Reappointment of Antonia Villarruel as Dean of the School of Nursing

We have received the report of the Consultant Review Committee on the Reappointment of Antonia M. Villarruel as Dean of the School of Nursing, and are delighted to recommend to the Trustees the reappointment of Dean Villarruel for a second term, to run through June 30, 2026.

As our University, nation, and world continue to grapple with a crippling health crisis, as well as a consistent and urgent cry for social justice, it is an especially critical time for nursing education, research, and practice. Historically marginalized and disadvantaged populations face a higher burden of illness, injury, disability, and mortality, and their access to and use of care is limited. Nursing, and specifically Penn Nursing, has long focused on social justice and improving health outcomes for the most vulnerable. The Committee was unanimous that Dean Villarruel has the vision, energy, skills, and broad support needed to thrive and succeed in a second term as Dean, especially in these challenging times. We enthusiastically agree.

Dean Villarruel’s first term was one of significant accomplishment. Under Dean Villarruel’s leadership, Penn Nursing has been ranked by QS World University as the top nursing school in the world annually since 2017. The Committee found especially notable the comprehensive, inclusive, and far-reaching strategic plan—titled Leading to a Healthier Future—that guided the Dean’s first term. The strategic plan has catalyzed progress across the entire Penn Nursing enterprise, including: a near-doubling of NIH funding, from $7.8 million in FY15 to $15.3 million in FY19; the launch of a post-doctorates program; a new multi-year grant to support exceptional interdisciplinary research; and the creation of a comprehensive curriculum in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Review Committee also commended Dean Villarruel for her exemplary leadership of the School of Nursing throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Dean Villarruel’s response to the present pandemic, the Committee noted, embodies resilience in all its forms. We join with the Review Committee in thanking Dean Villarruel for her inspired and inspiring leadership, and we join with so many others in voicing our appreciation for the truly heroic work of nurses near and far.

We are especially grateful, as well, to the members of the Review Committee for their time and effort throughout this important process. After receiving its charge from us in March 2020, the Committee—both in formal meetings and through its chair, Andrew M. Hoffman, the (continued on page 2)

$10 Million Gift from Foundation Established by Yuri and Julia Milner: Full-Tuition MBA Fellowship for Israeli Wharton Students

Penn President Amy Gutmann and Wharton Dean Erika H. James are pleased to announce a $10 million commitment from the foundation established by Wharton MBA alumnus Yuri Milner and his wife Julia to create the Friends of Israel MBA Fund. This new fellowship will provide full-tuition financial support to Israeli MBA students at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

“This philanthropy has been as visionary as his distinguished business career. He is one of the founders of the acclaimed Breakthrough Prize, which recognizes pioneering achievements in the sciences,” said Penn President Amy Gutmann. “Now, with his exceptional gift creating the Friends of Israel MBA Fund, the foundation through Yuri and Julia has created another forward-looking philanthropic initiative. We are profoundly grateful to Yuri and to the foundation for supporting the graduate students who will become tomorrow’s global business leaders.”

The Friends of Israel MBA Fund will provide full tuition over the course of the two-year Wharton MBA program for a cohort of over 60 students over the next decade.

The fellowship is dedicated to Israeli students—including those who have completed Israeli military service, attended an Israeli undergraduate institution, or worked at an Israeli company. The term funding will provide immediate support, enabling the School to reach, welcome, and support exceptional international students through offering generous financial aid packages.

“Israel has become a global center of innovation and Wharton has long helped train the top entrepreneurs and business leaders across the world. This is a perfect match,” said Ron Dermer (W’93), Israel’s Ambassador to the United States. “As a Wharton alumnus, I’m delighted that other Israelis will benefit from this unique experience.”

“We are thrilled by the foundation’s commitment to supporting the best and brightest MBA candidates from the Israeli community,” said Dean James. “As part of the Wharton family, Mr. Milner’s dedication to welcoming international talent advances the School’s mission to foster a diverse and inclusive student cohort benefiting the entire community.”

This commitment marks a historic investment in student aid, which is a main area of focus for the Wharton School’s More than Ever campaign. Fellowship funding provides the means for Wharton to provide competitive financial aid to the world’s best and brightest students, breaks down barriers toward their attendance, and enables their full immersion into the Wharton MBA experience. International students like those who will benefit from the Friends of Israel MBA Fund bring their global experience to enrich the student community and ultimately the Wharton alumni network and business community at large.

“As a former international student myself, I know the transformative impact that an education in America and at Wharton can have,” said Mr. Milner (WG’92). “Israel, too, has been an important home for me and my family, and our bond with the country remains strong. My hope is that this scholarship will support talented (continued on page 2)
Reappointment of Antonia Villaruel as Dean of the School of Nursing

(continued from page 1)

Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine—interviewed Dean Villaruel; conducted informational interviews and conversations with various members of the faculty, staff, student body, and alumni community; and held open meetings for faculty and staff within the School. The Committee also examined a comprehensive selection of data and documents concerning the School, including the budget, enrollment, and employment data. The Committee met five times over a period of eight weeks.

The Committee’s final report to us assessed and analyzed the accomplishments of the Dean and the School over the past five years in a wide array of domains, including: strategic vision and planning; faculty recruitment, retention, and diversity; academic programs and student quality; research and scholarly programs; clinical programs and services; School administration and staff; finances and philanthropy; facilities and infrastructure; and engagement with alumni, the professional community, and the general public.

We believe that Dean Villaruel is exceptionally well-positioned to lead the School of Nursing through a period characterized by great opportunity and change. We wholeheartedly agree with the unanimous sentiment of the Review Committee and will enthusiastically recommend to the Trustees that Antonia M. Villaruel be re-appointed as Dean of the School of Nursing.

—Amy Gutmann, President
—Wendell Pritchett, Provost

$10 Million Gift for Israeli Wharton Students

(continued from page 1)

individuals to look beyond the horizon and pursue their vision of what the world can be, and that the state of Israel will benefit from the expertise in business and entrepreneurship that Wharton program graduates will bring back home.”

Mr. Milner is an Israeli science and technology investor and philanthropist. He attended Wharton and went on to found DST Global, one of the world’s leading technology investors, with a portfolio that includes some of the most prominent internet companies. Mr. Milner and his wife partnered with Sergey Brin, Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg, and Anne Wojcicki to launch the Breakthrough Prizes—the world’s largest scientific awards, honoring important, primarily recent, achievements in fundamental physics, life sciences, and mathematics. In July 2015, together with Stephen Hawking, Mr. Milner launched the $100 million Breakthrough Listen initiative to reinvigorate the search for extraterrestrial intelligence in the universe. In April 2016 they launched Breakthrough Starshot—a $100 million research and engineering program seeking to develop a technology for interstellar travel. All these philanthropic initiatives are funded by the Breakthrough Foundation established by Mr. and Mrs. Milner. Mr. Milner was the keynote speaker at the 2017 Wharton MBA Graduation Ceremony.

Trustees Meetings: September 24

On Thursday, September 24 there will be virtual meetings of the Trustees committees via BlueJeans Events.

The Open Meetings are:

• Budget & Finance Committee Meeting, 10:45-11:30 a.m.
• Executive Committee, 2:15-2:30 p.m.

Agenda and call-in information will be posted on September 24 by 10 a.m. at https://secretary.upenn.edu/trustees/governance/open-trustee-meeting. Please contact the Office of the University Secretary at (215) 898-7005 or ofsec@pobox.upenn.edu with questions regarding Trustee meetings or your attendance plans.

September 16 Council Meeting Coverage

The Council meeting on September 16, via BlueJeans Events, was the first Council meeting since the pre-pandemic meeting, which had been held in person on February 19. The following months’ scheduled spring meetings had been canceled due to COVID-19.

At last week’s meeting, after calling the meeting to order and welcoming everyone, President Amy Gutmann appointed Melissa Wilde, professor of sociology, as the Moderator for this academic year. President Gutmann also announced that Lauren Steinfeld will once again serve as the Parliamentarian.

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, chair of Steering, presented the focus issues for the upcoming Council meetings:

• December 2: Outcome and impact to research activities and academic instruction given COVID-19;
• January 27: The engagement and support of our international students and scholars;
• February 17: Campaign for Community and Penn Projects for Progress;
• March 24: Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 3.0 and an Update on the Environmental Innovations Initiative (EII).

This year’s Open Forum sessions will be held on December 2 and February 17.

Secretary of Council Lizann Boyle Rode described the disposition of the Open Forum items from last February. She noted that several of the students who had presented have subsequently spoken with various members of the administration about their concerns.

The chairs of the 2019-2020 Council Committees each gave a brief report summarizing their respective year-end reports, which were published in Almanac in the April 28, 2020 issue. President Gutmann thanked the chairs and their committees for their work and said that their recommendations would be considered.

She noted that changes, such as a reduction of air travel, which has decreased dramatically in the past several months, would be worth continuing.

She also noted that a day where diversity officers from across the campus could connect would be a worthwhile endeavor.

The 2020-2021 Council Committees received their charges for this year, which had been approved by Steering at its last meeting. Dr. Jamieson also noted that Climate Week (September 21-25) is a way for the Penn community to become more aware of how each person can make a difference, at Penn and at home. She cited the document, Bring it Home.

The next Council meeting will be on October 21 and it will include the presentation of the State of the University.

ALMANAC September 22, 2020
M. Grace Calhoun: SBJ Game Changer

M. Grace Calhoun, the T. Gibbs Kane, Jr. W’69 Director of Athletics and Recreation, has been named to the 2020 class of Game Changers: Women in Sports Business by the Sports Business Journal. Honorees represent every sector across sports business from teams and leagues, to agencies and sponsors, to technology companies, to media outlets. Dr. Calhoun will be profiled in Sports Business Journal on October 19 and recognized during a virtual conference October 27.

In 2011, SBJ created Game Changers to “tell the stories of women in the sports business—women with broad, deep, and varied responsibilities and oversight who contribute to the success of their organization in multiple ways.” The 392 women honored in all 10 classes of Game Changers follow in the progressive heritage of their colleagues who have been part of SBJ’s Lifetime Achievement, Champions and Forty Under 40 programs.

In her first year as the chair of the NCAA Division I Council in 2019-2020, Dr. Calhoun guided the organization through one of the most complex and challenging times in its history. While steady progress was made around student-athlete Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) and other top priorities such as transfer issues and financial aid, Dr. Calhoun played her most critical role in leading the Division I membership through the coronavirus pandemic. This included weekly work to accommodate issues arising from the cancellation of winter championships and spring seasons. The work currently continues with the postponement of fall championships, and designing solutions that prioritize student-athlete safety and well-being while providing maximum membership flexibility as the Association endeavors to return to sports participation and competition.

As the chair of the NCAA Division I Council, Dr. Calhoun also serves on the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and NCAA Association-wide Board of Governors where she has played an important role representing membership perspectives on the key issues confronting college athletics. She recently completed a two-year term as the chair of the Ivy League Directors of Athletics, where she guided a “21st Century Review” of Ivy League athletics and is the current chair of the Philadelphia Big 5 Athletic Directors. She is also the vice chair of the PHL Sports Advisory Board, which brings together the area sports community to attract major sporting events to Philadelphia.

Noam Lior: Honorary ECOS Chair

Noam Lior, professor of mechanical engineering and applied mechanics at Penn’s School of Engineering, was appointed the honorary chair and International Scientific Committee member of the 33rd International Conference on Efficiency, Cost, Optimization, Simulation and Environmental Impact of Energy Systems (ECOS), which was held June 29-July 3.

Dr. Lior opened the conference with his keynote paper “Sustainable Energy Development Status with Key Lessons from the Pandemic,” which he was originally scheduled to present in Osaka, Japan. While the event was held virtually this year, over 300 attendees joined in on the annual celebration of new research results and the exchange of views on the performance, economics, and environmental impact of various energy systems.

Dr. Lior’s research interests are in heat transfer, fluid mechanics, thermodynamics and Second-Law/Exergy analysis, energy conversion, solar energy, combustion, membrane distillation, flash evaporation and water desalination, destruction of hazardous wastes by photocatalysis and supercritical oxidation, scientific sustainability analysis, and heat treatment.

Jennifer Phillips-Cremins: CZI Grant

Jennifer Phillips-Cremins, associate professor in Penn Engineering’s department of bioengineering and in the Perelman School of Medicine’s department of genetics, is among 60 researchers taking part in a $4.5 Million Chan Zuckerberg Initiative project that aims to apply novel, interdisciplinary approaches toward investigating neurodegenerative disorders. The CZI Collaborative Pairs Pilot Project will fund 30 teams that combine clinical and basic science expertise and have at least one early- or mid-career researcher.

More than 30 inherited disorders are caused by the unstable expansion of repetitive DNA sequences, including Huntington’s disease, ALS, Fragile X syndrome, and Friedreich’s ataxia. Dr. Phillips-Cremins’ research has shown another link between these disorders: the location of these expanding genes relative to the complex folding patterns the genome exhibits to fit inside the nucleus of a cell.

Dr. Phillips-Cremins will collaborate with Kristen Brennand of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Their project, “3D genome misfolding due to repeat instability in neurodegenerative disease,” will investigate the emerging link between the genetic sequence’s higher-order folding patterns and pathologic repeat instability in trinucleotide repeat (TNR) expansion disorders.

In a 2018 study published in the journal Cell, Dr. Phillips-Cremins and her colleagues established a strong correlation between 3D genome misfolding, short tandem repeat instability, and pathologic gene disruption in TNR disorders, suggesting new research questions whose answers could improve diagnosis or treatment.

Sadie Stern: Peggy Browning Fellowship

Sadie Stern (L’22) has been awarded a Peggy Browning Fellowship to support her summer internship with Justice at Work (formerly known as Friends of Farmworkers) in Philadelphia.

At Justice at Work, which supports low-wage workers with legal services, education, and advocacy, Ms. Stern provided a range of employment and immigration support for migrant workers in Pennsylvania.

The Peggy Browning Fellowship is a national fellowship that provides support for law students fighting for social and economic justice to encourage the pursuit of careers in public interest law.

Roopa Vasudevan: Eyebeam Fellowship, James D. Woods Award

Annenberg School for Communication doctoral student Roopa Vasudevan recently received both a 2020 Eyebeam Fellowship and the 2020 James D. Woods Award.

Eyebeam, a New York City-based organization supporting diverse, impact-driven artists working with technology, has launched a new initiative after the Fair Labor Standards Act forced it to close its doors by the coronavirus pandemic. Entitled “Rapid Response for a Better Digital Future,” the initiative will fund 30 projects that shine a spotlight on a digital future free of surveillance, including one by Ms. Vasudevan.

Ms. Vasudevan plans to design a practical toolkit for creative resistance through tech-based art. Concerned by the ties between new media art practice and big technology, she hopes that by developing new mechanisms for creative refusal, she and other artists can eventually break the current cycle of co-option and dependency and use their art to bring about structural change.

Given in memory of Annenberg School graduate and adjunct professor James D. Woods, the Woods Award is presented to an outstanding graduate teaching assistant each year. Ms. Vasudevan was nominated for Matthew Brook O’Donnell’s undergraduate courses COMM 318: Stories from Data and COMM 313: Computational Text Analysis. Mr. O’Donnell’s courses involve teaching basic programming and data analysis to students without any coding background so that they can apply these skills to a communication-focused data science project.
Since 1956, Penn has celebrated a rite of passage each year for faculty and staff who meet one common requisite: they have been members of the University community for 25 years. Another 163 new members crossed the 25-year mark in 2020. Although we won’t be holding a reception this year, we want to honor these employees and thank them for their commitment to Penn.

—Division of Human Resources

Twelve-Five Year Club: New Members for 2020

N. Scott Adzick, Perelman School of Medicine
Dan Alig, Wharton School
Jane Anderson, Perelman School of Medicine
Terry Anderson, Perelman School of Medicine
Haimantti Banerjee, Wharton School
Bryant Barr, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Sarah Barr, Provost Interdisciplinary Programs
James Berger, Perelman School of Medicine
Edward Bergman, Wharton School
Hema Bhargava, Perelman School of Medicine
Aregawir Biru, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Eve Bosnick, School of Nursing
Jennifer Bottomley, School of Arts and Sciences
Eric Bradlow, Wharton School
Joseph Breolin, School of Dental Medicine
Kathleen Brown, School of Arts and Sciences
Loretta Brown, University Library
Youhai Chen, Perelman School of Medicine
Artur Cideciyan, Perelman School of Medicine
James Clavin, Division of Finance
Theresa Collignon, Perelman School of Medicine
Sherrie Cornish, Residential and Hospitality Services
Julia Crane, School of Arts and Sciences
Barbara Dallap Schaer, School of Veterinary Medicine
Annet Davis, Perelman School of Medicine
Carmen de La Rosa, School of Arts and Sciences
Leah Dennis, School of Arts and Sciences
Francis Deroos, Perelman School of Medicine
Maiheng Dietrich, School of Arts and Sciences
Winka Dubbeldam, Weitzman School of Design
Maryellen Eckenhoff, Perelman School of Medicine
Scott Edwards, Perelman School of Medicine
Ricardo Eiroaldi, Perelman School of Medicine
Ronit Engel, School of Arts and Sciences
Stanford Ewing, Perelman School of Medicine
Autumn Fiester, Perelman School of Medicine
Chiona Fitzgerald, Perelman School of Medicine
James Fossett, Perelman School of Medicine
Douglas Fraker, Perelman School of Medicine
Robert Gallo, Perelman School of Medicine
Arupa Ganguly, Perelman School of Medicine
Noah Gans, Wharton School
J. Gaynor, Perelman School of Medicine
James Gee, Perelman School of Medicine
Maria Gigoli, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Catherine Gontarek, Development and Alumni Relations
Kathleen Hall, Graduate School of Education
Jason Hart, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Gus Hartman, School of Arts and Sciences
Karen Hirschman, School of Nursing
Joanne Inverso, Perelman School of Medicine
Samuel Jacobson, Perelman School of Medicine
Stephanie Johnson, Perelman School of Medicine
Cynthia Johnson-Mollen, Perelman School of Medicine
Randall Kamien, School of Arts and Sciences
Hillary Kane, School of Arts and Sciences
Ayako Kano, School of Arts and Sciences
Marcelo Kazantzis, Perelman School of Medicine
Mary Kelly, Perelman School of Medicine
Daniel Kessler, Perelman School of Medicine
Peter Klein, Perelman School of Medicine
Pamela Knight, Wharton School
Laura Kosseim, Perelman School of Medicine
Vicky Krese, Wharton School
Pauline Kuylough, School of Arts and Sciences
Barbara Lang, Perelman School of Medicine
Robert Lawler, Information Systems and Computing
Hae-Rhi Lee, Perelman School of Medicine
Julie Lea, Perelman School of Medicine
Trevor Lewis, General University Special
Janet Liow, Perelman School of Medicine
Gregg Lipschik, Perelman School of Medicine
Huan Lou, School of Dental Medicine
Ping Loveland, Penn Global
John Macdermott, School of Arts and Sciences
Rosemary Malague, School of Arts and Sciences
Richard Magnifico, Perelman School of Medicine
Richard Marcantonio, School of Veterinary Medicine
Michael Marks, Perelman School of Medicine
Jerome Marrow, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Nicola Mason, School of Veterinary Medicine
Giacomina Massaro-Giordano, Perelman School of Medicine
Deborah Mathis, Student Services
Thomas McCaffery, Information Systems and Computing
Joseph Melaurin, Information Systems and Computing
Jon Merz, Perelman School of Medicine
Stephen Metzger, Perelman School of Medicine
Bonnie Milas, Perelman School of Medicine
Jaimie Miller, School of Veterinary Medicine
Claire Mitchell, School of Dental Medicine
Frank Moore, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Diedre Morrison, Division of Public Safety
Ann Moyer, School of Arts and Sciences
Mary Mullins, Perelman School of Medicine
David Musto, Wharton School
Ann O’Brien Jenkins, Perelman School of Medicine
Kim Olthoff, Perelman School of Medicine
Olga Ortiz, Perelman School of Medicine
Anthony Pagano, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Felicity Paxton, Annenberg School for Communication
Louise Pedraz, Human Resources
Martha Penny, Perelman School of Medicine
Ann Perch, Wharton School
Michael Perillo, School of Dental Medicine
Jeanmarie Perrone, Perelman School of Medicine
Christopher Petko, Perelman School of Medicine
Rebecca Phillips, School of Nursing
Loretta Picklo, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Donald Pijak, Perelman School of Medicine
Mary Pipan, Perelman School of Medicine
Anne Pomerantz, Graduate School of Education
J. Russell Ramsay, Perelman School of Medicine
Tarik Richardson, Wharton School
Mary Ritchie, Information Systems and Computing
Louis Rulli, Law School
Paul Ryersbach, University Library
Brenda Salter, Perelman School of Medicine
Mohamed Samah, Business Services
Barbara Savage, School of Arts and Sciences
Susan Schachtner, Perelman School of Medicine
Theresa Schuck, Perelman School of Medicine
Jonathan Schug, Perelman School of Medicine
Stefan Schuetz-Dankanich, School of Dental Medicine
Abraham Shaked, Perelman School of Medicine
Allen Shinn, Perelman School of Medicine
Douglas Sloane, School of Nursing

(continued on page 5)
New Penn Grant to Ease Childcare Costs

Whether you work remotely or on campus, navigating childcare during the pandemic is a challenge for many staff and faculty—and so is the expense. That’s why the University has developed the Penn COVID-19 Childcare Grant.

The Penn COVID-19 Childcare Grant provides reimbursements up to a total of $2,000 per household to eligible faculty, staff, and postdoctoral trainees to cover childcare expenses incurred in their homes or in a childcare or learning center from September 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021. You are eligible to apply for the grant if you meet the following criteria:

• Be an active, full-time, Penn benefits-eligible employee or postdoctoral trainee. Faculty, staff, and postdoctoral trainees who are on leave or sabbatical are not eligible. Faculty, staff, and postdoctoral trainees must be completing their normal work requirements remotely or on campus. 
• Have at least one child aged 10 or younger, or 11-18 years of age with a disability-related special need at the time of the first application.
• The grant amount is per household, not per child. If both parents are employed at the University of Pennsylvania, the Childcare Grant benefit is limited to the benefit that would be provided to one faculty or staff member.
• Have a yearly Penn salary of $100,000 or less (from all Penn sources).

The grant application is available in Workday from September 15, 2020 through May 31, 2021. To apply, follow these steps:
1. Log into Workday.
2. Search for “Create Request” in the Workday search box. Select “Create Request.”
3. Select “All” from the Request Type Menu and navigate to “COVID-19 Childcare Grant Application.”
4. Click “OK.”
5. Answer all questions on the application, ensuring the necessary supporting documentation is attached.
6. Sign the application by typing full legal name in Question 10.
7. Click Submit.

You can submit up to one application per month for reimbursement of expenses not to exceed $2,000 in total. If you submit your application by the 15th day of the month, once approved, you will receive reimbursement by the end of the following month; however, it may be processed sooner.

When applying, you will need to attach documentation to support your grant request such as childcare center receipts or provider payment confirmation. Costs associated with therapy services such as speech, physical, or occupational therapy are not covered by the grant.

If your child is age 11-18 with a disability-related special need, you will need to submit an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) from your child’s school or a letter from a medical doctor or other professional.

If your child is not covered by a Penn health insurance plan, for each child you will need to attach a birth certificate, official court adoption certificate, your 2019 tax return (with Social Security number and salary information redacted), proof of legal guardianship, or other attestation that certifies that your child is age 10 or younger. If you experience any issues with the application, please email worklife@hr.upenn.edu. If you have questions about the grant benefit, call the Penn Employee Solution Center at (215) 898-7372.

For information about additional resources to help you navigate your childcare needs, visit the Penn Childcare Resources and Support webpage.

—Division of Human Resources

2021 Models of Excellence Call for Nominations

This spring and summer, Penn faculty and staff found new ways to carry on the University’s proudest traditions, including the Models of Excellence Awards. The Models of Excellence Award Program celebrates the outstanding achievements of full- and part-time staff members and teams throughout the University’s schools and centers.

This fall, Penn’s long-standing recognition program will continue to highlight the best in staff commitment and achievement with the 2021 call for nominations. Nomination submissions will be accepted through October 23.

The online nomination form and guide are available at www.hr.upenn.edu/models. Refer to the OuncesWant Guide to Submitting a Nomination to make the process easier.

You can nominate individual Penn staff members and teams for an award in these categories:

Models of Excellence Award—recognizes staff member accomplishments that reflect initiative, leadership, increased efficiency, and a deep commitment to service.

Model Supervisor Award—honors supervisors who are effective and productive leaders for the University.

Pillars of Excellence Award—recognizes the important support Penn’s weekly-paid staff members provide to promote the University’s mission.

Sustaining Penn Through COVID-19—For 2021 only, this category was created in recognition of extraordinary staff efforts to continue education and research in the face of the pandemic. In each category, award recipients each receive $500 and a symbolic award. Nominations selected for honorable mention receive $250 and a symbolic award. Awards will be announced and the honorees celebrated in the spring of 2021. The Models of Excellence Selection Committee bases their choices on the content of your nominations, so your participation is crucial. Learn how to submit a nomination that conveys the exceptional work of your colleagues by attending a virtual How to Write a Models of Excellence Nomination information session. Two sessions will be held on:
• Tuesday, September 29, noon-1 p.m.
• Tuesday, October 13, noon-1 p.m.
Register at www.hr.upenn.edu/models-info-session or models@hr.upenn.edu.

While the way we work has changed, Penn’s standards remain high. In spite of unprecedented obstacles, staff members not only met those standards, but frequently surpassed them. If you know a staff member or team who exemplify this spirit, don’t miss this opportunity to share their story with the entire Penn community. Nominate them for a Models of Excellence program by October 23.

Visit the Models of Excellence Program webpage for more information.

—Division of Human Resources

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Pam Smith, Perelman School of Medicine
Wenchao Song, Perelman School of Medicine
Shobana Sood, Perelman School of Medicine
Michele Souli, School of Arts and Sciences
Lauren Sprague, School of Dental Medicine
Susan Staggs, Provost’s Center
Holly Stefanov, Perelman School of Medicine
Paul Stephens, Perelman School of Medicine
Alan Strudler, Wharton School
Tomoko Takami, School of Arts and Sciences
Jian-Qin Tao, Perelman School of Medicine
Gihan Tennekoon, Perelman School of Medicine
Joanne Thorsveden, Perelman School of Medicine
David Toccafondi, University Library
Donald Tsai, Perelman School of Medicine
Gregory Van Duyn, Perelman School of Medicine
Antonia Villaruel, School of Nursing
Kevin Walker, School of Arts and Sciences
Donna Walter, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Ann Webb, Development and Alumni Relations
Frederick Webb, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Janel Wein, Perelman School of Medicine
Timothy Wells, University Library
E. Wileyto, Perelman School of Medicine
Yin Wong, School of Social Policy and Practice
Barbara Woodford, School of Arts and Sciences
Yanie Yi, Perelman School of Medicine
Xiuxin Zhou, University Museum
Hongming Zhuang, Perelman School of Medicine
Emily Zag, School of Veterinary Medicine

www.upenn.edu/almanac
One Step Ahead
Security & Privacy
Made Simple
Another tip in a series provided by the Offices of Information Security, Information Systems & Computing and Audit, Compliance & Privacy

Using Cloud Storage Services Securely
With many of us working from home, cloud storage plays a vital role in helping us work more efficiently when we are physically away from campus.

Cloud storage services digital data online, using a cloud service provider’s computing infrastructure. Cloud services offer an easy method to store, sync, and share files at low cost. Some well-known cloud services include Box, Google Drive, Microsoft OneDrive, Amazon Drive, Apple iCloud, Dropbox, and Amazon Web Services.

With any cloud service you use, it is critical to pay attention to the level of security that service provides. Before considering a cloud service for housing University data:

1. Use a University- or School-recommended cloud service. If you have questions about which services are available to you and your local computing support.
2. Follow University guidelines on the type of data you can safely store with these cloud services based on Penn Data Risk Classification.
3. Select a strong password with letters, numbers, and symbols. Avoid re-using the same password over multiple platforms.
4. For your personal use, choose a cloud platform offering two-factor authentication, and secure encryption for at-rest data, and data in transit to/from your device.

Penn+Box (a Penn-specific branding of Box) and Amazon Web Services are platforms you can access using your PennKey and Penn Two-Step Verification.

Special Note: Be on the lookout for phishing scams related to cloud services. These scams may send deceptive, unsolicited email or text messages that appear as if they originated from a cloud service provider, one of your contacts, or one of Penn’s departments—but in fact carry a malicious attachment or a link. If you suspect an email is a scam, report it to your School or Center computing support staff.

References
Use of Penn+Box and Amazon Web Services at https://isc.upenn.edu/security/data-box-amazon
Penn Data Risk Classification at https://isc.upenn.edu/security/data-classification
Update
September AT PENN

Leveraging the Alignment Between Machine Learning and Intersectionality: Using Word Embeddings to Visualize Intersectional Experiences of the Nineteenth-Century U.S. South; Laura Nelson, Northeastern University; noon; virtual event; info: https://sociology.sas.upenn.edu/events/Sociology.

Penn Contributions to COVID Solutions; panel of speakers; 1 p.m.; online event; register: https://tinyurl.com/penn-techweek (PCL/PACT).

Sudden Stops, Productivity, and the Exchange Rate; Laura Castillo-Martinez, Duke; 4 p.m.; Zoom meeting; info: https://economics.sas.upenn.edu/events/ (Economics).

Towards Clean Energy Equity: Overcoming Racial Disparities; panel of speakers; noon; Zoom meeting; register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/116043642659/ (Kleinman Center for Energy Policy).

Monuments and Social Justice; panel discussion; 4 p.m.; Zoom meeting; join: https://tinyurl.com/arthur-ross-zoom-sept-24 (Arthur Ross Gallery).

Complexity & The Politics of the Green Energy Transition; David Spence, University of Texas; 4:30 p.m.; virtual event; register: https://tinyurl.com/kleinman-talk-sept-24 (Kleinman Center for Energy Policy).

25 Avoiding Us Versus Them: How Schools’ Dependence on Privileged “Helicopter” Parents Influences Enforcement of Rules; Jessika Calzado, Indiana University; noon; Zoom meeting; info: https://sociology.sas.upenn.edu/events/ (Sociology).

28 Contemporary Architectural Discourse: Race, Environment, Gender; Fernando Lara, University of Texas at Austin; noon; Zoom meeting; info: https://www.design.upenn.edu/architecture/graduate-events/ (Graduate Architecture).

29 Listening to Waves: Tuning to Cosmic, Oceanic, and Sociogenic Noise, Sound, and Music; Stefan Helmreich, MIT; 5:15 p.m.; RSVP: https://tinyurl.com/stefan-helmreich-talk (Music).

30 Using Market Design to Improve the Provision of Sanitation; JP Houde, University of Wisconsin-Madison; 3:30 p.m.; Zoom meeting; info: https://economics.sas.upenn.edu/events/us ing-market-design-improve-provision-sanitation (Economics).

Re-Materialize at the Arthur Ross Gallery: Through December 20

Shari Mendelson, Double Deer with Cup, 2019: Repurposed plastic, hot glue, resin, acrylic polymer, mica; Photo by Alan Weiner

Alison Saar, High Yella’ Blue, edition 1/21, 2016, Intaglio, porcloor: Collection of Jordon D. Schnitzer

The exhibition Re-materialize features artists who have built their practices using materials sourced from discarded packaging, personal items, and architectural elements. Works by the Ghanaian-Nigerian artist El Anatsui show the changeability of material culture and the unified nature of art. Brooklyn-based sculptor Shari Mendelson creates iridescent stained glass-like vessels from plastic bottles (above left). California-based artist Alison Saar shones a light on Southern Black communities with prints on vintage textile fragments and handkerchiefs (above right). Jackie Milad, a Baltimore-based artist, makes rich collaged canvases that refer to her Egyptian and Honduran heritage. The Arthur Ross Gallery is open by reservation only at this time.

See www.ArthurRossGallery.org

The University of Pennsylvania Police Department Community Crime Report

About the Crime Report: Below are the Crimes Against Persons or Crimes Against Society from the campus report for September 7-13, 2020. Also reported were 8 crimes against property (5 thefts from building, 1 retail theft, 1 vandalism, 1 other offense) with 1 arrest. Full 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 and includes all criminal incidents reported and made known to the University Police Department between the dates of September 7-13, 2020. 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 crimes against persons (3 assaults, 2 aggravated assaults, 2 domestic assaults, and 2 robberies) were reported for September 7-13, 2020 by the 18th District, covering the Schuylkill River to 48th Street & Market Street to Woodward Avenue.

09/07/20 8:58 PM 3401 Civic Center Blvd Domestic Assault
09/08/20 3:27 AM 4833 Woodward Ave Aggravated Assault
09/08/20 4:24 PM 4002 Market St Assault
09/10/20 9:00 PM 202 S 43rd St Robbery
09/11/20 5:11 PM 3330 Market St Assault
09/12/20 2:49 PM 4833 Woodward Ave Aggravated Assault
09/13/20 2:25 AM 4314 Walnut St Domestic Assault
09/13/20 2:45 AM 4314 Walnut St Assault
09/13/20 11:10 PM 4514 Pine St Robbery
Attention, Intentions, and Just Plain Tension

Phil Nelson

Like you, perhaps, I felt a lot of tension this past March — how could I give my students what they needed? Here are some reflections on what I came up with, and some things I hope to try in the fall. I’ll argue that the fundamental nut we must crack involves student attention; whatever our good intentions, we must address this issue head-on if we are to be effective. We have all heard many good ideas about elaborate course structures to maintain attention. Here instead are some ideas that focus on how I try to keep human connection front and center.

Any major disruption offers us the chance to rethink our core values. I decided to attend some remote classes given by colleagues at other institutions. I encourage you to do the same, because what I saw was eye-opening, or rather, eye-shutting: Often there is just a white screen with equations appearing from an invisible hand. In the corner there is a thumbnail image of an expressionless face, its gaze averted. Naturally — the professor is concentrating hard on the tablet where (s)he is writing out the equations! Others were busy showing PowerPoint slides and moving their cursor around to make various points. Their gaze was fixed on their second monitor — again, not on “me” (that is, not on their camera). Either way, the user experience is nothing but pure content. Isn’t that our ideal as intellectuals? Well, for me at least, it is absolutely impossible to maintain my attention under such conditions.

Much has changed, but much remains unchanged. What, anyway, is the indispensable core of education? One answer is that it’s what happens when a human wishes to work hard to give beautiful, important, but difficult skills and frameworks to other humans who wish to acquire them, and each side doesn’t want to let the other side down. This certainly motivates me during a normal semester, and perhaps my students as well. The human interaction is what distinguishes this activity from outstanding but one-way content like Khan Academy (or reading a book). Preserving that aspect became a priority for me.

I remind students that attention is the gold or petroleum of the 21st century, that their attention is a commodity bought and sold by giant corporations, and that it’s up to them to grip their attention tightly and nail it for an hour to whatever they believe deserves it, despite the best efforts of those corporations to disrupt it. I admit to them that this is much harder with remote instruction. I can certainly tell them in all humility that I, too, struggle with fragmented attention, but that there are mindful strategies we can all learn.

Beyond commiserating, what can I, as the professor, do to help? Let’s recognize that we are animals, and we evolved to focus our attention on things that set off alertness. I set up a camera that’s several feet from me, not two feet as on a laptop. (Of course, that means I must be wearing trousers!) And I look right at that camera about as often as I once looked at students in a regular class. Yes, obviously, it is not real eye contact. But it still helps — our attentional circuits are so easily fooled.

I would dearly love an arrangement where students were also more aware of one another’s presences. As humans, we are also wired to give attention especially when we’re in a room full of others who are also focusing on the same thing. The electricity — when you know that “Others are Getting It so I had better Keep Up” — is mostly lost in Zoom-world. Nobody gives their best attentional effort without that nudge. What’s the next best thing? This term, I am creating breakout teams (“assigned tables”) where just a few students will work together for discussions and for a project or two, then get reassigned to a new team over and over throughout the term. I hope these teams will work because (a) each member doesn’t want to let the others down, and (b) humans actually enjoy contributing to common goals. I won’t rely on Zoom’s auto-assignment feature, because I want to engineer connections between students with different disciplinary backgrounds. Also, Zoom’s “random” assignments end up with a surprising amount of duplication; I want each student to get acquainted with as many different classmates as possible during the semester.

As to the projects themselves, now more than ever I think it’s important that they not all be exercises I did decades ago; at least some of them should be projects I tried for the first time in the past month. Then I can tell students honestly about the frustrations I faced; I can show then my initial flawed attempt; I can hold out the possibility that with some initiative their team may do better than I did in some respects.

Are these ideas merely hunches, or are they the results of rigorous, peer-reviewed, double-blind research? Answer: They are hunches, of course. If they sound worth trying, you can try them; I’m reporting that they are not very hard to implement. For what it’s worth, multiple students this spring commented that I “cared about” them; perhaps this form of connection was part of what drove that sense.

Technical asides: I record my sessions locally. This approach lets me edit out students’ thumbnail images, addressing privacy concerns they may have and perhaps letting them relax while still being visible to each other in class, knowing that only I will be visible in the recording. When students ask questions, I repeat the question for the recording, which anyway is good practice.

After class, I upload each session to Panopto, which conveniently allows streaming access. However, overseas students may prefer to download the whole episode before watching it; Panopto offers an option to allow this.

It can be done. Human connection is what we offer as an elite institution, I believe this is why universities still exist after many centuries, and might be worth saving. Would I choose to keep working in this mode in a hypothetical post-pandemic world? No way! But while we’re waiting for that day, improved connection can be arranged with a little care, once we realize its importance.

Phil Nelson is Professor of Physics and Astronomy in SAS.
He is the recipient of the 2018 Dennis M. Deturck Award for Innovation in Teaching and the 2001 Ira Abrams Memorial Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching.

This essay continues the series that began in the fall of 1994 as the joint creation of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Lindback Society for Distinguished Teaching.

See https://almanac.upenn.edu/talk-about-teaching-and-learning-archive for previous essays.

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