Dear Members of the Penn Community,

I write to share an update on the timeline for launching a search for Penn’s next president. I want to first express my immense gratitude to Interim President J. Larry Jameson for his steady, thoughtful leadership during this time of transition at Penn. We are extremely fortunate to have the benefit of his vast experience and talents as we sustain Penn’s important missions and focus on the future. I am delighted to share that he has graciously agreed to remain in the role through academic year 2026, or until we have identified a successor.

More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to launching the next presidential search, including opportunities to share your thoughts as members of the Penn community.

I was humbled to preside over this year’s Commencement for the first time in my role as board chair and found it to be a beautiful, celebratory end to what has been a challenging year. I wish all of you a restful and re-energizing summer.

—Ramanan Raghavendran
Chair, University of Pennsylvania Board of Trustees

From the University Leadership

Temporary Standards and Procedures for Campus Events and Demonstrations
June 6, 2024

Today, we write to share two important updates about Penn’s policies and procedures for when, where, and how open expression can take place. Throughout the academic year, members of the Penn community have urged University leadership to clarify and update our guidance and policies specific to campus events and demonstrations. This request for increased clarity also emerged as a priority recommendation in the final reports from both the University’s Task Force on Antisemitism and the Presidential Commission on Countering Hate and Building Community.

First, effective immediately, Penn will adopt and implement Temporary Standards and Procedures for Campus Events and Demonstrations. In developing these temporary standards, feedback and input were sought from school deans, the Faculty Senate, and student, faculty, and staff leaders.

The purpose of the Temporary Standards and Procedures is to reinforce and reaffirm Penn’s commitment to open expression and, at the same time, ensure that events, demonstrations, and other expressions of free speech are appropriately managed, while allowing Penn to deliver its

Brintje Weinteiger: H. Carton Rogers III Vice Provost and Director of the Penn Libraries

The University of Pennsylvania has named Brigitte Weinsteiger the H. Carton Rogers III Vice Provost and director of the Penn Libraries, effective June 1. Provost John L. Jackson Jr. announced the appointment following a national search.

Ms. Weinsteiger has served as the Gershwind and Bennett Family Senior Associate Vice Provost for Collections and Scholarly Communications since September 2022 and as interim director of the Penn Libraries since September 2023. In this

Mary-Hunter “Mae” McDonnell: Bantwal Family Goldman Sachs Presidential Professorship

Penn Interim President J. Larry Jameson and Wharton dean Erika James have announced that Mary-Hunter (“Mae”) McDonnell has been named the inaugural Bantwal Family Goldman Sachs Presidential Associate Professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. The Bantwal Family Goldman Sachs Presidential Professorship was endowed by Vivek J. Bantwal, W’99 and Sarika Singh Bantwal. The Bantwals were inspired to establish this fund as a tribute to Vivek Bantwal’s
Fayyaz Vellani: Bozza Family Penn First Plus Faculty Co-Director

Provost John L. Jackson, Jr. has announced the appointment of Fayyaz Vellani as the Bozza Family Penn First Plus Faculty Co-Director, beginning July 1, 2024. Dr. Vellani is currently faculty director of the College House Undergraduate Research Program, a fellow of Hill College House, and a lecturer in critical writing.

“Fayyaz Vellani, across 15 years at Penn has been one of our most strongly committed, thoughtful, and empathetic community members in advancing support and mentoring for our first-generation and/or lower-income students,” said Provost Jackson. “He is deeply experienced at connecting student resources with the wider campus missions of undergraduate teaching, research, and campus life, especially for students from historically underrepresented backgrounds, and has worked around the world with students from a wide range of global areas, including Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. We are deeply grateful to Camille Charles for her extraordinary service as an inaugural faculty co-director of PIP from the program’s founding five years ago—as well as to ongoing Bozza Family Penn First Plus faculty co-director Russ Composto, executive director Marc Lo, and the outstanding PIP staff for their work in sustaining PIP’s invaluable mission on our campus.”

Penn First Plus, founded in 2018, provides support, resources, and community-building for undergraduate students who are the first in their families to pursue the baccalaureate and/or come from limited or modest financial backgrounds. It includes the Shleifer Family Penn First Plus Center in College Hall; the Pre-First Year Program, an intensive four-week summer program for select incoming first-year students; and the College Achievement Program, which offers comprehensive support services that continue throughout students’ undergraduate experiences at Penn.

Dr. Vellani—trained as a geographer with specializations in geopolitics, disability studies, and sustainable development—is the author of Understanding Disability Discrimination Law Through Geography (Routledge, 2016) and the novel Tea With Ms. Tanzania (Red Sea Press, 2022) about life in Tanzania in the tumultuous 1960s. His article, “Engagement with Place: Cairo as Classroom,” which analyzes events and discourses related to the Arab Spring in the early 2010s, won the International Award for Excellence from the International Journal of Diversity in Organizations, Communities, and Nations. As faculty director of the College House Undergraduate Research Program, he mentors undergraduate research fellows drawn from each college house and across all four undergraduate schools, who receive academic and financial support to pursue a one-year interdisciplinary research project of their own design.

Dr Vellani served from 2010-2013 as head of graduate studies at the Institute of Ismaili Studies in London and has been associate director of critical writing at Penn, director of admissions and financial aid at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, and associate registrar of the Yale Law School, among other positions. He received a PhD in geography from Royal Holloway, University of London; an MA in higher education administration from New York University; and a BES with honors in environment and resource studies from the University of Waterloo.

Launch of Penn Washington

Penn Washington is located at 101 Constitution Avenue, adjacent to the Capitol Building, at the seat of the federal government. The program will initially comprise three functions:

1. The Penn Franklin Initiative, a new set of programs to focus on domestic policy, through curriculum, scholarship, and convenings.

2. The Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy & Global Engagement, a set of Penn engagements focused on global policy, in collaboration with Penn Global, Perry World House, and related Penn programs.

3. A platform for the University of Pennsylvania in Washington, supporting the longstanding undergraduate Penn in Washington program from the School of Arts and Sciences and other ongoing and new school and center initiatives, annual lectures, student courses, executive education, research opportunities, and events.

Penn Washington will collaborate with faculty from all 12 schools on activities and programs to generate new knowledge.

—J. Larry Jameson, Interim President
—Erika H. James, Dean and Reliance Professor of Law, Penn Carey Law School
—Sophia Z. Lee, Dean and Bernard G. Segal Professor of Management and Private Enterprise, The Wharton School
—Antonia M. Villarruel, Professor and Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing, School of Nursing
—Mark S. Wolff, Morton Amsterdam Dean, School of Dental Medicine

The task force’s work will follow the historical precedent for reviewing the Guidelines on Open Expression, which last occurred in 1989. This review will include the task force providing recommendations for consideration by the Committee on Open Expression (COE). The COE, in turn, will present recommendations to the University Council. The University Council will then present final recommendations to the Interim President. As part of this effort, the task force will also be charged with reviewing the Temporary Standards and Procedures for Campus Events and Demonstrations. These are important steps forward for our campus community, and we look forward to sharing additional updates as this work progresses over the summer.

Sincerely,

—J. Larry Jameson, Interim President
—John L. Jackson, Jr., Provost
—Craig R. Carnaroli, Senior Executive Vice President
—Sara S. Bachman, Dean, School of Social Policy & Practice
—Sarah Banet-Weiser, Walter H. Annenberg Dean, Annenberg School for Communication
—Jonathan A. Epstein, Interim Executive Vice President of the University of Pennsylvania for the Health System & Interim Dean of the Perelman School of Medicine
—Steven J. Fluharty, Dean and Thomas S. Gates, Jr. Professor of Psychology, Pharmacology, and Neuroscience, School of Arts & Sciences
—Andrew M. Hoffman, Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine, School of Veterinary Medicine
—Erika H. James, Dean and Reliance Professor of Management and Private Enterprise, The Wharton School
—Vijay Kumar, Professor and Nemirovsky Family Dean, Penn Engineering
—Sophia Z. Lee, Dean and Bernard G. Segal Professor of Law, Penn Carey Law School
—Frederick Stein, Dean and Paley Professor; Stuart Weitzman School of Design
—Katharine O. Strunk, Dean and George and Diane Weiss Professor of Education, Graduate School of Education
—Antonia M. Villarruel, Professor and Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing, School of Nursing
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From the University Leadership: Temporary Standards and Procedures for Campus Events and Demonstrations

From the University Leadership

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From the University Leadership: Temporary Standards and Procedures for Campus Events and Demonstrations

(continued from page 1)

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From the University Leadership: Temporary Standards and Procedures for Campus Events and Demonstrations

From the University Leadership: Temporary Standards and Procedures for Campus Events and Demonstrations
late father, Jaywant D. Bantwal. “Professor McDonnell is known for exploring the nature of organizations and how complex and interwoven forces shape their actions,” said Interim President Jameson. “By drawing from a variety of fields and integrating them into her scholarship, Professor McDonnell brings new insights that explain a foundational aspect of our modern world. We are deeply thankful to Vivek and Sarika for endowing this professorship, which positions Professor McDonnell to continue investigating these important dynamics and their impact on our world.”

Dr. McDonnell joined the Wharton School as an assistant professor in 2014 and held the Clarence Nickman Assistant Professorship from 2019 to 2020. She was promoted to associate professor of management with tenure in 2020. In 2023, Dr. McDonnell also became faculty co-director of the Zicklin Center for Governance and Business Ethics. Along with her primary appointment as the Bantwal Family Goldman Sachs Presidential Professor, Dr. McDonnell has secondary appointments in both Wharton’s legal studies & business ethics department and in the sociology department of Penn’s School of Arts & Sciences.

In her research, Dr. McDonnell uses organizational theory and sociology to explore the relationships and interactions between politics, corporations, and the stakeholders of both institutions. Dr. McDonnell’s recent publications investigate topics such as organizational misconduct and dealings among governmental agents, social activists, and businesses.

“I am filled with gratitude for Vivek and Sarika’s philanthropy and dedication to Wharton, which is exemplified through the creation of this presidential professorship,” said Dean James. “Since Vivek’s graduation in 1999, he has been a committed alumnus, giving generously in many ways, including his current service on Wharton’s Undergraduate Executive Board. I am delighted the Bantwals have made it possible to further recognize Professor McDonnell’s impactful research and leadership.”

Vivek Bantwal is currently a partner and global head of the financing group at Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. He has been an active member of Wharton’s Undergraduate Executive Board since 2019 and was the 2024 Wharton undergraduate graduation speaker.

The stated meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Friday, June 14, 2024, at the Inn at Penn. Reverend Charles Howard, vice president for social equity and community and University chaplain, gave the invocation.

Board chair Ramanag Raghadwan’s report included the following resolutions, all of which were approved:

• Memorial for Claire Muriel Mintzer Fagin
• Appreciation for William P. Lauder and designation as Trustee Emeritus
• Re-election of Julie Beren Platt as vice chair of the Board of Trustees
• Election of the executive committee and the investment board

Vice chair Julie Beren Platt presented a resolution to re-elect Ramanag Raghadwan as chair of the Board of Trustees, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, which was approved.

Interim President J. Larry Jameson lauded a “picture-perfect” Commencement On May 20th and an outstanding Alumni Weekend attended by more than 10,000 alumni. He thanked members of the University Task Force on Antisemitism and Presidential Commission on Countering Hate and毒性 for their reports. He also expressed gratitude to the Board of Trustees for their support and said he looks forward to working with them over the next two years.

Interim President Jameson presented the following resolutions, each of which was approved:

• To appoint Thomas P. Sontag as interim vice president for human resources from July 1-August 31, 2024
• To appoint Felicia Washington as vice president for human resources, effective September 1, 2024

Provost John L. Jackson, Jr., presented the academic report. He noted the appointment of Bri-gitte Weinsteiger as the H. Carton Rogers III Vice
Charlene Compher: President of ASPEN Rhoads Research Foundation

Charlene Compher is the Shearer Chair of Healthy Community Practices, a professor of nutrition science, and director of nutrition programs at Penn Nursing, where she works with the home parenteral nutrition team and leads dietetics research.

“When I think about the goals and values of the Rhoads Research Foundation, I cannot think of anyone who personifies these more than Dr. Compher,” said her Penn Nursing colleague and newly elected ASPEN vice president Sharon Irving. “Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Compher has furthered nutrition research by collaborating with teams of diverse scientists from multidisciplinary specialties and shares her enthusiasm and clinical acumen with Penn students. She is renowned and respected for her knowledge, teaching, and supportive mentorship. We look forward to her leadership as the president of the Rhoads Research Foundation for ASPEN.”

“The foundation will be in very skilled hands,” said ASPEN clinical practice specialist Ainsley Malone. “There are numerous examples of Dr. Compher’s leadership, including the six years she served as editor-in-chief of ASPEN’s Clinical Guidelines. While ASPEN president, Dr. Compher inspired global efforts to standardize the diagnosis of malnutrition in adults. She is a core leader with the Global Leadership Initiative on Malnutrition (GLIM) and led a systematic review of validation of the Academy-ASPEN Indicators of Malnutrition (AAIM).”

To date, the Rhoads Research Foundation has awarded $2.78 million in funding dollars to 139 investigators, clinicians, trainees, and graduate students whose research includes basic investigations aimed at improving scientific understanding of nutrient regulation in different disease states, as well as clinical and translational research to determine how the practice of nutrition support can continue to be refined and individualized to optimize clinical outcomes.

“The first experience I feel for the foundation stems in part from the pivotal role it has played in my own academic career,” said Dr. Compher. “My doctoral research was funded in part by a dietitian’s research grant from the foundation. Applying for and being awarded this grant was my first experience with grantsmanship and a source of great satisfaction and skill development. My research enabled me to enter the academy at Penn Nursing while maintaining a clinical practice at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. I have had many opportunities in these roles to conduct research and collaborate with and mentor promising young investigators.”

Annmarie Hufford-Bucklin: American Constitution Society Next Generation Leader

Annmarie Hufford-Bucklin, L’24, has been selected by the American Constitution Society (ACS) as a 2024 Next Generation Leader (NGL).

Each year, roughly 25 recent and forthcoming law school graduates across the country who have demonstrated special leadership in their work with ACS’s student chapters are selected as NGLs, joining a small group of law students guiding the future of the organization.

The leadership program from the progressive legal organization, whose membership includes more than 250 chapters of students and lawyers nationwide, provides the chance for participants to engage in meaningful career development opportunities while accessing vast networks of progressive lawyers and change-makers throughout the country.

Cara McClellan, director of the Advocacy for Racial and Civil (ARC) Justice Clinic and Practice Associate Professor of Law in the Penn Carey Law School, who nominated Ms. Hufford-Bucklin for the 2024 Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) Outstanding Team Award, said, “Annmarie has gone above and beyond throughout the semester in her thorough representation of clients. In addition to getting to know her as a clinical student, she also served as my research assistant and demonstrated the same commitment to excellence.”

Ms. Hufford-Bucklin began working with ACS in 2019 as a Network Advancement Fellow with ACS’s Pro Bono and State Attorney General projects. As co-president of Penn Carey Law’s ACS chapter during the most recent academic year, Ms. Hufford-Bucklin has worked diligently to help expand the chapter’s campus presence while also connecting with the Temple University chapter and other Philadelphia area student and lawyer ACS chapters to foster a growing network of cooperation and collaboration.

“Annmarie helped lead the chapter through a very successful year of events that ranged from advice on 1L exams, to Supreme Court Reviews, to visits from judges, DAs, and state SGs,” said Kermit Roosevelt, the David Berger Professor for the Administration of Justice and SGs, “yet one thing they share is a commitment to improving their organizations inside and out. They are leading workforce strategies, expanding access to care and improving the bottom line. At the same time, our

Antonia M. Villarruel: Modern Healthcare’s 50 Most Influential Clinical Executives

Penn Nursing Dean Antonia M. Villarruel has been recognized by Modern Healthcare as one of the 50 Most Influential Clinical Executives for 2024. The profile of all the honorees is featured in the June 10, 2024, issue of the magazine.

This award honors licensed clinicians in executive roles who are deemed by their peers and the senior editors of Modern Healthcare to be paving the way to better health through their executive responsibility, leadership qualities, innovation, community service and achievements inside and outside of their respective organizations.

“Dr. Villarruel has been a trailblazer in nursing education and practice, and her leadership has been instrumental in advancing the field,” said Mary Ellen Podmolik, editor-in-chief at Modern Healthcare. “Yet one thing they share is a commitment to improving their organizations inside and out. They are leading workforce strategies, expanding access to care and improving the bottom line. At the same time, our...”

(continued on page 5)
Andrew Zahrt: Scialog Funding for Automating Chemical Laboratories

Andrew Zahrt, an assistant professor of chemistry in the School of Arts & Sciences, is a member of one of seven teams of early career researchers that have won Scialog funding for automating chemical laboratories. Dr. Zahrt’s team’s project is called Automated Workflows to Assess Physical Constraints in Neural Networks for Molecular Property Prediction.

The awards are given through Scialog: Automating Chemical Laboratories, a three-year initiative that aims to accelerate innovation and broaden access within the chemical enterprise through advances in automated instrumentation and artificial intelligence. Individual awards of $60,000 will go to 17 researchers from several institutions in the United States and Canada. The awards are funded by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement (RCSA), the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation, and the Frederick Gardner Cottrell Foundation.

Scialog is short for “science + dialog.” Created in 2010 by the RCSA, the Scialog format aims to accelerate breakthroughs by building a creative network of scientists that crosses disciplinary silos, and by stimulating intensive conversation around a scientific theme of global importance. Participants are selected from multiple disciplines, approaches and methodologies and propose high-risk, high-reward projects based on innovative ideas.

Newly Soundproofed Recording Studios in Penn Libraries’ Ormandy Music and Media Center

Two newly soundproofed recording studios in the Ormandy Music Library’s Ormandy Music and Media Center provide expanded opportunities for the Penn community to make recordings of their creative work.

As a response to an ongoing need on campus for recording spaces available to students, two studio spaces in the Glossberg Suite, located on the fourth floor of Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, are being outfitted with soundproof walls and doors this semester. Once complete, the studios will be available for all Penn students, faculty, and staff to reserve.

“We are incredibly happy to be able to enhance the Glossberg Suite to provide more recording space for the Penn community,” said Liza Vick, head of the Otto E. Albrecht Music Library.

“The University of Pennsylvania’s new strategic plan calls us to be interwoven and integrative in all that we do, and to partner with University and community stakeholders in furthering the University’s academic and societal mission, including effective communication and collaboration with partners, a pragmatic resolve to inspire a culture focused on practical outcomes and engagement, and an ethos of entrepreneurship to find opportunities across campus and beyond.”

In her 16-year tenure with Penn Libraries, Ms. Weinsteiger has overseen a wide range of departments, including the 11 departmental libraries situated in academic and cultural buildings across the University’s campus, among them the Fisher Fine Arts Library and the recently renovated Holman Biotech Commons. Leading 115 highly experienced staff, along with hundreds of student employees and interns, she has launched initiatives that advance the Penn Libraries as a whole, including Diversity in the Stacks, and the transformation of Penn scholarship to make it freely available to the world.

She also led the formation of the new Center for Global Collections and defined a set of strategic priorities for the libraries’ special and global collections that emphasize building distinctive collections that create an enduring contribution to history and global understanding.

“I see my role as a library leader to connect vision, partners, resources, and strategy,” Ms. Weinsteiger said. “Libraries are not just about books or buildings; they are also about people. A central aim of the libraries will be to engage and partner with University and community stakeholders in furthering the University’s academic and societal mission, including effective communication and collaboration with partners, a pragmatic resolve to inspire a culture focused on practical outcomes and engagement, and an ethos of entrepreneurship to find opportunities across campus and beyond.”

Ms. Weinsteiger comes to this role with a master of science in library and information science from Drexel University and a master of arts in liberal arts with a focus in medieval studies from the University of Pennsylvania, along with two bachelor of arts degrees from Penn State, one in medieval studies and one in integrative arts.

2024-2025 University Catalog

The Office of the University Registrar is pleased to announce the release of the 2024-2025 University Catalog for the University of Pennsylvania. This edition of the University Catalog includes all degree granting programs, many certificates offered across the University, and courses at all levels associated with these programs. The catalog also includes the Pennbook, the Faculty Handbook, and many academic policies and resources.

This edition introduces an exciting new feature that shows users the courses associated with attribute requirements, making clear which courses will count toward program requirements.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the work of compiling and publishing this latest catalog. The University Catalog can be found at https://catalog.upenn.edu. Please send all questions and comments to catalog@registrar.upenn.edu.

Margaret Kip, University Registrar

Call for Applications: Regional Network Collaborative for Water Leadership

The Water Center at the University of Pennsylvania is accepting applications to the 2024-2025 Regional Network Collaborative for Water Leadership cohort. This nine-month program aims to build a collaborative network that will provide support, opportunity, and inspiration for mid-career water-related professionals.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in the 2024-2025 Leadership Collaborative, fill out the application form here no later than July 15, 2024. For more information, click here.
Deaths

David Espey, English

David Baldwin Espey, former assistant dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and a former lecturer and administrator in the department of English, died on April 19. He was 83.

Born in Elmira, New York, Dr. Espey graduated from Hamilton College, then went on to earn his master’s degree from Johns Hopkins University and his PhD in English from the University of Michigan. He spent two years in Morocco as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the early 1960s, which gave him a deep appreciation of other cultures and perspectives and inspired his love of teaching. Dr. Espey received Fulbright senior fellowships to teach in Morocco, Turkey, and Japan.

In 1979, Dr. Espey joined Penn’s faculty as assistant dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and as an academic advisor in the school. In 1984, he became a coordinator in the department of English, and nine years later, he became director of the department. During his time at Penn, he also served as a lecturer in the English department and in the College of General Studies (the precursor of today’s College of Liberal & Professional Studies) and directed the English department’s freshman English program. In 2006, Dr. Espey earned a teaching award for his lectures in CGS (Almanac April 18, 2006). “In courses on topics ranging from travel writing to modernism,” said his write-up upon receiving the award, “he has garnered high marks from his CGS students, one of whom writes, ‘In attending Prof. Espey’s class, I found inspiration and a burning love for poetry!’” He retired from Penn in 2007.

Dr. Espey loved traveling, hiking, reading, and gardening. He cared deeply about issues like literacy, poverty, and international health, and donated to and volunteered for various non-profit organizations, including serving as a board member of the Eastern Service Workers in Philadelphia.

He is survived by his wife, Molly Tobin Espey; his children, Daniel J. Espey and Claire Tobin Espey; his sisters, Libby Reider and Margaret Iaconelli; his brother, John Espey; and many nieces and nephews. A celebration of Dr. Espey’s life will be held later this summer. Donations can be made to the Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania (https://www.pennmedicine.org/cancer/giving).

Donald Trachtenberg, Penn Dental Medicine

Donald I. Trachtenberg, C’58, D’63, GM’67, a former lecturer, clinical associate, and adjunct professor in the department of preventive and restorative sciences of Penn Dental Medicine, died on December 20, 2023. He was 86.

Dr. Trachtenberg was born in Philadelphia and grew up in nearby Wynnefield, attending Overbrook High School and receiving a full scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania. He graduated from the School of Arts & Sciences in 1958 and participated in the Christian As-

Ellen Furxhi: Vice Dean and Chief of Staff, School of Arts & Sciences

Ellen Furxhi has been appointed vice dean and chief of staff of the School of Arts & Sciences, effective June 27, 2024. Ms. Furxhi has served at the Wharton School as the chief of staff to the deputy dean since 2021, where she was the primary administrative lead to the deputy dean, providing comprehensive support on all academic matters and overseeing faculty affairs and institutional research.

Ms. Furxhi’s previous experience also includes two roles at Harvard University. As assistant dean for the division of arts and humanities in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences there, she managed faculty-related procedures and policies for a division comprising approximately 400 ladder and non-ladder faculty across 21 departments and 14 centers and museums.

Before that position, Ms. Furxhi served as director of administration in the department of epidemiology at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health.

“Ellen brings with her a distinguished career in higher education administration and leadership that positions her well for this critical role as a senior advisor to the dean and key partner in the planning and execution of high-level priorities and initiatives,” said Steven J. Fluharty, dean of the School of Arts & Sciences and the Thomas S. Gates, Jr. Professor of Psychology, Pharmacology, and Neuroscience.

Ms. Furxhi succeeds Allison Rose, who is retiring after a 34-year Penn career that has included 27 years in the School of Arts & Sciences Dean’s Office.

“Allison’s deep knowledge about Penn and SAS, and her skilled management of a broad range of school-wide planning and administrative activities, have made her a highly valued member of the SAS senior leadership and a tremendous asset to each of the deans she has served,” said Dean Fluharty.

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.

Paver Stone in Memory of Jennifer Ehmann

A paver stone in memory of Jennifer Ehmann has been dedicated on Legacy Walk between Fagin Hall and Stellar-Chance Laboratories. Ms. Ehmann first worked in the department of cell & developmental biology (CDB) in 2010 and then took a position at the Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute. Ms. Ehmann was a devoted wife to Edward “Ed” Ehmann and a loving and caring mother to Aiden Vi- cario. Penn community members who saw her on campus remember the big smile on her face and the way she often carried a bunch of papers and a caffeinated beverage. She is greatly missed and will never be forgotten.

Donations for this paver stone were generously made by her friends and former co-workers from CDB and her husband Ed Ehmann. Ms. Ehmann died on June 21, 2019, at the age of 43.
Division of Public Safety
University of Pennsylvania Police Department Crime Report

About the Crime Report: Below are the crimes against persons and/or crimes against property from the campus report for June 3-9, 2024. The crime reports are available at: https://almanac.upenn.edu/sections/crimes. Prior weeks’ reports are also online. – Eds.

This summary is prepared by the Division of Public Safety (DPS) and contains all criminal incidents reported and made known to the Penn Police, including those reported to the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) that occurred within our patrol zone, for the dates of June 3-9, 2024. The Penn Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from 30th Street 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 DPS at (215) 898-7297. You can view the daily crime log on the DPS website.

Penn Police Patrol Zone
Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from 30th Street to 43rd Street

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Category</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>06/04/24</td>
<td>4:47 PM</td>
<td>3800 Chestnut St</td>
<td>Complainant assaulted by unknown offender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault-Domestic</td>
<td>06/04/24</td>
<td>4:47 PM</td>
<td>3800 Chestnut St</td>
<td>Complainant assaulted by unknown offender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Theft</td>
<td>06/05/24</td>
<td>6:39 PM</td>
<td>3000 Center St</td>
<td>Unsecured bicycle taken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Offense</td>
<td>06/06/24</td>
<td>1:42 PM</td>
<td>220 S 33rd St</td>
<td>Defiant trespass by six demonstrators, CVNs issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Theft</td>
<td>06/07/24</td>
<td>1:42 PM</td>
<td>4233 Chestnut St</td>
<td>Retail theft of alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from Building</td>
<td>06/05/24</td>
<td>11:44 AM</td>
<td>3901 Locust Walk</td>
<td>House plants and coffee mugs taken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft Other</td>
<td>06/06/24</td>
<td>11:38 AM</td>
<td>51 N 39th St</td>
<td>Personal items taken from maintenance cart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>06/06/24</td>
<td>10:50 PM</td>
<td>3601 Market St</td>
<td>Wallet taken/charges made on credit card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>06/06/24</td>
<td>2:18 PM</td>
<td>3141 Chestnut St</td>
<td>Theft of a wallet from building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>06/07/24</td>
<td>3:22 PM</td>
<td>3400 Spruce St</td>
<td>Currency taken from wallet in secured locker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>06/07/24</td>
<td>12:21 PM</td>
<td>51 N 39th St</td>
<td>Cellphone taken from patient’s room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>06/09/24</td>
<td>3:45 PM</td>
<td>3400 Civic Center Blvd</td>
<td>Backpack taken from hallway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>06/06/24</td>
<td>11:51 PM</td>
<td>3400 Spruce St</td>
<td>Secured scooter taken from bike rack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>06/07/24</td>
<td>6:32 PM</td>
<td>3935 Pine St</td>
<td>Package taken from location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>06/08/24</td>
<td>12:09 PM</td>
<td>3300 Market St</td>
<td>Theft of unsecured scooter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>06/09/24</td>
<td>12:42 PM</td>
<td>3910 Irving St</td>
<td>Secured scooter taken from bike rack</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Philadelphia Police 18th District
Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue

Below are the crimes against persons from the 18th District: 6 incidents were reported for June 3-9, 2024 by the 18th District, covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Category</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>06/03/24</td>
<td>11:29 AM</td>
<td>3001 Walnut St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Assault/Arrest</td>
<td>06/04/24</td>
<td>11:59 AM</td>
<td>4519 Chestnut St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>06/04/24</td>
<td>5:15 PM</td>
<td>S 38th &amp; Chestnut St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>06/08/24</td>
<td>1:05 AM</td>
<td>4101 Chestnut St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>06/09/24</td>
<td>7:31 AM</td>
<td>S 49th St &amp; Hazel Ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>06/09/24</td>
<td>10:57 AM</td>
<td>S 49th &amp; Spruce St</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Division of Public Safety offers resources and support to the Penn community. DPS has developed a few helpful risk reduction strategies outlined below. Know that it is never the fault of the person impacted (victim/survivor) by crime.

- Take a moment to update your cell phone information for the UPennAlert Emergency Notification System.
- Download the Penn Guardian App, which can help police better find your location when you call in an emergency.
- Access free self-empowerment and defense courses through Penn DPS.
- Stay alert and reduce distractions. (Using cell phones, ear buds, etc. may limit your awareness.)
- Orient yourself to your surroundings. (Identify your location, nearby exits, etc.)
- Keep your valuables out of sight and only carry necessary documents.

- See something concerning? Connect with Penn Public Safety 24/7 at (215) 573-3333.
- Worried about a friend’s or colleague’s mental or physical health? Get 24/7 connection to appropriate resources at (215) 898-HELP (4357).
- Seeking support after experiencing a crime? Call Special Services (support and advocacy resources) at (215) 898-4481 or email an advocate at specialservices@publicsafety.upenn.edu.
- Use the Walking Escort and Riding services available to you free of charge.

ALMANAC June 18, 2024
Recognized Holidays for Fiscal Year 2025

The following holidays will be observed by the University in the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025) on the dates listed below:

- **Independence Day**, Thursday, July 4, 2024
- **Labor Day**, Monday, September 2, 2024
- **Thanksgiving**, Thursday and Friday, November 28 & 29, 2024
- **Christmas Day**, Wednesday, December 25, 2024
- **New Year’s Day**, Wednesday, January 1, 2025
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, Monday, January 20, 2025
- **Memorial Day**, Monday, May 26, 2025
- **Juneteenth**, Thursday, June 19, 2025

Each year, the President, Provost, and Senior Executive Vice President assess the feasibility of observing Penn’s traditional Special Winter Vacation. Thus, the Special Winter Vacation granted to faculty and staff will be on December 26, 27, 30, and 31, 2024. If an employee is required to work to continue departmental operations for part or all of this period, the Special Winter Vacation can be rescheduled for some other time.

Staff members who are absent from work either the workday before a holiday, the workday after a holiday, or both days will receive holiday pay if that absence is charged to pre-approved paid time off or to sick time substantiated by a written note from the staff member’s healthcare provider.

Vacations and holidays for hospital employees or those staff members in collective bargaining units are governed by the terms of hospital policies or their respective collective bargaining agreements.

—Division of Human Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2025</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2026</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2027</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Mon., 9/2/24</td>
<td>Mon. 9/1/25</td>
<td>Mon., 9/7/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
<td>Wed., 1/1/25</td>
<td>Thur., 1/1/26</td>
<td>Fri., 1/1/27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day</td>
<td>Mon., 1/20/25</td>
<td>Mon., 1/19/26</td>
<td>Mon., 1/18/27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juneteenth</td>
<td>Thurs., 6/19/25</td>
<td>Fri., 6/19/26</td>
<td>Fri., 6/18/27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Update**

**Summer AT PENN**

**FITNESS & LEARNING**

**6/18** Juneteenth 2024: Celebratory Learning Event at Weitzman; a unique learning experience about the history of Juneteenth; participants will create original artwork for reflection and display to raise awareness of this national holiday’s communal value; lunch provided; 11:30 a.m.; Upper Gallery, Meyerson Hall; register: https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3c3P69GQD2SA (Weitzman School).

**Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships**

Online webinars. Info and to register: https://curf.upenn.edu/events.

**6/20** Introduction to the Fulbright U.S. Student Program; noon. Penn Libraries: What is Information Literacy? 4 p.m.

**Graduate School of Education**

Online webinars. Info and to register: https://www.gse.upenn.edu/news/events-calendar.

**6/20** Penn Chief Learning Officer Virtual Information Session; noon.

**Morris Arboretum & Gardens**

In-person events at Morris Arboretum & Gardens. Info and to register: https://www.morrisarboretum.org/see-do/events-calendar.

**6/20** Sunrise Solstice Stroll; welcome in the sun on the summer solstice, the longest day of the year; bring a blanket and enjoy coffee and donuts; 5:30 a.m.; registration: $5/members, $10/general.

This is an update to the Summer AT PENN calendar, which is online now. To include events in a future AT PENN calendar or weekly update, send the salient details to almanac@upenn.edu.
Association Found Between Media Diet and Science-Consistent Beliefs About Climate Change

In a paper titled “The Politicization of Climate Science: Media Consumption, Perceptions of Science and Scientists, and Support for Policy,” published May 26, 2024, in the Journal of Health Communication, researchers probed the associations between media exposure and science-consistent beliefs about climate change. The findings have important implications for how climate science is accepted into behavioral intentions, said Dr. Ophir. The study found that perceptions of science and scientists mediated the relationship between exposure to media and a set of dependent variables, including belief in anthropogenic climate change, risk perception, and support for a carbon tax. Across the team’s findings are that far-right media have an even stronger relationship with rejection of the scientific consensus around climate change than do more mainstream conservative outlets like Fox News. They also found that exposure to right-wing media in general is associated with lower perceptions of threat from climate change and lower likelihood of supporting a carbon tax. “Consumption of right-wing media is associated not only with your views on climate change,” said Dr. Ophir. “It is associated with more negative views of the scientific endeavor as a whole, and that affects your views on climate change.”

The findings have important implications for how climate science scholars can advance new tasks with a limited amount of training data by leveraging similar systems that are both data-efficient and robust. His work offers insights into the fundamental limits of machine learning, guiding the development of new algorithms and systems that are both data-efficient and robust. Dr. Lee, who is advised by Nikolai Matni, an assistant professor of electrical and systems engineering and member of the Penn Research in Embedded Computing and Integrated Systems Engineering (PRECISE) Center, studies how robotic systems learn from data, with the goal of understanding when robots struggle to learn a dynamic system, and what approaches might be effective at combating those challenges. His work offers insights into the fundamental limits of machine learning, guiding the development of new algorithms and systems that are both data-efficient and robust.

Exploring the Limits of Robotic Systems

Bruce Lee, a doctoral student in Penn Engineering’s department of electrical and systems engineering, works to identify how robotic systems learn to perform different tasks, focusing on how to tell when a problem may be too complex—and what to do about it.”

Mr. Lee, who is advised by Nikolai Matni, an assistant professor of electrical and systems engineering and member of the Penn Research in Embedded Computing and Integrated Systems Engineering (PRECISE) Center, studies how robotic systems learn from data, with the goal of understanding when robots struggle to learn a dynamic system, and what approaches might be effective at combating those challenges. His work offers insights into the fundamental limits of machine learning, guiding the development of new algorithms and systems that are both data-efficient and robust. Dr. Lee, who is advised by Nikolai Matni, an assistant professor of electrical and systems engineering and member of the Penn Research in Embedded Computing and Integrated Systems Engineering (PRECISE) Center, studies how robotic systems learn from data, with the goal of understanding when robots struggle to learn a dynamic system, and what approaches might be effective at combating those challenges. His work offers insights into the fundamental limits of machine learning, guiding the development of new algorithms and systems that are both data-efficient and robust.

Replacing Registered Nurses in High Stakes Hospital Care is Dangerous to Patients

A new study published in Medical Care showed that substituting registered nurses (RN) with lower-wage staff (e.g. licensed practical nurses, unlicensed assistive personnel) in hospital care is linked with more deaths, readmissions, longer hospital stays, poorer patient satisfaction, and higher costs of care.

The study, by the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research (CHOPR) at Penn’s School of Nursing, comes at a time when hospitals are struggling to recruit and retain RNs in hospital care because of poor working conditions. “Nurses in hospitals provide care for the sickest patients. It’s high stakes care,” said lead author Karen Lasater, an associate professor and the Jessie M. Scott Term Chair in Nursing and Health Policy.

Though hospitals often cite a low supply of RNs as the reason they cannot hire enough, the latest research shows there is no evidence of an RN shortage in the US. Thus, there is no justification for substituting less qualified staff for RNs.

The researchers studied the outcomes of over 6.5 million Medicare patients in 2,676 general acute care hospitals across the U.S. They found that:

- Even a modest substitution in RN care is associated with poorer patient outcomes. A 10-percentage point reduction in the proportion of RNs was associated with 7% higher odds of dying in the hospital, as well as higher odds of readmission, experiencing a longer length of stay, and poorer patient satisfaction.
- Substituting RN care is associated with avoidable patient deaths. Researchers estimated that if every U.S. hospital reduced RN care by 10 percentage points, nearly 11,000 avoidable deaths among Medicare patients could occur annually.
- Alternative hospital staffing models yield a poor return on investment for hospitals. Hospitals substituting lower-wage staff for RNs will not save money because longer lengths of stay will erase their labor savings.
- Medicare risk scores spending millions of dollars annually on avoidable, preventable hospital readmissions. The thousands of preventable readmissions associated with a 10-percentage point reduction in RNs translates to $68.5 million in avoidable costs paid by Medicare.

“The public has no way of assessing the adequacy of hospital RN staffing, and in all but two states (California and Oregon) there are no regulations establishing minimum safe RN staffing requirements in hospitals to protect the safety of patients,” said senior author Linda Aiken, professor of nursing and the Director of CHOPR. “Rather than replacing RNs with less qualified staff, hospital leaders should focus on improving their work environments to retain RNs.”

“With roughly half of hospital RNs reporting high levels of burnout, hospitals should focus on fixing the root causes of their burnout—chronic understaffing and poor work environments—not replacing RNs with less trained nursing staff,” said Dr. Lasater.

Adapted from a Penn Nursing news article, June 10, 2024.