$5.1 Million Mellon Grant for Pathways to the Professoriate

The University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education’s (GSE) Center for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) is launching an unprecedented program to increase the number of Latino professors working in the humanities at US colleges and universities. Pathways to the Professoriate, supported by a $5.1 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, will prepare 90 students from Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) for PhD programs over a five-year period.

This program comes as colleges and universities across the United States are trying, and often struggling, to develop a faculty that reflects the nation’s growing ethnic and cultural diversity. The scarcity of Latino professors is especially stark, as Latinos make up only 4.1 percent of the professoriate in the United States but 20 percent of the population aged 18-44.

“This is not a problem that can be fixed overnight,” said Marybeth Gasman, director of the Center for MSIs and professor of education at GSE. “We see this program as a way to begin a fundamental change. We hope this creates a strong pathway to graduate school for Latino students that will grow over time, with these students supporting one another, and one day becoming mentors themselves.”

“As the demographic profile of the US changes, the country has a compelling interest in obtaining the full participation of previously underrepresented communities,” said Marietta Westermann, vice president at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. “The past decade has seen considerable gains in doctoral degree attainment for Latinos, yet these gains have not kept up with the growth of the US Hispanic population. We have every confidence that this program will build on the successful pipeline programs piloted by the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).”

During the five-year program, the Center for MSIs will partner with three HSIs—Florida International University; the University of Texas at El Paso and California State University, Northridge—and five majority research institutions—New York University; University of California, Berkeley; University of Pennsylvania (Penn); Northwestern University and University of California, Davis.

Selected HSI undergraduate students will take part in intensive summer research programs and cross-institutional conferences, while also receiving mentoring and support for applying to and enrolling in graduate school.

It will take years for these scholars to move into the professoriate, and many will be hired at schools other than the five participating research institutions. Still, UC Davis Provost Ralph Hexter believes his campus will benefit from the partnership immediately.

“We’ve been making slow progress on our own stated need—to have a diversified faculty that reflects our student body, to have research conducted by as diverse a group as possible—but we need to accelerate that progress,” Provost Hexter said. “Having our faculty work with scholars from a broad array of institutions can change how hiring decisions are made.

“There is tremendous talent in so many places,” Provost Hexter said. “We need to enhance our ability to recognize and appreciate it.”

Florida International University (FIU) is 64 percent Latino, and every country in Latin America and the Caribbean is represented in the school’s student body. “We feel like we represent the future of what academia could look like,” said Elizabeth Bejar, FIU’s vice president for Academic Affairs. Currently, FIU does not have a PhD program in many humanities subjects.

“We know we have students here who have the quality and caliber to be PhD students at nationally renowned research institutions,” Dr. Bejar said. “Pathways to the Professoriate will give these students needed support to make sure that can happen.”

Throughout the grant, the Penn Center for MSIs will be conducting assessments of how selected students are progressing. In doing so, Dr. Gasman hopes to “find the leaks in the pipeline”—the challenges that are most likely to halt a Latino scholar’s path to a PhD.

The Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions brings together researchers and practitioners from HBCUs, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Asian American, Native American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions. Based at the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate School of Education, the Center’s goals include elevating the educational contributions of MSIs; ensuring that they are a part of national conversations; bringing awareness to the vital role MSIs play in the nation’s economic development; increasing the rigorous scholarship of MSIs; connecting MSIs’ academic and administrative leadership to promote reform initiatives; and strengthening efforts to close educational achievement gaps among disadvantaged communities. For more information about the Center, visit www2.gse.upenn.edu/msi

Founded in 1969, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation endeavors to strengthen institutions and, where necessary, defend the contributions of the humanities and the arts to human flourishing and to the well-being of diverse and democratic societies by supporting exemplary institutions of higher education and culture as they renew and provide access to an invaluable heritage of ambitious, path-breaking work. For more information, visit https://mellon.org
The Brookings Institution tops the list of the 2015 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report, an annual ranking of the world’s top think tanks released by the University of Pennsylvania Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the Lauder Institute. This is the eighth consecutive year that Brookings has been ranked first. As the premier database and measure of world think tanks, the Index aims to increase the profile, performance and impact of think tanks and to create a transnational and interdisciplinary network of centers of public policy excellence. The report will be translated into more than 20 languages.

Simultaneous 2015 Go To Think Tank Index launch events were held by 107 research organizations across 70 cities in 60 countries. A session in Washington, DC, hosted by the World Bank, featured a discussion on “Why Think Tanks Matter: Helping Make People Centered Public Policy & Development a Priority.” A session at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City focused on arms control, trade, development, sustainable development goals, the environment and COP21.

“Flows of information for rich policy analysis and research today are often disparate and fractured, which leads to a vital need for resources that highlight the best policy research out there,” said James McGann, TTCSP director. “The independent Index is designed to help users of information and policy analysis identify the leading centers of excellence in public policy research around the world.”

2015 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report

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Top Think Tanks Worldwide

Brookings Institution (US)
Chatham House (UK)
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (US)
Center for Strategic and International Studies (US)
Bruegel (Belgium)
Top Defense and National Security Think Tanks
Center for Strategic and International Studies (US)
International Institute for Strategic Studies (UK)

RAND Corporation (US)
Brookings Institution (US)
Chatham House (UK)
Top Foreign Policy and International Affairs Think Tanks
Chatham House (UK)
Brookings Institution (US)
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (US)
Council on Foreign Relations (US)
Center for Strategic and International Studies (US)

The Go To Index is also being distributed through a network of global partners, giving institutions an opportunity to highlight the crucial role they play in building and maintaining civil society in their countries and regions.

The annual report, 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, ranks the top 150 global think tanks across four general categories: the World, Region, Area of Research and Special Achievement.

This year’s report also includes new regional studies categories as well as a category called Think Tank With the Best Practices, Policies and Procedures to Assure the Quality, Independence and Integrity of its Policy Research. There is also a Think Tank Innovation feature, a detailed analysis of innovative practices that think tanks are undertaking to generate new frontiers in policy research and influence.

TTCSP conducts research on the relationship between think tanks, politics and public policy; produces the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index; develops capacity-building resources and programs; supports a global network of almost 7,000 think tanks in 179 countries; and trains future think tank scholars and executives. Go To Index reports since 2008 are available at http://repository.upenn.edu/think_tanks/
Everyone in the University community is invited to learn how to read your W-2 Wage and Tax Statement form and compare the information on the W-2 with the information on your final pay of the year. The office will walk you through reconciling your year-end amounts from ‘My Pay’ to the taxable amounts on the W-2 form. Please note: This session is only to help you understand your W-2 form. We will not be able to provide tax assistance.

To register for a session on either February 22 or February 25 from 11:30 to 12:30, go to http://knowlegelink.upenn.edu and enter ‘W-2’ in the search box.

— Financial Training Department
Ed. Note: See the February 2 issue of Almanac for a guide to the 2015 W-2 form.

One Step Ahead
Security & Privacy
Made Simple

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

Filing Taxes Online This Year?
Take Steps to Protect Your Information!

United States taxpayers filed more than 128 million returns online in 2015. Electronic filing (“e-filing”) offers enormous convenience, but it’s important to remember that it can also create privacy and security risks. Cybercriminals can use stolen information—such as Social Security Numbers, addresses and dates of birth—to commit identity theft, including filing fraudulent tax returns to collect the refunds. Here are several steps you can take to help avoid the risks while taking advantage of the convenience of e-filing:

• Use a strong unique password for e-filing that is different from that of any other online account to protect your personal information.

• Remember that the IRS will never send you any electronic communication, emails and text messages that ask for personal information. A major strategy for criminals during tax season is to contact individuals by email, pretending to be the Internal Revenue Service. People are tricked into clicking on links and downloading malicious software that steals personal information or into providing sensitive information like passwords or Social Security Numbers in answer to a question. Be wary of any such emails.

• Get an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN): An IP PIN is a six-digit number assigned to eligible taxpayers that helps prevent the misuse of your Social Security Number on fraudulent federal income tax returns. To learn more and determine if you qualify to enroll in this extra layer of protection visit https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-An-Identity-Protection-PIN

If you believe you have been the victim of tax-related identity theft contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at (800) 908-4490.

For more on how to protect your personal data visit www.upenn.edu/privacy and www.upenn.edu/computing/security/

TCPW Grants Available for Groups: February 12

The Trustees’ Council of Penn Women (TCPW) is pleased to announce its 2016-2017 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 that 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 and download the application for the TCPW Grant web page. Applications must be submitted no later than February 12, 2016.

Awards will be announced in the spring of 2016 and funds will be distributed in July/August 2016 for projects in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Animal Planet Greenlights Production of Docu-Series Penn Vet

Animal Planet announced it is in production of an all-new series, Penn Vet, which will feature the first ever behind-the-scenes look at the University of Pennsylvania’s highly competitive veterinary school. With unprecedented access, Animal Planet will shadow fourth-year students as they complete this demanding and difficult program while learning from pioneers of veterinary medicine. Penn Vet is set to premiere this year.

“Veterinary students driven by a mission to heal and protect animals take everything they’ve learned and put it to the test in this series,” said Ricci Ross, group president of Discovery Channel, Animal Planet and Science Channel. “Penn Vet will give our viewers a front row seat to this journey.”

Penn Vet will feature students with diverse backgrounds and goals as they handle a wide range of cases, at both Ryan Hospital for companion animals in Philadelphia and at the New Bolton Center hospital for large animals in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. With the

Animals’ lives on the line, Penn Vet showcases the rigorous training of veterinary students as they face the day-to-day challenges inherent in this high pressure world.

With more than 30,000 patient visits a year and species ranging from dogs, cats, guinea pigs and iguanas to horses, cows, zebras and goats, the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Veterinary Medicine is home to two internationally renowned teaching hospitals with some of the largest case loads in the world. Penn Vet established the first-ever facility for the care of critically injured large animals, the first state-of-the-art minimally invasive surgery suite, the first recovery pool for equine orthopedic surgeries and the world’s first animal bloodmobile.

Penn Vet is produced for Animal Planet by High Noon Entertainment, where Jim Berger, Scott Feeley, Sarah Presta and Michael Call serve as executive producers. For Animal Planet, Dawn Nelson is executive producer. Krishan San Nicolas is producer and Meredith Russell is associate producer.

SciCheck’s Extended Run

The Annenberg Public Policy Center (APPC) announced that SciCheck will be around to fact-check the science-based claims of politicians throughout the 2016 presidential campaign. A year ago, with the support of the Stanton Foundation, APPC launched SciCheck to focus exclusively on false and misleading scientific claims made by major political figures. Since then, SciCheck has fact-checked President Obama, heads of federal agencies, congressional leaders and several presidential candidates, among others. It has tackled subjects such as climate change, vaccinations, fetal pain, the California measles outbreak, the Human Genome Project, recreational and medicinal marijuana, fracking and sexual orientation.

In all, the project has produced 36 articles and four videos, and has reached millions of readers—not only on FactCheck.org, but also on the websites of major media outlets, including MSN.com, USA Today and Discover Magazine. Its articles have even been translated and redistributed by Chequeado, a Spanish-language fact-checking website in Argentina.

Now, SciCheck will be entering its second year—thanks to the continued support of the Stanton Foundation.

The foundation was founded by the late Frank Stanton, who was president of CBS for 25 years, from 1946 to 1971. Mr. Stanton was widely recognized as one of television’s top executives in his formative years. The New York Times called Mr. Stanton “a central figure in the development of television broadcasting” and credited him with helping to persuade Congress to pass the “equal time” provision so that the 1960 presidential debates could be aired on television. The Stanton Foundation will provide FactCheck.org with $150,000 not only to continue funding SciCheck but also to underwrite the FactCheck.org Fellowship program for undergraduates at the University of Pennsylvania.

The year-round, paid fellowship program has benefited 27 students since it was launched in the summer of 2010. Some of those students are still in school, including those who have gone on to pursue advanced degrees. But half of those who have joined the workforce are using the research and writing skills they learned at FactCheck.org at jobs in the media, government, politics and at nonprofit think tanks.

The Annenberg Public Policy Center also announced that Vanessa Schipani has joined their staff and will lead SciCheck in its second year.

For the past six years, Ms. Schipani has split her time covering a spectrum of scientific subjects as a journalist and analyzing trends in science as a philosopher and historian. In 2008, Ms. Schipani received a bachelor of science in zoology and a bachelor of arts in philosophy at the University of Florida. She has also nearly completed a master of science in the history and philosophy of science from Utrecht University in the Netherlands.

Over the years, she has freelanced for publications such as BioScience, The American Scholar, EARTH and Euroscientist. Previously, she also interned with the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology in Japan and The Scientist in New York.

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2015 AAAS Fellows
Four Penn faculty members have been named Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). They are among a class of 347 researchers who have been awarded this honor because of their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications.

New Fellows will be presented with an official certificate and a gold and blue rosette pin this month during the 2016 AAAS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

The new Penn AAAS Fellows are:
Ted Abel, the Brush Family Professor of Biology in Penn Arts & Sciences; for distinguished contributions to the field of neuroscience, particularly for studies of the molecular mechanisms of memory storage and the biological basis of behavior.

Dennis E. Discher, the Robert D. Bent Professor of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering in Penn Engineering; for outstanding contributions to the understanding of the effects of matrix and cytoskeletal physical properties and forces on cell physiology and stem cell development.

A.T. Charlie Johnson, director of Penn’s Nano/Bio Interface Center and professor in the department of physics & astronomy in Penn Arts & Sciences; for distinguished contributions to condensed matter physics, especially for studies of transport in one- and two-dimensional materials, and applications of nano-bio hybrids for chemical detection.

Mark Trodden, department chair and Fay R. and Eugene L. Langberg Professor of Physics; for distinguished contributions to particle cosmology, particularly for theoretical approaches to cosmic acceleration and the baryon asymmetry of the universe, and their dissemination beyond academia.

Gustavo Aguirre: Louis Braille Award for Blindness Research
The Associated Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired recognized Gustavo D. Aguirre, professor of medical genetics and ophthalmology at Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine, with the 2016 Louis Braille Award for innovative research and treatment of inherited blinding diseases.

The award was presented in January at the 56th Annual Louis Braille Awards Ceremony in Philadelphia. Dr. Aguirre has investigated the genetic basis of a variety of inherited vision disorders, including Leber’s congenital amaurosis, Best disease, achromatopsia and retinitis pigmentosa. His work on novel gene therapy approaches to treatment, which delivered to the eye a functional copy of a gene that is otherwise lacking, has restored vision in animal models of X-linked retinitis pigmentosa and Leber’s congenital amaurosis. The Leber congenital amaurosis therapy is now in human clinical trials.

Dr. Aguirre earned his VMD in 1968 and his PhD in 1975, both from Penn.

Cynthia A. Connolly: NEH Fellowship
Cynthia A. Connolly, associate professor of nursing in the department of family & community health at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The fellowship, one of the most prestigious in the humanities, will be used to complete her forthcoming book, Children, Drug Therapy, and Pharmaceuicals in the United States, 1906-1979.

Dr. Connolly’s book, which traces the development, use and marketing of pharmaceutical products for children, will be the first history of children and drugs. Even though almost every 20th-century law governing drug safety was enacted in response to a pediatric drug disaster, drug safety only improved for adults, not for children.

Dr. Connolly holds a secondary appointment in SAS’s history & sociology of science department and is also a Fellow at the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing. The Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics and the Alice Paul Center for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality.

Nader Engheta: NAI Fellow
Nader Engheta, the H. Nedwill Ramsey Professor in the department of electrical & systems engineering at Penn, has been named a National Academy of Inventors (NAI) Fellow. He will be presented with the honor at the NAI 2016 Annual Conference in Washington, DC in April.

Dr. Engheta’s research interests span the fields of nano-optics and nanophotonics, metamaterials and plasmonics, and optical nanostructures, including nanoantennas, nanocircuits and nanosystems. He and his group have been developing the concept of optical lumped nanocircuits based on material nanostructures, with the goal of “modularizing” nanophotonics and providing the possibility of information processing with light at the nanoscale, and also the extra-dimensional platforms for unprecedented tailoring and manipulating light-matter interaction.

Fall Academic All-Ivy Athletes
In December, the Ivy League announced its Academic All-Ivy selections for the fall 2015 season. Each season, ten student-athletes from each Ancient Eight school—five men and five women—are named Academic All-Ivy. In order to be eligible, student-athletes must be in their second year or beyond at Penn and hold a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher.

Penn’s Academic All-Ivy athletes for fall 2015 are:
Thomas Awad, C’16; health & societies major; men’s cross country
Alexis Genske; C’16; philosophy, politics & economics (PPE) major; volleyball
Elizabeth Hitti, SEAS’16; mechanical engineering & applied mechanics major; field hockey
Alexa Hoover; C’18; undeclared major; field hockey
Paige Lombard; C’16; anthropology major; women’s soccer
Mike McCurdy; C’17; biological basis of behavior (BBB) major; football
Ashley Montgomery, W’17; management concentration; women’s cross country
Alce Neumann; C’16; philosophy, politics & economics (PPE) major; men’s soccer
Tanner Thexton, W’16; statistics concentration; football
Justin Watson; W’18; undeclared concentration; football
Eli J. Lesser: Fulbright-Nehru International Education Administrator Seminar
Eli J. Lesser, senior director, Penn Summer and Non-Degree Programs in the College of Liberal and Professional Studies, has been selected for the 2016 Fulbright-Nehru International Education Administrator Seminar.

The seminar will take place in India next month. Mr. Lesser will join ten peer administrators from other US institutions to study and engage higher education institutions in India.

Fermento: 2016 Y Prize Winners
The annual Y Prize—co-sponsored by Penn Engineering, Wharton’s Mack Institute, Wharton Entrepreneurship and the Penn Center for Innovation—awarded top honors to the Wharton and Penn Engineering student founders of Fermento, a system to speed up the fermentation process in beer production by up to nine times while maintaining alcohol quality and composition at an industrial scale, leading to substantial cost reductions. The Fermento team, consisting of Siddharth Shah, Shashwata Narain and Alexander David, selected microfluidic fabrication technology developed by David Issadore’s lab as the basis for a technological solution to this problem.

The Y Prize gives students the chance to show how Penn technology can be used in creating a compelling and viable product. Fermento won $10,000 and the right to commercialize their application of Penn-owned biomedical engineering technology. The prize was awarded at the fourth annual Y-Prize Grand Finale in January.

Siddharth Shah, Shashwata Narain and Alexander David

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**Denis Mukwege: 2016 Penn Nursing Renfield Foundation Award**

Denis Mukwege, a humanitarian and advocate for women’s rights, will receive the 2016 Penn Nursing Renfield Foundation Award for Global Women’s Health for his work in treating and highlighting the plight of women in the war-torn eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The award, which comes with a $100,000 cash prize, was established in 2012 by the Beatrice Renfield Foundation and is presented biennially to a leader, or leaders, in the field of global women’s health. Dr. Mukwege will receive the honor during an event at Penn on March 24, 2016.

Dr. Mukwege is an obstetrician and gynecologist who lives and works in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 1999, he established the Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, which has become known worldwide for the treatment of survivors of sexual violence and women with severe gynecological problems. He and his staff have performed reconstructive gynecological surgery on more than 21,000 women injured as a consequence of war, including those subject to rape. He also established a nurses’ training program, the Institut des Techniques Médicales de Panzi, to provide education and clinical training to about 50 nurses per year.

**Penn Alexander School: High SPR Achievement**

Penn Alexander School, one of 19 schools recognized by the School District of Philadelphia for high achievement on the 2014-2015 School Progress Report (SPR), is the City Leader for K-8 schools. Penn Alexander School attained the highest performance ratings in the District in the categories of Achievement, Climate and Growth.

Now in its third year, the SPR evaluates schools in multiple areas, including student achievement, student growth, school climate, and for high schools, college- and career-readiness. Unlike the state’s School Performance Profiles, the SPR places greater emphasis on overall progress rather than standardized test performance alone.

**Three Penn Engineering Students: Forbes ‘30 Under 30’**

Three students at Penn’s School of Engineering & Applied Science are among the Forbes 2016 ‘30 Under 30’ honorees. Since 2012, the list has spotlighted 114 entrepreneurs, ‘bright young stars who are transforming the world.’ The 2016 class includes 600 of the greatest young entrepreneurs, breakthrough talents and change agents in 20 different industries.

Spencer Penn, a mechanical engineering & applied mechanics major, and Morgan Snyder, a digital media design major, were selected as co-honorees in recognition of their company, Sweet Bites. The gum of Sweet Bites is to solve the global issue of oral disease and its complications in challenged urban areas via xylitol-enhanced chewing gum. By employing local women to distribute the gum packaged with medical information, they hope to enable female entrepreneurship, close the information gap around healthcare access and improve the lives of millions suffering from preventable dental health problems.

Yash Mulgaonkar, a PhD student in the department of mechanical engineering & applied mechanics, was selected for his achievements in developing the world’s smallest autonomous drone. He is focusing on how to make drones and other robots accessible to the general public by developing rapid fabrication methods. Additionally, he is researching training methods for robots so that they can better work together to complete tasks.

**Monroe Price: International Communication Association’s C. Edwin Baker Award**

Monroe E. Price, director of the Center for Global Communication Studies at Penn’s Annenberg School for Communication, is the 2016 recipient of the C. Edwin Baker Award for the Advancement of Scholarship on Media, Markets and Democracy. The award, given annually by the Philosophy of Communication and Communication Law and Policy Divisions of the International Communication Association, will be presented in June at the International Communication Association Annual Conference in Fukuoka, Japan.


The award also recognizes Dr. Price’s extensive work developing nodes of global communication studies and practice. In addition to establishing the Center for Global Communication Studies and serving as a full adjunct professor at Annenberg School for Communication, he founded Oxford University’s Programme in Comparative Media Law & Policy and the Center for Data & Media Studies at Central European University.

**Megan Ryerson: WTS Philadelphia 2015 Woman of the Year**

Megan Ryerson, assistant professor of city & regional planning in PennDesign, who also holds an appointment in electrical & systems engineering (transportation) at Penn Engineering, is the 2015 recipient of the Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS)—Philadelphia Chapter Woman of the Year Award. The WTS is an organization committed to the advancement of women within the transportation industry.

Dr. Ryerson’s dedication to mentorship—actively recruiting women to pursue careers in aviation engineering and helping them to overcome any barriers to success—played a crucial factor in the WTS’s decision.

She leads a research group of doctoral and master’s students, along with an undergraduate student, investigating air traffic in Philadelphia.

**Deborah Thomas: Editor-in-Chief, American Anthropologist**


Dr. Thomas also holds appointments in Penn’s Graduate School of Education and School of Social Policy & Practice. She is a core faculty member of the Alice Paul Center for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality.

Her vision for the quarterly journal, which reaches the nearly 10,000 AAA members and tens of thousands of researchers, also includes the development of an online presence that will cultivate broad awareness of the work done by the association’s scholars. This spans the main fields of anthropology: cultural anthropology, biological/physical anthropology, archaeology and linguistic anthropology.

Dr. Thomas has served as a member of the *American Anthropologist* editorial board and as co-editor of one of its sections, “Visual Anthropology.” From 2007 until 2010, she edited the AAA’s journal, *Transforming Anthropology*.
Some of the Many Sounds of Music to Warm the Soul at Penn in February:

**Jazz, Blues and Flutes—at the Penn Museum and the Annenberg Center**

- **Penn Flutes, Romance in the Air:** Enjoy a special lunchtime Valentine’s-themed concert in the Penn Museum’s galleries, performed by Penn’s all-flute ensemble (below). The show is free for PennCard holders and with Museum admission. It is sure to kick off your Valentine’s Day on a high note. See them perform on February 12 at noon.

- **Daddy Mack Blues Band (above):** Enjoy the funky music that originated in Memphis, Tennessee as this authentic urban blues band performs their soulful mix of both original and classic tunes. Together since the 1970s, this five-member group is sure to please. Watch them perform on February 20 at 8 p.m. at the Annenberg Center’s Harold Prince Theatre. Tickets can be purchased at www.annenbergcenter.org

**Vision Benefits**

The Plan has contracts with Davis Vision Plan and Vision Service Plan to pay vision claims incurred under the terms of the contract. The total premiums paid under these contracts for the plan year ending June 30, 2015 to Davis Vision Plan were $695,630 and to Vision Service Plan were $305,914.

**Life Insurance Benefits**

The Plan has a contract with Aetna Life Insurance Company to pay life insurance, dependent life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance claims incurred under the terms of the contract. The total premiums paid under this contract for the plan year ending June 30, 2015 were $6,928,623.

**Long-Term Care Benefits**

The Plan has contracts with John Hancock Life Insurance Company and Genworth Life Insurance Company to pay long-term care claims incurred under the terms of the contracts. The total premiums paid under these contracts for the plan year ending June 30, 2015 to John Hancock Life Insurance Co. were $1,271,623 and to Genworth Life Insurance Co. were $861,613.

**Your Rights to Additional Information**

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. Insurance information is included in this annual report.

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Cyrille Aïméé: This French-born jazz singer (right) brings a fresh, creative vocal approach to the jazz tradition while exploring intoxicating new directions. Enjoy her rhythmic music at Annenberg’s Harold Prince Theatre on February 19 at 8 p.m. Tickets available at www.annenbergcenter.org

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**Summary Annual Report for The University of Pennsylvania Health & Welfare Program**

This is a summary of the annual report of The University of Pennsylvania Health & Welfare Program, Plan No. 503, sponsored by The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, EIN 23-1352685, for the period that began on July 1, 2014 and ended on June 30, 2015. This annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”). Please note that not all employees are eligible to participate in all of the benefits available under the Plan. Please consult your Plan materials for specific eligibility information.

**Medical, Prescription Drug, Dental and Long-Term Disability Benefits**

The University of Pennsylvania has committed itself to pay certain medical and prescription drug claims, dental benefits and long-term disability benefits incurred under the terms of the Plan on a self-insured basis. In addition, the Plan has a contract with CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company to pay certain medical claims incurred under the terms of the contract. The total premiums paid for the plan year ending June 30, 2015 to CIGNA were $90,236. The Plan also has a contract with Standard Insurance Company to pay certain long-term disability benefits incurred under the terms of the contract. The total premiums paid to Standard Insurance Company for the plan year ending June 30, 2015 were $953,653.
THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT

About the Crime Report: Below are all Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Society from January 25-31, 2016. Also reported were 15 Crimes Against Property (6 thefts, 4 cases of fraud, 3 cases of vandalism, 1 liquor law violation and 1 other offense). Full reports are available at: www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v62/n22/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 25-31, 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: 8 incidents with 3 arrests (5 robberies, 2 assaults and 1 rape) were reported between January 25-31, 2016 by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

01/25/2016 8:58 AM 4000 Baltimore Ave Robbery/Arrest
01/25/2016 9:32 AM 3800 Woodland Walk Robbery/Arrest
01/28/2016 7:28 AM 1100 S 45th St Robbery
01/28/2016 7:51 AM 200 S 46th St Assault
01/29/2016 10:25 AM 47th and Loust Sts Assault
01/30/2016 2:07 PM 4018 Market St Robbery
01/31/2016 4:49 AM 3700 Block Spruce St Rape
01/31/2016 1:55 PM 4700 Sansom S Robbery/Arrest


Special Event

10 Penn Tobacco Center on Regulatory Science Seminar: Understanding the Cigar Market and Its Implications for Tobacco Regulatory Science; Cristina Devezas, Rutgers University; noon; rm. 500, Annenberg School (Penn Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science; Annenberg School).
Ancient Treasures from the Republic of Turkey: The Golden Age of King Midas, Exclusive World Première Exhibition, Opening February 13 at the Penn Museum

What was behind the legendary story of King Midas and his golden touch?

That is the question to be answered—not with chests full of gold, but with a spectacular array of 150 objects, including more than 120 specially selected artifacts from four museums in the Republic of Turkey, keys to telling the true story of a very real and powerful ruler of the Phrygian kingdom. The Golden Age of King Midas is an exclusive, world premiere exhibition developed by the Penn Museum, in partnership with the Republic of Turkey. A special Opening Celebration on Saturday, February 13 will kick off the exhibition, which runs through November 27.

King Midas lived in the prosperous city of Gordion, a site in what is now central Turkey, circa 750-700 BCE, ruling Phrygia and influencing the neighboring kingdoms. He likely reigned during the time in which Homer’s Iliad was first written down. It was indeed a golden age.

An East-West Cutting of the Gordian Knot

The exhibition opens with fanfare at 11 a.m., as representatives of the Republic of Turkey join Penn Museum Director Julian Siggers, exhibition curator Elizabeth H. Hirst, and exhibition team members for a symbolic cutting of the “Gordian Knot,” the official opening of the new show.

One of history’s most important accounts involves Alexander the Great’s 333 B.C.E. visit to Gordion, where he purportedly cut the “Gordion Knot.”

A special experience awaits guests at the opening weekend only: Penn Museum’s third floor Pepper Hall will be transformed into a Ker-varsanay-inspired oasis reminiscent of the Turkish Kervansaray, or roadside inns, that offered travelers a place to recover from a day’s journey and supported the flow of commerce, information and people across the Silk Road. Visitors to the Museum will be able to travel back in time to the Ottoman Empire as they wander through, and rest among, ikats and other textiles from the Silk Road, hand-knotted carpets from Turkey, hand-crafted copper pots and metal trays, tiles and plates, ottomans covered with Turkish kilims, hand-knotted saddle and camel bags from the region and traditional tent decorations. This special experience is made possible courtesy of Material Culture, a Philadelphia purveyor of antiques and collectibles from around the world.

Archaeologists from the Penn Museum (the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology) have been excavating at Gordion—and making international headlines with their discoveries—since 1950. The crossroads of many cultures over time, Gordion offers insights into the ideals and goals of many years of history, but it is best known as the political and cultural capital of the Phrygians, a people who dominated much of what is now Turkey, nearly 3,000 years ago. With its monumental architecture and a series of wealthy tombs belonging to Phrygian royalty, Gordion is one of the most important archaeological evidence for the unique material achievements of the once great Phrygian civilization.

From Myth to Man

Nearly 3,000 years after his death, we know King Midas by unforgettable stories told by ancient Greeks long after he was dead, stories like King Midas and the Golden Touch and King Midas and the Donkey Ears. An interactive "myth book" lets guests explore the stories, while artifacts and excavation discoveries detailed throughout the exhibition begin to reveal the man behind the myths. The most extensive record of Midas’ activities comes from the annual records of the Assyrian kings, who referred to him as Mita, ruler of Mushku (Phrygia), on a clay tablet, ca. 715 BCE, on loan from the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago for the exhibition.

A detailed timeline will draw guests into the exhibition and back in time. It is at Gordion where the story of Midas’ actual life and times truly emerges. One object from Greece takes center stage: an ivory lion tamer figurine on loan from the Delphi Archaeological Museum; it probably formed part of a throne dedicated by Midas to Apollo in the late 8th century BCE.

A Unique Opportunity

In 1957, the Penn Museum excavated a spectacular tomb, referred to as Tumulus MM, for Midas Mound. This was the largest of about 120 massive tombs belonging to Phrygian kings and used to mark important burials at Gordion. Dated to ca. 740 BCE, it is believed to be the final resting place of King Midas’ father Gordios—a son’s spectacular tribute. The archaeologists entered the tomb, the oldest standing wooden building in the world, and discovered a shrine dedicated to the skeleton of a king in what was left of a cedar cof-fin, surrounded by the bronze bowls, serving vessels, wooden tables and food remains from an extensive funeral banquet. The details of the banquet we now know thanks to the analysis of the sediment at the bottom of the vessels: a hearty drink containing wine, beer and honey mead.

The discovery of an intact royal tomb near 3,000 years old is highly unusual, as is the excellent state of preservation of the associated artifacts.

Guests at The Golden Age of King Midas will meet a life-sized photograph of archaeologist Rodney Young at the entrance of a space designed to resemble the wooden tomb and featuring many of the very objects the excavators first encountered. Inside this space, a video experience lets visitors explore the tomb as if they were in the tomb itself when it was sealed nearly 3,000 years ago. Now housed in Turkish Museums in Ankara, Istanbul, Antalya and Gordion, most of these extraordinary artifacts have never before traveled to the United States. Site videos, including scenes taken during the world-famous excavation in 1957, bring guests into the moment of discovery.

There are no known visual records of what King Midas looked like, but if he resembled his father, there is some intriguing evidence. In 1988, the Penn Museum worked with John Prentiss and Richard Neave of the University of Manchester to develop a reconstructed plaster head of Gordios based on his skeletal remains; a plaster cast will be on display in the exhibition. With it is a selection from an assortment of 189 large bronze fibulae, used for pinning garments, that were found in King Midas’ father’s tomb and reused in others; they may have been used as calling cards at the elaborate funerals.

Objects from five smaller tombs excavated at Gordion—including a child’s tomb that contained an elegant and distinctive goat-shaped jug—provide additional information about the site and the people who lived and died there. While no gold was found in the largest tomb, jewelry from a later tomb, ca. 530 B.C.E., is featured, includ-