African Studies: Future of the Field
October 17-18

The University of Pennsylvania’s Department of African Studies and Center for Africana Studies are co-sponsoring a multi-disciplinary conference, which is free and open to the public on October 17-18 on the future of Africana studies to commemorate the department’s one-year anniversary.

African Independence, a feature-length documentary film by Tukufu Zuberi, professor of sociology and Africana studies at Penn, will have its Penn premiere as it opens the conference. Penn President Amy Gutmann will join Dr. Zuberi for brief remarks at 5 p.m. on October 17, before the film screening begins in Harrison Auditorium of the Penn Museum. A question-and-answer session will follow the screening. First screened at the 2013 San Diego Black Film Festival in January, African Independence won the festival’s Best Documentary Film Award. Dr. Zuberi won the Best Director Award.

African Independence explores the evolving story of Africa today, told through the lens of four watershed events: World War II, the end of colonialism, the Cold War and the era of African republics, all of which have redefined the continent once wracked by enslavement and shaped by European colonization.

The film is presented in conjunction with Dr. Zuberi’s Penn Museum exhibition, Black Bodies in Propaganda: The Art of the War Poster, on view now through March 2, 2014. Both the exhibit and film are part of his Africana Media Project based in the Center for Africana Studies.

Africana Studies: Future of the Field conference panel sessions will be held from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday, October 18, in Claudia Cohen Hall. Panels will be held on “Knowledge Production and the Fetish of Theory,” “Teleologies of Space, Place and Time,” “Gatekeeping and the Problem of Recognition” and “Black Body Politics.” Farah Jasmine Griffin, professor of English and comparative literature and African-American studies at Columbia University, will deliver the keynote speech.

“Penn has a rich tradition of scholarship, research and teaching in Africana Studies and has been a pioneer in the field, so our new department is a fitting achievement,” said Dr. Barbara Savage, professor and chair of Africana studies. “As leaders in the field, we are conferring with other eminent scholars to chart exciting new directions in the study of the peoples of Africa and of black people in the Americas and around the globe for the 21st century.”

The conference will be live-streamed at https://africana@sas.upenn.edu/

Registration to attend the conference, film screening or both is available at https://africana.sas.upenn.edu/africana-studies-future-field

$2 Million Grant for Penn Medicine Team to Investigate Emerging Field of Advanced Transplantation

A team of researchers at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP), in partnership with colleagues at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), have been awarded a $2 million grant from the US Department of Defense (DoD). The grant is part of the Restorative Transplantation Research Cooperative Agreement (RTR)—a $9.3 million consortium led by researchers at Emory University provided through the DoD’s Clinical and Rehabilitation Medicine Research Program. Grants awarded to the consortium will support research studies aimed at improving advanced transplant procedures for patients suffering traumatic injuries, such as limb loss and severe burns.

According to the American Society of Transplantation, over the last 10 years, more than 90 patients around the world have undergone procedures using vascularized composite allotransplantation (VCA), a highly specialized field of transplantation in which multiple tissues, such as muscle, bone, nerve and skin, are transplanted as a functional unit (e.g. a hand or face). Of those receiving VCAs, 46 patients received 66 hand transplants and 17 patients received face transplants. Together, these procedures have produced promising outcomes, allowing patients to regain functions vital to performing daily life activities. Given early success rates of VCA procedures, the ultimate goal for the studies funded under the new grant will be to elevate VCA to the level of an established therapy, thereby expanding the available options for patients with combat-related injuries who are in need of these complex procedures.

“VCA affords tremendous opportunity for patients suffering from the most traumatic injuries to regain function and experience a dramatically improved quality of life,” said Dr. L. Scott Levin, chair of orthopaedic surgery and professor of surgery (division of plastic surgery) at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. “However, these complex procedures require specialized skills from multidisciplinary teams and intensive follow-up care for patients. With our grant, we hope to deliver new data-driven information that will fuel clinical practice guidelines for this emerging field of reconstructive surgery.”

Like most transplanted organs, limbs and other complex tissues transplanted with VCA are subject to rejection by the recipient. Over the course of four years, the new grant will allow the HUP and CHOP teams, led by Dr. Wayne W. Hancock, chief of transplant immunology at CHOP, and Dr. Levin at Penn Medicine, to investigate the biological processes responsible for rejection of the transplanted tissues. The teams will also seek to compare and contrast these processes with those known to impact solid organ rejection.

Other HUP investigators on the project include Matthew H. Levine, Abraham Shaked, Kim M. Othoff and Paige M. Porrett, from the division of transplant surgery.

Other institutes awarded grants under this RTR consortium are: Emory University, The Scripps Research Institute, Louisville VCA Program (a collaboration between the Christine M. Kleinert Institute, the Kleinert Kutz Hand Care Center, the Cardiovascular Innovation Institute, the University of Louisville and Jewish Hospital, Part of KentuckyOne Health) and the University of Maryland.

The Wharton School’s Inaugural Recipient of the Wharton-Jacobs Levy Prize for Quantitative Financial Innovation: Harry Markowitz

The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania announced that Nobel Laureate Harry Markowitz is the inaugural recipient of the Wharton-Jacobs Levy Prize for Quantitative Financial Innovation. The award will be presented to Mr. Markowitz at the Forum on Quantitative Finance hosted by the School’s Jacobs Levy Equity Management Center for Quantitative Financial Research on October 23, in New York City.

Mr. Markowitz, adjunct professor of finance, Rady School of Management, University of California, San Diego, is being recognized for his groundbreaking innovations in individual retirement planning, including his article, “Individual Versus Institutional Investing,” published in Financial Services Review (1991). In that article, Mr. Markowitz proposed a “Game of Life” computer simulation, which considers individuals’ retirement plans and goals in light of their health, housing, work histories, educational prospects, skill sets, social security, insurance, etc., in addition to their investment goals, opportunities and decisions. The concepts underlying the Game of Life, which Mr. Markowitz has described as “an ideal, a North Star towards which we would direct our model-building,” have since (continued on page 2)
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 Vicki Hewitt, executive assistant to the Senate Office either by telephone at (215) 898-6943 or by email at senate@pobox.upenn.edu

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agenda
Wednesday, October 23, 2013
Hourglass Room, University Club
3–5 p.m.
5–6 p.m.: Reception following the SEC Meeting

1. Approval of the Minutes of September 25, 2013 (2 minutes)
2. Chair’s Report (5 minutes)
3. Past-Chair’s Report on Academic Planning and Budget & Capital Council (3 minutes)
4. Update from the Office of the President (45 minutes)
   Discussion with Amy Gutmann, President
5. Ballot: 2014 Senate Nominating Committee (5 minutes)
6. Update from the Vice Provost for Education (45 minutes)
   Discussion with Andy Binns, Vice Provost for Education
7. New Business

Faculty Senate Grievance Commission
Annual Report 2012-2013

The Faculty Senate Grievance Commission of the University of Pennsylvania is an independent committee consisting of three faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. This Commission is available to members of the Penn faculty and academic support staff who allege they have been subject to action that is contrary to University procedures, policies and/or regulations, that is discriminatory, or that is arbitrary. During the Academic Year 2012-2013, the Commission was composed of David Asch (Medicine, Past Chair), Robert Hollebeek (Physics and Astronomy, Chair) and Martha Curley (Nursing, Chair-Elect).

During the year, the Commission was approached by seven members of the faculty, five of whom had been denied either promotion or a continued appointment. Two additional cases involved more senior faculty.

In each case, the individuals had several initial discussions with the chair of the Commission about the grievance process, the circumstances of the case, discussions about clarifying the issues that might be grounds for a grievance and discussions about the procedures for submitting a formal grievance letter. In several cases, the Commission chair pursued additional information from the potential grievant’s department or dean.

In one case, the Commission as a whole reviewed the case in detail, each reaching an independent conclusion about the merits. In all other cases, the chair consulted the other members of the Commission for a consensus after reaching a decision about whether the case should result in a hearing panel. No cases were forwarded to a hearing. One case remains outstanding for consideration in the coming year.

—Robert Hollebeek (Grievance Commission Chair, 2012-2013)

The Inaugural Recipient of the Wharton-Jacobs Levy Prize

(continued from page 1)

been embraced by the retirement advisory industry.

Mr. Markowitz’s contributions to the fields of economics and finance have been immense. He pioneered portfolio theory, developed the simulation programming language SIMSCRIPT and advanced important work with sparse matrix techniques. In 1989, Mr. Markowitz received the John von Neumann Theory Prize from the Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences for his work in portfolio theory, sparse matrix techniques and SIMSCRIPT. In 1990, he shared the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel for his work in portfolio theory.

Wharton School Dean Thomas S. Robertson said, “We are pleased to recognize the contributions that Harry Markowitz has made to the field of quantitative finance. In particular, his insights and dedication have served to advance knowledge in the investment industry, an important driver of economies around the world.”

Mr. Markowitz will receive an $80,000 award at the Center’s first Forum on Quantitative Finance. The Forum is designed to engage leaders in industry and academia for a day of presentations focused on quantitative financial research and its practical applications within the business world, with an emphasis on advancing innovation.

We are pleased to be able to award the Wharton-Jacobs Levy Prize for Quantitative Financial Innovation to such an influential individual as Harry Markowitz,” said Dr. Donald B. Keim, director of the Jacobs Levy Center and the John B. Neff Professor of Finance at Wharton. “As the Jacobs Levy Center expands its outreach within the quantitative finance industry and academic communities, it is wonderful to be able to acknowledge individuals who have made significant contributions.”

The Wharton-Jacobs Levy Prize will be awarded biennially to an individual or individuals who have exhibited excellence in quantitative research and have contributed to a particular innovation in the field of finance. The Prize recipient is selected by a committee of esteemed academics and practitioners. The Prize—eulogized with a $2 million gift from Bruce Jacobs and Kenneth Levy, principals and co-founders, Jacobs Levy Equity Management—encourages research that has practical applications. The Center aims to enhance the understanding of financial markets through the study of quantitative techniques and methods.

ITMAT Membership and Grants

The Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics (ITMAT) invites proposals from ITMAT Members and ITMAT Associate Members in the Research Associate or Instructor A category. It is not too late to become a Member or an Associate Member if you would like to apply for the membership and membership fee. If you are interested, please visit the membership section of our website: www.itmat.upenn.edu/membership.shtml for details.

The proposals must center on the translational space—in terms of drug development, from proof of concept in cells to model systems through to mechanistic studies in humans or, in drug development, completion of dose selection in Phase II. Programs that plan to progress within that space and which deploy technologies and approaches conventionally segregated from each other within the traditional boundaries of academic medicine will be especially favored. The proposals are due by December 6, 2013 for a proposal start date of February 1, 2014. Please visit our website at www.itmat.upenn.edu/funding.shtml for details.

—Garret A. FitzGerald, Director, ITMAT

TBIC Pilot Grants: December 6

The Translational Biomedical Imaging Center (TBIC) was established under the leadership of the ITMAT in part “to broaden and accelerate translational imaging research through the development of a center to bring together investigators with diverse backgrounds that contribute to various aspects of imaging science and who share a vision of contributing to the advancement of clinical medicine.” Among the approaches adopted by the TBIC to promote the use of imaging technology to facilitate translational research are the support of core facilities, collaborative imaging scientists and retreats/seminars. Building on this foundation, the TBIC announces a new collaborative pilot grant program to help catalyze collaborations between primary imaging scientists and primary biomedical/clinical researchers that integrate novel imaging approaches to enhance translational science and medicine.

These proposals require at least two Co-Principal Investigators, one investigator whose primary research focus is in imaging methodology development and another investigator whose research is focused on biomedical science. At least one of the Co-Principal Investigators should have a primary appointment in the Perelman School of Medicine. All investigators must be members of ITMAT. Visit www.itmat.upenn.edu/membership.shtml for details.

The TBIC adopts a broad definition of imaging science and seeks proposals that focus on anatomic or functional imaging approaches that span from the microscopic to in vivo regimes. Proposals that include a broad range of imaging methods including image acquisition techniques, image analysis and imaging probe development will be considered. Funding will be based on scientific merit, potential downstream clinical impact and the likelihood that the project will generate independent funding to sustain the effort. Post-pilot award outcomes will be surveyed. The deadline for applications is December 6, 2013 for an award start date of February 1, 2014. Please visit www.itmat.upenn.edu/funding.shtml for more information related to funding.

For additional information related to TBIC, visit www.itmat.upenn.edu/cts/tbic/index.shtml or contact Drs. Mitchell Schnall at Mitchell.schnall@uphs.upenn.edu or James Gee at gee@mail.med.upenn.edu

www.upenn.edu/almanac
ALMANAC October 15, 2013
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, October 30, 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, October 22, 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 at (215) 898-7005 or ucouncil@pobox.upenn.edu

Format for University Council’s Open Forum
October 30, 2013

The University Council will devote a substantial portion of its October 30, 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. 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, October 22, 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 will be distributed to members of the University community.

4. Speaker’s 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 coloquy 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.

Abraham Cancer Center Pilot Project Awards: November 15

The Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania announces the availability of seed money grants for faculty to conduct cancer-related research projects.

Population Science Pilot Projects

The Abramson Cancer Center, with funding from the Center for Excellence in Environmental Toxicology (CEET), is soliciting proposals for pilot studies in the areas of Cancer Control and Tobacco and Environmental Carcinogenesis. Four awards for up to $40,000 in direct costs will be made as part of this competitive grant program. The funding will be allocated over one year and is expected to provide the support needed to conduct pilot studies that would, in turn, serve as preliminary data for an R01-type grant application. Faculty members at all levels are welcome to apply. Applications will be evaluated for scientific innovation, experimental rigor and the potential to generate external funding.

Responsive applications should propose research in one or more of the following areas:

1. Cancer Control: Behavioral science and health services research designed to further understand and improve the delivery and outcomes of cancer care. Areas of interest include genetics and epidemiology, risk communication and medical decision-making, health economics, quality of life and cancer survivorship and cancer disparities. Research using methods of secondary data analyses, survey research, mixed methods or development and evaluation of behavioral interventions are appropriate. Molecular epidemiology and genetics studies relevant to cancer also are encouraged. Applications are sought that address key scientific questions across the cancer spectrum of prevention, screening, treatment and survivorship. Pilot studies proposing to evaluate novel theoretical models or interventions are particularly encouraged.

2. Tobacco and Environmental Carcinogenesis: Basic, clinical and population-based research focused on enhancing understanding of the determinants of tobacco use and environmental risk factors for cancer and on interventions to improve detection or prevention of cancers associated with these exposures. Proposals that focus on the two primary scientific goals of the TEC program are encouraged. First, applications that aim to develop or test novel methods for preventing or treating nicotine dependence are sought, including studies that focus on understanding the determinants of tobacco use and cessation and the development of new treatments for nicotine dependence. Second, applications are encouraged that focus on enhancing understanding of the determinants of tobacco use and environmental carcinogens. In particular, applications are sought that focus on identifying the mechanisms that link cancer to environmental carcinogens, developing and validating biomarkers of carcinogenic exposure and response, identifying gene and gene-environment interactions in the susceptibility to carcinogens, expression profiling and imaging approaches that will enable early detection of lung cancer biology.

The following information applies:

1. Successful applicants will be notified by January 3, 2014. Funding will have a start date of February 1, 2014.
2. It is intended that four awards will be made in the amount of $40,000 each.
3. Awards will be for one year only.
4. Awards will be for direct costs only.
5. No carryover of funds past November 30, 2015 will be allowed.
6. Awards will be administered through the ACC.
7. Applicants selected for funding will be required to complete appropriate grant activation paperwork through the ACC by January 17, 2014.

The award period is February 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015.

Application instructions and materials are available at: www.penncancer.org/research/investigators-only/funding-opportunities/population-science-pilot-projects/

Questions concerning application submission may be directed to: Cecilia Scavelli, associate director for research administration, ACC, at (215) 349-8387, cecilia2@upenn.edu

Death

Mr. Han, Penn Museum
Mark C. Han, former research chemist in the Penn Museum from 1959-1979, passed away October 4 from cancer at the age of 79.

At the Penn Museum’s Applied Science Center for Archaeology (MASCA), Mr. Han set up and ran a research effort in thermoluminescence dating of pottery. After the funding ran out, he took a job with DuPont at their Experimental Station where he managed their GPC chromatography lab in the analytical division until his retirement. He also taught at Delaware Technical Community College and continued to do so even after retirement.

Born July 2, 1934, in the city of Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, China, Mr. Han came to the United States in 1953 and graduated from Erskine College in South Carolina. He earned two masters degrees from Penn, one in 1961 in chemistry and the other in 1964 in chemical engineering.

Mr. Han is survived by his wife, Gloria; sons, Daniel and David; sister, Mary Richard; and grandchildren, Andrew, Rachel, Abigail and Emily. Memorial contributions may be made to Wilmington Community Evangelical Church, 1512 Brackenville Rd., Hockessin, DE 19707 or to Delaware Hospice, www.delawarehospice.org

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 email almanac@upenn.edu

However, notices of alumni deaths should be directed to the Alumni Records Office at Room 517, Franklin Building. (215) 898-8156 or email record@bdev.upenn.edu

Mark Han

Mr. Han, Penn Museum

Mark C. Han, former research chemist in the Penn Museum from 1959-1979, passed away October 4 from cancer at the age of 79.
Duke Grant: Dr. Beatty
Dr. Gregory Beatty, an assistant professor in the division of hematology/oncology in the Abramson Cancer Center, received a three-year Clinical Scientist Development Award for $486,000 from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to support his clinical research efforts as he works to study the process by which pancreatic cancer spreads in the body and develop new therapies to treat the disease.

To conduct this work, Dr. Beatty will lead a team of investigators working to establish the necessary clinical data to develop monocye-directed immunotherapies designed to inhibit metastasis and tumor growth in patients with pancreas carcinoma and other solid malignancies.

Research Award: Dr. Cargnello
Dr. Matteo Cargnello, postdoctoral fellow in the department of material science and engineering in SEAS, is a recipient of the 2013 Debut in Research ENI Award. The award was created to develop better use of renewable energy, promote environmental research and encourage new generations of researchers. Dr. Cargnello’s research focuses on the synthesis of precise nanostructures, providing active and stable catalysts for the sustainable production of hydrogen by photocatalysis, fuel cell and electricity generation and methane emission control.

Faculty Pioneer: Dr. Guillén
Dr. Mauro Guillén, Dr. Felix Zandman Endowed Professor of International Management and professor of management in the Wharton School, won the Faculty Pioneer Award from the Aspen Institute for conceptualizing and designing the curriculum for the International Political Economy of Business course.

The award recognizes outstanding achievement in educating students about healthy capitalism, the responsibilities of business management and the decision rules that make for success while limiting burdens on society.

Dr. Guillén is director of the Joseph H. Lauder Institute of Management & International Studies and director of the Penn Lauder Center for International Business Education & Research.

IOM Anniversary Fellow: Dr. Halpern
Dr. Scott Halpern, assistant professor of both medicine and epidemiology at the Perelman School of Medicine, has been named an Institute of Medicine (IOM) Anniversary Fellow for a two-year term during which he will serve on an expert study committee and participate in other health and science policy work. The appointment comes with a $25,000 award.

A Senior Fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute (LDI), Dr. Halpern is also deputy director of the LDI Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics, director of the FIELDS Center for End-Of-Life Decision Science.

The IOM provides nonpartisan, evidence-based guidance to national, state and local policymakers, academic leaders, health care administrators and the public.

Outstanding Teacher: Dr. Lipshutz
Dr. William Lipshutz, a clinical professor of medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine, has been named the 2013 recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Clinical Teacher Award by the American College of Physicians. The award is presented to a fellow of the College who has consistently volunteered his or her services to teach medical students and residents, demonstrated outstanding teaching prowess, displayed exemplary characteristics of care and concern for patients and served as a role model and mentor.

Pender Award and Lecture: Dr. Lisakov
Dr. Barbara Lisakov, Institute Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the 2013 Harold Pender Award recipient. She was presented the award last month following her lecture “The Power of Abstraction” by Penn’s School of Engineering & Applied Science.

Dr. Lisakov is widely recognized for her work in programming languages, programming methodology and distributed systems. Her research interests span a wide range of topics within computer science, including distributed systems, replication algorithms to provide fault-tolerance, programming methodology and programming languages.

Her work in programming methodology led to the invention of the notion of data abstraction, which is an important underpinning of how software systems are organized today. She and her group designed and implemented CLU, the first programming language to support data abstraction. Her current research projects include Byzantine-fault-tolerant storage systems, online storage systems that provide confidentiality and integrity for the stored information, techniques for implementing databases on multicore machines to achieve good scalability and performance and investigation of new directions for programming languages.

International Research Fellowships
Two Penn doctoral students, Nam Woo Cho and Maryam Yousefi, a native of Iran, are third-year PhD student in the lab of Christopher Lengner, an assistant professor of animal biology in Penn Vet’s department of animal biology. Her project examines the relationship of calorie restriction to aging, looking specifically at the effects of diet on stem cell function.

Luce Grant: Dr. McDaniel
Dr. Justin McDaniel, associate professor and chair of the department of religious studies, won a three-year grant of $410,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation to help fund the Digital Library of Northern Thai Manuscripts project led by Harald Hundtius, David Wharton and Bounleut Thammachak.

Working with the staff at the National Library of Laos and Chiang Mai University, this project will make approximately 7,000 primary sources from this historically important region freely available for study via the Internet, together with related resources. The original texts are mostly written on palm-leaf and are stored in the libraries of Buddhist monasteries as well as in private collections.

The resulting Digital Library of Northern Thai Manuscripts will be the first major collection of manuscripts from Thailand to be made accessible via the Internet.

Veterinary Award: Dr. Reef
Dr. Virginia Reef, Mark Whittier and Lila Grisswold Allam Professor of Medicine in the School of Veterinary Medicine, is the recipient of The American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Robert W. Kirk Award for Professional Excellence.

The award is presented annually to an ACVIM Diplomate with an outstanding career in veterinary medicine including national and international recognition for contributions and service in activities such as clinical medical practice, instruction, research and/or public service.

Dr. Reef is also the director of large animal cardiology and diagnostic ultrasonography at the New Bolton Center.

Greenwall Scholar: Dr. Reese
The Greenwall Foundation named Dr. Peter Reese, assistant professor of medicine and epidemiology at the Perelman School of Medicine, as a 2013 Greenwall Faculty Scholar in Bioethics. The Greenwall Faculty Scholars Program supports research that goes beyond current work in bioethics to help resolve pressing ethical issues in clinical care, biomedical research and public policy.

Among other projects, Dr. Reese will conduct a randomized controlled trial of novel therapies to treat the disease.

To conduct this work, Dr. Beatty will lead a team of investigators working to establish the necessary clinical data to develop monocye-directed immunotherapies designed to inhibit metastasis and tumor growth in patients with pancreas carcinoma and other solid malignancies.

Research Award: Dr. Cargnello
Dr. Matteo Cargnello, postdoctoral fellow in the department of material science and engineering in SEAS, is a recipient of the 2013 Debut in Research ENI Award. The award was created to develop better use of renewable energy, promote environmental research and encourage new generations of researchers. Dr. Cargnello’s research focuses on the synthesis of precise nanostructures, providing active and stable catalysts for the sustainable production of hydrogen by photocatalysis, fuel cell and electricity generation and methane emission control.

Faculty Pioneer: Dr. Guillén
Dr. Mauro Guillén, Dr. Felix Zandman Endowed Professor of International Management and professor of management in the Wharton School, won the Faculty Pioneer Award from the Aspen Institute for conceptualizing and designing the curriculum for the International Political Economy of Business course.

The award recognizes outstanding achievement in educating students about healthy capitalism, the responsibilities of business management and the decision rules that make for success while limiting burdens on society.

Dr. Guillén is director of the Joseph H. Lauder Institute of Management & International Studies and director of the Penn Lauder Center for International Business Education & Research.

IOM Anniversary Fellow: Dr. Halpern
Dr. Scott Halpern, assistant professor of both medicine and epidemiology at the Perelman School of Medicine, has been named an Institute of Medicine (IOM) Anniversary Fellow for a two-year term during which he will serve on an expert study committee and participate in other health and science policy work. The appointment comes with a $25,000 award.

A Senior Fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute (LDI), Dr. Halpern is also deputy director of the LDI Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics, director of the FIELDS Center for End-Of-Life Decision Science.

The IOM provides nonpartisan, evidence-based guidance to national, state and local policymakers, academic leaders, health care administrators and the public.

Outstanding Teacher: Dr. Lipshutz
Dr. William Lipshutz, a clinical professor of medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine, has been named the 2013 recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Clinical Teacher Award by the American College of Physicians. The award is presented to a fellow of the College who has consistently volunteered his or her services to teach medical students and residents, demonstrated outstanding teaching prowess, displayed exemplary characteristics of care and concern for patients and served as a role model and mentor.

Pender Award and Lecture: Dr. Lisakov
Dr. Barbara Lisakov, Institute Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the 2013 Harold Pender Award recipient. She was presented the award last month following her lecture “The Power of Abstraction” by Penn’s School of Engineering & Applied Science.

Dr. Lisakov is widely recognized for her work in programming languages, programming methodology and distributed systems. Her research interests span a wide range of topics within computer science, including distributed systems, replication algorithms to provide fault-tolerance, programming methodology and programming languages.

Her work in programming methodology led to the invention of the notion of data abstraction, which is an important underpinning of how software systems are organized today. She and her group designed and implemented CLU, the first programming language to support data abstraction. Her current research projects include Byzantine-fault-tolerant storage systems, online storage systems that provide confidentiality and integrity for the stored information, techniques for implementing databases on multicore machines to achieve good scalability and performance and investigation of new directions for programming languages.

International Research Fellowships
Two Penn doctoral students, Nam Woo Cho and Maryam Yousefi of the Perelman School of Medicine and Maryam Yousefi of the School of Veterinary Medicine, received International Student Research Fellowships from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

The awards provide $43,000 of support per year to third- or fourth-year PhD students, enabling them to complete their studies in the United States, where it can often be difficult for international students to find funding opportunities.

Nam Woo Cho, a citizen of Canada who was born in South Korea, is an MD/PhD student in the lab of Dr. Roger Greenberg, associate professor of cancer biology in the Perelman School of Medicine. His project deals with the role of telomeres, the ends of chromosomes, specifically in cancer and aging.

Maryam Yousefi, a native of Iran, is a third-year PhD student in the lab of Christopher Lengner, an assistant professor of animal biology in Penn Vet’s department of animal biology. Her project examines the relationship of calorie restriction to aging, looking specifically at the effects of diet on stem cell function.

Luce Grant: Dr. McDaniel
Dr. Justin McDaniel, associate professor and chair of the department of religious studies, won a three-year grant of $410,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation to help fund the Digital Library of Northern Thai Manuscripts project led by Harald Hundtius, David Wharton and Bounleut Thammachak.

Working with the staff at the National Library of Laos and Chiang Mai University, this project will make approximately 7,000 primary sources from this historically important region freely available for study via the Internet, together with related resources. The original texts are mostly written on palm-leaf and are stored in the libraries of Buddhist monasteries as well as in private collections.

The resulting Digital Library of Northern Thai Manuscripts will be the first major collection of manuscripts from Thailand to be made accessible via the Internet.

Veterinary Award: Dr. Reef
Dr. Virginia Reef, Mark Whittier and Lila Grisswold Allam Professor of Medicine in the School of Veterinary Medicine, is the recipient of The American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Robert W. Kirk Award for Professional Excellence.

The award is presented annually to an ACVIM Diplomate with an outstanding career in veterinary medicine including national and international recognition for contributions and service in activities such as clinical medical practice, instruction, research and/or public service.

Dr. Reef is also the director of large animal cardiology and diagnostic ultrasonography at the New Bolton Center.

Greenwall Scholar: Dr. Reese
The Greenwall Foundation named Dr. Peter Reese, assistant professor of medicine and epidemiology at the Perelman School of Medicine, as a 2013 Greenwall Faculty Scholar in Bioethics. The Greenwall Faculty Scholars Program supports research that goes beyond current work in bioethics to help resolve pressing ethical issues in clinical care, biomedical research and public policy.

Among other projects, Dr. Reese will conduct a randomized controlled trial of novel therapies to treat the disease.

To conduct this work, Dr. Beatty will lead a team of investigators working to establish the necessary clinical data to develop monocye-directed immunotherapies designed to inhibit metastasis and tumor growth in patients with pancreas carcinoma and other solid malignancies.
methods to improve the rates of donor registration. Dr. Reese, who takes care of kidney transplant recipients and living kidney donors, focuses on developing effective strategies to increase access to kidney and liver transplantation.

**Onassis Medal: Dr. Rodin**  
*President Emerita Judith Rodin* was one of two recipients of the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Medal given by the Municipal Art Society of New York. The award is presented to individuals who, by their work and deeds, have made an outstanding contribution to New York City. The medal bears Mrs. Onassis’ name in recognition of her efforts to preserve and protect New York’s architecture.

**Scientific Achievement: Dr. Sehgal**  
*Dr. Amita Sehgal*, the John Herr Musser Professor of Neuroscience and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator at the Perelman School of Medicine, received the Outstanding Scientific Achievement Award for 2013 from the Association of Professional Sleep Societies. The award honors researchers for a single research contribution based on novel and seminal discoveries of a basic, clinical or theoretical nature.

Dr. Sehgal was recognized for her multiple high-impact discoveries in circadian biology during her career, including identifying the *Drosophila* fruit fly mutant, timeless, which was the second circadian clock mutant to be identified.

**Lifetime Achievement: Dr. Shaw**  
*Dr. Leslie M. Shaw*, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine in the Perelman School of Medicine, received the 2013 Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine from the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AAACC).

Individuals selected for this award have made significant contributions in all aspects of clinical chemistry, particularly service, education and research; and have achieved international stature and reputation by virtue of their efforts.

Dr. Shaw’s clinical and research interests include development and qualification of drug biomarkers, for inclusion in clinical trials, assessment of mechanisms underlying their changes over time, and in selected instances, introduction into the clinical laboratory as lab tests.

Dr. Shaw is the director of the Toxicology Laboratory and the Biomarker Research Laboratory at the department of pathology and laboratory medicine. He is also co-director of the Alzheimer’s Disease Neuroimaging Initiative Biomarker Core and the Parkinson’s Progression Markers Initiative in the Bioanalytics Core at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Career Award: Dr. Solomon**  
*Dr. Phyllis Solomon*, professor at the School of Social Policy & Practice, has been named as the Society for Social Work and Research’s Distinguished Career Achievement Awardee. The announcement was made in the 18th Annual Conference preliminary program. The award will be presented during the conference in San Antonio, Texas in January. Dr. Solomon is internationally known for her research on clinical services and service system issues related to adults with severe mental illness and their families.

**Norma Lang Award: Dr. Spatz**  
*Dr. Diane L. Spatz*, professor of perinatal nursing and the Helen M. Shearer Professor of Nutrition at the School of Nursing, is this year’s recipient of the Norma M. Lang Distinguished Award for Scholarly Practice and Policy. Dr. Spatz will give the 2nd annual lecture, *The Power of Human Milk & Breastfeeding: Translating the Science to Clinical Practice and Policy*, today, October 15, at Penn Nursing’s Ann L. Roy Auditorium at 3 p.m.

Dr. Spatz is an internationally renowned clinical nurse scientist who has translated the science of human milk and breastfeeding worldwide. She is also the director of the Lactation Program and a nurse researcher at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

**Clark Award: Mr. Steltenkamp**  
*Mike Steltenkamp*, a master’s student in mechanical engineering and applied mechanics (MEAM) in SEAS, is the recipient of a 2013 Thomas Arkle Clark Award from the Alpha Tau Omega (ATO) fraternity. As a submatriculant, Mr. Steltenkamp will graduate with both the BE and MSE degrees in MEAM this December.

The Thomas Arkle Clark Award was established as an incentive for young brothers to seek excellence in scholarship, leadership, service and the personal qualities of character, integrity and responsibility.

**App Award: Dr. Teitelman**  
*Dr. Anne Teitelman*, Patricia Bleznak Silverstein Professors at the University of Pennsylvania, and Howard A. Silverstein Endowed Term Professor at the School of Nursing, and colleagues, have been awarded first place in the Reducing Cancer Class of the 2013 Search and Seizure: Mapp v. Ohio. The film, which can be viewed at, *http://tinyurl.com/9qdzmb*, has been selected for a Chris Statuette Award, to be presented in November at the 61st annual awards ceremony of the Columbus International Film and Video Festival.

**World Champs: Team DARwIn**  
*Team DARwIn*, a robotics team in SEAS, is the winner of the 2013 RoboCup World Championships in the Humanoid Kid-Size League for the third straight year. The teams spent a week competing in this series for intelligent robots, going undefeated throughout the tournament against teams from Mexico, Indonesia, Germany, China (Tsinghua University) and Iran to reach the semi-finals.

The DARwIn robots, whose name stands for “Dynamic Anthropomorphic Robot with Intelligence,” were developed through collaboration between the University of Pennsylvania and Virginia Tech. The team is advised by Dr. Dan Lee, professor of electrical and systems engineering and director of the GRASP Lab.

See videos from the 2013 International Robocup Competition in Eindhoven, Netherlands here: [www.youtube.com/user/PennRobocup](http://www.youtube.com/user/PennRobocup)

**Telly Award: FlackCheck.org**  
*Two FlackCheck.org videos about an imagined 1864 campaign against Abraham Lincoln using today’s technology and ads are the recipients of 2013 Bronze Telly awards: Steamboat Veterans for Truth ([http://tinyurl.com/p5tvzlc](http://tinyurl.com/p5tvzlc)) and Battle Hymn ([www.flackcheck.org/lincoln-campaign/battle-hymn/](http://www.flackcheck.org/lincoln-campaign/battle-hymn/)).

The Telly Awards honor excellence in film and video productions, online video content, and local, regional and cable TV commercials and programs.

The site provides resources designed to help viewers recognize flaws in arguments in general and political ads in particular. Video resources point out deception and incivility in political rhetoric.

**Documentary Awards: Annenberg Classroom**  
Annenberg Classroom’s documentary *Search and Seizure: Mapp v. Ohio* has been chosen for a Chris Statuette Award, to be presented in November at the 61st annual awards ceremony of the Columbus International Film and Video Festival. The 25-minute film, produced by The Documentary Group, explores the landmark Fourth Amendment case in which the US Supreme Court determined that evidence illegally obtained by police is not admissible in state courts. The 1961 case, as told with the help of Dollree “Dolly” Mapp, redefined the rights of the accused and set limits on how police could obtain and use evidence.

The film, which can be viewed at, [http://tinyurl.com/9qdzmb](http://tinyurl.com/9qdzmb), is a project of the Leonore Annenberg Institute for Civics of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, in partnership with the Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands. The documentary has also won a Clarion Award from the Association for Women in Communications; a Certificate of Merit in the Educational Program category at the Chicago International Film Festival Television Awards; an Award of Excellence, Video for the Web/Educational Institution, at the Videographer Awards; and an Award of Excellence, Educational/Instructional/How To category in the Best Shorts competition.
Burrison Gallery at the University Club at Penn: 2013-14 Call for Submittals

The Burrison Gallery is calling for submittals of artwork to be considered for exhibition during the 2013-2014 academic year. Any Penn faculty, staff, alumna, alumnus or family member of these groups may submit work for consideration. Selected artists will be given a six-week, one person show at the gallery with the option of an opening reception. The deadline for submittals is January 15, 2014. Selected artists will be notified by February 15, 2014.

The Burrison Gallery is an entity of the University Club, a private club for faculty, staff, as well as associate members who include post-doctoral fellows, graduate students and alumni of the University of Pennsylvania. The Burrison Gallery provides a venue for artists in the University community. Maurice Burrison’s vision was to encourage artistic freedom. His legacy continues as the Burrison Gallery emphasizes the role of art and culture in strengthening collaborative relationships across the University.

Submittal packages should include the following form, available at www.business-services.upenn.edu/universityclub/burrison.shtml: a completed application form and at least ten digital images of individual works of art.

Works of art must be two dimensional; paintings, drawings, photography, prints, fabric pieces, etc.

Get Expert Help with Retirement Planning

In honor of National Save for Retirement Week, join us for a series of free retirement planning workshops from October 22 to October 24.

Professionals from TIAA-CREF, Vanguard and the Frank Financial Consulting Group will give you the knowledge you need to assess your retirement readiness and build a savings plan that’s right for you. For complete details and to register, visit https://www.hr.upenn.edu/myhr

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/22/13</td>
<td>11:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Retirement Savings at Mid-Career</td>
<td>Check your retirement savings pulse and learn how to move forward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/22/13</td>
<td>1:30-2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Income Options at Retirement</td>
<td>Discuss TIAA-CREF’s frequently asked questions about options for receiving your money when you retire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/23/13</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Six Steps to Help Secure Your Retirement</td>
<td>Learn how to assess and manage your retirement readiness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24/13</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Create Your Plan</td>
<td>Review savings goals, basic asset allocation, monitoring your investments and Vanguard’s resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24/13</td>
<td>1:30-2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Getting Ahead</td>
<td>Learn how to create a spending plan, determine net worth, manage debt and leverage employer benefits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24/13</td>
<td>3-4 p.m.</td>
<td>Six Steps to Help Secure Your Retirement</td>
<td>Learn how to assess and manage your retirement readiness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 register for programs by visiting knowledgelink.upenn.edu or by contacting Learning and Education at (215) 898-3400.

Brown Bag Matinee: Office Etiquette—Using Technology Effectively in the Workplace; November 5; noon-1 p.m.; free. Do you know how to promote good office etiquette? Proper workplace interaction impacts our workplace in many ways, including productivity and relationships. Join us to learn what office etiquette is all about, and how it impacts the workplace. Understand why we may have different perspectives of appropriate etiquette, and learn tactics for interacting with others who may not be practicing it. This session focuses on the appropriate use of technology at work, including email, phone, social networking and other electronic devices.

Brown Bag Matinee: Ten Tips for Making Your Boss Your Biggest Fan; November 5; noon-1 p.m.; free. What do you need to do to be a star in your boss’ eyes? Doing your job well is only half the picture. Let us walk you through ten tips for making your boss your biggest fan!

Beyond Service Excellence: Connecting with the People We Serve; November 7; 9 a.m.-noon; $75. The only customers who will keep coming back and who will be consistently loyal—and recommend your services to others—are those who feel emotionally connected. Learn how to leverage opportunities to make a connection and what behaviors strengthen a connection.

Career Focus Brown Bag: Acing the Interview; November 15; 11 a.m.-noon; free. Prepare to ace your next interview! Let us take you step-by-step through the process of preparing for your next important job interview. By the end of this workshop you will be able to positively present yourself to a hiring manager, ask the right questions and demonstrate that you are the perfect fit for the job. Bring your questions and let’s prepare for the interview!

Brown Bag Matinee: Fear of Feedback; November 20; noon-1 p.m.; free. Giving feedback to your staff can improve their performance and make you more effective as a leader and manager. Receiving feedback can enhance your career and make your job more rewarding. Watch this video to learn how to help others understand the value of feedback. You’ll learn how the power differential affects giving and receiving feedback and why you need to stop guessing what your boss wants and seek out the feedback you need.

Webinar: Career Management in the Age of the App; November 20; 12:30-1:30 p.m.; free. This session will provide you with a new framework for thinking about your career advancement and why you need to stop guessing what your boss wants and seek out the feedback you need.

Quality of Worklife Workshops

Dealing with the demands of work and your personal life can be challenging. These free workshops, sponsored by Human Resources and led by experts from Penn’s Employee Assistance Program and Quality of Worklife Department, offer information and support for your personal and professional life challenges. For complete details and to register, visit www.hr.upenn.edu/myhr/registration or contact Human Resources at (215) 573-2471 or qowl@hr.upenn.edu

Relaxing Ways to Manage Your Stress; November 13; noon–1 p.m.; free. Learn ways to implement a relaxation regimen at the beginning or end of the day—or both. Guided imagery also will be provided for an on-the-spot relaxation experience. Former participants are welcomed back to be reminded of tips for de-stressing and adding skills to their relaxation tool box.

Healthy Living Workshops

Get the tools you need to live well year-round. From expert nutrition and weight loss advice to exercise and disease prevention strategies, we can help you kick-start your body and embrace a healthy lifestyle. These free workshops are sponsored by Human Resources. For complete details and to register, visit www.hr.upenn.edu/myhr/registration and choose Health Promotions from the Browse by Category section. Or contact Human Resources at (215) 898-5116 or vyasar@upenn.edu

Gentle Yoga; November 6; noon–1 p.m.; free. Explore the natural movements of the spine with slow and fluid moving bends and soft twists. Gentle Yoga will make you calmer, less anxious and less stressed as you connect these movements to your breath to create a pattern of positive repetitive healing movements. And as an added bonus, you’ll get a workout in the process. Please bring your own yoga mat for this event.

Healthy Eating Tips for the Holidays; November 20; noon–1 p.m.; free. Learn how to eat healthier during the holiday season! Find out the functions of different ingredients, and how you can modify recipes to reduce fat and sodium. You’ll also get to sample a healthy holiday recipe: apple cranberry muffins made with apple sauce, whole grain flour and oats.

—Division of Human Resources
Penn's Way 2014–Raffle

Week 3 Prizes (Drawing October 21)
Philadelphia 76ers: Player signed photo
Penn Ice Rink: Two free admissions
Penn Restaurant & Wine Bar: $75 gift certificate
Camerone Riverhors: Four tickets
Ritz-Carlton Philadelphia: One night stay, including valet parking
Budget Car Rentals: $25 off a rental
Penn Business Services: Photo essay book

Penn Business Services: Nook Simple Touch
$ prizes valued at over $100 are subject to state and federal tax. Winners are offered the option of refusing the prize.

See www.upenn.edu/pennsway for more information about the Penn’s Way campaign.

Week 1 Winners (Drawing October 7)
Ardent Theatre Company: Two tickets–Courtney Brennan, SAS
Penn Ice Rink: Two free admissions–Meryl Littman, Penn Vet
Penn Business Services: Photo essay book–Lisa Frenz, Development
Penn Restaurant & Wine Bar: $75 gift certificate–Lindsay Johns, HUP
Colonial Airport Parking (PHL): Free parking (up to 10 days)–Lisa McClatchy, Development
Avon Car Rentals: A rental–Michael Swiszcz, Facilities & Real Estate Services
Eastern State Penitentiary: Two day tickets–Loriann Gagliardi, Presbyterian Medical Center

Reminder: Penn Family Day October 26

Penn faculty, staff and postdocs are invited to bring family and friends to the 11th annual Penn Family Day on Saturday, October 26. Cheer on Penn’s football team, visit the Penn Museum, go for a skate at the Penn Ice Rink and more. No matter what activities you plan to enjoy, be sure to attend the Penn Family Tailgate Party for food, fun and games. Keep in mind that you need tickets to attend some of the events. You can get up to four tickets for free and additional tickets are just $8 each. The ticket order deadline is Wednesday, October 16. Visit www.hr.upenn.edu/myhmy/appreciationfamilyday for full details.

Almanac
3910 Chestnut Street, 2nd floor Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106; or (215) 898-9137
URL: 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 Penn website) include HTML, Acrobat and mobile 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.

EDITOR
Marguerite F. Miller
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Natalie Woulard
ASSISTANT EDITOR
Victoria Fiengo
STUDENT ASSISTANTS
Gina Bastillo, Kelly Bannan, Min Kwak, Rachel Shaw

ALMANAC ADVISORY BOARD
For the Faculty Senate: Margaret Brechin (chair), Sunday Ahlentoft, Al Filreis, Carolyn Jarvis, Gary Mazer, Tess Wilkinson-Ryan. For the Administration, Stephen MacCarthey. For the Staff Assemblies, Nancy McCabe, PP&A, Michelle Wells Lockett, WPPSA; Jon Shaw, Librarians Assembly.

The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected class status in the administration of its admissions, financial aid, educational or athletic programs, or in its educational or employment policies. Questions or complaints regarding this policy should be directed to Sam Starks, Executive Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, Sansom Place East, 3600 Chestnut Street, Suite 226, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106; or (215) 898-6693 (Voice) or (215) 898-7603 (TDD).
Parents’ TV Viewing Habits Influence Kids’ Screen Time

The amount of time that children and teens spend watching television may have an impact on their health and development. According to a study in the August 2013 issue of Pediatrics, “The Relationship Between Parents’ and Children’s Television Viewing.” As part of the Annenberg Media Environment Study, the researchers — Annenburg Public Policy Center’s Dr. Amy Bleakeley, Dr. Amy Jordan and Dr. Michael Hennessy — interviewed 1,550 parents with children 17 years old or younger. They asked about the amount of time parents spent watching TV, DVDs or movies and shows on their computers, as well as the number of TVS in the home, which rooms the TVs were in, and how many rooms had computers with Internet access. They also asked about their children’s screen time as well as family rules about the amount of time spent on TV.

On average, parents spent four hours per day watching television, and those who watched more also had children who watched more. Parents’ time restrictions for their children around TV viewing only resulted in reduced screen time for the children in the 6- to 11-year-old age group. Many parents gave permission for their adolescent children to complete a survey about their TV viewing as part of the study, and these adolescents reported their daily average amount of screen time was nearly an hour more than their parents had estimated. The researchers found that parents’ TV viewing time had a stronger connection to children’s viewing time than did other factors such as rules about time limits, whether the children had a TV in the bedroom and co-viewing. Each hour of parental TV time resulted in almost an additional half hour of viewing time for their children. The authors conclude that this information is useful for education efforts about screen time and reinforces the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation that “parents should be good media role models.”

New Method for Harvesting Energy from Light

Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania have demonstrated a new mechanism for extracting energy from light, a finding that could improve technologies for generating electricity from solar energy and lead to more efficient optoelectronic devices used in communications. The study was published in the journal ACS Nano.

Dr. Dawn Bonnell, Vice Provost for Research and Trustee Professor of Materials Science and Engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, led the work, along with David Conklin, a doctoral student. The study involved a collaboration among additional Penn researchers, through the Nano/Bio Interface Center, as well as a partnership with the lab of Dr. Michael J. Thirion of Duke University.

The new work centers on plasmonic nanostructures, specifically, materials fabricated from gold particles and light-sensitive molecules of porphyrin, of precise sizes and arranged in specific patterns. Plasmons, or a collective oscillation of electrons, can be excited in these systems by optical radiation and induce an electrical current that can move in a pattern determined by the size and layout of the gold particles, as well as the electrical properties of the surrounding environment.

Because these materials can enhance the scattering of light, they have the potential to be used to advantage in a range of technological applications, such as increasing absorption in solar cells.

In 2010, Dr. Bonnell and colleagues published a paper in ACS Nano reporting the fabrication of a plasmonic nanostructure, which induced and projected an electrical current across molecules. In some cases they designed the material, an array of gold nanoparticles, using a technique Dr. Bonnell’s group invented, known as ferroelectric nanolithography.

The discovery was potentially powerful, but the scientists couldn’t prove that the improved transduction of optical radiation to an electrical current was due to the “hot electrons” produced by the excited plasmons. Other possibilities included that the porphyrin molecule itself was excited or that the electronic field could focus the incoming light.

“In our measurements, compared to conventional photocexcitation, we saw increases of three to 10 times in the efficiency of our process,” Dr. Bonnell said. “And we didn’t even optimize the system. In principle you can envision huge increases in efficiency.”

Devices incorporating this process of harvesting plasmon-induced hot electrons could be customized for different applications by changing the size and spacing of nanoparticles, which would alter the wavelength of light to which the plasmon responds.

“I imagine having a screen or a monitor or a TV in your bedroom that’s on your laptop that acted like a solar cell to power it using only sunlight,” Dr. Bonnell said. “These materials could also improve communications devices, becoming part of efficient molecular circuits.”

Major Cities, Often the Safest Places in the US

Overturning a commonly-held belief that cities are inherently more dangerous than suburban and rural communities, researchers from the Perelman School of Medicine and The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) have found that risk of death from injuries is lowest on average in urban counties compared to suburban and rural counties across the US. The study, which appears in the Annals of Emergency Medicine, found that for the entire population, as well as for most age subgroups, the top three causes of death were motor vehicle collisions, firearms and poisoning. When all types of fatal injuries are considered together, risk of injury-related death was approximately 20 percent lower in urban areas than in the most rural areas of the country.

“Perceptions have long existed that cities were innately more dangerous than areas outside of cities, but our study shows this is not the case,” said lead study author, Dr. Sage R. Myers, assistant professor of pediatrics, Perelman School of Medicine and attending physician, department of emergency medicine at CHOP. “These findings may lead people who are considering leaving cities for non-urban areas due to safety concerns to re-examine their motivations for moving. And we hope the findings could also lead us to re-evaluate our rural health care system and more appropriately equip it to both prevent and treat the health threats that actually exist.”

The study examined county-level data on all injury deaths across the US from 1999-2006 (because of their unusual nature, deaths from the 9-11 terrorist attacks were excluded).

Findings from the study support prior work showing that overall homicide rates are lower in rural areas than urban areas. This was found to be true in all age groups, except the oldest adults (over 65 years old). Suicide rates, on the other hand, showed an increase with rurality, but the increased rate of suicide death in rural areas only reached statistical significance for the two youngest age groups: 0-14 years and 15-19 years. However, the magnitude of homicide- and suicide-related deaths, even in urban areas, is far outweighed by the magnitude of unintentional-injury deaths — such as those from car crashes and falls — in nonurban areas, especially in rural nonurban areas. Specifically, the rate of unintentional-injury death is over 15 times that of homicide for the entire population and the risk of unintentional-injury death is 40 percent higher in the nation’s most rural counties compared to the most urban.

The research team found that the bulk of unintentional injury deaths result from motor vehicle crashes, with motor vehicle injury-related deaths occurring at a rate that is more than 1.4 times higher than the next leading mechanism of injury death. In rural areas, this difference is even more pronounced, where motor vehicle injury-related death rates are twice that of the next leading injury mechanism. Across the rural-urban continuum, the risk of motor vehicle-related injury death is two times more likely in rural areas as compared to the most urban.

“We think our work serves as a reminder that injury is an important health issue for Americans, wherever they live. Our findings can inform both targeted prevention efforts and strategic efforts to improve trauma care in the US. This work provides a real opportunity to build systems of medical care that are positioned to best care for the populations that depend upon them for life and limb saving treatment in their time of need,” said lead study author, Dr. Brenda G. Carr, assistant professor of emergency medicine and bio-statistics and epidemiology.

The researchers note that next steps in this line of research should focus on creating local injury priority scores — a relatively simple and objective tool that uses data available in trauma center registries to rank injury causes and contribute to both focused and proactive ways to continue to develop the US emergency and trauma care system to assure that all Americans receive the best emergency and trauma care possible. “Trauma has been a leader in planning for care from the population perspective,” said Dr. Carr, referencing the interactive trauma system mapping tool created at Penn, “but we’ve still got work to do.”