolio of 22 life science companies.

He succeeds Dr. Michael J. Cleave, who retired from Penn on January 31, 2013. A national search for a new Associate Vice Provost for Research and Executive Director of the Center for Technology Transfer will begin in the next few weeks.

**Excellence through Diversity Fund**

**Call for Proposals: April 1**

The University is pleased to announce the inaugural call for proposals for the Excellence through Diversity Fund. This new Fund, announced in the Action Plan for Faculty Excellence and Diversity published in 2011 (Almanac September 6, 2011), will provide resources for interdisciplinary projects of Penn faculty on topics relating to equity, inclusion and diversity, with the goal of strengthening the Penn curriculum in these areas and recognizing excellence in these important fields of inquiry. Funds will be awarded competitively, on a matching basis, to provide needed term resources to launch new efforts or strengthen existing ones. Proposals should include a description of efforts to obtain funding from other sources.

The Fund may support:

- Implementation of Schools’ strategic plans to diversify faculty and student populations;
- Research on equity, inclusion and diversity in higher education;
- Projects that foster and support diversity on campus;
- Faculty work on projects aimed at advancing the ideals of the Penn Compact as they relate to increased access for students and faculty.

**Criteria for Review**

Review and evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

- Relationship to the aims of the Fund as described above;
- For projects designed to diversify the campus environment, clarity of goals and procedures and presence of an evaluation plan;
- Potential for sustainability and/or impact over time with School, Center or extramural funding, particularly as demonstrated by matching funds;
- Likelihood of generating new insights about diversity in higher education;
- Presence of a realistic and sufficiently detailed budget;
- Potential for sustainable partnerships among Schools, Departments or University programs.

Proposals are due by April 1, 2013.

**Review Process**

The Fund will be administered jointly by the Offices of the Vice Provost for Faculty and the Associate Vice Provost for Equity and Access. Proposals will be reviewed for scholarly merit and significance for diversity research, teaching and service. Priority will be given to innovative designs and to plans that involve multiple Schools.

**Application**

Applications must include:

- A completed ETDF Budget Form, available with a PennKey at: https://upenn.box.com/shared/static/xyfr31m17go7tfr383aj.ds;
- A completed ETDF Cover Sheet (with all signatures) and Proposal Form, available with a PennKey at https://upenn.box.com/shared/static/cj6pucip9qsp600uvyq.docx, including: background; work to be undertaken; ability to enhance Penn’s teaching, research and engagement on issues relating to equity, inclusion, and diversity; and demonstrated interdisciplinary linkages;
- Biographies of faculty members involved in the project;
- Potential for sustainable partnerships among Schools, Departments or University programs.
- Evidence of additional funding from institutional or external sources;
- Likelihood of generating new insights about diversity in higher education;
- Potential for sustainable partnerships among Schools, Departments or University programs.

**Submissions**

Email a complete PDF, including signed ETDF Cover Sheet, Proposal Form and Budget Form, to provost-fac@upenn.edu no later than April 1, 2013. The name of the PDF must be the last name of the principal investigator. At the conclusion of a project, the PI is expected to submit a DIP Assessment form to report the use of the funding.
Physics Frontiers Prize: Dr. Kane

The Fundamental Physics Prize Selection Committee has announced that Penn’s Class of 1965 Endowed Term Professor of Physics Charles Kane, is one of the three laureates of the 2013 Physics Frontier Prize. He, along with Laurens Moltenkamp of the University of Wuerzburg in Germany, and Shoucheng Zhang of Stanford have been recognized for their work on the theoretical prediction and experimental discovery of topological insulators. As laureates, they are eligible for the 2013 Fundamental Physics Prize of $3 million, to be announced on March 20, 2013, at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland.

“Choosing this year’s recipients from such a large pool of spectacular nominations was a very difficult task,” said Nima Arkani-Hamed of the Institute for Advanced Study, a member of the Selection Committee. “Their collective physicists have done transformative work spanning a wide range of areas in fundamental physics.”

The Fundamental Physics Prize Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation established by the Milner Foundation and dedicated to advancing our knowledge of the universe at the deepest level by awarding annual prizes for scientific breakthroughs, as well as communicating the excitement of fundamental physics to the public. The Fundamental Physics Prize Selection Committee is made up of prior recipients of the Fundamental Physics Prize.

2013 Thouron Award Winners

Three University of Pennsylvania students and two alumni have received Thouron Awards to pursue graduate studies in the United Kingdom. The recipients are:

Jacob Blumenfeld-Gantz, a 2012 College of Arts & Sciences and Wharton graduate in diplomatic history and operations and information management, is applying to the University of Oxford for a master’s in public policy.

Elena Jaya Gooray, a College of Arts & Sciences senior majoring in cognitive science, is applying to the University of Edinburgh for an MSc in cognition in science and technology.

Cassi Joanna Henderson, a School of Engineering senior majoring in bioengineering, is applying to King’s College for an MSc in engineering and business administration.

Tarub Sayeed Mabud, a College of Arts & Sciences and Wharton senior majoring in statistics, healthcare management and biology, is applying to the University of Cambridge for an MPhil in epidemiology.

Allison Mishkin, a 2011 graduate from the School of Engineering & Applied Science and the College of Arts & Sciences in computer science and society, is applying to the University of Oxford for an MSc in the social science of the Internet.

The Thouron Award, a graduate exchange program between Penn and British universities, exists to improve relations between the US and the UK. Thouron Award winners receive tuition and stipends for one or two years depending on the time required to earn their graduate degrees.

The Thouron Award was established and is supported by gifts from Sir John Thouron and Esther du Pont, Lady Thouron, of Unionville, PA.

Graduating Penn seniors, current Penn graduates who are US citizens are eligible to apply.

Patient Safety Award for Using Information Technology to Reduce Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections

A Penn Medicine team led by Dr. Craig Umplebied, assistant professor of medicine and epidemiology and director of the Center for Evidence-based Practice, was awarded the first place 2012 Delaware Valley Patient Safety Award by the Delaware Valley Healthcare Council and the Health Care Improvement Foundation. The honor, which comes with a $5,000 grant, recognizes the group’s work in leveraging information technology to decrease catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) using actionable alerts linked to the electronic health record.

The life-saving technology, together with other health system interventions, reduced CAUTIs by about 50% over about one year. Estimates suggest this effort also led to an estimated financial savings of approximately $140,000 annually.

Models of Excellence

• Kenneth Ogawa, Facilities & Real Estate Services: He championed Penn’s sustainability efforts by promoting “electricity literacy” throughout the University and the community. His efforts—which are being replicated nation-wide—helped Penn conserve electricity and contain costs.

• Anthony Piccione, School of Arts & Sciences: He helped coordinate programming at the Wilson Community School, a partnership between Alexander Wilson Elementary School and the Netter Center for Community Partnerships at Penn. His novel approaches to recess, summer and after-school programming helped improve the academic, social, physical and behavioral skills of the children and families who attend the school.

• Provost’s Summer Mentorship Program Team: This team designed a unique summer mentorship program that put first-generation students at Penn. His novel approaches to recess, summer and after-school programming helped improve the academic, social, physical and behavioral skills of the children and families who attend the school.

Honorables Mention

FRES Lean Process Improvement Team: This team used the Lean Six Sigma Methodology and other innovative tools to implement new work flow processes in 13 trade shops within the Facilities & Real Estate Services Division (FRES). Their efforts helped improve the Division’s quality of service as well as timeliness, consistency, productivity, efficiency and reliability. Team members include:

John Blankemeyer, FRES
John Bradley, FRES
Michael Francis, FRES
Gerry McCullum, FRES
William Gugle, FRES
Betsy Robinson, FRES
Denise Seymour, FRES
Ira Winston, School of Arts & Sciences/ School of Engineering & Applied Science/ School of Design
Creating: Quilts of the Lakota at the Arthur Ross Gallery, February 9–April 7

Creating: Quilts of the Lakota will present over 20 eye-dazzling 20th and 21st century quilts from the Heritage Center on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. This will be the first time most of these quilts will be exhibited publicly and published. The exhibition and related catalogue reflect a three-year collaboration between Penn’s Arthur Ross Gallery and The Heritage Center.

Mary V. Bordeaux, a member of the Lakota tribe, will curate this exhibition with the Arthur Ross Gallery, “Making items for family and the community is a large part of the Lakota’s way of life,” notes Ms. Bordeaux. Ms. Bordeaux, a Sicangu Lakota, selected the superb star quilts that reflect just a fraction of The Heritage Center’s collection. In the exhibition catalogue she notes, “When receiving a quilt...a Lakota person feels a sense of pride and respect, and those feelings are embodied in each and every quilt.”

To add historical and cultural context, 19th-century Lakota artifacts, including moccasins, a cradleboard and parfleche boxes, are included in the exhibition and lent by the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. These Penn Museum artifacts reflect Native American sewing traditions prior to the introduction of quilting in the 1880s by missionaries at Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Visitors will discover both Lakota quilting techniques and learn more about Lakota traditions. This exhibition promotes interdisciplinary learning, engages new audiences, and involves Penn faculty and students.

Related Programs
• Tours will be offered to the public on weekend afternoons at 1 p.m.
• Saturday, February 9:
  10 a.m. Gallery Tour with Curator Mary Bordeaux
  11 a.m. Artist Talk with Lakota quilter Janyce Trask
• Friday, February 22:
  7:30 p.m. World Premier Reading of Miracle Play by Sheldon Wolf
• Wednesday, March 20:
  Time TBA; Hoop Dancer from South Dakota, Jasmine Pickner

One of the 20 Lakota quilts at the Arthur Ross Gallery, February 9 through April 7. Unidentified Lakota artist, Untitled (White Bison and Pipes Lakota Star Quilt), cotton; lent by The Heritage Center at Red Cloud Indian School, Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Unearthing a Masterpiece: A Roman Mosaic from Lod, Israel, at Penn Museum, February 10–May 19

Exhibition Opening Day Special Guests and Festivities
The exhibition opening will begin at 1 p.m. on Sunday, February 10, with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Joining Julian Siggers, Penn Museum Williams Director, will be Shuka Dorfman, Director General of the Israeli Antiquities Institute; Yaron Sideman, Consul General of Israel to the Mid-Atlantic Region; Renato Miracco, Cultural Attaché, Italian Embassy; and Luigi Scotto, Consul General of Italy in Philadelphia. C. Brian Rose, Mediterranean Section Curator-in-Charge and content expert for the exhibition and Kate Quinn, Exhibition Director, will also participate.

Dr. Rose will draw guests into the process of Deciphering the Lod Mosaic at a 2 p.m. talk. A Family Second Sunday Workshop, Marvelous Mosaics, invites guests of all ages to discover the many mosaics in the Penn Museum’s collection, and create an original mosaic in the walk-in workshop from 1 to 4 p.m.

About the Exhibition
In 1996, workmen widening a road in Lod (formerly Lydda), Israel, made a startling discovery: signs of a Roman mosaic pavement were found about three feet below the modern ground surface. A rescue excavation conducted immediately by the Israel Antiquities Authority revealed a mosaic floor approximately 50 feet long by 27 feet wide. Of exceptional quality and in an excellent state of preservation, the complete mosaic, comprising seven panels, is symmetrically divided into two large “carpets” by a long rectangular horizontal panel. To preserve the mosaic, it was reburied until funding was secured for its full scientific excavation and conservation in 2009.

The mosaic floor is believed to come from the home of a wealthy Roman living in the Eastern Roman Empire at about 300 CE. Because the mosaic’s imagery has no overt religious content, it cannot be determined whether the owner was pagan, Jewish or Christian.

The exhibition features the three most complete and impressive panels found in what was probably a large reception room. Within the central panel—which measures 13 square feet—is a series of smaller squares and triangles depicting various birds, fish and animals that surround a larger octagonal scene with ferocious wild animals—a lion and lionesses, an elephant, a giraffe, a rhinoceros, a tiger and a bull. Such animals were well known to the Romans since they appeared at gladiatorial games, where they were pitted either against each other or against human adversaries. It is indeed possible that the owner of the house was involved in the capture and trade of exotic animals for the games, which was a very lucrative profession during the empire.

A large and exceptionally well-preserved ancient Roman floor mosaic, discovered in Lod, Israel, in 1996 and excavated in 2009, will make its final United States stop at the Penn Museum in Philadelphia before traveling to the Louvre in Paris and eventually to a new museum being built exclusively for it in Israel. Unearthing a Masterpiece: A Roman Mosaic from Lod, Israel will open at the Penn Museum February 10, at 1 p.m., and runs through May 19, 2013. (Above) This is the mosaic’s central panel. Of exceptional quality and in an excellent state of conservation, the Lod Mosaic is believed to have been part of a large and well-appointed Roman house and is dated to about 300 CE.
Ice Rink Public Skate & Open Hockey Cancellations and Special Events

The Public Skate sessions for Wednesday, February 6, and Friday, February 8, noon to 1:30 p.m., have been cancelled due to special events. Both morning and afternoon Open Hockey sessions on Friday, February 8, have been cancelled as well.

On Thursday, February 14, there will be a Valentine’s Day special: buy one admission and get the second one free (skate rental not included); 4 to 5:30 p.m.

On President’s Day, Monday, February 18, skate rental will be free with paid admission, noon to 1:30 p.m.

—Penn Ice Rink

Penn Retail Online Survey

The University of Pennsylvania’s Division of Facilities & Real Estate Services is currently conducting a master plan for its retail real estate holdings. A key piece of this plan is incorporating the ideas, opinions and spending information of the University community. The information shared in the survey will be used to evaluate the retail opportunities on- and off-campus and plan for future needs.

Those who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing to win a gift card from a Penn retailer ($10 to $100 value). All Penn students, faculty, staff and neighborhood residents are invited to participate. Visit www.pennretailsurvey.com to take the survey.

ON STAGE

8 Applied Mechanics: Some Other Mettle; 7:30 p.m.; Annenberg Center; $20-30. Also February 9, 7:30 p.m. (Annenberg Center).

TALKS

6 The Professor, the Heretic, and Aristotle: Translating Philosophy in Sixteenth Century Italy; Eva Del Soldato, University of Warwick, UK; 5:30 p.m.; Cherump Seminar Room, Williams Hall (Center for Italian Studies).
7 Ancient Manuscripts; Eva Del Soldato, University of Warwick, UK; 5:30 p.m.; rm. 402, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library (Center for Italian Studies).

AT PENN Deadlines

The February AT PENN calendar is online at www.upenn.edu/almanac. The deadline for the weekly Update is each Monday for the following week’s issue. The deadline for the March AT PENN calendar is Tuesday, February 12.

Information is on the sponsoring department’s website. Sponsors are in parentheses. For locations, call (215) 898-5000 or see www.facilities.upenn.edu

30th Street Craft Market: February 23

The 30th Street Craft Market will feature 30 unique local artists and craftspeople, including many of Philadelphia’s finest makers of jewelry, prints, glassware, clothing, and more. The market—sponsored by UCD—will be held on Saturday, February 23 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

On February 8 and 9, the Philadelphia troupe Applied Mechanics presents Some Other Mettle at the Harold Prince Theatre at the Annenberg Center. Creating its own brand of promenade-style theatre, the group explores the relationships between bodies and space, always challenging theatrical ideas. See On Stage (above).

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Reflections of a Faculty Member on Being a College House Fellow

Annette Yoshiko Reed

Two years ago, when I submitted my application to serve as a College House Fellow, it was with equal parts curiosity, enthusiasm and uncertainty. I was then in my fourth year at Penn, and I felt comfortably and productively settled into my department and into related programs, centers, and graduate groups. Yet for all the time I had spent getting to know my colleagues, my students, and Penn’s interdisciplinary resources, there remained the sense that I had seen only a sliver of the diverse, busy and bustling undergraduate population spread across Penn’s multiple schools. My curiosity had been piqued by colleagues who had been College House Fellows, when they offered their poignant insights into student life as well as their sage advice about what they gained pedagogically from their experiences. What they emphasized above all, however, was how much about their experiences could not be put into words. “There is a different Penn after 6 p.m.,” said one, somewhat ominously, “but you’d have to see it to understand.” “Each College House is unique,” another stressed, albeit assuring me that the experience was always rewarding, even if in unexpected ways.

When I applied and was accepted as a College House Fellow in Stouffer College House, my thoughts and plans were centered on what I could provide the students and community that I was joining. As I recollect the past two years, however, I am most grateful for our students’ generosity in sharing their spaces, stories, friendship, adventures, and experiences with my family and me—and also for all that we have learned from them. Looking back now, it is almost funny to think about how much I did not know before I joined the Stouffer community—why Penn students always look so tired on the first day of the fall semester, for instance; or just how busy our students are outside of class; how much they manage to juggle; how much they support one another; why it’s a bad idea to assign papers to students outside of class; how much they seem to be assigned; and how very often someone seems to need one stamp, one DVD, one token, one egg, one pushpin, etc., in the middle of the night.

Now, when my colleagues hear I am a College House Fellow, they often press me for information about Penn undergraduates: “How do they decide what classes to take?”; “Why do they pile on so many majors?”; “Are they really so concerned about grades?” I am lucky, of course, to see more of what we all experience when teaching and advising—such as the remarkable ways in which Penn students can be so intense in their interests but also so multiple in their multitasking, so fast thinking but also so deeply engaged, so fiercely intelligent but also so pragmatic. As a College House Fellow, however, I feel like I also get to see the best side of our students: the generosity and empathy that temper the competitiveness, the commitment to community behind the individual achievement, the curiosity and enthusiasm behind the concern for grades, and—above all—the startling uniqueness of individuals in what might seem sometimes, from the perspective of an instructor looking out from a lectern, like an anonymous sea of faces. I feel perhaps luckiest to have learned that there are special places on campus like Stouffer—communities built and enlivened by the best sides of all of us, not just through the parade of events we plan for one another, but also through the mundane cycles of our connections day-by-day and week-by-week. And what is exemplified by Stouffer College House is surely true across Penn’s undergraduate population: great minds but also big hearts.

Through teaching, one experiences the school year in certain familiar cycles. At the start of February, for instance, one can feel the excitement of the beginning of the school year beginning to slip into stress. Month-by-month, the bright eyes of our students darken bit by bit with sleeplessness, and their curiosity gradually gives way to concerns about midterms and exam performance. By the time spring classes end and the task of grading begins, one might feel almost relieved that the campus will soon be quiet. Among what I have learned as a Stouffer College House Fellow, however, is how very much will be missing when the halls of Stouffer will empty for the summer.

Annette Yoshiko Reed is the M. Mark and Esther K. Watkins Assistant Professor in the Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania, Acting Director of the Center for Ancient Studies, a member of the Department of Religious Studies, Program in Jewish Studies, and Graduate Group in Ancient History, and Faculty Fellow in Stouffer College House.

The Office of College Houses & Academic Services is currently accepting College House Fellow applications for appointments starting in August 2013. For more information about the position, see www.collegehouses.upenn.edu/staff/fellows_description.asp Instructions on how to apply may be found at the bottom of this same webpage. Any questions may be sent to Leslie Delauter, Director of College House Academic Programs, at delauter@upenn.edu