Vice President Joe Biden: Beginning Cancer “Moonshot” at Penn Medicine

Penn President Amy Gutmann, with the Vice President of the United States Joe Biden and NIH Director Francis Collins at the January 15 formal launch for the Cancer “Moonshot” Project.

Days after President Obama announced the “moonshot” to find a cancer cure during his State of the Union address, Vice President Joe Biden visited Penn’s Abramson Cancer Center (ACC) to kick off the national effort he said aims to “accelerate the progress already underway” — much of which is happening right here. He chose Penn because of the cutting-edge work in immunotherapy being done. This national effort invokes the aspirations of President John F. Kennedy’s 1961 goal of sending an American to the moon, which was accomplished by Apollo 11 astronauts on July 20, 1969.

“You’re on the cusp of some breakthroughs,” Vice President Biden said. “In my terms — not your medical terms — we are at an inflection point in the fight against cancer.”

Immunotherapy pioneer Carl June, director of Translational Research at the ACC, and Bruce Levine, director of Penn’s Clinical Cell and Vaccine Production Facility, took the Vice President on a tour of the research hub that will serve as the epicenter of its pioneering personalized T-cell therapy program. Afterwards, Mr. Biden led a roundtable discussion with Penn experts in immunotherapy, cancer prevention, surgery, genomics and more, as well as ACC director Chi Van Dang. Mr. Biden was also joined by University of Pennsylvania President Amy Gutmann and National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis S. Collins. The 2016 NIH budget that funds basic research needed for these advancements had a modest increase as compared to a decade of declining funding.

“I’d like you to talk about what you think I should most be doing as I put this task force together.”

A flurry of clinical successes and endeavors from the Penn doctors followed: cancer vaccine trials, immunotherapies, big data, precision medicine, cancer recurrence and early chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) therapy clinical trials for aggressive brain cancer. Emily Whitehead, the 10-year-old girl who is now cancer free after receiving CAR therapy three years ago to treat her acute lymphoblastic leukemia, was also in attendance with her parents.

While researchers have made significant headway in the fight, the field is not without its challenges, the room agreed. “Cancer politics,” Mr. Biden said, are keeping people in their respective corners. Data sharing needs to not only continue but expand and silos not at and among academic medical centers and drug companies need to be broken down, he said, in order to speed up progress. This year also finds the National Cancer Institute with its biggest budget increase in 10 years, but Mr. Biden stressed that more support from the private and public sector and philanthropists is essential to get us closer to cures and better treatments for the host of cancers diagnosed every day — some, he recognized, more complex and deadly than others. This initiative aims to harness every research facility, academic institution, pharmaceutical corporation and many federal agencies to aim for finding a cure for cancer.

“My commitment is not for the next 12 months,” Mr. Biden told the crowd, which also included elected officials and some 40 members of the press. “I’ve been stunned by the overwhelming response of welcoming me, to ask me to be the facilitator and convener….I plan on doing this the rest of my life.” He stressed that the initiative is not about a top down, centralized program but that he hopes to be a catalyst.

Deenie Greitzer and Daniel G. Haller
Associate Professor: Ursina Teitelbaum

Ursina R. Teitelbaum has been named the Deenie Greitzer and Daniel G. Haller Associate Professor in the Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Teitelbaum, a dedicated medical oncologist, exclusively cares for patients with gastrointestinal malignancies, and is a strong proponent of multidisciplinary approaches to pancreatic cancer. This chair will advance her research in gastrointestinal cancers, as well as her work in geriatric medicine and hospice and palliative care.

“One of very few doctors board certified in the fields of medical oncology, geriatric medicine, and hospice and palliative care, Dr. Teitelbaum is a stellar physician and investigator who embodies compassionate patient care,” said J. Larry Jameson, executive vice president for the Health System and dean of the Perelman School of Medicine.

Established by Marty Greitzer and his family to honor his late wife, Diane “Deenie” Greitzer, and the wonderful care provided to her by the Abramson Cancer Center, this professorship, originally the Deenie Greitzer Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology Professorship, was renamed to honor Deenie Greitzer’s physician, Daniel G. Haller, at his retirement. Specializing in colon and rectal cancer patient care, Dr. Haller is a nationally prominent medical oncologist who has exerted great influence in the way patients with gastrointestinal cancers have been treated.

Dr. Teitelbaum was trained by Dr. Haller, and joined the faculty of the Perelman School of Medicine in 2007. She is the clinical leader of the Gastrointestinal Oncology group at Penn and leader of the Pancreas Cancer Service Line at Penn’s Abramson Cancer Center. She was also one of the first Master Clinicians at Penn Medicine, the most prestigious designation for Perelman School of Medicine clinical faculty. Dr. Teitelbaum earned her medical degree at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Subsequently, she completed an internship, residency and fellowships in medical oncology and geriatrics at the University of Chicago, where she also completed a clinical research training program in 2005.

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Pullouts: February AT PENN
2016 Summer Camps & Programs at Penn
Chair’s Report. Faculty Senate Chair Reed Pyeritz reported that the Report of the Senate Committee on the Economic Status of Faculty (SCESF) has been submitted to the Office of the Provost and is under review. The Provost’s Office is working with SCESF to identify faculty data that will be provided to next year’s committee, which may include data not previously provided for SCESF’s use. The Senate Committee on Faculty and the Administration (SCOA) is working to examine research administration opportunities and conflict of interest policies across schools. The Faculty Senate Symposium is scheduled for April 6, at 4 p.m., in Houston Hall’s Hall of Flags; the topic is the role of faculty in the evolution of the research university.

Past-Chair’s Report. Faculty Senate Past Chair Claire Finkelstein reported that the Academic Planning and Budget Committee and Capital Council have not met since the previous SEC meeting. The Senate Committee on Faculty and the Administration (SCOA) is working to examine research administration opportunities and conflict of interest policies across schools. The Faculty Senate Symposium is scheduled for April 6, at 4 p.m., in Houston Hall’s Hall of Flags; the topic is the role of faculty in the evolution of the research university.

Past-Chair’s Report. Faculty Senate Past Chair Claire Finkelstein reported that the Academic Planning and Budget Committee and Capital Council have not met since the previous SEC meeting. The Campaign for Community is continuing to accept applications for project grants through March 15. The Campaign for Community, along with the Faculty Senate and the Office of the Vice Provost for University Resources, has been asked to support “Faculty/Student Diversity” and “Race, Respect and Classroom Culture” on Wednesday, January 27, at 6 p.m., in the Law School’s Fitts Auditorium. The session will be moderated by Wendell Pitchett, the Presidential Professor of Law and Education, and will feature faculty panelists Camille Charles, Shaun Harper and Emilio Garrado, and student panelists Kwadwo Agyapong, Ramon Garcia Gomez, Leslie Jones, Samantha Miller and Rachel Palmer.

Update from the Office of the Provost. Provost Vincent Price provided SEC with an update on the Action Plan for Faculty Diversity and Excellence, which is in the final stage of its five-year plan. In Fall 2016, a report will be released that will describe progress on the plan’s goals. The Vice Provost for Faculty is collaborating with the Provost on an ongoing three-year arts and culture initiative that resonates with the core values of the Penn Compact and capitalizes on the University’s resources to enhance and support opportunities for the teaching and learning of humanities at Penn. Penn Global initiatives include continued work with the Perry World House, the Wharton China Center and globally funded research opportunities. This includes support from the Vice Provost for Research, who sponsors 22 post-doctorate fellowships—mostly in STEM fields—aimed at diversifying the professoriate.

Discussion and vote on proposed SAS Track Changes. The Senate Committee on Faculty and the Academic Planning and Budget Committee (SCOA) received a series of proposed track changes in the School of Arts and Sciences. The proposals seek to: (1) create in the SAS Associated Faculty a “Practice Professor” track, which already exists in other schools; (2) create the new positions “Lecturer in Critical Writing” and “Senior Lecturer in Critical Writing” in the Academic Support Staff; (3) raise the cap on the number of “Lecturers in Foreign Languages” from 6% to 15% of the Standing Faculty and the number of “Senior Lecturers in Foreign Languages” from 3% to 8% of the Standing Faculty; and (4) raise the cap on the number of “Senior Lecturers” in the Academic Support Staff from 3% to 8% of the Standing Faculty. These proposals went through a rigorous review by SAS faculty and by the Provost prior to consideration by the Faculty Senate. SCOF met with Dean Steve Fluharty and representatives from the Critical Writing Program and from two departments who utilize Lecturers in Foreign Languages to gain their perspectives. SEC members noted that non-standing faculty members do not currently have a representative voice at Penn and inquired as to whether the economic interests of these Associated Faculty members were considered during the review process; SEC members agreed to deliberate these issues at a future time. Provost Price, who was present for a portion of this discussion, noted that these non-standing faculty roles are complementary rather than substitutional. He added that these tracks exist in great part to support the Standing Faculty, who pursue scholarship, service and teaching of higher level courses to undergraduates and graduates; these tracks serve to professionalize the full-time roles of these non-standing faculty who are tasked specifically to teach these introductory level courses. The motion was called to question; because it received a majority of votes cast, the proposals passed.

Update from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research. Vice Provost for Faculty Dawn Bonnell described changes to the University Research Foundation (URF) that will optimize research support across campus. The new structure maintains research grants up to $50,000 for pilot projects, instrumentation, and grant matching, and it replaces the Provost’s Interdisciplinary Seminar Fund with Impact Conference Grants (up to $20,000 to highlight Penn faculty or visiting scholarship) and Research Opportunity Grants (up to $200,000 to encourage larger scale research development). Grants will be given in the areas of biomedical and life science, social science, humanities and natural science and engineering.

2016 Senate Committee on Committees. SEC members voted for the members of the 2016 Senate Committee on Committees.

Discussion of Revised Faculty Procedures for Resolving Sexual Violence Complaints. SEC members reviewed the revised procedures that were discussed at the previous SEC meeting with General Counsel Wendy White and Vice Provost for Faculty Anita Allen. Following the discussion, SEC members offered a consensus of support in endorsing the drafted procedures prior to their review by the Board of Trustees.

Faculty Proposals for Sustainability Courses: February 5

The Sustainability Office is currently accepting faculty proposals for the Sustainability Across the Curriculum (ISAC) program with a deadline of February 5. Now in its 5th year, ISAC provides paid interns to assist faculty in integrating sustainability into new or existing courses. Faculty work with an undergraduate research assistant, chosen through a competitive selection process, over eight weeks of the summer to update course content, adjust syllabi, presentations and reading lists, and modify exams to include environmental sustainability issues.

Over the past four summers, the ISAC program has supported faculty from a diverse array of disciplines, including architecture, law, biology, engineering, urban planning, historic preservation and German language.

Faculty and students have collaborated to infuse principles of sustainability into 24 courses.

For general information about applying and samples of past students’ work visit: http://www.upenn.edu/sustainability/get-involved/integrating-sustainability-across-curriculum
To Report A Death
Almanac appreciates being informed of the deaths of current and former faculty and staff members, students and other members of the University community. Call (215) 898-5274 or email almanac@upenn.edu

However, notices of alumni deaths should be directed to the Alumni Records Office at Room 517, Franklin Building, (215) 898-8136 or email record@ben.dev.upenn.edu
Honors & Other Things

Todd Gormley and Donald Keim: IRRCi Research Competition Winners

Two Wharton researchers co-authored a paper that was recognized by the Institute for Research on the Responsible Conduct of Research (IRRCi) for outstanding research. Todd A. Gormley, assistant professor of finance at the Wharton School, and Donald B. Keim, professor of finance and director of the Rodney L. White Center for Financial Research at the Wharton School, wrote the winning paper with Ian R. Appel, assistant professor of finance at the Carroll School of Management at Boston College.

They were recognized in December 2015 at the Columbia Law School’s 2015 Millstein Governance Forum in New York City. Each winning research team received a $10,000 award.

The winning academic research, “Passive Investors, Not Passive Owners,” demonstrates that while passive investors—such as those that invest through index funds—are not active owners in the traditional sense of accumulating or selling shares so as to exert influence over managers and their choices, they are far from passive owners. Instead, the research finds that passively managed mutual funds, and the institutions that offer them, use their large voting blocs to exercise voice and exert influence on firms’ governance. The research finds that ownership by passively managed mutual funds is associated with significant governance changes such as more independent directors on corporate boards, removal of takeover defenses and more equal voting rights. These governance changes, in turn, are shown to improve firms’ long-term performance.

Katherine Milkman: Early Career Impact Award

Katherine Milkman, an associate professor of operations, information and decisions at the Wharton School, was honored with the Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS) Foundation Early Career Impact Award during the annual meeting of the Society for Judgment and Decision Making in November 2015 in Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Milkman is recognized for her research on temptation bundling, in which a virtuous behavior, such as exercising, is paired with a vice, such as entertainment. In a study of college students who wanted to exercise more, she found that students who could only unlock a tempting audio novel while they exercised did so more often than those who simply received gift certificates to Barnes & Noble. According to Dr. Milkman, other applications of temptation bundling might include “pairing your favorite burger restaurant with spending time with a difficult relative, or saving a great podcast for household chores.”

She has also researched the fresh start effect, finding that people are more likely to make behavioral changes during “landmark times that mark a new beginning,” such as birthdays, holidays, or the start of a new year, week, month or season.

Penn Transit: NIASE Certification

All Penn Transit vehicle maintenance technicians have attained certification from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (NIASE), a nonprofit organization that serves to improve the quality of vehicle repair and service by testing and certifying automotive professionals. These technicians have been certified in areas such as engine repair, electrical systems, brakes, tire repair and rotation as well as preventive maintenance and inspection. Each area of service is led by at least one ASE Certified Technician, an indicator of Penn Transit’s commitment to excellence. Penn Transit Maintenance has also earned the Blue Seal of Excellence from NIASE. It is the only vehicle repair facility in West Philadelphia to earn this distinction.

In addition to maintaining Penn Transit’s fleet of vehicles, these skilled technicians also service many other vehicles used by departments around campus.

Virginia Reef: AAEP 2015 Distinguished Educator

Virginia Reef, director of large animal cardiology and diagnostic ultrasonography at Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine, received the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) 2015 Distinguished Educator—Academic Award. Dr. Reef was honored last December during the President’s Luncheon at the AAEP’s 61st Annual Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dr. Reef is also the Mark Whittier and Lila Griswold Allam Professor of Medicine and section chief of sports medicine and imaging at Penn Vet’s New Bolton Center. A pioneer in the diagnostic use of ultrasonographic technology, she perfected the technology in her clinical use and then set out to teach the technology to students and practitioners alike. In the ensuing 30-plus years, ultrasonography has contributed to early diagnosis of musculoskeletal injury in the horse, significantly reducing catastrophic athletic-use tendon and ligament injuries.

Phyllis Solomon: High-impact Female Scholar

An academic paper published last year ranked School of Social Policy & Practice Professor Phyllis Solomon among the top most cited female academics in social work. Authors of the paper, entitled “Citizen Impact of Women in Social Work: Examining Gender and Research Culture” and published in the journal Research on Social Work Practice, set out to identify the high-impact female scholars in top-ranked schools of social work.

Dr. Solomon, internationally known for her research on clinical services and mental illness, came in at number 10 on an impressive list of 25 female scholars. Data analysis factored in the number of papers each scholar published, the number of times they’ve been cited, and qualitative interviews with graduates from top-ranked schools.

Last year, Dr. Solomon joined the 2015 Class of Fellows of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR). Most recently, she was invited to deliver the Annual Sidney Small Memorial Lecture last October at Oxford University. She spoke on anti-deinstitutionalization and anti-institutionalization for persons with severe mental illnesses.

Barbara Ann Todd: AAN Fellow

Barbara Ann Todd, director of advanced practice in the department of nursing and director of the Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration project at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN).

As director of the Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration project, Dr. Todd oversees a five-year, $290 million Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) funded initiative designed to develop new models of clinical training for advanced practice nurses. She completed her doctorate of nursing practice at Thomas Jefferson University School of Nursing in 2010.

Beth Winkelstein: 2016 ASME Van C. Mow Medal

Beth Winkelstein, Penn’s vice provost for education and professor in the department of bioengineering, is the recipient of the 2016 American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Van C. Mow Medal. This honor “is bestowed upon an individual who has demonstrated meritorious contributions to the fields of bioengineering through research, education, professional development, leadership in the development of the profession, mentorship to young bioengineers and with service to the bioengineering community.”

Dr. Winkelstein’s research focuses on the mechanisms of injury, pain and mechanotransduction—especially injuries from sports, automobile accidents, or degenerative diseases that produce persistent pain in the neck, spine and other joints. Her work is supported by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense, among many others, including a CAREER Award from the NSF. The author of Orthopaedic Biomechanics (2012) and more than a hundred papers and book chapters, she serves as editor of the Journal of Biomechanical Engineering and is a Fellow of the Biomedical Engineering Society, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, which awarded her its Y.C. Fung Young Investigator Award in 2006. She mentors undergraduate and graduate students in her lab and is the faculty adviser to Penn’s Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES).
Penn Institute for Urban Research: New Photo Contest: February 21

The Penn Institute for Urban Research (Penn IUR), in collaboration with the Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI), recently announced a photo contest on the theme of urban design and public well-being, with presenters speaking about the latest research findings on best practices and health outcomes across the nation and how low-cost, place-based initiatives can transform health in urban areas.

Winners will be announced on Thursday, February 25 at the Shaping the Urban Health and Environmental Landscape symposium, to be held in the Kleinman Center at the Fisher Fine and Library at the University of Pennsylvania. The symposium will run from 3-6 p.m., will focus on the link between urban design and public well-being, with presenters speaking about the latest research findings.

For additional information on the photo contest or to register for the symposium, visit the Penn IUR website, http://penniur.upenn.edu/

An Intergenerational Look at Behavioral Health

WHYY Radio’s Voices In the Family, in the first of its new series of special broadcasts led by family psychologist Dan Gottlieb, interviewed Anthony Rostain, professor of psychiatry at Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine, and chief psychiatry resident Cecilia Livesey and Michelle Joy for an intergenerational conversation about behavioral health.

In this first of Dr. Dan’s Voices in the Family specials, he brings two young psychiatric residents together with their academic advisor. The four share experiences as the seasoned veterans look back and the residents in training look ahead. What does this young generation hope to bring to the field? And what words of wisdom do the veterans have to share? Plus, a studio audience joins them in a lively and personal question and answer session.


A Special Shakespeare Performance for Penn Faculty and Staff at the Annenberg Center: February 10

If you love live entertainment, but could do without an extra commute, now is your chance to enjoy world-class performing arts at Penn’s Annenberg Center. On Wednesday, February 10, Annenberg Center Live will present an “early bird” 5:30 p.m. performance of William Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night, presented by Filter Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company.

In this explosive new take on Shakespeare’s lyrical Twelfth Night, two worlds collide. Britain’s Filber Prince and Royal Shakespeare Company pair classical verse with a riotous gig in this radically cut and fast-paced story of romance, satire and mistaken identity. “Rock-and-roll Shakespeare’s a blast,” says the UK’s Daily Telegraph.

This rollicking performance will be followed by a reception. Tickets for this special Penn faculty and staff event are just $20. What a fun way to “brush up your Shakespeare” right on campus!

Seating is limited in Annenberg’s intimate Harold Prince Theater, so order your tickets now.

For more information, visit www.annenbergcenter.org or call (215) 898-3900.

The Twelfth Night on the 10th night of February at Annenberg Center’s Prince Theatre.

William Penn Foundation Grant for Stewardship Panel to Research Impacts of Conservation Lands Stewardship on Water Resources

The William Penn Foundation has awarded a grant of $400,000 to form a Stewardship Panel to study the impacts of conservation lands and parks’ stewardship on water resources. The project began on January 1, 2016 and will run through June 30, 2017. It will be managed by the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania and function within the framework of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI).

The Stewardship Panel will bring together scientists and practitioners with expertise in managing nature reserves, parks, arboriculture, botanical gardens, wildlife management areas, forest management areas, conservation-oriented agricultural lands and large private landholdings from across the Delaware River Watershed and elsewhere in the eastern United States. The panel’s mission is twofold: to provide practitioners a state-of-the-art comparative review of land stewardship practices in terms of their impacts on water resources, and to provide conservation practices and grant-making programs with evidence-based criteria they can use to hone implementation and propose evaluation guidelines—ultimately, to improve water quality and quantity outcomes of funded conservation projects.

Results will be in the form of a peer-reviewed handbook summarizing the proceedings and conclusions of the panel, aimed at a broad audience and research literature.

Guided panel discussions will address key questions about how investment in stewardship activities affects water resources: What land stewardship practices will bring the greatest benefits (and the lowest risks) to a watershed’s water quantity and quality compared with their costs? How can conservation land managers achieve their goals while enhancing, or at least not degrading, water quality or quantity? One objective will be to categorize land stewardship activities by cost. The John L. Willaman Director of Botany at Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, at block@upenn.edu

Almanac On-the-Go: RSS Feeds

Almanac provides links to select stories each week there is an issue. RSS is a way to distribute new content to users of RSS readers or news aggregators directly to your computer and other web-enabled devices. Visit Almanac’s website at http://www.upenn.edu/almanac for instructions on how to subscribe to the Almanac RSS Feed.
Thanks a Ton: PPSA Clothing Drive

The Penn Professional Staff Assembly (PPSA) ran another successful drive for clothing and other donated items from December 1-17, which benefited four organizations: Dress for Success, Cradles to Crayons, the Bethesda Project, and Goodwill. Ten locations throughout campus served as drop-off sites for donated dress clothes for women, dress and casual clothing and toiletries for men, and clothing and other items for children up to age 12. Over 20 volunteers spent the afternoon of December 17 sorting, packing and delivering the donated items. In total, 2,100 lbs. of items were donated by the Penn community. Many thanks to all of our volunteers and to those of you who took the time to give of yourselves this holiday season.

—PPSA Board

One Step Ahead
Security & Privacy
Made Simple

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

February is Data Privacy Month

Data Privacy Day is January 28, and kicks off Data Privacy Month—February. Now is an excellent time to recognize Data Privacy Month in ways that are both practical and impactful. Some ways you can do this are:

• Take steps to protect yourself from identity theft: The Privacy Office offers tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft. Visit the Privacy website for more details at http://www.upenn.edu/oacp/privacy/yourdata/identity-theft.html
• Practice safe computing: Information Systems & Computing offers “Top 10 Tips for Faculty” and “Top 10 Tips for Staff,” as well as “Top 10 Tips for Smartphones and Tablets.” These guides are designed to get you quickly through many critical topics, such as firewalls, passwords, wireless, phishing and more. Check out these “Top 10” lists and share them as appropriate: http://www.upenn.edu/computing/security/checklists/Top10/
• Don’t keep unnecessary data: Too often we read about data breaches that were avoidable because the data stolen was being kept by an institution unnecessarily. So, securely delete confidential information that is no longer needed for teaching, research, service, operations or any other Penn-related function. To destroy sensitive physical files, use a shredder to ensure the information cannot be accessed by others. Use software such as Identity Finder to detect and properly dispose of electronic files containing sensitive information. Before securely deleting information, make sure that this is permissible according to Penn Guidance. For more information about eliminating unnecessary data, see: http://www.upenn.edu/oacp/privacy/penndata/
• Host a Records Clean Up Day: Data Privacy Month is a great time of year to think about planning a Records Clean Up Day. Ask your department, school, or center leadership to designate one day out of the year for cleaning and organizing your office’s workspaces. Here are some tools to help you plan: http://www.upenn.edu/oacp/privacy/penndata/host-a-records-clean-up-day.html

An Additional Assortment of Acronyms and Abbreviations at Penn

Below is the second part of a list of Penn acronyms and abbreviations that were published in Almanac last fall (Almanac: November 24, 2015). That part of the list accounted for over 100 organizations, institutes, programs and other Penn-related institutions. This part includes more than 30 of Penn’s student organizations along with their associated acronyms and abbreviations.

Student Organizations

ACELA: La Asociación Cultural de Estudiantes Latinoamericanos, a student-run organization, established in 1958, based in La Casa Latina.
BGPASA: Black Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, provides support for graduate and professional students of the African Diaspora.
BLSA: Black Law Students Association, provides a variety of programming and opportunities for engagement with campus life and the greater legal community.
DP: The Daily Pennsylvanian, the independent student newspaper, founded in 1885.
GAPSA: Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, the University-wide student government for graduate and professional students.
IAA: International Affairs Association, founded in 1963, organizes two annual conferences: ILMUNC (Ivy League Model United Nations Conference), the premier model UN for high school students, hosted by Penn; and UPMUNC (University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations Conference) for college students, as well as other events.
JRP: Jewish Renaissance Project, network of Penn students interested in alternative education in Judaism.
MARS: Men Against Rape & Sexual Assault, previously 1 in 4, a men’s group that uses peer-education to combat sexual violence.
MSA: Muslim Student Association, bridges the gap between Muslim students at Penn and the Muslins of the neighborhood.
NAC: Nominations and Elections Committee, one of the six branches of undergraduate student government at Penn.
OCP: Orthodox Community at Penn, provides information, programs and services for the Orthodox Jewish community.
PAACH: Pan-Asian American Community House, central resource for advising students and student organizations with a particular focus on students of Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage, opened in 2000.
PAC: Performing Arts Council, support for more than 45 different student-run performance organizations.
PASS: Penn Arab Student Society, organization geared towards exploring Arab heritage and culture.
PAVE: Penn Anti-Violence Educators, a peer-education student group focused on how to be an active bystander.
PGCF: Penn Graduate Christian Fellowship, faith-based group comprised of graduate students, post docs and their spouses at Philadelphia-area universities.
SNAP: Student Nurses at Penn, promotes participation in community service activities in the area of health care and serves as the Penn chapter of the Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania.
PAC: Pan-Asian American Community

SAC: Student Activities Council, recognizes, supervises and funds undergraduate activities, funded through the UA, one of six branches of undergraduate government.
SCE: Student Committee on Undergraduate Education, the oldest existing branch of student government, founded in 1965, works to enhance and expand curricular opportunities and quality of academic experience.
SNAP: Social Planning and Events Committee, part of Connaissance, one of six branches of undergraduate government.
SPEC-Trum: Social Planning and Events Committee To Represent Undergraduate Minorities, provides entertainment that addresses the diversity of interests within the Penn community.
STAB: Student Theatre Arts Board, the student-elected representatives that serve as a link between the theatre arts students and the faculty.
TSA: Taiwanese Student Association, aims to provide a comfort network and community.
TSA: Turkish Student Association, provides a platform for bringing Turkish community in Philadelphia together. Also known as Turks@Penn.
UMC: Undergraduate Assembly, responsible for advocacy of undergraduate issues to the administration, consists of elected student officers. One of six branches of undergraduate government.
UPS: Undergraduate Psychology Society, an organization of Penn students interested in exploring the field, sponsors events and publishes a journal. Perspectives in Psychology.
UTB: Under the Button, online blog for immediate, relevant and recent news, gossip and entertainment for students interested in an alternative education in Judaism.
UTB: University Television, the student-run station.
VSA: Vietnamese Students Association, a group devoted to promoting an appreciation for Vietnamese culture.
WGA: Wharton Graduate Association, the primary vehicle for coordinating and managing student activities and initiatives, both academic and extracurricular.

For more information about eliminating unnecessary data, see: http://www.upenn.edu/oacp/privacy/penndata/
• Host a Records Clean Up Day: Data Privacy Month is a great time of year to think about planning a Records Clean Up Day. Ask your department, school, or center leadership to designate one day out of the year for cleaning and organizing your office’s workspaces. Here are some tools to help you plan: http://www.upenn.edu/oacp/privacy/penndata/host-a-records-clean-up-day.html

ALMANAC January 26, 2016
2016 MLK JR. SYMPOSIUM

See www.upenn.edu/aarc/mlk/ for more info.

28 Self-Care for Social Change: workshop open to all but of particular value to caregivers and student life practitioners who support students leading social justice movements; learn how race and gender shape ideas about when, how and why to care for ourselves, how to develop approaches to personal sustainability and how to support each other through intersecting journeys; 2-3:30 p.m.; Penn Women's Center (PWC; MLK Symposium Committee).

FILMS

31 Raising Ms. President; 4:30 p.m.; International House; for prices, see: http://housephilly.org (Girls on the Run; Fels Institute of Government).

FITNESS & LEARNING

29 Yoga and Meditation; yoga begins at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.; meditation begins at 11 a.m.; Palestra; free for all students/faculty/staff (Campus Health; Campus Recreation; CPHH; HR; VPU).

Club Reopening: February 8
Due to some unforeseen circumstances, the University Club at Penn is delayed in reopening this month. Construction schedules are always very fluid and require coordination of all of the projects going into this renovation.

AT PENN Deadlines
The February AT PENN calendar is online at www.upenn.edu/almanac The deadline for the March AT PENN calendar is February 9.

Subscribe to Express Almanac
Send an email to listers@lists.upenn.edu with “subscribe e-almanac <your full name>” in the body of the message. —Ed.

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 11-17, 2016. Also reported were 17 Crimes Against Property (12 thefts, 2 frauds, 1 auto theft, 1 burglary and 1 other offense). Full reports are available at: www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v62/0117crimreport.html Prior weeks’ reports are also online —Ed.

This summary is prepared by the Division of Public Safety and includes all criminal incidents reported and made known to the University Police Department between the dates of January 11-17, 2016. The University Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from the Schuylkill River to 43rd Street in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police. In this effort to provide you with a thorough and accurate report on public safety concerns, we hope that your increased awareness will lessen the opportunity for crime. For any concerns or suggestions regarding this report, please call the Division of Public Safety at (215) 898-4482.

18th District Report

Below are the Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 10 incidents with 3 arrests (6 robberies, 2 assaults, 1 aggravated assault and 1 rape) were reported between January 11-17, 2016 by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

01/11/16 6:30 PM 4500 Chester Ave Robbery
01/11/16 7:02 PM 4500 Chester Ave Robbery
01/12/16 1:24 AM 1308 S 48th St Robbery
01/12/16 1:34 AM 1308 S 48th St Robbery/Arrest
01/12/16 12:11 PM 45th & Locust St Assault
01/12/16 11:33 PM 1006 S 47th St Robbery
01/15/16 2:32 AM 3929 Sansom St Assault
01/17/16 2:38 AM 1100 S 47th St Rape
01/17/16 8:13 AM 4833 Woodland Ave Robbery
01/17/16 9:12 AM 4000 Market St Aggravated Assault/Arrest

01/12/16 8:52 AM 51 N 39th St Nurse choked by patient
01/15/16 1:54 AM 3929 Sansom St Complainant struck by unknown male
01/15/16 7:46 PM 3441A Chestnut St Complainant threatened by customer
01/16/16 9:37 PM 4100 Sansom St Male restraining female/Arrest

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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Integrating Technology into My On-campus Course

Brian J. Bushee

Prior to 2013, I was a Luddite when it came to using technology in my teaching. Yes, I would use PowerPoint and post materials to a course website, but that was about it. Then, I created a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for Coursera and it completely changed the way I approached my on-campus teaching. After teaching online, I found effective ways to use technology to improve pre-class preparation and free up more class time for additional interactive discussions and cases.

To launch the MOOC, I recorded 20 hours of video lectures. These videos covered the “basics” of the Introduction to Financial Accounting course that we teach to Wharton MBAs; i.e. the 30% or so of class time devoted to lecturing about essential facts. I supplemented the videos with online homework and exams, as well as a “discussion forum” where we could answer questions posted by students. To date, I have had over 21,000 students from around the world successfully complete the MOOC by scoring more than 70% on the homework and exams. This experience showed me that students can effectively learn basic material through an online format.

In the past, I assigned readings and practice problems for the basic facts needed for the class session. Then, assuming that the students would not do the reading, I would spend the first part of the class lecturing about those facts. Of course, the students knew I would do this, which is why they did not do the reading. It was a bad equilibrium. After the lecture, we would spend the remainder of the class time on more advanced topics and on applications of the basics to real-world cases.

In my new approach, I post my video lectures for the day’s topics to Canvas and ask the students to watch the videos prior to class. I also require that they take a five-question multiple choice quiz on the video material prior to class. The quiz randomly chooses questions from a question bank of 10-15 questions. I give the students two attempts to take the quiz, with the highest score counting toward their grade. The quizzes motivate them to watch the videos and provide them with immediate feedback on their understanding of the material in the videos.

The quizzes also provide me with feedback on the student’s understanding of the material. I review the quiz results prior to class and start class by covering any questions that the students struggled with. Through this process, I am able to reduce the “lecture” part of class from 20-25 minutes to less than five minutes.

Now, I have 20 minutes of extra class time that I can use for more in-depth coverage of advanced material, for additional real-world applications, or for more extensive discussions of complicated issues with students. For example, I occasionally use class time to have the students work in groups. I give them a problem or case to discuss for five minutes or so. I am able to get a sense of their understanding of the issues by walking around to listen in on their discussions. Then, we reconvene to have some of the groups present their answers. I also have the class time available to use Poll Everywhere to have students answer questions or give opinions anonymously with their phone or laptops. I can immediately display the results to show the class where they stand on some interesting discussion points in a case and to propel further discussion. The 80 minutes of class time suddenly has become more fun for me and my students.

The big advantages of this new approach from my point of view are that I can walk into class knowing how well-prepared the students are and then have more time for the sophisticated discussions that are often rushed at end of class. I can also make the class time more interactive and stimulating for the students.

The big advantage for the students is that they can rewatch the parts of videos they don’t understand (unlike lectures, where they can miss something if they get distracted in class). They can receive instant feedback on what they understand through the quizzes and can retake them later for practice before an exam. Also, the videos are more engaging than a textbook, especially to a generation of students now accustomed to universal and immediate access to streaming video content.

Of course, there are disadvantages. For an instructor, the big costs are the time to create videos and the need to create additional material to cover in class. Creating high-quality videos is actually fairly easy. I bought a camera and umbrella lights for about $200 and Camtasia editing software for about $500, and then filmed the videos sitting at my desk. I used GoAnimate software to create “virtual students” to ask me questions during the videos, which made them feel more interactive. However, the real cost is time: it took me about 2-3 hours to complete a 15-minute video. Then, I had to find additional cases or exercises to replace the lost lecture time. But, at least these investments can be amortized over multiple years.

The big disadvantage for students is that they actually have to do work outside of class. Because I can monitor the quiz activity and I commit to not re-lecturing the material in class, students feel more compelled to do the required work outside of class. In fact, the main student complaint about the new approach is the “heavy workload” outside of class. The workload should be the same as my prior approach because the time to read the textbook and attempt some practice problems is about the same as watching the videos and taking the quiz. The difference is that now they actually do the work!

There are two more issues to keep in mind under this approach. First, the students can try to circumvent the pre-class quiz by sharing answers. I view these quizzes as more about facilitating learning than about assessment, so I am not too worried about this practice. Plus, I point out to them that, if they come to me for help after a poor midterm exam performance, and I see that they got perfect scores for every quiz, then they will have some explaining to do. Second, there is the risk that more students will skip class because they think they know everything after watching the videos and taking the quiz. This problem can be somewhat remedied by placing more grading weight on class attendance and participation.

All in all, integrating technology into my on-campus course has been a positive experience for me and my students. I have found myself more energized and eager to walk into the classroom. The students are better prepared, we have better discussions and I don’t have to stand there and lecture!