Michael A. Fitts, dean and Bernard G. Segal Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, has been named president of Tulane University in New Orleans. He will assume the post on July 1.

An expert in administrative law who joined Penn Law as a professor in 1985, Dean Fitts has been dean since 2000 (Almanac March 7, 2000). During that time, he transformed the Law School’s curriculum, promoting an interdisciplinary approach to legal education while encouraging a collaborative environment central to the School’s pedagogical mission.

“Mike Fitts is an inspired choice to become the next president of Tulane University,” Penn President Amy Gutmann said. “He is a skilled and strategic leader, whose vision has propelled Penn Law to even greater heights among the pre-eminent law schools in our nation. Under his direction, Penn Law has become an unrivaled leader in cross-disciplinary legal education, which is an essential feature of first-rate education in today’s increasingly complex global society.”

During his 14-year tenure, Dean Fitts grew the size of the standing faculty by 40 percent, while quadrupling the number of cross-cutting academic institutes at Penn Law. He oversaw the creation and expansion of innovative programs to attract top student talent, doubling the availability of financial assistance for students, leading to a 78 percent increase in applications for admission. Dean Fitts led the Bold Ambitions fundraising campaign for the Law School, exceeding the campaign goal and raising more than $200 million.

“It’s been my honor and privilege to have spent my academic career devoted to this wonderful institution,” Dean Fitts said. “Working with the talented students, faculty and staff at Penn has truly been a joy. Together we’ve achieved so much that has enriched the intellectual climate at the Law School and the University more broadly. These relationships will last a lifetime.”

Dean Fitts oversaw the creation of cross-disciplinary programs that include 35 degree and certificate programs offered in partnership with schools and graduate departments across the University, as well as new interdisciplinary courses and clinical programs within the law curriculum. Nearly two-thirds of the current class will graduate with joint degrees or certificates.

He further demonstrated the Law School’s commitment to public interest with a multi-million dollar increase in funding for students working in public interest and government positions, an expansion of the Toll Public Interest Scholars and Public Interest Fellows programs and the introduction of Public Interest Week. Moreover, he expanded Penn Law’s generous loan forgiveness program, ensuring that graduates pursuing careers in service can have significant student loan burdens eliminated.

He has supported significant growth in international programming, establishing institutional study abroad and research partnerships throughout Asia and Europe, while overseeing the creation of the Global Research Seminar, International Human Rights Fellowship program and Global Forum. Dean Fitts has also overseen the introduction of the Center on Professionalism, a program designed to educate students in the full set of executive skills required by top employers in the changing marketplace.

Dean Fitts spearheaded the physical transformation of the Law School, culminating in the new Golkin Hall project, a $33.5 million, 40,000-square-foot building that was completed in January 2012 (Almanac April 10, 2012). The project capped a multi-year top-to-bottom renovation of Penn Law’s interconnected buildings.

Dean Fitts has also been a great citizen of the University of Pennsylvania, modeling the collaboration across schools that has spurred Penn to the heights of American universities in integrating knowledge across disciplines and demonstrating the impact of knowledge in our nation and across the globe.

### Penn Libraries Joins Japan-US Global ILL Framework Project

Penn Libraries recently joined the Japan-US Global ILL Framework (GIF) Project, facilitated by the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC). Participation in the GIF Project will benefit both Penn and Japanese academic libraries by establishing ease of lending and document delivery and enabling closer collaboration and stronger reciprocal relationships between institutions.

Membership in the GIF Project will also allow faculty and students engaged in Japanese studies at Penn to obtain materials related to their research that previously required travel to Japan in person, thereby vastly increasing opportunities for specialized and advanced research at Penn.

The GIF Project is a reciprocal InterLibrary Loan (ILL) agreement between North American and Japanese academic libraries and research institutes to provide North American researchers with access to materials not available through normal ILL channels, and Japanese researchers access to materials not held in Japan. More than 160 Japanese libraries and 90 North American libraries participate in GIF.

Penn’s participation in the GIF Project comes at a time when Japanese Studies at Penn have been increasing in popularity. Established at the University of Pennsylvania in 1952, courses in Japanese studies at Penn to obtain materials held by no other libraries in North America, and some not even in Japan. At right is a rare magazine from 1884-1885 owned by Penn Libraries; Hōbunkai chi is held by no other library in North America and only a handful are owned by libraries in Japan. The Penn Libraries offer more than 65,000 volumes of monographs and subscriptions to 179 journals in Japanese. Today, the scope of Japanese studies research at Penn includes the humanities and the social sciences, with particular strength in literature, religion, performing arts, political and diplomatic history, medieval studies, the history of philosophy and women’s studies.

The Penn Libraries’ collections comprise more than seven million volumes, one million of which are in electronic form; over 100,000 journals; and extraordinary rare and unique materials that document the intellectual and cultural experience of ancient and modern civilizations.

To learn more about the Penn Libraries, visit [www.library.upenn.edu](http://www.library.upenn.edu)
Faculty Senate Executive Committee Agenda
Wednesday, February 12, 2014
Room 205, College Hall
3–5 p.m.

1. Approval of the Minutes of December 11, 2013 (5 minutes)
2. Chair’s Report (5 minutes)
3. Past-Chair’s Report on Academic Planning and Budget & Capital Council (5 minutes)
4. Discussion on the Tobacco Divestment Proposal (45 minutes)
   With Bill Bratton and Michael Weisberg
5. Discussion on the AAU Undergraduate STEM Education Initiative and Innovative Teaching Strategies (30 minutes)
   With Dennis DeTurck, Larry Gladney, Rebecca Maynard and Beth Winkelstein
6. Health Schools’ C-E Track Change Proposal (25 minutes)
   Discussion and Vote with Santosh Venkatesh, Chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty and the Academic Mission (SCOF)
7. New Business (5 minutes)

COUNCIL
From the Office of the University Secretary

Agenda for University Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 19, 2014 4 p.m.
Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall

I. Approval of the minutes of the January 29, 2014 University Council meeting (1 minute)
II. Follow up comments or questions on Status Reports (5 minutes)
III. Vote on Tobacco Divestment Proposal (15 minutes)
IV. A review and discussion of the findings of the Commission on Student Safety, Alcohol and Campus Life (30 minutes)
V. Open Forum (65 minutes)
VI. New Business (5 minutes)
VII. Adjournment

Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania
Winter Meetings
February 27 & 28, 2014
All meetings will be held at the Inn at Penn.
Thursday, February 27
8:30–10 a.m.
Local, National & Global Engagement Committee
Woodlands AB
10:15–11:45 a.m.
Joint Meeting: Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity/Academic Policy Committee
Woodlands CD
Facilities & Campus Planning Committee
Woodlands AB
1:45–3:30 p.m.
Student Life Committee
Woodlands CD
3:45–5:15 p.m.
Budget & Finance Committee
Woodlands AB

Friday, February 28
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Stated Meeting of the Trustees
Woodlands ABCD

Open House at Van Pelt Library:
An Active Learning Classroom
Collaborative spaces bring learners and teachers together in new and powerful ways. Learn about support services for revamping courses, hear from practitioners and students and discover the advantages of teaching in the Library.
On Thursday, February 27, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, there will be an open house on the 1st floor.
4 p.m.: Remarks
• Carton Rogers, Vice Provost and Director of Libraries
• Bruce Lenthall, Executive Director of CTL and Advisor on Educational Initiatives to the Vice Provost for Education
• Ameena Ghaffar-Kucher, Senior Lecturer and Associate Director, International Educational Development Program, Graduate School of Education
• Michelle Ho, 2013 Chair, Student Committee on Undergraduate Education (SCUE)
• Santosh Venkatesh, Chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty and the Academic Mission (SCOF)
4:30–5:30 p.m.: Explore the room and enjoy refreshments
Co-sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) and the Student Committee on Undergraduate Education (SCUE). For more information: Karrie Peterson, peka@upenn.edu

Symposium on the Impact of Natural Gas Drilling on Public Health and the Environment
The University of Pennsylvania’s Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology (CEET) and the Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI) will co-host an all-day symposium on February 18 about the public health effects of natural gas drilling operations.
This meeting aims to profile the state of the science as it relates to the public health and environmental impact of hydraulic fracturing. Stakeholders from the four major affected groups—government, academia, industry and concerned citizens—will all be participating as speakers and attendees. The symposium will profile ongoing research on this topic, and the day will end with a session on citizens’ concerns and a panel discussion.
The symposium will be held from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at the Rubenstein Auditorium and Lobby, Smilow Center for Translational Research, 3400 Civic Center Blvd. (enter through the entrance of the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine).
Sessions include:
• The Hydraulic Fracturing Process—Are there effects on air and water quality? 9 a.m.
• Public Health Impact—What is happening now?: 10:45 a.m.
• Industry Practices & Regulation: 1:30 p.m.
• Citizen’s Concerns: What are the concerns of the community?: 3:15 p.m.
• Where do we go from here?: 5:15 p.m.
The full agenda and other details can be found on the CEET website at www.med.upenn.edu/ceet/center_activities.shtml#retreats Registration is free but required for attendance and for participation via web. Register at www.med.upenn.edu/ceet/registration_form.shtml

Deaths
Mr. Adkins, Fine Arts
Terry Adkins, professor of fine arts in the School of Design, died in New York on February 7 at the age of 60. An interdisciplinary artist, performer, musician and educator, Mr. Adkins was honored as a 2008 USA James Baldwin Fellow in Visual Arts by the United States Artists (USA) (Almanac January 20, 2009). A full obituary will be in the next issue.

Mr. Hatcher, Penn Sophomore
Elvis Hatcher, a sophomore in the College, passed away February 4 at age 18.
Active on campus, Mr. Hatcher had been an instructional technology support assistant at the Wharton School since last May. He was a former prose editor for the student-run publication Symbiosis, vice president of finance for Pi Lambda Phi fraternity and member of the Wharton Undergraduate Finance Club.
He was a graduate of a dual-enrollment program with Miami Beach Senior High School and Miami Dade College, where he earned an associate’s degree.
Mr. Hatcher is survived by his parents, Elizabeth Joan Hatcher and Kevin Kyle Hatcher; and two sisters, Cassie Lee Mondel and Elizabeth Anne Hatcher.
Models of Excellence 2014

Since 1999, the Models of Excellence Program has honored staff member accomplishments that reflect initiative, leadership, collaboration and a deep commitment to service. In 2007, Penn introduced the Model Supervisor Award for distinguished leadership. This year, the new Pillars of Excellence Award gives special recognition to non-exempt, weekly-paid staff members. Penn simply would not function without their daily commitment and exceptional acts of service, and the University is proud to recognize their efforts with this new honor.

Across the award categories, this year’s honorees represent excellence. Nominated by coworkers and chosen by a rotating selection committee of campus leaders, the winning individuals and teams have made major contributions to Penn’s standing as a world class institution.

Models of Excellence, Pillars of Excellence and Model Supervisor Award winners will receive $500 and a crystal award. Noteworthy staff who have earned Honorable Mentions will receive $250 and a crystal award.

Join the 2014 honorees at the award ceremony and reception on April 3 at 4 p.m. in Irvine Auditorium. All members of the Penn community are invited to the celebration. If you’d like to attend the festivities, contact Human Resources at gwow@hr.upenn.edu or (215) 898-1012.

Learn more about the winners of this year’s Models of Excellence and Pillars of Excellence Awards below. We will announce the Model Supervisor Award finalists in March and the winner will be revealed live at the award ceremony in April. Visit www.hr.upenn.edu/myhr/appreciation/models for more information about the Models of Excellence program. Congratulations to this year’s winners and nominees!

Models of Excellence Award Winners

Travel and Expense Management Initiative Team: the team will receive an award for successfully implementing a new and improved travel and expense system by improving processes, collaborating with stakeholders and communicating with their customers.
- Audit, Compliance & Privacy: Sean Stickel
- Business Services: Sandra Ardis, Michele Dolce, Hilary Easley, Do Hyun Kim, Barbara Lea-Kruger, Jennifer Miller, Mark Mills
- Finance: Roxanne Batatatis, James Horstmann, David Ishmael, Kristy Owen, Michael Popko, Thomas Slavinski, Paul Weidner
- Information Systems & Computing: Kalyani Balasubramanian, Jeanine Kleba, Teresa Leo
- Office of the Executive Vice President: Janet Plantan

Penn’s Move-in Team: the team has earned an award for creating new and innovative ways using online check-in, social media and campus resources to make the move-in experience more efficient and welcoming for students and their families.
- Business Services: Nathan Cockram, Dennis Daly, Paul Forchieri, Elizabeth Hartzell, Derek Hutsinger, Francis MacDonald, Michelle Majeski, Holly Marrone, Sarah McFarlane, Wilma Smith, Kevin Thurwanger, Lenny Zeiger
- Division of Public Safety: Cherie Heller, Gary Williams
- Information Systems & Computing: Renee Jordan

University Life: Maria Fumai-Dietrich

Honorable Mentions

Robert Ditto, Jr.: he receives an honorable mention for his leadership and expertise during the selection and implementation of Instructure’s Canvas, a new online course management system for teaching and learning for all of Penn’s schools.

National Resource Centers Outreach Team: the team receives an honorable mention for their creativity and collaborative approach to delivering outstanding programming and increasing services to their constituents during financial cutbacks.
- School of Arts & Sciences: Melissa DiFrancesco, Laboran Palmer, Rallie Roy, Anastasia Shown

Programs & Special Events Making History Campaign Team: the team receives an honorable mention for the conception, design and implementation of Penn’s Making History end-of-campaign celebration.
- Development & Alumni Relations: Mirka Cortes, Josh Durando, Susan Eagar, Lauren Graham, Andy Holman, Orna Rosenthal, Cindy Rossi, Scott Sharpe, Maureen Stridick, Emily Valcikas

Ernest Wright: he has earned an honorable mention for his initiative and creativity in developing a series of web videos to help end-users navigate the University’s budget application, Hyperion Planning.

Pillars of Excellence Award Winners

Laura Farrington: she will receive an award for successfully launching the PennReady Blue Book Program and applying extraordinary talent, expertise, cooperation, coordination and drive.

Ruth Kelley: she has earned an award for her inexhaustible energy, cheerfulness and enthusiastic administrative support to the staff in SAS Finance and Administration.

Pillars of Excellence Honorable Mentions

Lucyna Fortuna: she receives an honorable mention for creating an outstanding work environment for Human Resources staff through an extraordinary personal commitment to her custodial duties.

Service Excellence Transition Team: the team is given an honorable mention for extraordinary initiative in creating an outstanding shared system to effectively respond to student residential needs.
- Business Services: Elizabeth Athorp, Jeremy Estrada, Rebecca Golpe, Michelle Majeski, Sarah McFarlane, Jane Fablos, Maureen Stanton
- Development & Alumni Relations: Stephen McElwee

Deborah Small-McCord: she receives an honorable mention for her leadership, professionalism and exemplary customer service as a senior barista at Penn’s Starbucks restaurant.

—Division of Human Resources
Celebrating the Grand Re-Opening of The ARCH:
The Heart of Penn’s Campus

Photographs by Marguerite F. Miller

The reopening celebration last Thursday at the ARCH showcased many student performing arts groups in the carefully restored spaces throughout the building which is home to three of Penn’s cultural resource centers: La Casa Latina; Makuu and PAACH, in addition to CURF and a new eatery, Tortas Frontera café, featuring cuisine from Chef Rick Bayless. The cornerstone of this historic late-Gothic Revival building was laid in 1927, and the building—which was designed by three Penn alumni—originally opened in March 1928 as the Christian Association. It was purchased by Penn in 1999 and in 2011, an anonymous donor gave Penn $15 million toward its restoration and renovation (Almanac May 3, 2011). A core achievement of the Making History campaign, this $24.5 million project (Almanac March 18, 2008) is a focal point, “the heart of Penn,” said President Amy Gutmann. It provides a variety of interactive digital and multi-media capabilities with flexible seating arrangements while retaining carefully preserved and restored wood paneling, ornamental plasterwork, leaded windows, a slate roof and four terracotta chimneys.

African Rhythms

La Casa Latina

Robb Carter and Chaplain Charles Howard

President Gutmann (fourth from left) with Penn Atma

CURF’s main office on the second floor, overlooking Locust Walk
The reopening celebration last Thursday at the ARCH (Arts, Research and Culture House) showcased many student performing arts groups in the carefully restored spaces throughout the building which is home to three of Penn’s cultural resource centers: La Casa Latina; Makuu and PAACH, in addition to CURF and a new eatery, Tortas Frontera café, featuring cuisine from Chef Rick Bayless. The cornerstone of this historic late-Gothic Revival building was laid in 1927, and the building—which opened in March 1928 as the Christian Association, was purchased by Penn in 1999 and in 2011, an anonymous donor gave Penn $15 million toward its restoration and renovation (Almanac May 3, 2011). A core achievement of the Making History campaign is a focal point, “the heart of Penn,” of interactive digital and multi-media capabilities with flexible seating arrangements while retaining carefully preserved and restored wood paneling, ornamental plasterwork, leaded windows, a slate roof and four terracotta chimneys.

The DiLorenzo Lounge, on the first floor, named in memory of John F. DiLorenzo, C’34, by his grandson David and his wife, Melissa Raso.

The auditorium on the second floor.

Penn DuRe performed traditional Korean folk music during the celebration.
Take the Next Step to Be in the Know about Your Health

It’s time to be “in the know” about your health! Take the next—and final—step in this year’s Be in the Know wellness program so you can earn your reward.

There are two steps in this year’s Be in the Know program:
1) submit biometric screening results and
2) complete an online health assessment.
Complete both steps by the program deadlines, and you’ll receive a cash incentive ($100 less applicable payroll taxes) in your last paycheck in April 2014.

Nearly 5,200 faculty and staff already completed step one last fall by attending on-campus biometric screening sessions or submitting results on their own. If you didn’t participate, it’s not too late—we’re giving you another chance. You can still submit your screening results to AreuFit by February 21, 2014 to finish step one. Please note: if you completed this step last fall, you do not need to resubmit your results.

Now it’s time to take the next step and complete an online health assessment by March 7, 2014. Visit Penn’s new wellness portal, managed by StayWell Health Management, at penn.staywell.com to take a quick, easy and confidential health assessment. The 10-minute questionnaire focuses on your overall health and health habits. It gives you an instant, personalized report on your health, insights into potential risks and ways to make positive changes.

Remember, you have until to submit your biometric screening results by February 21, 2014 and complete the health assessment by March 7, 2014 to earn your $100 award (less applicable payroll taxes) in your last pay in April.

Don’t forget to explore the useful health tools and information available through the wellness portal, including tracking tools, calculators, videos and news articles.

Rest assured that your test results, health assessment and everything on the StayWell portal is maintained confidentially. Penn will never see your individual information.

Active, full- or part-time benefits-eligible faculty and staff can participate. For complete details, visit the Be in the Know webpage at www.hr.upenn.edu/myhr/worklife/healthylife/know

If you have questions or would like more information, contact StayWell Health Management at 1 (855) 426-6324.

—Division of Human Resources

Literary Boot Camp — A Free Creative Writing Workshop for Women of Color

A boot camp for women writers of color, this multi-genre workshop invites literary artists working in fiction, non-fiction and poetry to share and develop their writing and transform their work habits.
Each participant will submit her work for discussion and critique by her peers. Participants will complete in-class writing exercises and prompts, as well as short homework assignments.
This workshop will be most useful for writers who are working on a project on which they would like feedback or who are ready to jumpstart a new project.

There will be five sessions, the first of which will be an organizational meeting. The sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:30 p.m., March 19 and 26, April 2, 9 and 16 at Kelly Writers House. Enrollment is limited to 12 participants.
The workshop is open to individuals who are adult women of color with an existing writing practice and not enrolled in any degree-granting program. Workshop participants must be able to attend every session.

To Apply: By Monday, February 24 (at midnight), please submit up to 10 pages of a writing sample, along with a single-page cover letter that includes your name, contact information and a couple paragraphs about yourself, your current projects, what you hope to accomplish in this workshop. Email materials to w@writing.upenn.edu with LITERARY BOOTCAMP APPLICATION as the subject line.

Applicants will be notified via email by Friday, March 7.

One Step Ahead
Security & Privacy Made Simple

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

Photo and Video Privacy Issues

The ability of millions of people to take photos and videos on personal mobile devices and spread them globally is a reality today worth pondering. Consider this in light of famous quotes from a time well before this capability was in place:

“A picture paints a thousand words.”
—Frederick Barnett, 1921.

With great power comes great responsibility.
—Voltaire, published 1832.

Now that so many of us have the technological power to take and spread photos and videos, which can tell us quite a lot about the people involved, we consider what it means to do so responsibly. Opinions differ widely—some resting on First Amendment rights, some on the Golden Rule and many in between.

At Penn, several offices have taken on a discrete component of this topic, focused on guidance to Penn’s communications professionals on privacy issues in taking photos and videos as part of their job function. The guidance describes that there are no “one size fits all” rules about using photos and videos. Indeed, this area is highly context sensitive, turning on how public or private the setting is, the individuals involved, how identifiable the individuals are and the intended use of the images.

The guidance explains that there is greater latitude in capturing and disseminating photos and videos in public spaces, of public figures and for newsworthy purposes. It also describes that in many other cases, there is a need for caution and often special notice or permission, for example when capturing images of:
• identifiable students particularly when the FERPA (federal student privacy) law is involved;
• children and other vulnerable populations;
• sensitive-topic large gatherings, such as events where political, identity or health concerns are central;
• hospitals and healthcare settings;
• classroom environments, particularly when recordings will be posted publicly and/or
• images that will be used for commercial purposes.

The guidance also covers the value of using a photo management system that documents the rights, both in terms of privacy permissions and copyrights, to use and disclose photos and videos.

For more information or questions or comments about this guidance, contact University Communications at ucommu-web@lists.upenn.edu or Penn’s Privacy Office at privacy@upenn.edu

For additional tips, see the One Step Ahead link on the Information Security website: www.upenn.edu/computing/security/
The Monuments Men: Lessons for the 21st Century—February 12

With Monuments Men, the major motion picture directed by and starring George Clooney just released in theaters, the Penn Museum is hosting a free evening program, The Monuments Men: Lessons for the 21st Century, Wednesday, February 12 at 6 p.m. The program features Dr. Laurie W. Rush, cultural resources manager at Fort Drum, New York, and a long-time advocate for cultural property protection during military operations and wartimes.

The saving of priceless European treasures by military men and women during World War II is much more than a footnote in history. Discover how:

• The Monuments Men are a model for teaching current members of the US military how to work with host nations to save works of art, historic structures, sacred places and heritage.
• The ability to recognize, respect and protect cultural property in the global context is critical for rebuilding communities in the worst crisis areas in the world.

• The principles and methods used by the Monuments Men have immediate applications for the complex international conflicts we face today.

The free program is presented in the Penn Museum’s Rainey Auditorium (enter by the Kress East side of the building) and sponsored by the Center for Ancient Studies, the Department of the History of Art and the Graduate Group in the Art and Archaeology of the Ancient World, University of Pennsylvania.

Dedicated Illusion: Summertime Coming to the Burison Gallery Next Saturday

Dedicated Illusion: Summertime, paintings by Lauren Henderson, will be on display at the Burison Gallery at the Inn at Penn, from February 22 to April 4, 2014. Her focus is on abstraction. She believes that painting is not about arranging an array of colors on canvas, but envisioning an idea and bringing it to life. The results are deconstructed to the extent that meaning is multifaceted. This show represents a playful collection of blue, green and pink hues to demonstrate her fondness of summer and bold use of color. It is beauty for the sake of beauty and dreamlike in its ability to change our state of mind.

Ms. Henderson was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas and has lived in New York City since 2010. She works for Penn’s New York Regional Development Office as an assistant
Hot Flashes Can Continue Ten Years after Menopause
A team of researchers from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania has found that moderate to severe hot flashes continue, on average, for nearly five years after menopause, and more than a third of women experience moderate/severe hot flashes for ten years or more after menopause. In a new study, published online in the journal Menopause, the authors write that “empirical evidence supporting the recommended three- to five-year hormone therapy for management of hot flashes is lacking.”

Hot flashes are episodes of intense radiating heat experienced by many women around the time of menopause. They can result in discomfort, embarrassment, and disruption of sleep. Changing hormone levels are believed to cause hot flashes and other menopausal symptoms such as insomnia, fatigue, memory and concentration problems, anxiety, irritability and joint and muscle pain. In hormone therapy, medications containing female hormones replace the ones the body stops making during menopause. While hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is considered the most effective treatment for hot flashes, it is not appropriate for all women. In addition, concerns about health hazards linked to HRT have made some doctors less likely to prescribe it or to adhere strictly to recommended duration guidelines.

“Our findings point to the importance of individualized treatments that take into account each woman’s risks and benefits when selecting hormone or non-hormone therapy for menopausal symptoms,” said the study’s lead author, Barbu and Katelyn H. Levy, and Jason Edinger from Vector Control Services. In their earlier studies, the team produced patterns of “defects,” useful disruptions in the repeating patterns found in liquid crystals, in nanoscale grids and rings. The study, published in Physical Review X, adds a more complex pattern out of an even simpler template: a three-dimensional array in the shape of a flower.

And because the petals of this “flower” are made of transparent liquid crystal and radiate out in a circle from a central point, the ensemble resembles a compound eye and can thus be used as a lens.

The team consists of Randall Kamien, professor in the department of physics and astronomy in SAS; Kathleen Stebe, deputy dean for research and professor in chemical and biomolecular engineering in SEAS; Members of their labs also contributed to the study, including lead author Daniel Beller, Mohamed Gharbi and Apiradee Honglawan. The researchers’ ongoing work with liquid crystals is an example of a growing field of nanotechnology known as “directed assembly,” in which scientists and engineers aim to manufacture structures on the smallest scales without having to individually manipulate each component. Rather, they set out precisely defined starting conditions and let the physics and chemistry that govern those components do the rest.

“Before we were growing these liquid crystals on something like a trellis, a template with precisely ordered features,” Dr. Kamien said, “Here, we’re just planting a seed.” The seed, in this case, was silica beads—essentially, polished grains of sand. Planted at the top of a pool of liquid crystal, flower-like patterns of defects grow around each bead. The key difference between the template in this experiment and ones in the research team’s earlier work was the shape of the interface between the template and the liquid crystal.

In their experiment that generated grid patterns of defects, those patterns stemmed from cues generated by the templates’ microposts. Domains of elastic energy originated on the flat tops and edges of these posts and travelled in a tiered, convex fashion. And because the petals of this “flower” are made of transparent liquid crystal and radiate out in a circle from a central point, the ensemble resembles a compound eye and can thus be used as a lens.

Research from SEAS and SAS have made another advance in their effort to use liquid crystals as a medium for assembling structures.

Liquid Crystal ‘Flowers’ That Can Be Used as Lenses

Bed Bug Hotspots in Philadelphia and Seasonal Trends

A study from Penn Medicine epidemiologists that looked at four years of bed bug reports of the city of Philadelphia found that infestations have been increasing and were at their highest in August and lowest in February. The findings, published in the Journal of Medical Entomology, point to two possible peak times to strike and eliminate the bugs.

“‘There is surprisingly very little known about seasonal trends among bed bug populations,’ said Michael Z. Levy, assistant professor in the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CCEB), who mapped the bed bug hotspots in Philadelphia in an effort to find more effective ways to control them. “We found a steep and significant seasonal cycle in bed bug reporting and suspect that bed bugs have different levels of mobility depending on the season and that their population size may fluctuate throughout the year.”

Warm weather could be a driver for migration to other homes and breeding, he said. “We may be able to exploit this cycle: These seasonal trends could guide public health control guidelines recommend that hormone therapy, the primary medical treatment for hot flashes, not continue for more than five years. However, in the study published online in the journal Menopause, the authors write that “empirical evidence supporting the recommended three- to five-year hormone therapy for management of hot flashes is lacking.”

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In their experiment that generated grid patterns of defects, those patterns stemmed from cues generated by the templates’ microposts. Domains of elastic energy originated on the flat tops and edges of these posts and travelled in a tiered, convex fashion. And because the petals of this “flower” are made of transparent liquid crystal and radiate out in a circle from a central point, the ensemble resembles a compound eye and can thus be used as a lens.

Research from SEAS and SAS have made another advance in their effort to use liquid crystals as a medium for assembling structures.

Liquid Crystal ‘Flowers’ That Can Be Used as Lenses

Bed Bug Hotspots in Philadelphia and Seasonal Trends

A study from Penn Medicine epidemiologists that looked at four years of bed bug reports of the city of Philadelphia found that infestations have been increasing and were at their highest in August and lowest in February. The findings, published in the Journal of Medical Entomology, point to two possible peak times to strike and eliminate the bugs.

“‘There is surprisingly very little known about seasonal trends among bed bug populations’,” said Michael Z. Levy, assistant professor in the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CCEB), who mapped the bed bug hotspots in Philadelphia in an effort to find more effective ways to control them. “We found a steep and significant seasonal cycle in bed bug reporting and suspect that bed bugs have different levels of mobility depending on the season and that their population size may fluctuate throughout the year.”

Warm weather could be a driver for migration to other homes and breeding, he said. “We may be able to exploit this cycle: These seasonal trends could guide public health control guidelines recommend that hormone therapy, the primary medical treatment for hot flashes, not continue for more than five years. However, in the study published online in the journal Menopause, the authors write that “empirical evidence supporting the recommended three- to five-year hormone therapy for management of hot flashes is lacking.”

Hot flashes are episodes of intense radiating heat experienced by many women around the time of menopause. They can result in discomfort, embarrassment, and disruption of sleep. Changing hormone levels are believed to cause hot flashes and other menopausal symptoms such as insomnia, fatigue, memory and concentration problems, anxiety, irritability and joint and muscle pain. In hormone therapy, medications containing female hormones replace the ones the body stops making during menopause. While hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is considered the most effective treatment for hot flashes, it is not appropriate for all women. In addition, concerns about health hazards linked to HRT have made some doctors less likely to prescribe it or to adhere strictly to recommended duration guidelines.

“Our findings point to the importance of individualized treatments that take into account each woman’s risks and benefits when selecting hormone or non-hormone therapy for menopausal symptoms,” said the study’s lead author, Barbu and Katelyn H. Levy, and Jason Edinger from Vector Control Services. In their earlier studies, the team produced patterns of “defects,” useful disruptions in the repeating patterns found in liquid crystals, in nanoscale grids and rings. The study, published in Physical Review X, adds a more complex pattern out of an even simpler template: a three-dimensional array in the shape of a flower.

And because the petals of this “flower” are made of transparent liquid crystal and radiate out in a circle from a central point, the ensemble resembles a compound eye and can thus be used as a lens.

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