

# UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA *Almanac*

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## Additional \$5 Million Gift from Mindy and Jon Gray to Fund External Research Grant Program at Penn Medicine's Basser Research Center for BRCA

The University of Pennsylvania's Basser Research Center for BRCA has announced the Basser External Research Grant Program, a unique funding program for high impact translational cancer research projects aimed at advancing the care of people living with BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations. Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center, home to the Basser Center, will serve as steward of the \$5 million grant to four research teams that demonstrate the potential for translation into clinical practice. The grant

program is made possible by an additional \$5 million donation from University of Pennsylvania alumni Mindy and Jon Gray, bringing their total giving to Penn to \$30 million following their \$25 million gift that established the Basser Center in 2012 (*Almanac* May 22, 2012). They graduated from Penn in 1992. The new awards are a unique effort among academic institutions, which typically utilize philanthropic gifts to further research conducted by their own scientists.

"This generous award by the Grays will help expand the mission of the Basser Center by allowing us to support innovative researchers outside of Penn and widen the circle of those who are working to find new ways to prevent and treat cancers associated with BRCA mutations," said Dr. Susan Domchek, executive director of the Basser Research Center and the Basser Professor of Oncology at Penn's Abramson Cancer Center. "There are many research teams doing exceptional work in BRCA1/2 research who are finding it difficult to compete for the shrinking pool of federal and foundation funding for biomedical research, and this program provides a new avenue to accelerate progress across the field."

Research grant applications are being accepted for projects in basic science, prevention, early detection or targeted therapeutics relevant to the study of BRCA1/2. Two types of awards will be given to four promising innovative projects—such as immunologic approaches to preventing cancer, novel therapies unique to tumor

type and new methods for early detection—including:

**Basser Team Science Award:** A \$1 million, two-year (\$500,000/year), project will be awarded. The teams must have a minimum of two principal investigators and preference will be given to multi-institutional applications.

**Basser Innovation Award:** Three \$100,000, one-year, innovative idea projects will be awarded.

To date, more than 75 investigators have submitted letters of intent to apply for the grants. Applications are due on *February 14, 2014*. For information, visit the Basser Research Center website, <https://www.penncancer.org/basser/>

"As the nation's only center solely devoted to research into the prevention and treatment of BRCA-related cancers, the Basser Research Center for BRCA is uniquely positioned to help fund team science and original ideas," said Dr. Chi Van Dang, director of Penn's Abramson Cancer Center. "With these grants, we hope to support interdisciplinary, multi-institutional teams that take cutting-edge, creative research with the greatest potential to change clinical approaches to individuals predisposed to cancer resulting from BRCA mutations."

The Basser Research Center was established in memory of Mindy Gray's sister Faith Basser, who died of ovarian cancer at age 44.

Recognizing and funding leaders in the field of BRCA research is a cornerstone of the Basser Center's mission. Last year, the first Basser Global Prize was awarded to cancer biology and genetics expert Alan Ashworth, chief executive officer of the Institute for Cancer Research in London and leader of the Gene Function team in the ICR's Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Centre. As part of the award, Dr. Ashworth, a pioneer in efforts to develop therapies to target cancer cells that contain BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations, will give the keynote address at the annual Basser Research Center for BRCA Symposium in May 2014. Also in 2013, the Basser Center awarded its second year of grant funding—more than \$2 million—to 19 Penn investigators representing a wide array of disciplines. Together, they are studying topics ranging from potential vaccine therapies to prevent BRCA1/2-related cancers to optimal nutrition and exercise for BRCA-positive cancer survivors to managing the side effects associated with prophylactic ovary removal.



Mindy and Jon Gray

## Brookings Institution: Tops List of Penn's Global Think Tank Index

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania has released its seventh annual "Global Go To Think Tanks Report," the most comprehensive ranking of the world's top think tanks and again the Brookings Institution tops the list.

The index has become the gold standard for think tanks around the world and is widely cited by governments, donors, journals and policymakers. The World Bank hosted the release in Washington. Regional events took place in more than 30 global cities to announce the report, which was translated into 13 languages.

"In the world filled with tweets and sound bites that are often superficial and politically charged, it is critical to know where to turn for sound policy proposals that address the complex policy issues that policymakers and the public face," said James McGann, director of Penn's Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program. "This Index is designed to help identify and recognize the leading centers of excellence in public policy research around the world."

The report is compiled with assistance from more than 1,500 peer institutions and experts from the print and electronic media, academia, public and private donor institutions and governments around the world and ranks the top 150 global think tanks across four general categories.

Brookings Institution ranked top of the Global Think Tank list for the sixth consecutive year.

### Top Think Tanks World Wide—US and Non US

1. Brookings Institution (United States)
2. Chatham House (United Kingdom)
3. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (United States)
4. Center for Strategic and International Studies (United States)
5. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sweden)

### Top Defense and National Security Think Tanks

1. Center for Strategic and International Studies (United States)
2. RAND Corporation (United States)
3. International Institute for Strategic Studies (United Kingdom)
4. Brookings Institution (United States)
5. Chatham House (United Kingdom)

### Top Foreign Policy and International Affairs Think Tanks

1. Brookings Institution (United States)
2. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (United States)
3. Chatham House (United Kingdom)
4. Council on Foreign Relations (United States)
5. Center for Strategic and International Studies (United States)

### Best New Think Tank

1. Instituto PVBICA (Brazil)
2. Russian Council on International Affairs (Russia)
3. Centre Africain des Etudes Asiatiques (Morocco)

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# Deaths

## Dr. Golub, Dental Medicine



Ellis Golub

Dr. Ellis Golub, a professor in the department of biochemistry in the School of Dental Medicine, passed away January 22 at age 71.

"After joining the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine standing faculty as an assistant professor in 1977, Dr. Golub's career quickly flourished and he spent the next 37 years rising through the ranks as a productive scholar and valuable citizen of the School, University and scientific community," said Dr. Denis Kinane, Morton Amsterdam Dean in the School of Dental Medicine. "His warm personality and affable manner endeared him to all who knew him. He was an outstanding scientist and teacher to all."

Dr. Golub chaired the department of biochemistry from 1996-2003 and later as interim chair from 2009-2013.

His laboratory primarily involved two research areas: calcification of hard tissues and computer applications in biochemistry and molecular biology. He had been involved in the development of computer programs for predic-

tion and graphical display of protein secondary structure from sequence. In the calcification area, he focused on the cellular mechanisms necessary for initiating hard tissue mineral formation. His teaching activities included biochemistry courses for first-year dental students and lectures to post-doctoral dental students.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Golub was active in University and School governance, serving on University Council, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and numerous Dental Medicine committees.

He held memberships in the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, American Chemical Society, American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, American Association for the Advancement of Science, International Association for Dental Research and the Protein Society.

Born in New York, Dr. Golub earned his BA in chemistry from Brandeis University in 1963 and his PhD in biochemistry from Tufts University in 1969. He completed a fellowship at the California Institute of Technology and was a research associate at the University of Connecticut Health Center before coming to Penn.

Dr. Golub is survived by his wife, Linda; children, Michael Golub, Daniel Golub and Karen Kelly; sister, Ilene Franzmann; and grandchildren, Maia, Isaac, Eva, Logan, Emma and Chloe.

Contributions may be made to Philabundance, [www.philabundance.org](http://www.philabundance.org)

## Ms. Holleran, Penn Freshman



Madison Holleran

Madison Holleran, a freshman in the College, passed away January 17 at age 19.

Ms. Holleran was a graduate of Northern Highlands High School in Allendale, New Jersey, where she was captain of both her track and soccer teams. She was a member of the Penn Track and Field team.

Ms. Holleran is survived by her parents, James and Stacy; siblings, Carli Rach Bushoven, Ashley, Mackenzie and Brendan Holleran; and grandparents, Norman and Leola Sherman and Eileen Holleran.

Donations may be made to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 120 Wall St., New York, NY 10005.

## 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](mailto:almanac@upenn.edu)



## Grants Available for Groups: February 14

The Trustees' Council of Penn Women (TCPW) is pleased to announce its 2014-2015 Grants Program and encourages members of the University community to apply.

Grants ranging between \$1,000-\$5,000 will be available to individuals or organizations which promote:

- women's issues
- the quality of undergraduate and graduate life for women
- the advancement of women
- the physical, emotional and psychological well-being of women

Favorable consideration will be given to projects that:

- affect a broad segment of the University population
- foster a greater awareness of women's issues
- provide seed money for pilot programs that have the potential to become ongoing self-supporting programs

To apply, visit the TCPW website at [www.alumni.upenn.edu/tcpwgrants](http://www.alumni.upenn.edu/tcpwgrants) and download the application from the TCPW Grant web page. Applications must be submitted no later than *February 14, 2014*. Awards will be announced in the Spring of 2014 and funds will be distributed in July/August 2014 for projects in the 2014-2015 academic year.

## Penn Libraries' Musical Technical Services Librarian: Steve Mantz

The Penn Libraries announced the appointment of Steve Mantz, who recently joined the staff of the Otto E. Albrecht Music Library as Music Technical Services Librarian, succeeding Brad Young, who retired last May.

Mr. Mantz will oversee operations related to the acquisition, cataloging and shelf preparation of scores, sound recordings and video recordings, including the development of policies and procedures and the supervision of staff. He provides access to these materials by cataloging them for local and national online catalogs and works with the Rare Book and Manuscript Library in the cataloging of rare music scores and manuscripts. He also plans and oversees the creation of metadata for digital projects related to music materials.

Mr. Mantz came to Penn from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he was music catalog librarian and supervised a music cataloging department similar in size and scope to Penn's. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (MLS; MA in musicology) and he started his career as music technical services supervisor at UNC (1989-1994) before becoming the music librarian at Davidson College in North Carolina (1994-2008).

His professional activities have included serving on the Music Library Association Board of Directors (2009-2011), editing the Association's newsletter (2002-2009) and participating in a number of committees related to music cataloging.



Steve Mantz

## Brookings Institution: Tops List of Penn's Global Think Tank Index

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Dr. McGann presented the Report at the World Bank and participated in a discussion with Warren Krafink, director of the International Budget Partnership and Jeff Thindwa, manager of the Social Accountability Practice at the World Bank Institute.

"Our partnerships with civil society and non-government organizations and think tanks located around the world have made this index possible and the most comprehensive yet," Dr. McGann said. "This report helps bring some much needed attention to the leading think tanks in each region and illustrates the important role think tanks play in governments and civil societies around world."

The full reports since 2008 can be found at <http://gotothinktank.com/rankings> A video introducing this year's Index is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6H7TrPYeR64>

About Penn's Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program:

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the International Relations Program, University of Pennsylvania, conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. TTCSP was established in 1989. The program maintains a database and network of more than 6,600 think tanks in 152 countries. Often referred to as the "think tanks' think tank," TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations. The index is supported by Penn's School of Arts & Sciences, International Relations Program, PennGlobal and the Luder Institute at the Wharton School. Additional information is available at [www.gotothinktank.com](http://www.gotothinktank.com). Media inquiries may be made to Allison Bozniak at [abozniak@lincolnparkpr.com](mailto:abozniak@lincolnparkpr.com)

# Honors & Other Things

## Federal ECCC: Dr. Carr



Brendan Carr

*Dr. Brendan G. Carr*, assistant professor of emergency medicine and epidemiology at the Perelman School of Medicine, has been named director of the Emergency Care Coordination Center (ECCC). Following a landmark report on the future of emergency care by the Institute of Medicine, the ECCC

was created by Presidential Directive in order to improve national preparedness and response by promoting research, regional partnerships and effective emergency medical systems. The ECCC exists within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness & Response (ASPR) within the US Department of Health & Human Services.

“Appointment into this prestigious role within the federal government will allow Dr. Carr to bridge his academic and policy work and brings national attention to his body of work at Penn,” said Dr. Jill M. Baren, chair of the department of emergency medicine and chief of emergency services at the University of Pennsylvania Health System. “During his time in Washington, Dr. Carr will maintain his faculty position and academic appointment at Penn and will continue to work clinically in the emergency department at HUP.”

## Young Investigator: Dr. Cubukcu

*Dr. Ertugrul Cubukcu*, assistant professor in the department of materials science and engineering in Penn Engineering, is the recipient of a 2014 Young Investigator Award from the IEEE Photonics Society. This award honors his “contributions to photonics beyond the diffraction limit with nanoantenna-based devices and sensors.” This award was established to honor an individual who has made outstanding technical contributions to photonics prior to his or her 35th birthday.

Dr. Cubukcu’s research lies at the interface of engineering, physics, material science and biology with the main themes of nanophotonics and nanotechnology.

## President, Surgery Academy: Dr. Drebin



Jeffrey Drebin

*Dr. Jeffrey A. Drebin*, chair of the department of surgery at the Perelman School of Medicine and the John Rhea Barton Professor of Surgery, has been elected the 2014 president of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, the oldest surgical society in the US.

He is the co-principal investigator on a \$22 million clinical and translational “dream team” award from

the Stand Up to Cancer Foundation for innovative studies in pancreatic cancer. They are developing tests using advanced imaging technology to better understand pancreatic cancer cells and develop new, personalized treatments based on that research.

“I’m honored to be stepping into this new role at the Academy,” said Dr. Drebin. “It’s a great privilege to follow in the footsteps of those before me who I have admired, including several past presidents from Penn and lead such a historically significant and impactful society in 2014.”

## Five Penn Medicine Researchers Among Top Gene Therapy Researchers Selected by Journal

The peer-reviewed journal *Human Gene Therapy* is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2014 by publishing a series of Perspectives by top researchers in the field of cell and gene therapy. Five scientists from the Perelman School of Medicine are among the 21 investigators who will be honored throughout the next 12 months.

The scientists, who have made seminal contributions for an extended period of time, were chosen for their seminal contributions to the field in a “ground breaking clinical study or a basic/technical advance that has substantially influenced the direction and/or trajectory of translational research,” according to the journal. In some areas, the Pioneer award was shared among more than one scientist because seminal work within a programmatic area could not be fairly singled out.

The Pioneer awardees from Penn are:

*Gene therapy for eye disorders (co-awardee): Dr. Jean Bennett*, F.M. Kirby Professor of Ophthalmology; professor of cell and developmental biology

*Vector integration and tumorigenesis (co-awardee): Dr. Frederic D. Bushman*, professor of microbiology

*CARs for cancer gene therapy/lentiviral gene therapy clinical trials: (co-awardee) Dr. Carl H. June*, the Richard W. Vague Professor in Immunotherapy; professor of pathology and laboratory medicine; director of translational research in the Abramson Cancer Center

*Basic and clinical gene therapy for hemophilia: (co-awardee) Dr. Katherine A. High*, the William H. Bennett Professor of Pediatrics, Perelman School of Medicine; director, Center for Cellular and Molecular Therapeutics, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

*Basic and clinical AAV vector development: Dr. James M. Wilson*, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine; director, Gene Therapy Program

## John Scott Award: Dr. Dutton

*Dr. P. Leslie Dutton*, Eldridge Reeves Johnson Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the Perelman School of Medicine, is a recipient of the John Scott Award, one of the top prizes in the world of science and medicine.

Dr. Dutton, whose lifetime of research into the mechanism of electron transport, holds the key to fundamental explanations about the energy of all living cells. “To win this award, and to win it in Philadelphia for electron transfer, is a total treat for me,” said Dr. Dutton. “My work is essentially bioelectricity—electron transfer through proteins that provide the energy by which cells exist—can trace its roots back through the centuries to Philadelphia and the work of Benjamin Franklin and his work in the discovery of electricity here in Philadelphia.”

Dr. Dutton is a Fellow of the Royal Society. He also serves as director of the Johnson Foundation for Molecular Biophysics.

## Churchill Scholarship: Ms. Foster

*Sarah Foster*, a senior at the University of Pennsylvania, has been awarded a Winston Churchill Scholarship, a merit-based award for American college students who are outstanding in engineering, mathematics and physical and biological sciences. The scholarship will support her studies at the University of Cambridge, where she will live at Churchill College.

Ms. Foster, of Ashland, Ohio, is pursuing a bachelor’s degree with a triple major in physics, biochemistry and biophysics, as well as a master’s degree in chemistry. She is a Vagelos Scholar, was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa as a junior and won the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship in 2013.

Ms. Foster is one of 14 US students awarded Churchill Scholarships this year.

## IEEE Fellow: Dr. Lee

*Dr. Dan Lee*, professor in the department of electrical and systems engineering in Penn Engineering, has been elected an IEEE Fellow for “contributions to machine learning algorithms for perception and motor control.” IEEE Fellow is a distinction reserved for select IEEE members whose extraordinary accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest are deemed fitting of this prestigious grade elevation. IEEE is the world’s largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.

Dr. Lee’s research focuses on applying knowledge about biological information processing systems to building better artificial sensorimotor systems that can adapt and learn from experience.

## Research Award: Dr. Sommers

*Dr. Marilyn (Lynn) Sawyer Sommers*, the Lillian S. Brunner Professor of Medical-Surgical Nursing in Penn Nursing, has been named the 2013 recipient of the Sigma Theta Tau International Elizabeth McWilliams Miller Award for Excellence in Research, given at the STTI 42nd Biennial Convention in Indianapolis.

The research program she pioneered is collaborative and interdisciplinary and is focused on human response to injury in general, with particular emphasis on risk-taking behaviors that lead to injury, as well as on the physical consequences of injury which are major international healthcare priorities. Dr. Sommers’ findings have revealed difference in the treatment of women following sexual assault due to differences in skin color.

She is also director of the Center for Global Women’s Health at Penn Nursing.

## Book Award: Dr. Tresch

*Dr. John Tresch*, associate professor of the history and sociology of science in Penn’s School of Arts & Sciences, received the 2013 Pfizer Prize for Best Scholarly Book from the History of Science Society (HSS) for *The Romantic Machine: Utopian Science and Technology after Napoleon*. The Pfizer Prize recognizes an outstanding book in the history of science and is the highest honor awarded by the HSS for a single work of scholarship.

“Romantic Machine is as imaginative and provocative as the works of the scientists and philosophers that make up its raw materials,” wrote the prize committee. “It is also a model of historical writing: clearly structured, clearly written and synthetic, it unfolds texts, images and contexts with masterful ease. It is a pleasure to read a book that is not only transformative but inspirational.”



Lynn Sommers

# 2014 Summer Camps and Programs at Penn

Penn offers children and teens an array of summer activities from academics, enrichment and recreation—including anthropology, nursing, law, veterinary medicine and music—to more than a dozen athletic sports camps—from baseball to volleyball. For more information and applications see the specific contact information below. Additional camps and programs may be available on the Penn Athletics website, [www.pennathletics.com](http://www.pennathletics.com) under Sports and the Summer at Penn website, <http://summeratpenn.upenn.edu>

## ACADEMICS

**Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD) Program at Wharton:** July 6-August 2. The LEAD Program introduces youth of diverse backgrounds to key areas of business. First established at Wharton in 1980 and reflecting a long-standing commitment to developing business leaders through business education, the LEAD Program at Wharton features lectures by corporate executives and Wharton faculty, team-based assignments and visits to businesses in Philadelphia, Washington, DC and New York City. Cost: \$2,800 with financial assistance available. Deadline: February 5. Apply: [www.wharton.upenn.edu/academics/LEAD.cfm](http://www.wharton.upenn.edu/academics/LEAD.cfm)

**Leadership in the Business World (LBW):** July 6-August 2. LBW is a program for talented and ambitious rising seniors in high school who want to learn about leadership in business. LBW features classes with Wharton professors, lectures from prominent business leaders, site visits to businesses in Philadelphia and New York City and team-based activities designed to enhance leadership skills. Cost: \$6,595, need-based financial aid is available. Deadline: February 21. Apply: [www.wharton.upenn.edu/academics/lbw.cfm](http://www.wharton.upenn.edu/academics/lbw.cfm)

**Management & Technology Summer Institute (M&TSI):** July 13-August 2. M&TSI is a three-week for-credit program for rising high school seniors and a select few rising high school juniors who want to learn how to bring together technological concepts and management principles. M&TSI features classes taught by leading Wharton and Engineering faculty and successful entrepreneurs, as well as laboratory experience, field trips to companies and research and development facilities, intensive team projects and activities designed to help students learn the principles and practice of technological innovation. Cost: \$6,000, includes tuition, housing, meals and weekend excursions. Deadline: March 1. Apply: [www.upenn.edu/fisher/summer-mt/mt-summer-overview](http://www.upenn.edu/fisher/summer-mt/mt-summer-overview)

**Wharton Sports Business Academy:** July 6-August 2. This residential institute provides an opportunity for talented rising high school juniors and seniors to study the global sports business at the Wharton School. Teaches students about management, marketing, media, negotiations and various professions in the industry as they meet and learn from leaders in the sports business world. Cost: \$6,995, financial aid is available. Deadline: March 1. Apply: <http://wsb.wharton.upenn.edu/businesseducation-wsba.html>

**Julian Krinsky Summer Internship Program:** June 29-July 19, July 20-August 9. Depending on their chosen field, students will work in an office, lab, studio, museum, behind the microphone or on the stage where they learn about the field, get work experience and live away from home on Penn's campus. Transportation is provided to and from work. For rising high school juniors and seniors. Cost: \$5,495/session, \$10,990/both sessions. Deadline: May 1. Apply: [www.jkcp.com/program/summer-internships/](http://www.jkcp.com/program/summer-internships/)

**International Affairs with Model UN:** July 6-August 2. The residential program for students ages 15-18 features debate, public speaking and research workshops, realistic UN simulations and guest speakers. Enjoy field trips to the United Nations in New York City and Embassy Row in Washington, DC. Plus, experience culture through cuisine in Philadelphia. The program is designed to accommodate both new and experienced students. Cost: \$6,295. Deadline: Rolling basis. Apply: [www.jkcp.com/modelun](http://www.jkcp.com/modelun)

**Art and Architecture Summer Programs:** PennDesign offers two four-week summer programs (part of Julian Krinsky Camps and Programs) for high school students, ages 14-18, one in architecture and one in art. These programs prepare students for college admissions as they experience college life and create their portfolio. Dates: July 6-August 2. Cost: \$3,550/commuter and \$5,975/residential. Deadline: June 1. Info.: Megan Sweeney, [megansw@design.upenn.edu](mailto:megansw@design.upenn.edu) Apply for the art program at [www.jkcp.com/program/art-summer-at-penn/](http://www.jkcp.com/program/art-summer-at-penn/); apply for the architecture program at [www.jkcp.com/program/architecture-summer-at-penn/](http://www.jkcp.com/program/architecture-summer-at-penn/)

**Penn Summer Academies:** Open to rising sophomore, junior and senior residential and commuting students. July 6-July 26. Cost: \$7,299 (residential), \$6,199 (commuter). Additional lab fees may apply for science academies. Deadline: June 1. For additional details and to apply, see [www.sas.upenn.edu/summer/programs/highschool](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/summer/programs/highschool)

**Art in the City Academy:** Acquaints students with the diverse world of visual culture, both historic and contemporary. This program introduces students to concepts of art production and analysis, street art, museum art, religious architecture and art history. Daily site visits and interactive workshops provide students with the tools and techniques to fully document and analyze artistic culture.

**Biomedical Research Academy:** Introduces students to the experimental basis of biology, including relevance to disease. Morning lectures cover the cellular, molecular and genetic aspects of biology, while afternoons will be spent in the laboratory with hands-on experiments that introduce students to the tools and techniques used in biomedical research labs.

**Chemistry Research Academy:** Provides students with hands-on experiences in cutting-edge research projects in the chemical sciences, including synthesis and characterization of new compounds and materials, chemistry of life processes, spectroscopy and environmental photochemistry, nanoscale materials and molecular devices.

**Experimental Physics Research Academy:** Focuses on modern physics with an emphasis on hands-on experience and laboratory work. Program topics include mechanics, electromagnetism, quantum dynamics and astrophysics.

**Social Justice Research Academy:** Students examine the historical importance and contemporary relevance of struggles to overcome inequality and injustice using past and present examples, such as peasant revolts, slave rebellions, anti-colonial and anti-apartheid independence movements, the Arab

Spring, the Occupy movement and ongoing human rights campaigns across the globe.

**Penn Summer Pre-College Program:** This five-and-a-half-week residential program is designed for students who are interested in a college experience typical of an undergraduate freshman. Participants enroll in one or two undergraduate courses for academic credit and are fully integrated with undergraduate students. Academic advising, extra-curricular activities and weekend trips are included. Open to rising juniors and seniors. July 2-August 9. Deadline: June 1. For costs and to apply, see [www.sas.upenn.edu/summer/programs/highschool/precollege](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/summer/programs/highschool/precollege)

**Penn Summer Young Scholars Program:** This five-and-a-half-week commuter program is an opportunity for academically exceptional local high school students to take college courses with Penn students and earn full college credit. Young Scholars can pursue their favorite discipline beyond the level offered in secondary schools, get a head start on their college requirements or explore a brand new field that interests them. Open to rising 11th and 12th grade students. July 3-August 8. Deadline: June 1. For costs and to apply, see [www.sas.upenn.edu/summer/programs/highschool/youngscholars](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/summer/programs/highschool/youngscholars)

**Summer Student Ambassador Program at Pennsylvania Hospital:** Dates TBA. The Volunteer Services Office at Pennsylvania Hospital offers the Student Ambassador Program for ages 14-17. Participants receive a behind-the-scenes look at health care careers. Applications will be available in March. To apply, call (215) 829-5187.

**Penn GEMS Camp (Girls in Engineering, Math and Science):** The School of Engineering & Applied Science's Penn GEMS program is a week-long day camp targeted at girls finishing 6th, 7th and 8th grade who are interested in math, science and engineering. Students will spend July 28-August 1 working with faculty and students in bioengineering, materials science, graphics and computing. Applications will open February 3. Cost: \$625, financial assistance is available. Register at [www.seas.upenn.edu/awel/gems](http://www.seas.upenn.edu/awel/gems) Deadline: April 1. Contact: Michele Grab, [mgrab@seas.upenn.edu](mailto:mgrab@seas.upenn.edu)

**Penn Medicine Summer Program:** A residential medical program, July 6-August 2, for rising high school seniors. Students are guided and taught by Penn Medicine faculty and staff and are immersed into the world of medicine as they explore the career possibilities available to medical students. Cost: \$6,950. Deadline: June 1. Apply: [www.jkcp.com/program/penn-medical-high-school-summer-program/](http://www.jkcp.com/program/penn-medical-high-school-summer-program/)

**Teen Research and Education in Environmental Science (TREES) Summer Program:** Hosted by the Center for Excellence in Environmental Toxicology, TREES offers students from local high schools (rising sophomores, juniors and seniors) a unique, hands-on research experience, lectures in environmental science, field trips and more. Students develop their own research projects. The tuition-free program lasts for eight weeks, June 23-August 8. The deadline to apply is March 1. Apply: [www.med.upenn.edu/ceet/summerprograms.shtml](http://www.med.upenn.edu/ceet/summerprograms.shtml)

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**Summer Academy in Applied Science and Technology (SAAST):**

Sponsored by Penn Engineering, SAAST offers an opportunity for rising 10th-12th graders to experience rigorous and challenging college-level coursework. The residential program from July 6-26 combines sophisticated theory with hands-on practical experience in cutting-edge technologies. Five programs are offered in the Academy: biotechnology, computer graphics, computer science, nanotechnology and robotics. The priority deadline is March 13 and the final deadline is May 15. Contact: Paige Harker, (215) 898-0053. For cost and registration, see [www.seas.upenn.edu/saast](http://www.seas.upenn.edu/saast)

**Penn Summer Science Initiative for High School Students:**

A free, four-week summer program, July 7-August 1, for local juniors, but occasionally well-qualified sophomores, in materials science and engineering. The program consists of lectures on materials, a computer lab, experimental labs and field trips to both industrial and Penn facilities. Apply by April 15: [www.lrsm.upenn.edu/outreach/pssi.html](http://www.lrsm.upenn.edu/outreach/pssi.html)

**Provost Summer Mentorship Program:**

July 8-August 1. Participants will gain knowledge in multiple fields of study, while also gaining exposure to the benefits of post-secondary education. This free program is for current 9th and 10th grade students who are currently enrolled in a public or charter school within the Philadelphia School District. Course programming is offered in the schools of Dental Medicine, Engineering & Applied Sciences, Law, Medicine and Nursing. Apply: [www.vpul.upenn.edu/aap/smp/index.php](http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/aap/smp/index.php) by April 11. Applications will be available February 10.

**Penn Law Pre-College Summer Academy:**

July 6-26. Whether they would like to better understand how the legal system works, what lawyers do, or think they might want to be a lawyer someday, this residential academy is designed to give motivated rising high school juniors and

seniors as well as college freshman and sophomores, clear insight into US law and the legal profession. Cost: \$6,999. Apply: [www.summer-discovery.com/penn-law](http://www.summer-discovery.com/penn-law)

**VETS (Veterinary Exploration Through Science):**

VETS is a program offered by Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine for college/post bac and current high school juniors and seniors. The program will engage students who will take part in labs and lectures as well as rotations through clinics with the fourth year veterinary students at the Matthew J. Ryan Small Animal Hospital. This day program runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday each program week (four weeks total). VETS is offered for college/post bac: June 9-13, June 16-20; high school juniors/seniors: July 7-11, July 14-18. Cost: \$975. Deadline: April 3. For information, visit: [www.vet.upenn.edu/education/admissions/summer-vets-program](http://www.vet.upenn.edu/education/admissions/summer-vets-program)

**ENRICHMENT AND RECREATION**

**Anthropologists in the Making:**

June 23-August 22. Penn Museum invites campers ages 7-13 to join in a fascinating exploration of ancient and contemporary cultures. Each week highlights a different theme, offering campers the opportunity to enjoy one week or all eight. This year's themes are:

- June 23-27: Worn and Adorn
  - June 30-July 3: Gift of the Nile
  - July 7-11: Digging China
  - July 14-18: When in Rome
  - July 21-25: World Mythology
  - July 28-August 1: Gift of the Nile
  - August 4-8: Heroes, Giants and Monsters
  - August 11-15: Ancient Egyptian Magic
  - August 18-22: Way of the Warrior
- Register by May 1: \$275, \$255/members.  
Register after May 1: \$295, \$275/members. Penn



Museum members at the household level and above receive \$20 off each week. Pre-camp (8-9 a.m.) and after-camp (3-5 p.m.) care is also available for additional fees. Call (215) 898-4016, email [summercamp@pennmuseum.org](mailto:summercamp@pennmuseum.org) or visit <http://penn.museum/camp>



Photo by Tiffany Stahl

Arboretum Camp Counselor, Peter Learning leads campers on an exploration for aquatic life during a discussion about the importance of biodiversity in Philadelphia.

**Morris Arboretum Summer Adventure Camp:**

This year, there will be six weeks of summer exploration (9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) with a variety of themes to satisfy inquisitive minds 6 to 10 years of age. Campers will interact with the natural world by keeping field journals, hiking in the woods, exploring the Arboretum's streams and enjoying activities designed around each week's theme:

- June 23-27: Birding Buddies
- July 7-11: Green Gardeners
- July 14-18: Sensational Summer Science
- July 21-25: History Crusaders
- July 28-August 1: Habitats Hunters
- August 4-8: Arboretum Artists

Register on or before February 28 to secure a guaranteed place for your child and to receive an early bird discount of 15% off camp tuition. Go to <http://online.morrisarboretum.org/summer> camp  
Arboretum members: \$265; non-members: \$285.

**Penn Band High School Summer Music Camp:**

July 27-August 2. This camp, for those in grades 9-12, includes fun activities, lectures, leadership and group building exercises and a diverse repertoire of band music. Audition not required, but evaluation form (completed by music director or private instructor) must be submitted. Fee: \$825 (overnight) or \$395 (commuter). Children of Penn faculty/staff are eligible for a 10% discount. Sponsored by the Penn Band, Penn Athletics and Destination Penn. Deadline: July 15. Register: [www.pennband.net/pebc/](http://www.pennband.net/pebc/) or call (215) 898-8719.



Photo by Felice Macera

Participants in the Penn GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Math and Science) Camp designing their catapult during a mechanical engineering activity.

# 2014 Summer Camps and Programs at Penn

(continued from page 5)

## ATHLETICS

### Penn Baseball Camps

Penn employees, call (215) 746-2325 for a discount. Register: [www.pennbaseballcamp.com](http://www.pennbaseballcamp.com)  
**High School Summer Prospect Camp:** June 16-17; camp for 9th-12th graders will consist of instruction and competitive games allowing the camper to have a true college baseball experience. Cost: \$375/day, \$475/overnight.

**Youth Quaker Baseball Camp @ Meikeljohn Stadium:** July 21-24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. An organized and structured camp that focuses on preparing young player (ages 7-13) to refine their game. Competitive and challenging drills will be performed every day. Cost: \$270.

### Basketball Camps

Cost and dates will be posted on [www.pennathletics.com](http://www.pennathletics.com) in a few weeks.

**Men's Basketball Team Camp:** Open to all High School Boys' Varsity and JV teams. Camp is one day and games will be played at the historic Palestra. It is a tournament style round robin format. Date TBD.

**Men's Elite Basketball Camp:** For high school boys who seek a strong academic and athletic camp environment. Training sessions will also be held to inform campers of the college process. Date TBD.

**Women's Elite Basketball Camp:** June 19-20 & August 7-8. Designed for highly motivated female student-athletes who have the will and desire to play basketball at the collegiate level. Coach McLaughlin will teach you how to play with defensive intensity as well as bring your offensive game to the next level. It will be a rigorous program that will help you reach your goals as a college athlete.

**Quaker Basketball Day Camp:** Provides each camper with a great opportunity for growth and success. The staff is comprised of collegiate and high school coaches as well as members of the Penn men's and women's team, who will work closely with the campers on the fundamentals and team concepts of the game. Date TBD.

**Junior Fencing Camp:** July 20-August 2; day camp: ages 9-13, Cost TBA; residential camp for ages 14-17 (\$1,095/week). Gain a better understanding of practice techniques, fundamental actions, bout structure, strategy, tactics and conditioning. The material of the camp program should enable the camper to be more effective in training and competing during the following season. Individual lessons are geared toward each fencer's particular needs. Registration begins in early February: [www.fencingcampatpenn.com](http://www.fencingcampatpenn.com)

**Penn Elite Field Hockey Camp:** July 6-8; Camp will challenge players to elevate their game to the next level with high intensity skills sessions and games reflective of collegiate play. Open to all high school age players. Cost: \$525/overnight, \$450/commuter. For more information, see <https://pennfieldhockeycamps.com/elite.php>

### Al Bagnoli All Star Football Camps:

**One Day Clinics:** June 27, June 28, July 13 & July 19, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Designed to benefit advanced football players who possess the skills necessary to compete at the collegiate level. The Penn coaching staff will provide personalized coaching and conduct drills. Clinics open to players entering grades 11-12, kickers, punters included; \$135/session. Register: [www.pennfootballcamp.com](http://www.pennfootballcamp.com)

**Penn Lacrosse Elite Camp:** Day camps: June 30, July 1, July 10, July 11; for girls entering grades 9-12. Athletes will be grouped based on ability and challenged accordingly. The staff is comprised of college coaches who will run each session like a college practice. Cost: \$250/camp, \$225/2 or more camps, \$200/camp if register by February 1. Register: <https://pennlacrosseccamps.com>

**Quaker Rowing Camp:** June 24-27 (day camp only), July 14-19, July 21-26 and July 28-August 2; \$1,175/overnight, \$675/commuter; for both the experienced and novice rower (ages 13-18) looking to significantly improve their rowing ability. Instruction and coaching will be geared to the experience level and talents of each camper. Includes two daily practices on the water as well as active seminars on erg training and body circuits. Register: [www.quakerrowingcamp.com](http://www.quakerrowingcamp.com)

**Penn Soccer Day Academy:** Session 1: June 9-13; Session 2: June 16-20; Session 3: June 30-July 3 (\$260); Session 4: July 21-25; Session 5: August 11-15; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Cost: \$310. For boys and girls in 1st-8th grade.



It offers players of various skill levels the opportunity to improve their soccer skills. Development of individual skills taught through fun exercises, daily competitions and small games. Campers also get time to swim. Register: [www.pennsocceracademy.com](http://www.pennsocceracademy.com)

**Penn Softball Camp:** Dates TBA: June 2014. For the serious player looking to refine offensive and defensive techniques; ages 13-18. Cost TBA. Details/register: [www.pennsoftballcamps.com](http://www.pennsoftballcamps.com)

**Quaker Swim Camp:** Session 1: June 16-20, Session 2: June 23-27, Session 3: July 7-11. A beginner-to-intermediate swim camp that is focused on quality drill work and learning proper swimming technique for swimmers ages 5-15. Cost: \$400/competitive, \$450/learn to swim, \$375/two or more family members. Contact: Mike Schnur: [mschnur@upenn.edu](mailto:mschnur@upenn.edu)

**Penn Tennis Camp:** A day camp for players of all experience levels, ages 5-17. Camp will run for three one-week sessions, August 11-15, August 18-22 and August 25-29. Each of the one-week sessions will focus on stroke production and technical skills, while incorporating sportsmanship and teamwork. The camp runs Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost: \$370/one-week session or discounted rate of \$335/week for all three sessions. After-camp care is available from 3:30-6 p.m. for a fee of \$15 per day. Register: [www.penntenniscamp.com](http://www.penntenniscamp.com) or call (215) 315-3130.



### Penn Volleyball Camps

Players will be grouped by skill and age level to maximize her potential and improve to the next level of play. Campers benefit from extensive, top-notch training in the areas of individual skill progressions, team systems and competition drills. Register: [www.pennvolleyballcamp.com](http://www.pennvolleyballcamp.com)

**Penn Volleyball Clinic Series:** August 4-7 (AM and PM sessions). Open to all girls, grades 3-12. Cost: \$60 per 3 hour session.

**Penn Volleyball Summer Camp:** August 7-10 (overnight and extended day). Open to all girls, ages 12-18. Cost: \$650/overnight; \$550/extended day.

The Power Down Challenge is Penn's annual campus energy reduction competition in select residential and non-residential buildings. During the competition, building residents are asked to try and reduce their energy use the most over a multi-week period and raise awareness of the environmental impacts of energy usage.

**POWER  
DOWN  
CHALLENGE  
2014**

The Power Down Challenge will be held from February 3-March 2, 2014 in all 11 Penn College Houses and seven non-residential campus buildings.

### College House Competition

The residential buildings in the competition are the 11 College Houses and Sansom Place, which is the same as in previous years.

In the College Houses, the energy savings results will be tallied based on two different measurements of reduction: percent reduction in average daily kWh usage and reduction in average daily kWh use per capita. The buildings with the largest reductions in each of these categories will be recognized as overall winners.

Last year's winner was the Stouffer College House.

### Campus Building Competition

The non-residential buildings competing in this year's competition are:

- Towne Building, SEAS
- Meyerson Hall, School of Design
- Biomedical Research Building II, Perelman School of Medicine
- Williams Hall, SAS
- Law School Complex
- Graduate School of Education
- Huntsman Hall, Wharton

In the non-residential buildings, the energy savings results will be tallied based on two different measurements of reduction: % reduction in average daily kWh usage and reduction in average daily kWh use per square foot. The buildings with the largest reductions in each of these categories will be recognized as overall winners.

Last year's winner was the Jaffe Building.

### New this Year: Data Collection

Data for the competition will be collected by Operations and Maintenance staff in Facilities and Real Estate Services using the new remote-reading software system. This software corresponds with the campus-wide meter renovation and allows for data to be collected using an electronic system instead of manually reading the meters. Buildings not yet installed with these new meters are not able to compete this year—but everyone is still encouraged to learn about ways to save electricity and help Penn move towards its Climate Action Plan goals.

### Posting of Results—Tuesdays

Daily electricity meter readings will be posted to the online Dashboard weekly. The competition will measure electricity usage within the designated building.

The Green Campus Partnership will post results and information via email, social media (@GreenPenn), the Green Campus Partnership website and the online competition Dashboard. Results will be posted on Tuesdays with data from the previous week.

Power Down Challenge Champions will be announced on Wednesday, March 5.

Awards include cash prizes and certificates of recognition.

# Update

January AT PENN

## EXHIBIT

**31** *Be Alarmed: The Black Americana Epic Movement I—The Visions*; artifacts or film memorabilia sculpted by Tiona McClodden that reveal more of the overall film's narrative as well as McClodden's personal and familial biography; reception: *January 31, 5 p.m.*; Esther Klein Gallery. *Through March 15.*

## ON STAGE

**29** *(Re) Sounding Truth*; music, poetry and conversation on suffering and transcendence; Mia Chung, Curtis Institute; Herman Beavers, English & Africana Studies; Jim Sykes, Ethnomusicology, The Excelano Project; 7:30 p.m.; Irvine Auditorium; student ID holders given priority (Veritas at Penn).

## RESCHEDULED

**30** *WXPN Policy Board Meeting*; noon; WXPN, 3025 Walnut St.; open to the public; info.: (215) 898-0628.

## TALKS

**29** *LOT-EK*; an award-winning architectural design studio based in New York and Naples; Ada Tolla and Giuseppe Lignano, LOT-EK; 6:30 p.m.; rm. B1, Meyerson Hall (Penn Design).

**30** *What's Wrong with World Literature?*; Nikil Saval, Marco Roth, editors *n+1*; Jean-Michel Rabate, curator of Discursive Projects at Slought; Shaj Mathew, Andrew W. Mellon Fellow of the Penn Humanities Forum, moderator; 6 p.m.; Slought Foundation (Slought Foundation).

## AT PENN Deadlines

The January and February AT PENN calendars are online at [www.upenn.edu/almanac](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac). The deadline for the March AT PENN calendar is Tuesday, February 11.

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

## Almanac on Penn Mobile Website

*Almanac* is available on Penn's mobile website, in addition to *Almanac's* other familiar paper-free options such as the website, RSS Feed and weekly *Express Almanac* email. Users can access the complete issue of *Almanac*—the University's official journal of record, opinion and news—from their mobile devices by choosing "*Almanac*" under the category of "News" from the mobile site's homepage, <http://m.upenn.edu>

# One Step Ahead

Security & Privacy  
Made Simple

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

## The Password is Dead, Long Live the Password!

Ten years ago Bill Gates, the chairman and founder of Microsoft, made a bold prediction: "*the password is dead.*" He was referring to the limitations of using a single, reusable string of characters to protect our most sensitive digital assets.

And Gates was right. Chances are good that you (or someone you know) have been the victim or target of password theft. Compromised email accounts are used to send spam to everyone in your address book. Hacked financial accounts are used to transfer money and redirect deposits. Exposed computer accounts can be used to steal data and commit identity theft.

Because of these motives, attackers have devised a number of ways to get passwords, including:

- Phishing, where they pose as a person or service (e.g., your IT support person or your bank) and they ask you to email or enter your information in what looks like a legitimate communication.
- Malware that can log your keystrokes and send your passwords and account data over the network.
- Brute force, where they guess weak passwords one character at a time.

So what can we do? Bill Gates' admonition aside, it has been nearly impossible in the intervening decade to find a practical replacement to the password.

Fortunately, that has changed with the proliferation of smart phones. ISC is currently piloting Two Step Verification (two-factor) for PennKey. This service protects your PennKey by requiring both a password and a code generated on your phone: [www.upenn.edu/computing/weblogin/two-step/](http://www.upenn.edu/computing/weblogin/two-step/) It is easy to set up, has little impact on your day-to-day experience, is a powerful antidote to stolen passwords and is available now to anyone with a PennKey. Multi-factor authentication is also available on many popular commercial services (such as Facebook, Google, Twitter, etc.)

For more information about Penn's Two Step Verification pilot, contact your Local Support Provider or [security@isc.upenn.edu](mailto:security@isc.upenn.edu)

## Faculty/Staff Blood Drive Today

University of Pennsylvania Faculty and Staff American Red Cross Blood Drive will take place *today, January 28, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.* in Hall of Flags, Houston Hall. Register online, <http://tinyurl.com/m8za8e8>

See the American Red Cross website for donation tips and donor eligibility guidelines, [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

## Increases in US Postal Rates

Penn Mail Services would like the Penn community to know that the United States Postal Service (USPS) has adjusted prices for mailing services as of January 26, 2014. Customers will experience rate increases as shown below:

### Highlights of Select Rates

Mail Type	New Rate
One ounce First-Class Mail letter	\$0.49, up \$.03
Single-piece letter, additional ounce rate	\$0.21, up \$.01
Postcard	\$0.34, up \$.01
One ounce letter to international destinations	\$1.15, up \$.05

Other price changes, such as Business Reply Mail (BRM), also went into effect on January 26. To learn more about all of the changes which may impact your postage budget bottom line, download the new USPS rate charts at [www.usps.com/new-prices.htm](http://www.usps.com/new-prices.htm) for more details.

## Portable 3-Year Academic Calendar



Did you know that Penn's new 3-year academic calendar is available on *Almanac's* website, Penn's mobile website and as a printable PDF?

You can also get the calendar to sync with MS Outlook, Apple iCal, Google calendar and your mobile devices by visiting [www.upenn.edu/almanac/acadcal.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/acadcal.html) and following the instructions from the link at the top of the page.

# Almanac

3910 Chestnut Street, 2nd floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3111  
Phone: (215) 898-5274 or 5275  
FAX: (215) 898-9137  
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URL: [www.upenn.edu/almanac](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac)

The University of Pennsylvania's journal of record, opinion and news is published Tuesdays during the academic year, and as needed during summer and holiday breaks. Its electronic editions on the Internet (accessible through the 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.

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## The University of Pennsylvania Police Department Community Crime Report

**About the Crime Report:** Below are all Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Society from the campus report for **January 13-19, 2014**. Also reported were 29 Crimes Against Property (22 thefts, 2 frauds, 2 other offenses, 1 vandalism, 1 drunkness and 1 disorderly conduct). Full reports are available at: [www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v60/n20/creport.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v60/n20/creport.html) Prior weeks' reports are also online. —Eds.

This summary is prepared by the Division of Public Safety and includes all criminal incidents reported and made known to the University Police Department between the dates of **January 13-19, 2014**. The University Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from the Schuylkill River to 43rd Street in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police. In this effort to provide you with a thorough and accurate report on public safety concerns, we hope that your increased awareness will lessen the opportunity for crime. For any concerns or suggestions regarding this report, please call the Division of Public Safety at (215) 898-4482.

01/19/14 3:40 PM 3741 Walnut St Female spit on male during argument

### 18th District Report

Below are the Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 5 incidents with 1 arrest (2 assaults, 1 aggravated assault, 1 robbery and 1 purse snatch) were reported between **January 13-19, 2014** by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

01/14/14	12:24 AM	4200 Chester Ave	Assault
01/14/14	12:48 AM	245 S 46th St	Aggravated Assault/Arrest
01/14/14	1:24 AM	47th & Baltimore Ave	Assault
01/15/14	8:21 PM	4409 Sansom St	Robbery
01/15/14	8:57 PM	4500 Market St	Purse Snatch

## What I've Learned about Teaching from Other Faculty

Karen Detlefsen

Penn's faculty is a fount of exciting teaching ideas. I learned this early in my time at Penn when my students would regularly mention the virtues of one professor or another. Recognizing the opportunity to improve my own abilities in the classroom, I would probe: What makes a given instructor so good? What does she do so differently than others? What do you think you'll remember about his course long after you graduate? From these early conversations, I amassed a lot of teaching tips—tips about techniques and approaches I could adopt in my own classrooms, and a recognition that not everything that works well for one professor, or in one field of study, could work for me, or in philosophy.

Valuable as those word-of-mouth ideas were, I have recently gained much more insight by sitting in on the classes of some of Penn's master teachers. What prompted this practice was a year-long workshop I attended on "Teaching Large Lectures," run through Penn's Center for Teaching and Learning. As part of our 'homework,' I attended a few colleagues' classes. Observing teachers in diverse fields of inquiry has allowed me to draw lessons from an especially wide range of teaching styles. Here are just three of those many lessons.

### *The Value of Connecting Abstract Ideas with Student Lives*

What—if any—cancer risks are associated with frequent cell phone use? This was a question that Gary Bernstein from physics posed to a group of mostly freshmen in order to set the context for the lecture. With this problem set, there followed a discussion of highly abstract and complex material covering radiofrequency energy—a discussion that ranged well beyond the immediate question of cell phone use, though it addressed that issue, too. Gary might have simply launched into the abstract material, seemingly disconnected from student lives, but then he might also have quickly lost the attention of his audience. Instead, by starting with a question highly relevant to the students, and continually referring the abstract concepts back to the concrete opening problem (and other such problems introduced throughout the hour), he held a rapt audience.

Much of my own teaching is in 17th to 18th century philosophy, and much of this is in the abstract areas of metaphysics and epistemology—stuff far indeed from the daily concerns of the 21st century young adult. In order to maintain as engaged an audience as possible, I have tried to take a page out of my physics colleague's playbook whenever possible: start with a question or scenario highly relevant to our students' lives, and then show how seemingly moribund philosophical texts help to address precisely this question or scenario, often with highly compelling insights. For example, when teaching Hume's epistemology, I ask students if they believe that to be held morally responsible for their actions, they must also be free either to perform or not to perform these actions. Consistently, a large majority of my students believe they must be free in this way. I then spring the surprising claim: Hume believed that moral responsibility requires that our actions be determined, and he believed that our being determined is perfectly consistent with our being free. From this direct connection to a matter of significant importance to the students' lives, together with Hume's own puzzling beliefs, we move into a discussion of Hume's more abstract theory of belief formation and related topics, which help to explain and make compelling his beliefs about responsibility—material that might have captured the students' interest less vividly had I not tied it directly to issues directly relevant to them.

### *The Value of Students Studying the Very Foreign*

Still, I cannot always find that significant and compelling connection between my students' lives and early modern theoretical philosophy. Moreover, I think teaching the very foreign as foreign, and giving students the opportunity

to venture into new and strange territory, can yield valuable results.

I learned this from Tamara Walker in history who sets an assignment for her students to write a fictitious letter from the perspective of a 16th century colonial subject—slave, colonial officer or Indian. In doing so, she requires that her students leave behind their own perspectives as fully as possible in order to explore a world and way of being very foreign to them. Providing students this opportunity to expand their horizons so far beyond the familiar has obvious educational benefits, and I have adopted the spirit of this approach in my own teaching.

When teaching Leibniz's metaphysics, for example, I prepare my students for this often strange material by noting the extraordinary advances he made that helped pave the way for subsequent innovations in human thought. With Leibniz's intellectual power and lasting legacy established, I then lead the students through his baroque, and often bizarre, metaphysical system, explaining the brilliant and rigorous reasoning behind that system. I have two aims with this exercise. First, I aim to get students to understand that there are often very solid reasons behind very foreign ways of thinking, reasons they can strive to understand and appreciate, even if the results of those reasons do not resonate with them. This patient and charitable exploration of, and appreciation for, how very foreign ways of thinking can emerge is a valuable skill to develop because it permits a fuller understanding of both the past and less familiar contemporary ways of thought. But I have a second goal as well, and that is to show students an example of a fertile and brilliant mind that produced many, many ideas that have fallen by the wayside, but that also produced many ideas that significantly shaped major innovations in subsequent centuries. In doing so, I hope to encourage a willingness in our students to engage in risky yet rigorous thinking, understanding that failures (often many and spectacular failures) are to be expected when producing successes.

### *Enthusiasm Comes in Many Forms*

I have vibrant memories of one of my own undergraduate professors slowly prowling back and forth at the front of the classroom only occasionally making eye contact with the members of the class, simply running a constant narrative for the duration of the class period. This might seem to be a formula for disaster in the classroom, and yet we students were captivated from start to finish. What made us so was our professor's unmistakable love of the material and the artful way he designed the flow of the narrative to draw his students into the material. Occasionally, he would conclude with a "cliffhanger" to be taken up the next class, though we certainly didn't need the cliffhanger to be encouraged to return.

This professor's enthusiasm didn't fit the model of a dynamic bundle of physical energy directly connecting with the individuals in the class, but it was clearly enthusiasm nonetheless. In my observations of my own colleagues, and in my many discussions about teaching with them, I have come to think of enthusiasm as a combination of a delight in the material we teach together with a desire to somehow draw students into sharing that delight. Whether it be that dynamic bundle of energy, or the quietly delivered story designed to keep the students in its thrall or the weekly chat sessions (distinct from office hours) where groups of students can meet the professor at a local café to pursue ideas discussed in class, there are a myriad of ways we can express our enthusiasm as teachers. Seeing so many models of this by observing other professors has suggested to me new ways of connecting with my students.

Watching my colleagues in action in the classroom has been, and will continue to be, an extremely valuable source of teaching ideas as I continue to learn what does and doesn't work for me, and how to adapt innovative techniques to my own philosophy classroom.

*Karen Detlefsen is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Education in the department of philosophy in SAS. In 2007, she received the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Award for Distinguished Teaching by an Assistant Professor in SAS.*

*This essay continues the series that began in the fall of 1994 as the joint creation of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Lindback Society for Distinguished Teaching.*

*See [www.upenn.edu/almanac/teach/teachall.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/teach/teachall.html) for the previous essays.*