Two Endowed Professors Named in Penn Arts and Sciences

Dean Steven Fluharty is pleased to name two faculty members to endowed chairs in the School of Arts & Sciences.

Joseph Farrell, professor of classical studies, has been named the M. Mark and Esther Watkins Professor in the Humanities. Dr. Farrell is an internationally recognized Latinist whose research spans genres and historical epochs. A scholar of Latin literature and poetics as well as the culture of the Republican and Augustan periods, Dr. Farrell has published a ground-breaking study that encompasses both traditional and innovative topics and approaches. He has masterfully translated important and highly challenging texts and has edited and co-edited influential compilations, notably on Augustan poetry and the works of Vergil. He is currently working on a monograph, entitled Juno’s Aeneid, on meta-poetics, narrativity and dissent in Vergil’s epic masterpiece.

Mark and Esther Watkins established this chair through a bequest in 1969. Their gift supports an accomplished teacher who shows potential as a leader in his or her field. The holder must demonstrate a breadth of knowledge and accomplishment spanning more than one discipline and, most importantly, have a lively awareness of the role and ramifications of the humanities as they touch upon cultural values, aesthetics and history.

Jeffrey Kallberg, associate dean for arts and letters and professor of music, has been named the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Music. Dr. Kallberg is a scholar of music of the 19th and 20th centuries, specializing in editorial and critical theory and gender studies. He is a renowned expert on Polish composer Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849) and has published widely on both his music and its cultural contexts. His seminal monograph, Chopin at the Boundaries: Sex, History, and Musical Genre, has been cited by virtually all subsequent studies of Chopin and translated into Polish.

The University of Puerto Rico (UPR) and University of Pennsylvania have been awarded a $3 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to support their Partnership for Research and Education in Materials (PREM). The PREM award extends the decade-spanning relationship between UPR and Penn’s Laboratory for Research on the Structure of Matter (LRSM), in which faculty, staff and students share resources and collaborate on interdisciplinary research related to materials science.

The PREM program is funded by the NSF’s Division of Materials Research with the aim of building long-term partnerships between minority-serving educational institutions and NSF research centers such as the LRSM, which hosts a Materials Research Science and Engineering Center.

Penn and UPR were two of the original institutions involved in this type of NSF partnership, which began more than 15 years ago when the program was known as a Collaborative to Integrate Research and Education. The most recent PREM award is the third garnered by UPR and Penn’s LRSM. This award supports the work of students and faculty at three UPR campuses: Humacao, Cayey and Bayamón, of which Humacao is the lead institution.

“I see this as a critical pathway for increasing diversity in STEM fields, both at Penn and beyond,” said Arjun Yodh, director of Penn’s LRSM and co-director of the PREM. “Moreover, all participating institutions are doing excellent science, and a long paper trail of collaborative interdisciplinary materials publications has resulted from our partnership.”

UPR, Humacao, is an undergraduate institution, and many of the joint papers published have undergraduate co-authors.

“The impact of PREM goes well beyond the program participants and has transformed the research culture at our university and influenced the Puerto Rican community-at-large,” said PREM co-director Idalia Ramos, a professor in the department of physics and electronics at UPR, Humacao.

$5 Million NSF Grant to Establish Mid-Atlantic Nanotechnology Hub at Penn’s Singh Center

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded the University of Pennsylvania’s Krishnna P. Singh Center for Nanotechnology a five-year, $5 million grant to establish the Mid-Atlantic Nanotechnology Hub for Research, Education & Innovation.

As part of its National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure program, the NSF will provide a total of $81 million to 16 “user facilities.” Such facilities allow access to nanotech fabrication and characterization equipment—as well as the relevant expertise—to partner institutions in government, academia, industry and the public at large.

“This grant will increase access to the Singh Center by external users,” said Mark Allen, director of the Singh Center and Alfred Filzer Moore Professor of Electrical & Systems Engineering in Penn’s School of Engineering & Applied Science. “Our goal is to catalyze a nanotech hub, centered here in Philadelphia, by bringing together industry and academic external users and having them interact with Penn facilities and Penn researchers.”

In addition to hosting outside researchers who need the Singh Center’s equipment to image or manipulate atomic and molecular-scale samples, the Center will also host education programs to introduce high school students, college students and university researchers.

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Pullout: October AT PENN
University Privacy Officer: Scott Schafer

The Office of Audit, Compliance and Privacy announced the arrival of Scott Schafer as University Privacy Officer.

Mr. Schafer joins the Office of Audit, Compliance and Privacy having spent the last six years as Senior Counsel with the Vanguard Group where he led the Legal & Compliance Division's Global Privacy & Data Protection team. In this capacity he had global responsibility for ensuring enterprise-wide compliance with U.S. and international privacy and data security laws. Mr. Schafer brings to Penn significant experience in working with key business partners and senior leadership to develop and implement business solutions that ensure privacy compliance while driving business results and encouraging innovation. Prior to Vanguard, he served in multiple roles of escalating responsibility in the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General, including chief of the Consumer Protection Division. During that time, Mr. Schafer was responsible for enforcing compliance with federal and state privacy and data security laws and regulations, led investigations into data security breaches, and oversaw the development of policies and best practices on privacy and data security.

Mr. Schafer holds a JD from Harvard Law School and is a certified information privacy professional.

S$3 Million NSF Grant for Research Partnership (continued from page 1)

University of Pennsylvania will be held on Thursday, October 1st, 9:35-11:05 a.m. Budget & Finance Committee; Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine, Conference Center.

Please contact the Office of the University Secretary at (215) 898-7005 with your plans to attend.

COUNCIL

From the Office of the University Secretary

Agenda for University Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 7, 4 p.m. Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall

I. Announcement of Appointment of a Moderator (1 minute).
II. Announcement of Appointment of a Parliamentarian (1 minute).
III. Approval of the Minutes of April 22, 2015 (1 minute).
IV. Follow up comments on Status Reports (5 minutes).
V. Presentation and Scheduling of Focus Issues for University Council for the Academic Year (5 minutes).
VI. Presentation of Council Committee Charges (10 minutes).
VII. Announcement of Open Forum Sessions (5 minutes).
VIII. Discussion of the Programs Planned for the 2015-2016 Academic Theme Year: The Year of Discovery (15 minutes).
IX. New Business (2 minutes).
X. Adjournment.

Discussion on Pope Francis’ Visit

Perry World House at the University of Pennsylvania, along with Penn’s Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society, will host a rapid response panel on the local and global significance of the visit by Pope Francis to Philadelphia.

The event will take place on Tuesday, September 29 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the Amado Recital Hall in Irvine Auditorium, 3401 Spruce Street. A reception will follow.

The panelists will be:

- Melissa Rogers, a Penn Law graduate and special assistant to the president and executive director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.
- Sister Mary Scullion, president and executive director of Project HOME, a nonprofit seeking to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty (Almanac, May 27, 2008). In 2009, she was named by Time magazine as one of the “100 Most Influential People in the World.”
- John Dilulio, a Penn alumnus; Penn’s Frederick Fox Leadership Professor of Politics, Religion and Civil Society and professor of political science; and director of Penn’s Robert A. Fox Leadership Program and Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society.

The event is free and open to the public. Registration is encouraged at http://PWHPope-Discussion.eventbrite.com
From the President and Provost

The Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct, a project of the Association of American Universities, was designed to provide comparable data on the frequency and characteristics of sexual assault, sexual harassment and other forms of sexual misconduct. The survey was administered by Westat, an independent national social science research firm, to Penn's undergraduate, graduate and professional students. There were 27 participating institutions including Penn and six other Ivy League universities.

On the Findings of the AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct

Dear Members of the Penn Community,

On behalf of our leadership team, including all our deans, faculty and staff, we are writing to say that it is our highest priority and we will do everything in our power, individually and collectively, to make every student safe and secure from all forms of sexual harassment and assault on Penn’s campus.

We decided to undertake a campus climate survey, in coordination with our peers in the Association of American Universities, to learn more about the incidence of these serious problems and our students’ sense of their experience on our campus.

The survey results confirm our deepest concerns, and we write to you now to say that we are therefore redoubling our efforts. We must not, and we will not, rest until we effectively tackle this problem as a campus community.

The results of the survey we commissioned are deeply troubling. A core principle of all great educational institutions, indeed of every decent society, is respect for all individuals. Every instance of sexual harassment and assault directly undermines this, and is simply unacceptable. We will do everything in our power to address this issue on our campus. This includes all-out efforts aimed at prevention and extends to ensuring fair means of responding to all instances of sexual assault and harassment.

The survey was extensive. We encourage everyone on campus—students, faculty and staff—to view the results in full at http://www.upenn.edu/ir/aau-campus-climate-survey.html This site contains the Penn data as well as the aggregate data from all 27 universities. Let us single out here just one among many striking and useful findings: despite our determined efforts, a majority of students in the Penn survey report that they do not know where to find help here on campus if they or a friend are victims of sexual assault or sexual misconduct. All individuals in the Penn community—women and men, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual, undergraduates, graduate and professional students alike—must know where to turn for help if and when prevention fails. We clearly must do more, beginning immediately, to make all students aware that they have immediate recourse for help.

We want everyone on campus to know that students who have experienced or know someone who has experienced assault or abuse can turn to the Division of Public Safety Special Services Unit, Counseling and Psychological Services, Student Health Service or the Penn’s Women’s Center. Links to these and other resources can be found at https://secure.www.upenn.edu/vpul/pvp/resources.php Anyone in doubt of where to turn should call the Penn Help Line, anytime, at (215) 898-HELP. We will continue to promote awareness of the Penn Help Line on PennCards and through other means. We will mobilize all necessary resources to better understand and address the problems, to serve all students in need and to ensure regular monitoring of our effectiveness going forward. To this end, we have charged the Vice Provosts for Education and for University Life to make this their highest priority and we will do everything in our power, individually and collectively, to make every student safe and secure from all forms of sexual harassment and assault.

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We also must make all students comfortable reporting incidents, and we must provide collective assurance that there will be zero tolerance for retaliation. Students, parents and everyone in our community need to know that all complaints will be effectively acted upon in full fairness to the complainant and the respondent. Every member of our community must know that we will always do whatever is needed to resolve every issue that arises in the most just and caring way possible, with the aid of our newly established Office of the Sexual Violence Investigator and other important support systems. As the President and Provost of this institution, and on behalf of our senior administrative staff, the deans and the faculty, we pledge to honor this commitment to our collective University community.

We have long held that any harassment or assault on our campuses is absolutely unacceptable. The climate survey we undertook confirms just how great a problem we confront. We will do everything in our power to counteract this climate, and we call upon all members of our community to do their parts as well. We will be arranging meetings across campus to discuss additional steps that we, and everyone who can address these important issues, are prepared to take. These meetings will entail outreach to Penn’s many student groups and leaders including those associated with College Houses, fraternities and sororities, cultural groups, athletic teams and student government, both undergraduates and graduate and professional students. We ask you to join us in an all-out and all-in effort to make everyone on Penn’s campus equally safe, secure and respected at all times.

Sincerely,

—Amy Gutmann, President
—Vincent Price, Provost

Ed. Note: For the list of campus resources at Penn that are mentioned above, see the next page.
Special Services Unit in the Division of Public Safety (DPS) 4040 Chestnut Street 24-Hour Helpline: (215) 898-6600 Special Services offers comprehensive victim support for any member of the University community who has been a victim of interpersonal violence. Special Services has advocates on call 24 hours a day that can provide options counseling, hospital and court advocacy, and take formal police reports. Special Services is a confidential unit and can provide support for students who wish to remain anonymous.

Penn Women’s Center (PWC) 3643 Locust Walk Tel: (215) 898-6500, (215) 898-8611 Staff Hours: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. The Penn Women’s Center provides education, advocacy and co-facilitates support groups for survivors of sexual violence. Staff at the Penn Women’s Center can assist students in navigating the different resources both at Penn and in the broader community. They are also available to provide support and guidance to friends and family of sexual assault victims. PWC supports all students regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) 3624 Market St, 1st Floor, West Philadelphia Tel: (215) 898-7021 Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday Emergency walk-in all day. Night and Weekend Emergencies: (215) 349-5490 (ask for CAPS Clinician on Call) CAPS offers a wide range of free and confidential services in a safe space to help students who have experienced interpersonal violence or any kind and to help students who have been accused of committing violence. Initial consultation, individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, structured workshops and medication reviews are available. CAPS also has the Sexual Trauma Treatment Outreach and Prevention (STTOOP) Team, a multidisciplinary team of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) clinicians dedicated to providing confidential care, support and advocacy to students who have experienced sexual trauma during their academic career.

Student Health Service 3535 Market St, Suite 100 Philadelphia Tel: (215) 898-3535 (on call provider available 24/7) Office Hours: Mon.- Wed. 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Thurs. 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; modified hours are in effect during Fall, Winter and Spring Break, major holidays and Summer Sessions. The Student Health Service can provide evaluation and treatment to victims of sexual and dating violence regardless of whether they make a report or seek additional resources. Both male and female providers can perform examinations, discuss testing and treatment of sexually transmissible infections, provide emergency contraception if necessary and arrange for referrals and follow-up. The Student Health Service does not perform forensic rape examinations. All services are confidential. Office visits are covered in full by the Clinical Fee and the Penn Student Insurance Plan (PSIP). Charges for lab tests related to a sexual assault are waived.

Office of the Sexual Violence Investigative Officer 3901 Walnut St, Suite 320 Philadelphia Tel: (215) 898-2887 Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. The Office of the Sexual Violence Investigative Officer is responsible for managing and investigating complaints against enrolled Penn students alleging violations of the University’s Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence and Stalking policy. The Sexual Violence Investigative Officer works with the Penn community to implement the Amendment to the Student Disciplinary Charter, which applies to all twelve schools. Any member of the Penn community or the general public who believes a Penn student has violated the University Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence and Stalking policy may bring a complaint to this office.

Office of Student Conduct 207 Druing Wing, 236 South 34th Street Tel: (215) 898-8561 Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. The Office of Student Conduct (OSC) is responsible for acting on behalf of the University in matters of student discipline. OSC deals with alleged instances of academic dishonesty and other student misconduct, in order to determine how best to resolve these allegations consistent with the goals and mission of the University as an educational and intellectual community. OSC does not investigate complaints regarding violation of the Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence and Stalking policy (see above resource). Any member of the University community or the general public who believes that a Penn student has violated Penn’s rules may bring a complaint to OSC.

Student Intervention Services 3611 Locust Walk Tel: (215) 898-6081 Office Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Student Intervention Services (SIS), which is centrally located in the Office of the Vice Provost for University Life, coordinates the University’s response to reports of interpersonal violence against students. SIS provides support to student victims/survivors; coordinates with schools, housing administration and other relevant offices at student’s request; and connects students to appropriate support services. SIS respects the sensitivity of violence cases and can discreetly advocate for students with schools and other offices in the University.

Office of the Chaplain 240 Houston Hall Tel: (215) 898-8456 The Office of the Chaplain offers pastoral support, guidance or informal advising and counseling to all members of the Penn community. The staff is trained to support survivors of interpersonal and sexual violence or anyone struggling with related issues in a safe and confidential manner. They are also able to connect students to either campus resources or community religious support as needed.

Office of the Ombudsman 113 Druing Wing, 236 South 34th Street Tel: (215) 898-8261 The Ombudsman is available to listen and inquire into issues or complaints; to explore options for informal resolution of conflicts; to mediate specific disputes; to clarify and examine university policy and procedures; and to connect people with appropriate resources within the University.

Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs 3600 Chestnut Street, Sansom Place East, Suite 228 Philadelphia Tel: (215) 898-6993 Faculty, staff and students who believe that they, or someone they know, have been sexually harassed or disciplined against may file a complaint with the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs. OA/AEO can assist with informal resolution or may pursue formal action. Formal action is initiated by filing a written complaint with OA/AEO. They will investigate the complaint and will take appropriate action. OA/AEO also provides training for Penn faculty and staff on sexual harassment and other issues related to affirmative action, equal opportunity and diversity.

Where to Find Help: University of Pennsylvania Campus Resources

- Office of Student Conduct
- Student Intervention Services
- Office of the Chaplain
- Office of the Ombudsman
- Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs

For other on-campus resources and online resources, see https://secure.upenn.edu/vul/vpv/resources.php

Women Organized Against Rape (WOAR)
One Penn Center, 1617 F Kennedy Blvd., Suite 1100
24 Hour Hotline: (215) 985-3333
WOAR is a non-profit organization in Philadelphia that provides a 24-hour hotline, free individual and group counseling to children and adults who have experienced sexual assault/abuse, counseling in Spanish and court accompaniment. WOAR provides services to all survivors regardless of gender or sexual orientation and offers a Queer Survivors Group.

Women Against Abuse (WAA)
100 South Broad Street, Suite 1341 Philadelphia, PA 19110
24-hour hotline: 1 (866) 723-3014
Office: (215) 386-1280
WAA is a non-profit organization in Philadelphia that provides comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence in the Philadelphia community including emergency shelter, transitional housing, legal services, behavioral healthcare, advocacy and education. WAA provides services to all survivors regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response Center (PSARC)
300 E. Hunting Park Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19124
Tel: (215) 800-1589
Emergencies: Call (215) 425-1625 to reach the on-call sexual assault nurse examiner.

The Philadelphia Sexual Assault Treatment Center is designated to provide forensic rape examinations to victims of sexual assault and to assist them in the process of making a report to the Philadelphia Police Department. It is recommended that victims who wish to pursue legal action, or who may wish to take legal action in the future, receive a rape exam which includes a collection of evidence. During this examination victims can receive treatment for injuries and sexually transmitted infections as well as emergency contraception. Individuals may contact PSARC directly by calling the 24-hour hotline, or they can reach out to the Penn DPS Special Services Department who will provide 24/7 transportation and accompaniment to the center.
Penn/Baylor Med Study Describes Underlying Cause of Diabetes in Dogs

Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania and Baylor College of Medicine have used advanced imaging technology to fill in details about the cause of diabetes in dogs, which until now has been little understood. For the first time, they’ve precisely quantified the dramatic loss of insulin-producing beta cells in dogs with the disease and compared it to the loss observed in people with type 1 diabetes.

“The architecture of the canine pancreas has never been studied in the detail that we have done in this paper,” said Rebecka Hess, professor of internal medicine at Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine and chief of pediatric diabetes & endocrinology at Baylor College of Medicine, was the senior author. Together with Dr. Hess, they collaborated with Thomas J. Van Winkle of Penn Vet, Matthew M. Rankin of Penn Medicine and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and Carol J. Lam and Aaron R. Cox of Baylor. Their work was published on June 9 in PLOS ONE.

Canine diabetes can be managed with insulin, similar to type 1 diabetes in humans. But unlike the human version of the disease, dogs typically develop diabetes in middle or old age, while people with type 1 diabetes are typically diagnosed during childhood. In addition, while type 1 diabetes is known to be an autoimmune condition, researchers haven’t found conclusive evidence that the same is true in dogs.

To learn more about the factors that contribute to canine diabetes, the researchers made use of a repository of donated tissue samples from dogs—23 with diabetes and 17 without—who had been treated at Penn Vet’s Ryan Hospital. The team used robotic microscopes that rapidly moved around a slide taking images of pancreas tissue samples, which were then analyzed by a computer to determine their contents.

“In a larger view we could look at the entire cross-section of the pancreas to determine how many islets there were and how big they were,” Ms. Shields said. “Then we could zoom in to differentiate beta cells, which produce insulin, from alpha cells, which produce glucagon.”

They found that beta cells dropped off in dramatic fashion in diabetic dogs, reduced 13-fold compared to non-diabetic animals. They also noted that diabetic canine islets contained a large percentage of beta cells, comprising about 80 percent of endocrine cells. In contrast, beta cells comprised slightly more than 50 percent of endocrine cells in non-diabetic human islets. The researchers noted that this may mean that dogs need to lose more beta cells than humans do before experiencing symptoms of diabetes. The observation could explain why dogs develop a form of diabetes that is similar to type 1 diabetes, but do so later in life, compared to humans.

They also identified features of the islets and pancreatic structures that were different in dogs than in humans.

“In sharp contrast to human diabetes, in which there are a lot of islets still present but none contains insulin, we found in dogs that only a few beta cells were present and the islets were incredibly small,” Dr. Kushner said.

While the researchers had hoped to be able to visualize immune cells infiltrating the pancreas and attacking beta cells, they failed to do so. While other signs point to canine diabetes being an autoimmune condition, this study did not find a “smoking gun.”

Though the work highlights differences between canine and human diabetes, it also points to a number of similarities that distinguish the two from rodents, which are often used as animal models to study the disease. For example, the scientists observed that dogs’ beta cells were distributed throughout the islets, as beta cells in humans are. In rodents, beta cells are concentrated in the center of the islet.

“Now that we know more about the disease in dogs and in particular how they are similar to humans in ways that rodents are not, it makes them more appealing as a model,” Dr. Kushner said.

At Penn, Dr. Hess is currently working to look for genetic markers in dogs that heighten a dog’s risk of developing diabetes. “My hope is that with genetic screening we can eventually identify pre-clinical diabetic dogs, potentially making breeding recommendations that could decrease the incidence and prevalence of the disease in dogs,” she said.

The research was supported by the NIH, Robert and Janice McNair Foundation, Perl’s Perelman School of Veterinary Medicine and Diabetes Research Center of the Baylor College of Medicine.

Penn Nursing Study May Lead to More Effective Treatment of Chemotherapy Side Effects

Annually, hundreds of thousands of patients battling cancer undergo chemotherapy, which often results in poorly-tolerated side effects such as nausea and vomiting, which can last for days.

Bart C. De Jonghe, assistant professor of nursing and senior author of a new study published on August 5 in the Journal of Neuroscience, has advanced our understanding of how chemotherapy causes side effects related to nausea, vomiting and anorexia using pre-clinical rodent models of chemotherapy-induced illness.

“These publications indicate that blocking specific receptors for the neurotransmitter glutamate within the amygdala, an area of the brain associated with feeding, sickness and emotion, results in a robust alleviation of sickness and anorexia produced by cisplatin chemotherapy treatment in the animals. This work has also helped us construct a clearer picture of how the anatomy of the brain is organized and connected to facilitate these observations,” he said.

In his role as senior author and director of the project, Dr. De Jonghe coordinated with lead author Amber Alhadeff as part of an ongoing research collaboration between the De Jonghe laboratory and the lab of Gary W. Duman, professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences. This work also highlights Penn undergraduates as partners in Dr. De Jonghe’s transdisciplinary research, with laboratory members Ruby A. Holland (SAS ’16) and recent BSN graduate Alexandra Nelson (SON ’14) earning co-authorship on the paper as a result of their significant contributions.

Dr. De Jonghe is currently funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and by the American Cancer Society.

Which PSAs Make Parents More Likely to Cut Kids’ Soda Intake?

Getting children to cut back on sugar-sweetened beverages like soda and energy drinks has been the goal of anti-obesity public service advertisements (PSAs) in cities across the United States. But to achieve that, the PSAs use very different strategies—some aim for humor, some use scare tactics and some appeal to parents’ nurturing instincts.

A new study takes an experimental approach to identify the effectiveness of specific persuasive techniques used in PSAs. Researchers found that the PSAs that were perceived as making a stronger argument for reducing sugary beverages and produced greater feelings of hope and empowerment made parents more likely to say they intended to cut back on their children’s intake of sugary drinks.

The study, “Sugar-Sweetened Beverage-Related Public Service Advertisements and Their Influence on Parents,” was conducted by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and published online on July 21 in American Behavioral Scientist. The public service ads targeted sugary beverages including non-diet soda, sweetened tea and sports, energy and fruit drinks.

The study, involving a national sample of 807 parents with children ages 3 to 17, found that persuasive techniques that used fear or nurturance were significantly more related to an ad’s perceived argument strength. Those emotional appeals may be more promising strategies for health-related messages directed at parents, the researchers said.

“This study underscores the need for PSAs and efforts to reduce consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages to be more effective and impactful,” said Amy Jordan, co-author of the study. “The findings may help guide future research to determine which strategies are most effective for your audience.”

This study followed one published earlier this year in which teens were shown the same PSAs. It found that PSAs based on fear—which warned about the health consequences of too much sugar, including obesity, diabetes and amputations —had the greatest effect on the teens’ intention to cut back on their consumption of sugary beverages. It was published in the Journal of Health Communication.

In addition to Dr. Jordan and Dr. Bleakley, the study’s authors were Michael Hennessy (formerly of APPC); Karen Glanz (Penn’s School of Nursing) and Andrew A. Strasser (Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine), both also APPC distinguished research fellows; and Sarah Vaala (Vanderbilt University School of Nursing).

(continued on page 8, after center spread)
Twenty-Five Year Club: New Members for 2015

Nursing
Dr. Charles Cantor, Neurology, Perelman School of Medicine
Dr. Joseph Cappella, Annenberg School for Communication
Ms. Kay Carr, Widener Hospital, Veterinary Medicine
Mr. Robert Chalfin, Management, Wharton
Dr. Linda Chance, East Asian Languages & Civilizations, SAS
Ms. Alice Chen, Chemistry, SAS
Mr. John Chybinskis, Housekeeping, FRES
Dr. Michael Colucciello, Ophthalmology, Perelman School of Medicine
Dr. Russell Composto, Materials Science & Engineering, SEAS
Ms. Linda Cook, Student Health Services
Mr. John Cooper, Neuroscience, Perelman School of Medicine
Ms. Maureen Cotterill, Graduate School of Education
Ms. Joanne Crossin, Institute for Neuroscience, Perelman School of Medicine
Dr. Dennis Culhane, School of Social Policy & Practice
Mr. Richard Darden, Housekeeping, FRES
Dr. Paul De Weer, Physiology, Perelman School of Medicine
Ms. Suzanne DePuyt, Undergraduate Admissions
Ms. Catherine Dibiaventura, Design Computing Center, School of Design
Mr. Keithen Dickens, Housekeeping, FRES
Ms. Diane DiGiacomo, Research & Analysis, Development & Alumni Relations
Ms. Denise Dixon, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine
Dr. Christopher Donovan, College Houses & Academic Services
Mr. Jeffrey Douthett, Client Services-Technology Support Services, ISC
Dr. Brian Drachman, Cardiology, Perelman School of Medicine
Dr. Dennis Durbin, Pediatrics, Perelman School of Medicine
Dr. Christine Edelstein, Romance Languages, SAS
Dr. Irma Elo, Sociology, SAS
Dr. William Ewald, Law School
Mr. Thomas Ewing, Finance & Administration, SAS
Ms. Erin Fallon, Computing, Wharton
Dr. John Farley, Marketing, Wharton
Dr. Norman Feinssmith, Cardiovascular Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine
Mr. Marc Felice, Radiation Safety
Ms. Michael Felker, Computer & Information Science, SEAS
Dr. Maria Felti, Neurology, Perelman School of Medicine
Dr. James Ferguson, Clinical Studies-New Bolton Center, School of Veterinary Medicine
Mr. Michael Fisher, Facilities, Perelman School of Medicine
Ms. Felicia Ford, External Affairs, Wharton
Dr. Godlove Fonjweng, Earth & Environmental Science, SAS
Ms. JeanMarie Fox, Admissions & Financial Aid, Perelman School of Medicine
Ms. Barbara Fox, Cancer Center, Perelman School of Medicine
Mr. David Fox, College Houses & Academic Services
Dr. Richard Frofiedler, Radiology, Perelman School of Medicine
Mr. Steven Gagne, Office of the President, President’s Center
Mr. Patrick Gallagher, Housekeeping, FRES
Ms. Marie Gallagher, Annenberg Center for Performing Arts
Ms. Kim Garrison, Research Services, Division of Finance
Ms. Evyln Gelhaus, University Libraries
Dr. Thomas Gerrity, Management, Wharton
Ms. Roxanne Gilmer, Management, Wharton
Dr. Michael Golden, Surgery Administration, Perelman School of Medicine
Dr. Elizabeth Goldmuntz, Pediatrics, Perelman School of Medicine
Dr. Robert Gorman, Surgery Administration, Perelman School of Medicine
Dr. Stephen Gross, Clinical Studies-Philadelphia, School of Veterinary Medicine
Ms. Bronwyn Gurley, Human Resources
Dr. Chang-Gyu Hahn, Psychiatry, Perelman School of Medicine
Ms. Silvia Hanks, Student Financial Services, Division of Finance
Dr. Philip Hanno, Surgery Administration, Perelman School of Medicine
Mr. Thomas Harley, Trades, FRES
Ms. Patrice Harper, Gene Therapy Program, Perelman School of Medicine
Mr. Joseph Hines, Trades, FRES
Ms. Genevieve Hollis, Biobehavioral & Health Sciences, School of Nursing
Ms. Rashida Holmes, Penn Fund, Development & Alumni Relations
Dr. David Horowitz, General Internal Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine
Dr. Dianne Hotmer, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Perelman School of Medicine
Ms. Suzanne Hyndman, Historical Preservation, School of Design
Ms. Darlene Jackson, History of Art, SAS
Dr. Christopher Jepson, Center for Clinical Biostatistics, Perelman School of Medicine
Ms. Paula Johnson, Housekeeping, FRES
Dr. Gary Kao, Radiation Oncology, Perelman School of Medicine
Ms. Maureen Keating, Housekeeping, FRES
Sister Rose Kershbaumer, School of Nursing
Mr. Lamont Keyes, Wharton Operations, Wharton
Ms. Marian Kirk, Neurosurgery, Perelman School of Medicine
Dr. Lisa Klein, Community Radiology, Perelman School of Medicine
Dr. J. Kneeland, Radiology, Perelman School of Medicine
Ms. Linda Kronfeld, Principal Gifts, Development & Alumni Relations
Dr. Kevin Kuehlwein, Family & Community Health, School of Nursing
Ms. Nancy Kusik, Widener Hospital, School of Veterinary Medicine
Dr. John Lambis, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine
Ms. Rodolfa Labros, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine
(continued on page 7)
Further modification of the ligand could enable other rare earths in technology products, such as compact fluorescent light bulbs, to be recycled this way.

This research was supported by the Early Career Research Program of the US Department of Energy’s Office of Science and the Research Corporation for Science Advancement.

**Effects of Incarceration Spill Over into Health Care System, Penn Study Finds**

The consequences of incarceration on former inmates and their families are well known. But how does imprisonment affect the health care system as a whole? A new study, led by Jason Schnittker of the University of Pennsylvania and published in the September issue of *The Milbank Quarterly*, finds that states with the highest incarceration rates experience significant declines in overall access to and quality of care.

Through this research, Dr. Schnittker, a professor in the department of sociology in Penn’s School of Arts & Sciences, and colleagues from the University of Minnesota and the University of Georgia address the ties between the prison system and other social systems—and bring to light the broader social costs of incarceration. It is what’s often called a spillover effect.

Spillover occurs when the behavior of one group in the community changes the situation of others. In the case of incarceration, the issue stems from relatively poor health among former inmates, higher levels of uninsurance and a greater risk of uncompensated care.

“There’s an emerging consensus that we incarcerate too many people and that incarceration has a huge negative impact on the lives of former inmates,” Dr. Schnittker said. “But we don’t know how that affects care in the health system.”

Dr. Schnittker and his colleagues looked at the incarceration rates, as well as a variety of control variables. They learned that in US states that incarcerate a greater number of people, populations experience less overall access to care and reduced access to specialists. They also feel less trust toward physicians and less satisfaction with their care.

Though former inmates and their families suffer the most, their situation also affects the care of those removed from them,” the researchers noted, including the uninsured, those older than 50, non-Hispanic whites, and those with incomes that far exceed the federal poverty level. Despite the widespread potential impact, these consequences often remain “hidden from mainstream society…but they are nonetheless quite powerful.”

The solution? “Addressing the health care needs of former inmates,” Dr. Schnittker said, adding that this could be an “important step toward preventing further damage to the health care system.”

**Penn Scientists Identify Key Genetic Factor That Keeps Moles From Turning Into Melanoma**

Moles are benign tumors found on the skin of almost every adult. Scientists have known for years that a mutation in the BRAF gene makes them start growing, but until now haven’t understood why they stop. Now, researchers from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania have identified a major genetic factor that keeps moles in their usual non-cancerous, no-growth state. The study was published online first this summer in the journal *Cancer Discovery.*

The BRAF mutation that stimulates the initial growth of moles also stimulates the production of a tumor suppressor protein, p15, which ultimately acts as a powerful brake on further cell division,” said senior author Todd W. Ridky, an assistant professor of dermatology at Penn. “It’s this cell division that ultimately allows the transition from a normal mole into melanoma. When mole cells lose the p15 brake, cells can start dividing again and can progress into cancer.”

For their study, Dr. Ridky and his colleagues developed a new model of human melanoma, using tissue engineering to make skin grafts containing human mole cells in which p15 was removed. When combined with other mutations known to be important for the development of melanoma and transplanted into mice, the p15 depleted cells progressed into melanoma.

“The model tissues are medically relevant because they used the naturally occurring human mole cells in the three-dimensional environment of live skin, which allows for translational studies—the field hasn’t had an experimental system like this before,” said lead author Andrew McNeal, a research specialist in Dr. Ridky’s lab.
Each fall, scores of families across the Delaware Valley look forward to the Morris Arboretum’s Fall Festival, a weekend of autumn fun and activity held the first weekend in October. Celebrating its sixteenth year, the Morris Arboretum will host this year’s annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Arboretum’s glorious landscape provides the perfect backdrop for this lively event. Colorful trees burst forth with hues of orange and red as families gather to make scarecrows, paint a pumpkin or taste local apple varieties from Weavers Way Co-op. Fall Festival is a highlight of the Arboretum’s fall calendar with something for everyone. What makes the event so unique is that almost all the activities are geared toward both children and adults, allowing families and friends to spend a wonderful afternoon together. Some Fall Festival activities have an additional fee. Check the website for details: www.morrisarboretum.org

Among the favorite activities is the scarecrow making. The Arboretum supplies all the materials, including the scarecrow frames, hay and a vast selection of clothing to craft a super scarecrow. This is serious business for many folks who are intent on having the “best dressed” crow around. Visitors are encouraged to come early for scarecrow-making, as many visitors head right to that area to ensure their pick of the best outfit.

Children also enjoy choosing and creating a pumpkin “masterpiece.” Pumpkins can be purchased and painted in a variety of colors and decorated with yarn and buttons. To add to the festivities, Elmwood Park Zoo will be on-site both days from noon-3 p.m. presenting Seeking Shelter—Architecture by Animals. This program is made possible in part by Inspire Energy, who will be on-site with information about wind driven energy and fun giveaways.

Weavers Way Co-op will join the Fall Festival fun once again, with a selection of organic, locally grown produce and other Co-op products. Visitors delight in sampling the various apple varieties and choosing an assortment to take home.

A kid favorite, the ColonialLUG® (Legos User Group) will return this year on both Saturday and Sunday, noon-3 p.m., to facilitate the building of a large Lego® version of Robert Indiana’s big LOVE statue. Together with the direction of ColonialLUG® members, children will assemble bricks to contribute a piece of the statue. Watch LOVE grow to “embrace” all the builders! At the end of the day Saturday, the statue will be disassembled for a fresh start on Sunday. ColonialLUG® also has a new program they will debut called “2x4 Challenge: what can you build with just 2x4 bricks?” For the eighth year and more popular than ever—October also features the Morris Arboretum Scarecrow Walk. From Saturday, October 3 through Sunday, October 25, entries from the Scarecrow Design Contest will be on display along the Oak Alleé. Visitors may submit their vote for their favorite “Famous Art & Artists” scarecrow, this year’s theme, to determine the prize winners.

Among the favorite activities is the canopy walk, the 450 foot bridge, and an exciting addition this year: the Out on a Limb canopy walk, the 450 foot long walkway that is 50 feet off the ground, and the star attraction of the Arboretum-wide Tree Adventure exhibit. For more information about this or any other Morris Arboretum event, please call (215) 247-5777 or visit the Morris Arboretum online at www.morrisarboretum.org.

To experience fall color in the Philadelphia area, there is truly no better place to see beautiful autumn trees than at the Morris Arboretum. The Arboretum is home to some of the area’s oldest and largest trees, as well as many trees known for their particularly superb color—including red and sugar maples, scarlet oaks and black gums. For a bird’s eye view of the trees and the changing colors of the leaves, stroll out on the Out on a Limb canopy walk, the 450 foot long walkway that is 50 feet off the ground, and the star attraction of the Arboretum-wide Tree Adventure exhibit. For more information about this or any other Morris Arboretum event, please call (215) 247-5777 or visit the Morris Arboretum online at www.morrisarboretum.org.

Photograph by Paul W. Meyer

Now in its sixth year, Morris Arboretum’s Connections Beyond Our Garden—Talks on People, Plants and Place was designed to present wide ranging topics intended to create a deeper and broader understanding of our natural world beyond gardens. This fall, selected speakers will take guests on a journey to the forests of Costa Rica; a culinary adventure with award-winning cookbook authors; and into the public realm, where one of the most renowned landscape architects is creating inspiring spaces that help engage people with the natural world.

Connections kicks off on Wednesday, October 7 at 2 p.m. with Daniel Janzen, DiMau-Ra Professor of Conservation Biology, University of Pennsylvania, as he presents Tropical Conservation via Biodiversity Development: a Real World Case from Costa Rica. Dr. Janzen divides his time between his professorship in conservation biology at Penn and field work in Costa Rica at Area de Conservacion, Guanacaste (www.acguanacaste.ac.cr), one of the oldest, largest and most successful habitat restoration projects in the world. Dr. Janzen and his wife, tropical ecologist Winnie Hallwachs, have spent decades constructing this World Heritage site. Their research has focused on this question: how can we conserve the biodiversity of tropical wildlands without destroying them? As quoted in New Yorker magazine’s April 2015 issue, Dr. Janzen stated, “It’s like terrorism. We have to succeed every day, the terrorists have to succeed only once.” This lecture will present answers, applications and insight—many of which were found through the research process itself.

For the next Connection, join Christopher Hirsheimer and Melissa Hamilton, Canal House, on Wednesday, November 11 at 2 p.m. for their talk, Getting and Giving—Tales of Cooking Seasonally and Eating Well for the Holidays. Ms. Hirsheimer was a founder and executive editor of Saveur magazine, where Ms. Hamilton was the test kitchen director and food editor. They now publish the award-winning series of seasonally inspired cookbooks, Canal House Cooking. Together in Frenchtown, New Jersey, they do all the writing, recipe development, photography, illustrations, design and production.

Ms. Hirsheimer and Ms. Hamilton will share stories from their travels all over the world and from their own beautiful corner of the Northeast where they use ingredients found in most markets, building relationships with the people who grow, craft, raise and sell the foods we eat.

The Connections Beyond Our Garden lecture series will conclude on Wednesday, December 2 at 2 p.m. with Laurie Olin, partner, OLIN, as he presents Beauty, Craft and Creating Public Spaces in a City.

Morris Arboretum’s Weekday Lecture Series, Connections Beyond Our Garden Talks on People, Plants and Place Returning this October

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The 2016 Penn’s Way Campaign runs from October 5th through November 20th. Please join us in supporting our region by making your tax-deductible gift now. By using the environmentally friendly Penn’s Way website at http://www.upenn.edu/pennsway to enter your pledge online, you will be supporting your chosen organizations in a secure, quick and convenient way. The website also offers valuable information on our three partner organizations, the Center for Responsible Funding, Penn Medicine and United Way. All three organizations, under the Penn’s Way umbrella, utilize their expertise to confront the ever-increasing challenges facing our community.

Through our Penn’s Way Campaign we can help build stronger neighborhoods, improve the quality of life and provide options for healthier living for all people in our region.

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Maureen S. Rush
Vice President for Public Safety
University of Pennsylvania
Penn’s Way 2016 Co-Chair

Laura Perza
James S. Riepe Professor, GSE
Chair-elect, Faculty Senate
Penn’s Way 2016 Faculty Advisor

Nominations for Community Involvement Recognition Awards: November 13

To Members of the University and Surrounding Community:

In honor of the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s recognition that local engagement is essential to the struggle for equality, the 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Symposium on Social Change Executive Planning Committee of the University of Pennsylvania is pleased to announce the 21st Annual Community Involvement Recognition Awards. The awards honor members of the Philadelphia community whose active service to others best exemplifies the ideals Dr. King espoused.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Involvement Recognition Awards will be presented to five individuals in the following areas:

1. Staff and students of the Penn community involved in community service and/or working for social justice efforts.
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The awards will be presented on January 21, 2016, as part of Penn’s commemoration of the King holiday.

We seek your help in nominating individuals whose work most merits recognition. Please share this information with others in your families, communities, schools, departments and organizations so that we may identify those most deserving of this award. Nomination forms may be submitted through November 13. Electronic submissions are preferred but not required at: www.upenn.edu/aarc/mlk/award.htm If you prefer sending by mail, please send to the African-American Resource Center, Attn: Robert Carter, 3537 Locust Walk, Suite 200, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6225.

Should you have any questions, contact the African-American Resource Center at (215) 898-0104 or aarc@pobox.upenn.edu.

Thank you in advance for helping to pay special homage to those who have worked so hard to make our community a better place.

Penn’s Way 2016 Raffle Prizes

Week 1 (October 5 drawing)

- sweetgreen: $50 in gift cards

SSM, Inc.: Logo merchandise

* Prizes valued at over $100 are subject to state and federal tax. Winners are offered the option of refusing the prize.

Q: How can I qualify to win raffle prizes?
A: To qualify for the weekly raffle, you must participate by completing an online pledge form by Friday at noon or by returning your completed paper pledge form to your coordinator or captain by his/her weekly deadline. Inaccurate, incomplete or illegible paper pledge forms will not be entered into the raffle. All participants, including weekly raffle winners, will be included in the grand prize drawing at the end of the campaign.

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Lecture: Covering the Wild Ride...the Presidential Campaign

The Annenberg School for Communication and the Annenberg Public Policy Center present the 2015 Annenberg Lecture, Covering the Scooby Van and Tracking Trump to the Border: Covering the Wild Ride that is the 2016 Presidential Campaign, a talk by Penn alumna, Nancy Cordes, CBS News congressional correspondent and regular contributor to all CBS News programs and platforms.

Ms. Cordes was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Hawaii. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in 1995. She began her career as a reporter for KHNL-TV Honolulu (1995-1997).

She received a master’s degree in public policy from Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

Ms. Cordes is CBS News’ congressional correspondent based in Washington, DC and contributes to all CBS News broadcasts and platforms. She has reported on stories such as the rise of the Tea Party and the battle over President Obama’s health care law. Ms. Cordes extensively covered the debt ceiling and fiscal cliff negotiations. She was part of CBS News’ coverage of the 2008 and 2010 congressional elections and traveled with the Obama campaign during the network’s coverage of Campaign 2012.

Ms. Cordes joined CBS in 2007 as transportation and consumer safety correspondent, where she covered stories about the nation’s transportation infrastructure and important safety issues. The Annenberg Lecture honors the contributions of Ambassadors Walter and Leonore Annenberg to the nation and to the world. The lecture will be held on October 6 at 6:15 p.m. in Room 109 at the Annenberg School for Communication. Advance registration required; to attend, contact Debra Williams at dwilliams@asc.upenn.edu.

From Farm to Canvas at Burrison Gallery

From Farm to Canvas, paintings by Gayle Viale Joseph, will be on display at the Burrison Gallery from October 3 to November 4 with a reception on Tuesday, October 6 from 4-6 p.m.

Ms. Joseph loves to draw and paint still life and portrait in watercolor, oil and acrylics. Born in Sacramento, California, she majored in fine arts at the State University of California at Sacramento. After moving to Philadelphia, she had the good fortune to study under artist Neil Welliver (1929-2005), who was a nationally renowned painter and chair of the Graduate School of Fine Arts (now known as the School of Design) at the University of Pennsylvania. She has been a staff member at Penn since 1976. Currently she works in the Office of the Vice Dean for Research and Academic Resources at the School of Veterinary Medicine and is the editor of the Penn Vet Research Newsletter.

Second Annual Microbiome Symposium

The second annual Microbiome Symposium will be held on October 29. It is co-sponsored by the Penn-CHOP Microbiome Program & Penn Vet Center for Host-Microbial Interactions. It will be preceded on October 28, from 6-7 p.m., with a special guest lecture, Opportunities for the Microbiome in Human Health, given by Jo Handelsman, associate director for science at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. It will be held in E.R. Marookian Auditorium, Lecture Room 130, Hill Pavilion.

On October 29, the Second Annual Microbiome Symposium will be held from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. in BRB II/III Auditorium. The deadline for registration is October 14. To register visit: https://www.med.upenn.edu/penn-chop-microbiome/registration.

Please direct all inquiries to April Weakley at aweakley@mail.med.upenn.edu.

PHOS Workshops in October

Penn Home Ownership invites the Penn community to attend upcoming workshops.

Understanding Your Credit Report Workshop: October 6—Plan to attend the latest in a series of educational workshops from PHOS. PHOS representatives will host an informative session about the importance of one’s credit score and its implication for obtaining a mortgage from a lender. Understanding Your Credit Report will be held from noon-1 p.m. in Steinberg Hall—Dietrich Hall in Room 209.

First Time Homebuyers 101: October 13—Attendees from the University and the Health System will learn about financing and other important factors as individuals consider purchasing their first home. Representatives from PHOS, as well as lending partner Guaranteed Rate, will be present to address audience questions. First Time Homebuyers will be held from noon-1 p.m. at Houston Hall in the Golklin Room. Advance registration required.

Understanding New Settlement Procedures: October 15—New national guidelines are now in effect to simplify many aspects of the settlement process undertaken by prospective home buyers. Representatives from PHOS and lending partner Trident Mortgage Company will provide a detailed break-down of what these changes mean for navigating the complex process of settlement. Understanding New Settlement Procedures will be held from noon-1 p.m. in Room 209 in Steinberg Hall—Dietrich Hall.

Lunch will be provided at each workshop. Employees from Penn and UPHS are asked to register in advance for these informative sessions at www.upenn.edu/homeownership.

AT PENN Deadlines

The October AT PENN calendar is online at http://www.upenn.edu/almanac. The deadline for the November AT PENN calendar is October 13.

Info. is on sponsoring department’s website. Sponsors are in parentheses. For locations, call (215) 898-5000 or see www.facilities.upenn.edu.

The Annenberg School of Communication honors the contribution of Mike Blackwell, WPPSA; Jon Shaw, Librarians Assembly.

The University of Pennsylvania’s journal of record, opinion and news is published Tuesdays during the academic year, and as needed during summer and holiday breaks. Its electronic edition on the Internet (accessible through the Penn) includes HTML, Acrobat and mobile versions of the print edition, and interim information may be posted in electronic-only form. Guidelines for readers and contributors are available on request and online.

The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected class status in the administration of its admissions, financial aid, educational or athletic programs, or other University-administered programs or in its other educational practices. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to Sam Starks, Executive Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, Room 101, 3910 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106, (215) 898-6993 (Voice).
“Wampum belts,” in the American imagination, are often regarded as objects of history and mystery. Many people think of wampum as “money,” a stereotype that harkens back to the early 1600s, when Dutch and English colonists used wampum beads as a convenient substitute for European currency. During the late 1800s, antiquarian collectors handled wampum belts as though they were artistic relics.

Yet wampum is so much more.

On Thursday, October 1, from 4 to 9 p.m., and Friday October 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Penn Museum visitors can learn more about wampum when prominent Indigenous scholars from the United States and Canada join with wampum scholars and musicians for a two-day symposium, Woven Words: New Insights into Wampum and Native Studies. Haudenosaunee (Six Nations Iroquois) and Algonkian scholars will share insights on historical and contemporary aspects of wampum construction, artistic expression and cultural exchange for sacred, diplomatic and decorative purposes.

Woven Words is hosted by the Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) initiative at Penn, with support from the Penn Museum. Sponsors include the Penn Museum’s special exhibition, Wampum diplomacy—is currently on display in the Museum’s special exhibition, Wampum Trail, with Wampum Trail from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, October 1, from 4 to 9 p.m., and Friday October 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The term ‘wampum’ derives from the Algonkian ‘wampumpeage,’ meaning ‘white shells.’ These luminous beads, carved out of white whelk and purple quahog shells, form the foundation of a complex system of indigenous ritual and diplomacy. For generations, the Algonkian and Iroquoian nations of North America have employed indigenous technology to craft wampum beads and weave them with sinew, hemp and leather into belts and collars.

From an indigenous context, each wampum belt represents a nuanced mix of material, artistic, symbolic and diplomatic meanings best known to the communities who created and exchanged these objects. During the 1700s, wampum belts were also embraced by European leaders as effective instruments for recording and reinforcing intercultural agreements and alliances. Wampum diplomacy is very much alive today in rituals of condolence, narratives of sovereignty, artistic expressions and other practices of survivance.

An evocative Haudenosaunee “path” wampum belt—designed to mark a clear path among and between Native nations for the conduct of diplomacy—is currently on display in the Museum’s special exhibition, Native American Voices: The People—Here and Now.