Matthew Antonio Bosch: Vice Dean and Director for Community Engagement and Inclusion at Penn Admissions

Matthew Antonio Bosch will join the senior leadership team of Penn Admissions as Vice Dean and Director for Community Engagement and Inclusion, with an appointment beginning May 9. In this role, he will help to create and enhance an inclusive and growth-oriented office culture that supports and catalyzes the office’s business goals and amplifies Penn Undergraduate Office of Admissions’ reputation as a thought leader and extraordinary place to work.

With degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard University, and Cornell University, Dr. Bosch brings 20 years of professional experience spanning diversity, inclusive excellence, admissions, student life, and academic affairs.

He has served in three prior inaugural positions, including Dean of Student Inclusive Excellence at Elon University (NC), overseeing diversity and identity centers across race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality. While serving as the inaugural Chief Diversity Officer at North Hennepin Community College (MN), he was elected the first Latino president of the Minnesota College Personnel Association, earning statewide recognition from the Latino Chamber of Commerce Minnesota as one of the “Top 25 Latino Leaders On The Rise.”

Most recently, Dr. Bosch served as Interim Academic Dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies and as graduate academic director of the MEEd in higher education and student affairs administration at Rosemont College.

His teaching background stretches across multiple universities, including courses on systemic bias in higher education, cultural pluralism in higher education, sex and gender, professional development practicum, and student and identity development theories. Lauded as “a man with a plan,” he has collaborated with staff, faculty, and students to launch leadership councils, develop multi-year strategic planning efforts for diversity and inclusion, and create inclusive hiring manuals for search committees.

Dedicated to helping colleagues seek professional development and advancement, Dr. Bosch’s academic research focuses on the career advancement and intersectional identities of faculty, students, and staff, with an emphasis on student success, inclusive leadership, and issues of race, gender, and sexuality.

Richard Farley

Richard Farley, an adjunct professor of architecture; Elizabeth Lovett, a lecturer in undergraduate architecture; and Akira Drake Rodriguez, an assistant professor of city and regional planning, have received G. Holmes Perkins Teaching Awards for 2021-2022. Named in honor of the architect and longtime faculty member who served as dean of the school from 1951 to 1971, the awards are given annually based on student nominations to recognize distinguished teaching and innovation in the classroom, seminar, or studio.

Richard Farley is both a registered architect and engineer who teaches the two-course structures sequence in the Master of Architecture program. His professional experience centers on high-tech buildings, complex master plans, and mixed-use high-rise structures, and his research is focused on the “Top 25 Latino Leaders On The Rise.”

Weitzman School of Design’s G. Holmes Perkins Teaching Awards

Penn Engineering 2022 Teaching and Advising Awards

Each year, the Penn Engineering undergraduate student body selects the recipients of the Penn Engineering Teaching and Advising Awards. This year’s recipients are Matthew Antonio Bosch, Chris Callison-Burch, and James Won.

S. Reid Warren, Jr. Award

Deep Jariwala, an assistant professor in the department of electrical and systems engineering, has been awarded the S. Reid Warren, Jr. Award. Presented in conjunction with the Penn Engineering Alumni Society, this award recognizes outstanding service in stimulating and guiding the intellectual and professional development of undergraduate students at the school.

Dr. Jariwala’s students described his extraordinary impact on the trajectory of their professional development, supporting them in times of uncertainty. His excitement, optimism, and dedication provided great motivation for his students to achieve their goals.

Dr. Jariwala received his undergraduate degree from the Indian Institute of Technology in 2010 and went on to receive his PhD from Northwestern University.

Ford Motor Company Award for Faculty Advising

Chris Callison-Burch, an associate professor in the department of computer and information science, has been awarded the Ford Motor Company Award for Faculty Advising, which recognizes dedication to helping students realize their educational, career, and personal goals.

Dr. Callison-Burch was cited for introducing his students to valuable research opportunities while helping them navigate Penn, especially during the pandemic. His students praised...
From the Senate Office

Pursuant to the Faculty Senate Rules, formal notification to members may be accomplished by publication in Almanac. The following is published under that rule.

TO: Members of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Megan Ryerson, Chair, Nominating Committee
SUBJECT: Senate Nominations 2021-2022

In accordance with the Faculty Senate Rules, official notice is given of the Senate Nominating Committee’s partial slate of nominees for the incoming Senate Officers. The nominees, all of whom have indicated their willingness to serve, are:

Chair-elect:
• Tulia Falleti (SAS/Political Science)

Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility

to serve a 3-year term beginning upon election:
• Jules van Binsbergen (Wharton)

Also in accordance with the Faculty Senate Rules, you are invited to submit additional nominations, which shall be accomplished via petitions containing at least twenty-five valid names and the signed approval of the candidate. All such petitions must be received no later than fourteen days after circulation of the nominees of the Nominating Committee by email to the Faculty Senate, senate@pobox.upenn.edu. This year, that deadline is 5 p.m. EDT on Monday, May 23, 2022.

Under the same provision of the rules, if no additional nominations are received, the slate nominated by the Nominating Committee will be declared elected.

The remaining slate of nominees will be published in a future edition of Almanac.

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2022 Call for PPSC Board and Committee Nominations: Deadline Extended to May 11

Nominations have been extended through tomorrow, May 11, for open positions on the Penn Professional Staff Assembly (PPSA) Executive Board and University Council Committees. All monthly-paid, full-time University staff members are eligible to participate. More information is available at the PPSA website.

Committee and Executive Board service are rewarding experiences that require only a few hours per month. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet colleagues from across the University.

For Executive Committee and University Committees Nominations

To nominate, please fill out the form linked here. Self nominations must include a personal statement of less than 250 words.

The following positions are open for nomination:
• PPSA Chair-Elect (1 position, three year term of service)
• Executive Committee Member At-Large (4 positions, two-year term of service)
• PPSA Representative to University Council Committees (7 positions, two-year term of service)

Responsibilities for each position are described on the nomination form, linked above. For more information on the seven University Council Committees, visit https://secretary.upenn.edu/univ-council/committees.

All monthly-paid, full-time University staff members are encouraged to self-nominate or nominate colleagues for consideration using the form below by the extended deadline of Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

The 2022-2023 election for officers will occur after PPSA’s annual meeting. The annual meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19 at noon ET, at which we are honored to be joined by Katy Milkman, the James G. Dinan Professor at the Wharton School and co-founder and co-director of the Behavior Change for Good Initiative (registration details forthcoming).

All full-time, monthly-paid University staff members are welcome to participate in this annual meeting.

An online election will take place for the Chair-Elect and the Members At-Large in the days following the annual meeting. University Council Committee members will be appointed by the PPSA Tri-Chairs from amongst all applicants following the election.

Questions on the nominating and election process can be directed to ppsa@lists.upenn.edu. The elections process is governed by the PPSA Bylaws, available on the PPSA website at http://ppsa.upenn.edu.

— Penn Professional Staff Assembly (PPSA)
Benjamin Shen, Physics and Astronomy
Benjamin Shih-Ping Shen, the Reese W. Flower Professor Emeritus in the department of physics and astronomy in the School of Arts and Sciences and Penn’s Interim Provost from 1980 to 1981, passed away at home on April 10. He was 90.

Dr. Shen was born in 1931 in Hangzhou, China. He graduated from a French lycée in Shanghai and studied engineering briefly at the National Taiwan University. In 1954, he graduated with a degree in mathematics from Assumption College (now University) in Worcester, Massachusetts, where most of his courses were taught in French. After receiving a degree in physics from Clark University, he earned a National DSc in physics from the University of Paris in 1964 under Pierre Auger, discoverer of the Auger electron. Dr. Shen joined the Penn faculty in 1966 as an associate professor of astronomy, becoming a full professor in 1968 and the Reese W. Flower Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics in 1972. He served as chair of the department of astronomy and astrophysics from 1973 to 1979. During his time as department chair, the name of the department was changed from astronomy to astronomy and astrophysics, reflecting a broadening of research interests in the department. Beginning in 1968, Dr. Shen served as director of Penn’s Flower and Cook Observatory. During the 1970s and 1980s, he served on several Faculty Senate and University Council committees.

In 1979, Dr. Shen was named Associate Provost by then-Provost Vartan Gregorian. The next year, he was named Acting (Interim) Provost after Dr. Gregorian’s resignation (Almanac, October 14, 1980). During his tenure as Acting Provost, Dr. Shen oversaw a restructuring of Penn’s graduate school and convened the Task Force on the Quality of Teaching, which led to the creation of new teaching awards across Penn’s schools. In 1981, Dr. Shen resigned as Acting Provost, but continued to head the task force that he had launched. During the 1980s, he continued his membership in Penn’s governance bodies, and in 1993 he served on then-President Sheldon Hackney’s Commission on Strengthening the University Community. Dr. Shen retired from Penn in 1996. In retirement, he served as the second president of the Penn Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty (PASEF).

A pioneer in the use of particle accelerators for astrophysical research, Dr. Shen’s scientific work centered around the cascade of nuclear interactions triggered by cosmic rays, high energy particles that move through space at nearly the speed of light. He was the first to show, in 1961, that the energy loss of “spallation,” or interaction of nuclei by cosmic rays could be the long-sought origin of certain rare chemical elements in the universe. His accelerator experiments greatly influenced the science of shielding against cosmic radiation in the early days of the space age; in 1963, the journal Astronautica Acta devoted an entire issue to his work. He also contributed to the early research on the exploding cores of galaxies and quasars. He edited and contributed writing to two books on nuclear astrophysics: High-Energy Nuclear Reactions in Astrophysics (1967) and Spallation Nuclear Reactions and Their Applications (1976), and was the author of many peer-reviewed articles.

In addition to his work at Penn, Dr. Shen engaged in work with the broader scientific community. In 1972, he was appointed the head of a New York Academy of Sciences committee to improve scientific communication to the general public, and in the same year, he was named a fellow of the American Physical Society. As part of this effort, in a 1975 essay, he introduced the concept of “civic science literacy,” the basic scientific knowledge needed by the general public and policymakers in an increasingly technologically society.

In 1990, he was appointed to the National Science Board, where he was a strong advocate for basic science funding and where he chaired a task force on scientific literacy. He was an advisor to the Children’s Television Workshop (now Sesame Workshop) on its science programs, including the award-winning series 3-2-1 Contact. He became an advisor on science and technology to the Senate Budget Committee (1976-1977) and to the Congressional Office of Technological Assessment (1977-1978).

In 1978, he was awarded the Vermeil Medal of the Société d’Encouragement au Progrès. In the late 1970s, he chaired a nationwide panel of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and in 1996, he was named a fellow of the AAAS. In 1993, he was named a Chevalier of the Ordre des Palmes Académiques in France.

In his leisure time, Dr. Shen practiced Chinese calligraphy and built bicycles for himself and his children with vintage parts he found online.

Dr. Shen is survived by his wife, Lucia Shen; his son, William Shen; his daughter, Julie Shen (Shane Watters); and a granddaugther. A funeral mass was held on April 21 at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Philadelphia, followed by burial at Woodlands Cemetery. Donations in his memory may be made to Philly PAWS.

Jeffrey Wortman, Penn Veterinary Medicine, and Perelman School of Medicine
Jeffrey Arnold Wortman, VMD ’69, an emeritus professor of radiology and the former Associate Dean for Academic and Curricular Affairs at Penn Vet and a former faculty member at the Perelman School of Medicine, passed away on March 11. He was 75.

Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Wortman completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. He then went on to study veterinary medicine and graduated magna cum laude in 1969 from Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine. While a student at Penn Vet, Dr. Wortman served as an animal keeper in Penn Vet’s department of clinical studies. After receiving his VMD, he was commissioned as a captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. From 1970 to 1971, Dr. Wortman served in the 20th Preventative Medicine Unit in Vietnam and was awarded a Bronze Star, the highest honor a service member can receive. After receiving an honorable discharge from the Army, Dr. Wortman completed a small animal internship, then completed his residency in radiology and earned a PhD from the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Wortman received his specialty certification as a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Radiology in 1977 and served on multiple ACVR council committees, as well as serving as its president in 1991.

In 1977, Dr. Wortman accepted a faculty position in radiology at Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in Lansing. Four years later, he returned to his alma mater, becoming an assistant professor of radiology at Penn Vet (he also accepted a secondary appointment as an assistant professor of radiology in Penn’s School of Medicine in 1984). Over the next 30 years, Dr. Wortman taught radiology to thousands of veterinary students in lecture halls and clinical rotations. In 1987, he was promoted to associate professor of radiology. In 1999, Dr. Wortman became the Associate Dean for Academic and Curricular Affairs at Penn Vet, serving under three consecutive deans of the school. While at Penn Vet, Dr. Wortman received the Veterinary Student Government Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Veterinary Medical Student Government Commendation Award, and the Penn Alumni Award of Merit. He also served as a Penn Alumni interviewer, interviewing students in the Caribbean who were interested in applying to Penn Vet. Dr. Wortman retired from Penn and took emeritus status in 2012.

Dr. Wortman is survived by his wife, Carol (née Cancelmo); his children, Alicia, Laura, and Stephen; his brothers, Dennis and Ken; and three grandchildren. A celebration of his life was held on April 23.

In lieu of flowers, donations are encouraged to support the Jeffrey A. Wortman, VMD ’69, PhD Endowed Opportunity Scholarship. Checks can be made out to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, memo line: Wortman Endowed Scholarship, and mail: Penn Vet Office of Institutional Advancement, 3800 Spruce Street, Suite 151E, Philadelphia, PA 19104. To make a gift by credit card, call (215) 898-4235.

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 Suite 300, 2929 Walnut St., (215) 898-8136 or email record@ben.dev.upenn.edu.
Six Faculty: Election to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Six faculty and researchers affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania have been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. They are Yale Goldman, Katalin Karikó, and Drew Weissman of the Perelman School of Medicine; Nicholas Sambanis of the School of Arts and Sciences; Diana Slaughter Kotzin of the Graduate School of Education; and Dorothy E. Roberts, joint appointments in the Penn Carey Law School and School of Arts and Sciences.

They are among more than 260 new members honored in 2022, recognized for their “accomplishments and leadership in academia, the arts, industry, public policy, and research.”

Yale Goldman is a professor of physiology at the Perelman School of Medicine, with a secondary appointment in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. A Philadelphia native, he has been a fixture at Penn for decades, arriving on campus in the early 1970s as a doctoral student and joining the faculty in 1980. From 1988 until 2010, he served as director of the Pennsylvania Muscle Institute at Penn.

Dr. Goldman’s research focuses on better understanding the structural changes that the body’s biological machines undergo. He and his lab have developed novel biophysical techniques to observe this, ranging from nanometer tracking of fluorescent molecules to infrared optical traps, known as laser tweezers. The goal is to make discoveries that, in the long term, lead to better outcomes for those with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, and cardiac myopathies.

A member of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Goldman has also served as president of the Biophysical Society and as an editorial board member of the Journal of Physiology and the Biophysical Journal.

Katalin Karikó is a senior vice president at BioNTech and a joint professor of neurosurgery at the Perelman School of Medicine. She joined the University of Pennsylvania in 1989 and began collaborating with fellow inductee Drew Weissman in 1997. Together, they invented the modified mRNA technology used in Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna’s vaccines to prevent COVID-19 infection.

For decades, Dr. Karikó’s research as a biochemist has focused on RNA-mediated mechanisms, with the goal of developing in vitro-transcribed mRNA for protein therapy. She investigated RNA-mediated immune activation and co-discovered with Dr. Weissman that nucleoside modifications suppress the immunogenicity of RNA. This led to the development of the two most effective vaccines for COVID-19.

Dr. Karikó has been honored with the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, the Princess of Asturias Award, and the Volkswagen Prize for Excellence in Biotechnology. She continues to work on new therapeutic applications of mRNA therapy.

Diana Slaughter Kotzin, professor emerita in the Graduate School of Education, was the inaugural Constance E. Clayton Professor in Urban Education from 1998 to 2011. She earned her bachelors’s and masters’s degrees in human development and a PhD in human development and clinical psychology from the University of Chicago.

Her research interests include culture, primary education, and homeschooled relations facilitating in-school academic achievement.

Before joining Penn, she taught at Northwestern University’s School of Education and Social Policy for 20 years. Previously she was on the faculties of Howard University, Yale University, and the University of Chicago. Among her many awards and accolades, in 2019, the American Psychological Association designated her a “pioneer woman of color among the first to break into psychology’s ranks.”

Dorothy E. Roberts is the George A. Weiss Professor of Law & Sociology, the Raymond Pace & Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights, and a professor of Africana studies. She is also the founding director of the Program on Race, Science, and Society (PRSS). With appointments in the Carey Law School and the School of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Roberts works at the intersection of law, social justice science, and health, focusing on urgent social justice issues in policing, family regulation, science, medicine, and bioethics.


Nicholas Sambanis is a Presidential Distinguished Professor of Political Science and director of the Penn Identity & Conflict Lab (PIC Lab). He writes on conflict processes with a focus on civil wars and other forms of intergroup conflict.

The lab works on a broad range of topics related to intergroup conflicts in the world, including the effects of external intervention on peacebuilding after ethnic war, the analysis of violent escalation of separatist movements, conflict between native and immigrant populations, and strategies to mitigate bias and discrimination against minority groups. His focus is the connection between identity politics and conflict processes, drawing on social psychology, behavioral economics, and the comparative politics and international relations literature in political science.

Drew Weissman is the Roberts Family Professor in Vaccine Research in the Perelman School of Medicine and an internationally recognized scientist whose foundational research with scientific collaborator Katalin Karikó led to mRNA vaccines and a highly effective method of curbing the spread of COVID-19.

For decades, Dr. Weissman has studied immunology and the ways mRNA might trigger protective immune responses, first focusing on HIV at the National Institutes of Health and then at Penn, where he turned his attention to developing mRNA vaccines for other diseases and conditions. One goal is to create a pan-coronavirus vaccine, which could prevent all types of coronavirus, including COVID-19. He has also worked with researchers globally to help them develop mRNA COVID vaccines and to increase access to such vaccines in remote and under-resourced areas.

Dr. Weissman has received many awards, including the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, the Princess of Asturias Award, the Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research, and the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences.
Startup Challenge Winner: ToxiSense

The University of Pennsylvania’s Venture Lab has announced the winner of the sixth annual Startup Challenge, sponsored by Eric Aroesty, C’92—ToxiSense, co-founded by a team of four University of Pennsylvania freshmen: Aravind Krishnan, C’25, W’25; Udit Garg, ENG’25; Andrew Diep-Tran, W’25; and Aarush Sahni, C’25. The Startup Challenge was held on April 29, 2022 at Tangen Hall, the University of Pennsylvania’s hub for student entrepreneurship and innovation.

ToxiSense aims to improve the endotoxin testing required for drinking water and biopharma products through genetically engineered plants with bioluminescent properties. Biopharmaceutical products and drinking water must be tested for endotoxins, the sickness-causing molecule from bacteria. The current method relies on expensive horseshoe crab blood and is environmentally damaging. ToxiSense genetically engineered the Arabidopsis plant to luminesce based on the endotoxin concentration applied to it, serving as a sustainable, cost-effective solution.

ToxiSense was selected from a field of eight finalist teams—including DeToXYFi, Groov, Impact Local, Miren, Nemu, Ossum Technologies, and Shinkei Systems Corp.—who advanced from 30 ventures during the semi-finals portion of the competition, which consisted of a day of virtual pitching and Q&A in front of alumni entrepreneur and investor panels. For the finals, teams pitched to a panel of alumni judges and in front of a live audience of nearly 200 attendees as they competed for over $150,000 in cash and prizes to launch their startups.

“The Startup Challenge is Venture Lab’s premier yearly event, showcasing Penn’s most promising teams of student entrepreneurs,” said Lori Rosenkopf, Vice Dean of Entrepreneurship and Simon and Midge Palley Professor at the Wharton School. “This year’s finalists included undergraduate and graduate students from across the University, and their products offered solutions for environmental, financial, health, and social challenges. These motivated teams capture the spirit of Penn entrepreneurship—innovative, interdisciplinary, inclusive—and we offer our congratulations and our optimistic wishes for their futures!”

For the first time in three years, the Startup Challenge was held in-person in Tangen Hall, the University’s newest hub for student entrepreneurship and innovation. The 68,000 square foot facility is the largest hub of any kind on any college campus dedicated to student entrepreneurship and innovation.

“This was an opportunity to invite the larger entrepreneurial community into our new home at Tangen Hall,” said Erin McGowan, senior associate director of Venture Lab. “We had positive feedback from the teams, alumni judges and attendees in being able to gather together again and showcase our outstanding student ventures.”

The Venture Lab Challenge marks the end to another exciting year of entrepreneurship across the Penn community. Students engaged in entrepreneurial programming are founding, developing, and scaling companies utilizing the multitude of resources available within the Penn and Philadelphia ecosystems. Venture Lab is proud to continue to be a leader in entrepreneurship education.

Meredith Myers, a lecturer in the non-profit leadership (NPL) program.

SP2 Community Award of Excellence for Staff

This recognition is presented annually to an SP2 staff member that demonstrates a commitment to the SP2 community through service, collegiality, and overall community engagement.

The awardee is Adam Roth-Saks, administrative director of the MS in nonprofit leadership program and finance manager of the Center for Social Impact Strategy.

Dr. Ram Cnaan Award

This award is presented to a meritorious DSW student who has completed their third year of coursework. The selection is through nomination and voting of the DSW program faculty.

The awardee is Christine Holmes, a DSW student.

Hal Levin Award

This award is presented to a meritorious student in the doctor of philosophy in social welfare program who is continuing the process of completing course work.

The awardee is John Gyourko, a PhD student in social welfare.

Excellence in Social Impact Award

This award is presented to a meritorious graduating student in the NPL program who has a record of academic excellence and has shown promise in using their talents and knowledge to create positive social impact.

The awardee is Dominic Kelly, an NPL student.

Richard J. Estes Global Citizenship Award

This award is presented to a graduating international student in the NPL program who embodies a commitment to social impact, who has a record of academic excellence and who is committed to using their talents and knowledge to make a difference in the world.

The awardee is Devika Shekhawat, an NPL master’s student.

Dr. Ruth Smalley Award in International Social Welfare

This award is presented to the member of the MSW graduating class who, through their writing, participation in class discussions, and experience has demonstrated an interest in and a working knowledge of the international and cultural dimensions of social work practice, and the application of practice to research.

The awardee is Achike Chukwuemeka, an MSW student.

Rosa Wessel Award

This award is presented to a meritorious graduating student in the MSW program who is selected on the basis of academic performance and one or more of the following: exemplary student leadership, innovative activities in the field practicum, and exceptional community service.

The awardee is Bella Dougherty, an MSW student.

Wilson-Spigner Award for Social Policy Excellence

This award is presented to a graduating student in the master of science in social policy (MSSP) program who has a demonstrated record of intellectual inquiry and academic excellence and who is committed to using research to analyze and shape social policy locally, nationally, and/or globally. The award is named in honor of the Reverend Dr. Welford Robinson Wilson II, and his daughter, Dr. Carol Wilson Spigner, the first faculty director of the MSSP program, both of whom have notably increased equity and equality among people who are often forgotten, through research-based change in policy and organizations.

The awardee is Victoria Téllez Leal, an MSSP student.

Almanac Publication Schedule

There will be no issue of Almanac on Tuesday, May 17. Issues will resume on Tuesday, May 24.

For the full publication schedule and issue deadlines, visit https://almanac.upenn.edu/publication-schedule-deadlines.
Call for Applications: 2022-2023 Undergraduate Fellowship, Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication

Interested undergraduate students at the University of Pennsylvania are invited to submit a short (one-page) description of your project along with a resume or bio by June 15.

Fellowship Information

Undergraduate fellows at the Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication (CARGC) pursue a single research project on a subject of their choosing within the realm of global communication over the course of one academic year. Under the mentorship of CARGC’s senior research manager and CARGC’s postdoctoral fellows, the undergraduate fellows will build a theoretical framework and deepen archival, ethnographic, or other critical and qualitative work on an original research project. Over the course of the year, they will also present a colloquium to the Annenberg community at CARGC based on their research and publish their results as a CARGC paper.

Undergraduate fellows are offered a modest research stipend ($1,500) and are encouraged to participate in events of the Center. The fellowship is an opportunity for undergraduates at the University of Pennsylvania who have already made significant progress towards an original research project in global communication to develop it into an original publication. By participating in the center’s events, fellows are exposed to and may further explore multi-media publishing, graduate-level study, and intellectual debates in global media and communication.

Please refer to an example of a previous undergraduate CARGC paper. You might also check out the CARGC 5-year report for more information about the center and the fellowship program at all levels (undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral). You can see bios of all the fellows via CARGC’s page on the Annenberg website.

How To Apply

Please submit, applications directly to Jing Wang, senior research manager at CARGC, by June 15. Please include a one-page description of a research project you would pursue at CARGC plus your resume/bio. In your description, think about both how your project fits into CARGC’s purview, and how you would use the resources CARGC has to offer towards your project. If you have any questions about the fellowship or would like to find out more about the opportunity, contact Jing Wang via email (jing.wang@asc.upenn.edu).

—Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication

Weitzman School of Design’s G. Holmes Perkins Teaching Awards

(continued from page 1)

on the application of structural innovations in mainstream architectural design. Before launching his private consulting practice, he was a senior principal at KlingStubbins (now Jacobs Engineering Group). In 2007, he was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. His work in Philadelphia includes Center City’s award-winning Three Logan Square. A former student of Louis Kahn’s, Mr. Farley earned a MArch and a MEng from Penn. One student wrote of him, “He wants us to learn and flourish and [his] are not empty words. It saddens me that this will be my last semester having him as a professor.”

Elizabeth Lovett is a practicing architect and principal of Lovett Keshet Studio who teaches two courses in the undergraduate architecture program. Her interest in the language of geometry and the pragmatic constraints of materials and construction is coupled with expertise in historic and modern building practices. Ms. Lovett gained architectural experience in master planning, design, and construction documentation at Stanev Potts Architects and Keran Timberlake in Philadelphia, as well as the Galante Architecture Studio in Boston. She also worked as a project engineer for the A. Zahner Company, co-designing and overseeing the manufacture and on-site installation of complex facade systems. She is a contributor to Material Design: Informing Architecture by Materiality (Birkhauser, 2012) and her drawings appear in The Function of Form by Farshid Moussavi (ACTAR, 2009). She earned her BA in architecture at Penn and her MArch at Harvard. One of Ms. Lovett’s students said, “She is very patient when it comes to guiding students through the process of design and conceptualization, without being imposing, allowing students to better explore their own ideas.”

Akira Drake Rodriguez teaches Introduction to Planning History, Theory, and Practice; Readings in Race, Poverty, and Place; and Urban Research Methods in the department of city and regional planning. Her research engages scholarship in urban studies, political science, urban history, Black feminist studies, community development, urban policy, and critical geography to examine the ways that disenfranchised groups re-appropriate their marginalized spaces in the city to gain access to and sustain urban political power. Dr. Rodriguez is the author of Diverging Space for Deviants: The Politics of Atlanta’s Public Housing (University of Georgia Press, 2021), which examines the dialectic between Black feminist politics and public housing policy in Atlanta from 1936 to 2010. A two-time Penn graduate, she has an MPA from the Fels Institute and a BS in economics from the Wharton School; she earned her PhD from the Edward J. Bluestein School of Urban Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. One student said of her: “Akira has been an inspiring force within the city planning department. Her research and teaching have had a huge impact on my time in the program.” The three will be honored at the Weitzman School’s Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 14, 2022.

Elizabeth Lovett

Akira Rodriguez
Update

May AT PENN

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES

Penn Museum
Online events. Info: https://www.penn.museum/calendar.
10 At-Home Anthro Live: Mughal Miniature Paintings; 1 p.m.
17 At-Home Anthro Live: Making Chair; 1 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Penn Museum
Online and in-person events. Info: https://www.penn.museum/calendar.
13 Virtual Global Guide Tour: Middle East Galleries; 2:30 p.m.
14 Rome Gallery Tour; 11 a.m.
Global Tour: Africa Galleries; 2:30 p.m.
15 Native American Voices Tour; 11 a.m.
Global Guide Tour: Asia Galleries; 2:30 p.m.

FITNESS & LEARNING

11 Navigating the New Diagnosis of Food Allergy: A Workshop for Parents and Caregivers; evidence-based information about food avoidance, myths around food allergies, label reading, and preparedness for allergic reactions for caregivers of patients newly diagnosed with food allergies; 5:30 p.m.; online event; register: https://tinyurl.com/chop-workshop-may-11 (CHOP).

TALKS

11 Climate Change Planning and Adaptation; Amanda Babson, National Park Service; Elizabeth Koniers Brown, Delaware River Basin Commission; Julia Rockwell, Philadelphia Water Department; noon; online webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/water-center-talk-may-11 (Water Center).
Investigating Order Parameter Dynamics and Control in Quantum Materials Using Terahertz Spectroscopy; Richard Averitt, University of California San Diego; 3:30 p.m.; Zoom webinar; join: https://tinyurl.com/averitt-talk-may-11 (Physics & Astronomy).

12 The GRADE Approach to Assess the Certainty of the Evidence and Grade the Strength of Recommendations; Alonso Carrasco-Labra, Penn Dental; 9 a.m.; BlueJeans webinar; join: https://bluejeans.com/873734674/4747?src=join_info (Center for Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics).
Targeted Delivery to the Lung: Strategies to Fix Your Favorite Diseases; Jake Brenner, PSOM; 4 p.m.; room 11-146, Smilow Center (Penn-CHOP Lung Biology Institute).

16 A Conversation with Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress; Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress; 11 a.m.; Class of 1978 Orrery Pavilion, Van Pelt Library, and online webinar; info: https://tinyurl.com/hayden-talk-may-16 (Penn Libraries).

This is an update to the May AT PENN calendar, which is online now. To submit an event for a future AT PENN calendar or weekly update, email almanac@upenn.edu.

The University of Pennsylvania Police Department
Community Crime Report

Below are the Crimes Against Persons or Crimes Against Society from the campus report for April 25-May 1, 2022. Also reported were 19 crimes against property (9 thefts from building, 3 bike thefts, 3 retail thefts, 2 vandalism, and 2 other thefts) with 2 arrests. Full reports are available at: https://almanac.upenn.edu/students/crimes. 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 April 25-May 1, 2022. The University Police actively patrol from Market St to Baltimore Avenue and from the Schuylkill River to 43rd St 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

Below are the Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 9 incidents (3 aggravated assaults, 3 assaults, 2 rapes, and 1 robbery) with 1 arrest were reported for April 25-May 1, 2022 by the 18th District

18th District

Crime Against Persons

1. 2900 block of Fountain Street: Assault
2. 2100 block of North 31st Street: Assault
3. 4400 block of Spruce Street: Assault
4. 300 block of Locust Street: Assault
5. 4600 block of Chestnut Street: Robbery
6. 4600 block of Walnut Street: Robbery
7. 2900 block of Chestnut Street: Assault
8. 3000 block of Locust Street: Burglary
9. 4700 block of Spruce Street: Assault

Crime Against Society

1. 2900 block of Fountain Street: Assault
2. 2100 block of North 31st Street: Assault
3. 4400 block of Spruce Street: Assault
4. 300 block of Locust Street: Burglary
Moving from Average to the Individual

To prep for an upcoming course, Penn researcher David Lydon-Staley decided to conduct an experiment: Might melatonin gummies—supplements touted to improve sleep—help him, as an individual, fall asleep faster? For two weeks, he took two gummies on intervention nights and none on control nights. The point, however, wasn’t really to find out whether the gummies worked for him (which they didn’t!), but rather to see how an experiment with a single participant played out, what’s known as an “n of 1.”

Randomized control experiments typically include hundreds or thousands of participants. Their aim is to show, on average, how the intervention being studied affects people in the treatment group. But often “there’s a failure to include women and members of minoritized racial and ethnic groups in those clinical trials,” said Dr. Lydon-Staley, an assistant professor at the Annenberg School for Communication. “The single-case approach, instead of randomizing a lot of people, we’re going to take one person at a time and measure them intensively.”

In Dr. Lydon-Staley’s spring semester class, Diversity and the End of Average, seven graduate students conducted their own n-of-1 experiments—on themselves—testing whether dynamic stretching might improve basketball performance or whether yoga might decrease stress.

One wanted to understand the effect of journaling on emotional clarity. They also learned about representation in science, plus which analytical approaches might best capture the nuance of a diverse population and individuals with many intersecting identities.

“It’s not just an ‘n of 1’ trying to do what the big studies are doing. It’s a different perspective,” said Dr. Lydon-Staley. “Though it’s just one person, you’re getting a much more thorough characterization of how they’re responding to interventions.”

Second-year doctoral student Adetobi Moses described the different options, including her choice of stream-of-consciousness journaling, then talked through her two-week experiment. In the end, her data showed that the writing helped only minimally with her emotional clarity. But the process itself? She found it empowering, a sentiment that others in the room echoed. Despite experimental results that may have lacked statistical significance, the grad students appreciated gaining deeper insight into an aspect of themselves.

Sometimes the results surprised them, too, like those of Darin Johnson, a third-year PhD student studying code-switching. For his experiment, he wanted to understand whether reducing social media use on his phone would drop his stress level. “I follow a lot of social justice–orientated pages, which include a lot about racism and police brutality. I would just sit there scrolling and be stressed out,” he said. He thought removing the input that caused these reactions might prevent the anxiety associated with them.

On intervention days, he would receive a notification when he reached the time limit that he’d set. On control days, his access remained unlimited. At any point, he could take a survey that he’d created. Before even analyzing his data, he realized that avoiding social media didn’t actually help him but instead made him feel isolated, cut off from his circle.

The notion of n-of-1 experiments often raises eyebrows, said Dr. Lydon-Staley. “I’m on the fringe here, but I think it’s the way to go,” he said. “Randomized control trials give you a statistic for the ‘average person,’ but that’s a statistical artifact that doesn’t exist. I want to know what works for me.”

Dr. Lydon-Staley applies this framework to much of the research conducted in his Addiction, Health, & Adolescence Lab. For example, in a project about smoking cessation, he and his team are collecting reports from participants about their specific withdrawal symptoms—cravings, irritability—ten times a day for ten days, before and during a quit attempt.

Personalized medicine has already moved in this direction, using genetics and other biomarkers to guide treatment. “So many people deal with medical issues that may not have a one-size–fits–all solution,” said second-year PhD student Baird Howland, who is also in the class. “Anybody could, in theory, do this type of experiment to figure out what works for them, and what doesn’t for them.”

Dr. Lydon-Staley sees great potential in the ability to scale up the single-case approach: Collect enough samples and patterns will emerge revealing natural rather than artificial clusters. “Often, you can’t take an intersectional approach with statistics,” Mr. Johnson said. “People might aggregate by race or by gender. Those are disparate categories, but I’m in gay; I’m in studying it; I’m going to do a statistical analysis, I’d have to separate them out, and ‘n of 1’ allows us not to.”

Adapted from a Penn Today article by Michele W. Berger, May 3, 2022.