University of Pennsylvania’s SNF Paideia Program Receives $13 Million Grant From Stavros Niarchos Foundation to Promote Dialogue Across Differences and Civic Engagement

The University of Pennsylvania has announced a $13 million grant to support further growth of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) Paideia Program from the program’s namesake. Since its inception in 2019, SNF Paideia has experienced high student demand and exponential growth of its program centered on individual and community wellness, service, and citizenship.

The new grant, spanning 2024-2029, enables SNF Paideia to continue equipping undergraduates with the knowledge and experiences to foster robust, informed, and respectful dialogue across difference.

“SNF Paideia offers students with a structured and immersive experience, while also providing an increasingly larger number of students, faculty, and the wider community with myriad opportunities to practice civic engagement and civil discourse in a variety of settings. The strong interest young people have shown in this vision of engaged citizenship is cause for optimism in our shared future, and we congratulate the SNF Paideia team on the incredible growth that has made the program’s resources accessible to ever more members of the Penn community.”

Named after the Greek word, “Paideia,” which loosely translates to “the education of the whole person,” SNF Paideia is designed to integrate the development of students’ civic identity.

Goldhirsh-Yellin Foundation Gift for the Study of Jewish History and Culture and Antisemitism

Through a gift to the School of Arts & Sciences, the Goldhirsh-Yellin Foundation has established the Goldhirsh-Yellin Program Fund for the Study of Jewish History and Culture in Israel and the Goldhirsh-Yellin Program Fund for the Study of Antisemitism in the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

“With this generous support, the Katz Center will be able to develop important new initiatives to support research and advance public understanding in two central domains of Jewish experience,” said Steven Weitzman, the Ella Darivoff Director of the Katz Center of Advanced Judaic Studies and the Abraham M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and Literature in the department of religious studies. “This is a really impactful gift.”

The newly established Fund for the Study of Jewish History and Culture in Israel will provide support for Katz Center projects and collaborations related to the study of Jewish life in Israel.

(continued on page 2)
Deaths

Cynthia Buoni, Registrar of SEAS

Cynthia (Cindi) Buoni, a longtime administrator at Penn who most recently served as Registrar of the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS), died on September 22. She was 67.

Ms. Buoni joined Penn’s staff in 1974 in the Wharton School’s department of management. Nine years later, she moved to SEAS as a coordinator before being promoted to the school’s dean’s office in 1988. In 1992, she became manager of SEAS undergraduate education, and in 2016 she was promoted to registrar of SEAS. She retired from Penn in June 2023.

Ms. Buoni’s contributions to SEAS include the implementation of many of the systems and processes that are relied upon today for the success of students, faculty and staff in the school. Most recently, she was instrumental in the pivot to online instruction and subsequent hybrid environments during the COVID-19 pandemic, and she worked to ensure that SEAS was part of the development and launch of Penn and other academic affairs tools used by the entire campus community.

In 2021, Ms. Buoni was selected as the recipient of the Penn Engineering Staff Recognition Award, the highest award presented to staff in the school. During her many years at Penn, Ms. Buoni possessed unparalleled institutional knowledge and was a kind and compassionate advisor, providing a listening ear to thousands of students during her decades in the school.

Ms. Buoni is survived by her sister, Cathie; her aunt, Audrey; and her uncle, Bob; her cousins, Jackie (Allen), Tina (Jack), Peg, Mike (Annemarie), Joe (Kathy), Linda, Betsy, and Theresa (Jimmy). Visitation and interment were held on September 28. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in memory of Cindi Buoni to the Brandywine SPCA or Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

Eugenio Calabi, Mathematics

Eugenio (Gene) Calabi, the Thomas A. Scott Professor Emeritus of Mathematics in the School of Arts and Sciences, died on September 25. He was 100.

Born in 1923 in Milan, Italy, Dr. Calabi moved to the United States with his family at an early age. As an undergraduate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1946, Dr. Calabi earned a Putnam Fellowship. In 1950, he received his PhD in mathematics from Princeton University after completing a doctoral dissertation.

(continued on page 3)

ALMANAC October 10, 2023
Penn Global Dissertation Grants Accepting Applications

Penn Global, in partnership with the Office of the Vice Provost for Education, announced the launch of the Penn Global Dissertation Grants program, with its inaugural call for proposals running through December 1, 2023. This program is intended to harness the power of Penn’s graduate student community to enhance the University’s global engagement, serving Penn Global’s strategic framework and its goals to 1) provide every Penn student with a meaningful global experience and 2) to produce research with global impact.

The program will offer funding of up to $8,000 to selected PhD students who will either:
A) Use this program’s resources to explore and engage global components for their early-stage dissertation research, or
B) Use this program’s resources to broaden and deepen their late-stage dissertation research, ideally leveraging their dissertation towards future career opportunities in global leadership.

Following their funded research, awardees will, in consultation with Penn Global, identify ways to use their work to enhance Penn’s global engagement.

Currently-enrolled Penn PhD students from all Penn schools and disciplines, including the humanities, social science, and STEM fields, are welcome to apply. If selected, awardees will be able to begin their funded international research as early as summer 2024.

Eligible PhD students interested in submitting an application are invited to review the Penn Global Dissertation Grants website for information about applications, including a link to the application portal, and to contact Penn Global at global@upenn.edu with any questions.

2023 Employee Resource Fair: October 24

Join us for the 2023 Employee Resource Fair hosted by the Penn Professional Staff Assembly (PPSA). This free event is open to all Penn staff and faculty and is set to take place on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Pottruck Health & Fitness Center, located at 3701 Walnut Street.

The Employee Resource Fair is designed to offer easy access to a wealth of campus resources and services available to our valued staff and faculty members. We’re excited to announce that during the fair, guided tours of Pottruck will be available for those interested.

For the most up-to-date information and details about the event, please visit our website at https://ppsa.upenn.edu/. If your department/center would like to showcase your services/offers by getting a table, you can use the vendor pre-registration link to secure your spot.

We look forward to your participation in this enriching event.

—Tonya Bennett
PPSA Chair-Elect, Director of Educational Technology, PennVet

Natalie Dary Green
PPSA Chair, Director of Operations, Master in Law Program,
University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

J. Patrick Walsh
PPSA Past Chair, Executive Assistant, Faculty Senate

New Gift to Establish Funds for the Study of Jewish History and Culture, and for the Study of Antisemitism

The mission of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies is to deepen and broaden understanding of Jewish history, texts, culture, ideas, and experience. It offers an intellectual space for leading scholars of all backgrounds, and from all over the world, to come together and collaborate, and it aims to share the insights of new scholarship with the broader public.

Penn Mentor Meals Program

All members of the Penn community now can initiate a meal between students (undergraduates & graduates) and mentors (i.e. current or past professors, teaching assistants, advisors, RAs, PHINS, Peer Advisors, and members of Penn’s professional staff). The Penn Mentor Meals Program encourages students (undergraduate & graduate) and their mentors to engage in intellectual or casual conversation outside of the classroom and simultaneously provide them with the opportunity to do so free of charge over lunch or dinner.

The program options range from one-on-one experiences to large meals organized for classes and groups of up to 100 students. Lunch is served at University Club at the Inn at Penn. Reservations are only accepted from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch Mondays through Thursdays. Dinners at dining cafes across campus are available by request only. Please contact Ray Frankewitz at rayf@upenn.edu to do so.

The Penn Mentor Meals Program is now open for booking. To make a reservation, visit https://nso.upenn.edu/programs/penn-mentor-meals-program.
Michael Bernhardt: 2023 Green Purchasing Award

The recipient of the University of Pennsylvania’s 2023 Green Purchasing Award, presented by Penn Procurement Services and Penn Sustainability, was recently announced. Now in its 8th year, the award honors outstanding contributions made to sustainable purchasing at Penn. Michael Bernhardt, director of Penn Transit, is this year’s honoree for his work in introducing the first electric vehicles to the campus transportation fleet.

As electric vehicle technology and its infrastructure continue to evolve, electric vehicles are currently not as expensive as gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles and fully electric passenger vans are not yet widely available for purchase. Upon further investigation and a comprehensive analysis conducted by Dr. Bernhardt, Penn Transit elected to look elsewhere to determine available options and learned that retrofitting electric-powered cargo vans was a better alternative. Not only was it less expensive, but it also meant that the department could accelerate its plan to begin supporting Penn’s carbon-neutral commitment.

Dr. Bernhardt and the department represent the first Penn office to purchase electric vehicles intended for use as passenger shuttles and is among the leaders in most purchases of low emissions vehicles used around campus. The first four electric vehicles went into service in October 2022 and another two shuttles were added to the fleet in August 2023. The necessary infrastructure to accommodate these electric vehicles has been installed to meet the demands associated with operating an electric-powered fleet.

Since the debut of the new shuttles last fall, over 30,000 passengers have been transported on the new vehicles. Using U.S. Department of Energy calculations of the annual benefits realized from running an electric vehicle, it is estimated that there has been a reduction of 52.8 metric tons of CO₂ emissions in University City since the new shuttles went into service.

Director of Penn Sustainability Nina Morris noted that these achievements support the University in meeting its carbon neutrality and Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 3.0 commitments. “Michael Bernhardt’s contributions serve as an opportunity for teaching and learning, offering a successful example to other schools and centers of how to transition to more sustainable vehicle options.”

In April 2023, Dr. Bernhardt was named as the point person for Penn Transit’s fleet electrification initiatives. He has since been named as one of the top 15 Penn’s Electric Vehicle Transition Working Group, serving in this role alongside Chief Procurement Officer Mark Mills and Nina Morris.

“We are very excited about the addition of electric vehicles being the latest sustainable transportation initiative from Penn Transit, and it’s gratifying to see Michael Bernhardt recognized for this honor,” said Division of Business Services Vice President Marie Witt. “Building on the success of purchasing six shuttles for our fleet, we are actively pursuing sources of state and federal government grant funding to support expanding our fleet.”

Gordion Archaeological Site: UNESCO World Heritage Site

Gordion, Turkey, has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. C. Brian Rose, the James B. Pritchard Professor of Archaeology in the department of classical studies in the School of Arts and Sciences and curator-in-charge of the Mediterranean section at the Penn Museum, has been co-director of the Gordion Project since 2006.

“The new UNESCO designation will enable us to accelerate the protection of the archaeological site and its monuments, while increasing the number of visitors who come to Gordion,” Dr. Rose said. “I want to acknowledge the overwhelming support that we received from the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, from Ankara’s Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, and from the municipality of Polatlı.”

Jina Ko, Kevin Johnson, and Sheila Shanmugan: NIH Director Award

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded grants to three researchers from the University of Pennsylvania through the NIH Common Fund’s High-Risk, High-Reward Research program. The research of Kevin B. Johnson, Jina Ko, and Sheila Shanmugan will be supported through the program, which funds “highly innovative and broadly impactful” biomedical or behavioral research by exceptionally creative scientists.

The High-Risk, High-Reward Research program catalyzes scientific discovery by supporting highly innovative research proposals that, due to their inherent risk, may struggle in the traditional peer-review process despite their transformative potential. Program applicants are encouraged to think “outside the box” and pursue trailblazing ideas in any area of research relevant to the NIH’s mission to advance knowledge and enhance health.

Dr. Johnson, Ko, and Shanmugan are among 85 recipients for 2023.

Dr. Johnson, the David L. Cohen University Professor of Pediatrics, is a Penn Integrates Knowledge University Professor who holds appointments in the department of computer and information science in the School of Engineering and Applied Science and in the department of biostatistics, epidemiology, and informatics in the Perelman School of Medicine. He is widely known for his work with e-prescribing and computer-based documentation and, more recently, work communicating science to lay audiences, which includes a documentary about health-information exchange. Dr. Johnson has authored more than 150 publications and has been elected to the American College of Medical Informatics, the Academic Pediatric Society, the National Academy of Medicine, the International Association of Health Science Informatics, and the American Institute for Medical and Biologic Engineering.

Dr. Ko is an assistant professor in the department of pathology and laboratory medicine in the Perelman School of Medicine and in the department of bioengineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. She focuses on developing single molecule detection from single extracellular vesicles and multiplexed molecular profiling to better diagnose diseases and monitor treatment efficacy. Dr. Ko earned her PhD in bioengineering at Penn in 2018, during which time she developed machine learning-based microchip diagnostics that can detect blood-based biomarkers to diagnose pancreatic cancer and traumatic brain injury. For her postdoctoral training, she worked at the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Wyss Institute at Harvard University as a Schmidt Science Fellow and a NIH K99/R00 award recipient. Dr. Ko developed new methods to profile single cells and single extracellular vesicles with high throughput and multiplexing.

Dr. Shanmugan is a reproductive psychiatrist at the Penn Center for Women’s Behavioral Wellness, with both her medical training and a PhD in neuroscience completed at Penn. Her undergraduate and doctoral research focused on evaluating the neuromodulatory effects of various substances on brain activation and neurochemistry. Dr. Shanmugan’s postdoctoral work delved into examining the mechanisms underlying sex differences in psychopathology using innovative analysis techniques. Currently, Dr. Shanmugan’s lab employs multi-modal neuroimaging and advanced computational methods to explore the contributions of sex as a biological variable to psychopathology development and to discern neuroendocrinologic markers that differentiate risk and resilience for psychiatric disorders.

Karoline Prosperi: Supplier Diversity Impact Award

Penn Procurement Services has announced that Karoline Prosperi, procurement manager in the Division of Facilities & Real Estate Services (FRES), is the recipient of the Penn Supplier Diversity Impact Award. Now in its third year, this award honors faculty and staff who have made outstanding contributions in advancing Penn’s goals in the areas of supplier diversity and inclusion.

Ms. Prosperi focuses on expanding diversity spend with minority- and women-owned enterprises (MWBE). In FY 2022 and FY 2023 (year-to-date), she served in the lead procurement role in directly awarding over $400,000 in diversity spend across several initiatives. Among the contract recipients were two woman-owned companies, including one that was based locally in Philadelphia; a local, Asian American owned business; and an African American owned company. The agreements ranged from $15,000 to $175,000.

Among her other accomplishments, Ms. Prosperi teamed up with her FRES colleagues in design and construction to host monthly Meet & Greet sessions with newer, small MWBEs. As a (continued on page 5)
result of this engagement, various opportunities for diverse suppliers came to fruition with contracts. Included among these were a construction opportunity involving a partnership with a large, majority-owned business; a significant painting opportunity; and mechanical preventative maintenance work for fan coil units and HVAC equipment.

An Honorable Mention Award was bestowed this year to Yoosun Park, an associate professor in the School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2). As part of Dr. Park’s work, she significantly revamped one of the school’s foundation social work classes, “History and Philosophy of Social Work and Social Welfare.” On the evenings that the new class was held, participating students gathered before class to enjoy a meal together. Dr. Park took the initiative to seek out minority caterers who offered a range of menu items, including vegan options. Her initiative allowed SP2 to support community members who follow a vegan diet while also sustaining, local, minority-owned businesses. Dr. Park plans to propose more diverse caterers for Penn Marketplace. Penn Marketplace is a portal that houses information about Penn suppliers and which opens the door for them to participate in Catering@Penn—Penn Procurement Services’ database of preferred suppliers that allows faculty and staff to search by diversity status as well as other criteria such as cuisine type, service offerings, sustainability and geographic location.

As Marie Witt, vice president of the division of Business Services, said, “This year’s Supplier Diversity Impact Award honorees have collaborated with their colleagues to take the University’s inclusion priority to a place where we are driving substantive impact at a critical time. Their intentional business practices are something that can be emulated by all of us to help fuel business growth among local and diverse suppliers.”

Inaugural Penn Global Research Institutes Call for Proposals

Penn Global Research Institutes (PGRI) support faculty global research projects that address pressing global challenges and include an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to conduct immersive, collaborative, and robust research projects abroad. Institutes promote long-term, community-based global engagement through highly collaborative, responsive, and ethical research engagement in a host community abroad. In addition, they emphasize experiential learning and faculty mentorship to cultivate future research scholars.

Penn Global Research Institutes are funded on three-year renewable terms. Funding can be used to support student travel and research, faculty and staff travel, and other direct research costs. Penn Global is accepting proposals for institutes to start in 2024. Proposals are due by November 30, 2023. Faculty will be notified whether their proposed institute has been selected for development in January 2024. Penn Global welcomes proposals across all disciplines and regions.

Faculty interested in submitting a proposal should visit the PGRI website to read more about the program and access proposal materials. Faculty are also encouraged to discuss their ideas with Penn Abroad staff before submitting a proposal.

For questions about the PGRI program or the proposal process, please contact Laurie Jensen at lauriej@upenn.edu.

For more information, visit: https://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad/faculty.

Penn’s Way

A Workplace Charitable Campaign

Penn’s Way Raffle Prize Drawings

Visit https://pennsway.upenn.edu for more information. Online participation must be completed by midnight on Sunday for inclusion in a given week’s drawing that Monday morning. Note: List subject to change.

Week One—Drawing October 9
Philadelphia Orchestra: Two tickets for December 15 Performance, $100 value: Jake Schneider, Wharton School
Philadelphia Eagles: Autographed Eagles player photo (Landon Dickerson), $50 value: Mike Popko, Procurement Services
Standard Group: Amazon gift card, $50 value: Bria Hughes, PennCard Center
Keen Compressed Gas: University of Delaware football—4 tickets and parking pass, $100 value: Stephanie Fenhagen, Development & Alumni Relations

Philadelphia Catering Company: Large dessert tray, $82 value: Gina Litzner, Penn Medicine CPUP
Neta Scientific: Amazon Gift Card, $25 value: Rebecca Marucci, Presbyterian Medical Center
EMSCO: Barnes & Noble gift card, $25 value: Andrea Pogozelski, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Week Two—Drawing October 16
Neta Scientific: Amazon gift card, $25 value: Rebecca Marucci, Presbyterian Medical Center
EMSCO: Barnes & Noble gift card, $25 value: Andrea Pogozelski, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Cintas Corporation: Penn-branded Carhartt lunch bag, $30 value

McKesson: Dunkin Donuts gift card, $25 value
Penn Museum: Admission passes (two), $36 value
Neuman’s Kitchen: “Horn O Plenty” grocery basket, $100 value
Division of Public Safety
University of Pennsylvania Police Department Crime Report

25-October 1, 2023. The Penn Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from 30th Street to 43rd Street in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police.

In this effort to provide you with a thorough and accurate report on public safety concerns, we hope that your increased awareness will lessen the opportunity for crime. For any concerns or suggestions regarding this report, please call DPS at (215) 898-7297. You can view the daily crime log on the DPS website.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Category</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>09/27/23</td>
<td>5:19 AM</td>
<td>3000 Ludlow St</td>
<td>Complainant sprayed in the back of the head with pepper spray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>09/27/23</td>
<td>2:13 PM</td>
<td>400 S 42nd St</td>
<td>Attempted automobile theft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Theft</td>
<td>09/28/23</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>4000 Baltimore Ave</td>
<td>Attempted automobile theft; steering column and passenger window broken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>3400 Chestnut St</td>
<td>Secured bike taken from bike rack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraud</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>5:17 PM</td>
<td>3819 Chestnut St</td>
<td>U-lock-secured bike taken from bike rack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assault</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>6:59 PM</td>
<td>3717 Chestnut St</td>
<td>Looting of liquor store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Offense</td>
<td>09/30/23</td>
<td>10:08 AM</td>
<td>3718 Locust Walk</td>
<td>Stolen wallet/credit card used without authorization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from Vehicle</td>
<td>09/30/23</td>
<td>3:41 PM</td>
<td>5700 Market St</td>
<td>Wallet missing/credit card used fraudulently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from Building</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>200 S 40th St</td>
<td>Retail theft of merchandise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft Other</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>11:55 AM</td>
<td>236 S 34th St</td>
<td>Offender trespassing on private property/Arrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft Other</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>5:16 PM</td>
<td>3731 Walnut St</td>
<td>Retail theft of alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft Other</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>4042-4044 Chestnut St</td>
<td>Package taken from location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft Other</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>8:06 PM</td>
<td>4001 Walnut St</td>
<td>Catalytic converter stolen from automobile parked in garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft Other</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>1:46 PM</td>
<td>3620 Walnut St</td>
<td>Secured scooter taken from bike rack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft Other</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>5:39 AM</td>
<td>3700 Market St</td>
<td>Unsecured backpack stolen from outside building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft Other</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>12:27 PM</td>
<td>3400 Civic Center Blvd</td>
<td>Wallet taken; credit card used without authorization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft Other</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>11:22 AM</td>
<td>3700 Spruce St</td>
<td>Electric scooter secured to raking taken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft Other</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>2:43 PM</td>
<td>4207 Baltimore Ave</td>
<td>Packages taken/Arrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft Other</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>4:46 PM</td>
<td>4000 Sansom St</td>
<td>Unsecured bike stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft Other</td>
<td>09/30/23</td>
<td>7:14 PM</td>
<td>3948 Market St</td>
<td>Unsecured bike stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft Other</td>
<td>09/30/23</td>
<td>8:54 PM</td>
<td>4211 Baltimore Ave</td>
<td>Packages stolen from front porch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>1:55 PM</td>
<td>4045 Spruce St</td>
<td>Spray-painted wall discovered in dining area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Below are the Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 3 incidents were reported for September 25-October 1, 2023 by the 18th District, covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Category</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>09/27/23</td>
<td>4:51 AM</td>
<td>3000 Ludlow St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>09/29/23</td>
<td>4:13 PM</td>
<td>200 S 40th St</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- See something concerning? Connect with Penn Public Safety 24/7 at (215) 573-3333.
- Worried about a friend or colleague’s mental or physical health? Get 24/7 connection to appropriate resources at (215) 898-HELP (4357).
- Seeking support after experiencing a crime? Call Special Services (support and advocacy resources) at (215) 898-4481 or email an advocate at specialservices@publicsafety.upenn.edu.
- Use the Walking Escort and Riding services available to you free of charge.
- Take a moment to update your cell phone information for the UPenAlert Emergency Notification System.
- Download the Penn Guardian App, which can help police better find your location when you call in an emergency.
- Access free self-empowerment and defense courses through Penn DPS.
- Stay alert and reduce distractions. (Using cell phones, ear buds, etc. may limit your awareness).
- Orient yourself to your surroundings. (Identify your location, nearby exits, etc.)
- Keep your valuables out of sight and only carry necessary documents.
**Films**

12 Reminiscences of a Journey to Lithuania; filmmaker Jonas Makas creates an elegiac diary of a trip to his home country of Lithuania, 7 p.m.; rooftop lounge, Harnwell College House (Camera & Media Studies).

**Fitness & Learning**

10 Graduate School Application Workshop; come learn application tips from CURF and workshop drafts of your application materials with peers; 3:30 p.m.; room 202, 3539 Locust Walk (Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships).

13 K-12 Virtual Open House; a free monthly online introduction to the Penn Museum’s educational programs; 3 p.m.; Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/museum-workshop-oct-13 (Penn Museum).

14 Celebration of Writing and Literacy: Creating Brave Spaces in Schools and Communities; a day of learning, reflection, and joy as we share promising practices and resources for supporting writing and literacy among young people; 8:15 a.m.–4 p.m.; Penn Museum; tickets; $25; register: https://brave.philwp.org (Penn Museum).

16 Breakfast Workshop: How To Thrive As Scholars at Minority Serving Institutions; Gretta Blackwell, PhD ’16, and Derek Blackwell, PhD ’14, will share their experiences as professors at Prairie View A&M, one of the 107 historically Black colleges in the U.S.; 10 a.m.; room 223, Annenberg School; register: https://tinyurl.com/annenberg-workshop-tue-oct-11 (Annenberg School).

Writing a Diversity Statement; workshop geared towards graduate students in the Francophone, Italian, & Germanic Studies departments; 5 p.m.; room 543, Williams Hall; register: https://ctl.upenn.edu/event/writing-a-diversity-statement-2/ (Center for Teaching & Learning).

17 Inclusive and Equitable Teaching; workshop geared towards graduate students in the Francophone, Italian, & Germanic Studies departments; 2:30 p.m.; room 543, Williams Hall; register: https://ctl.upenn.edu/event/inclusive-and-equitable-teaching-2/ (Center for Teaching & Learning).

**Graduate School of Education**


10 Penn GSE Virtual Information Session for City Year Alumni; 6 p.m.

17 Executive Doctorate in Higher Education Management Virtual Information Session; noon.

**Morris Arboretum & Gardens**


13 Spooky Jack-O-Lantern Crafts; make crafty paper jack-o-lanterns without the mess of carving a real pumpkin; 11 a.m.

14 Native Trees Tour; tour showcasing fall foliage; 11 a.m.

**Readings & Signings**

17 Artist-in-Residence Live; Jennifer Egan, author; 3:30 p.m.; room 135, Fisher-Bennett Hall (English).

**Update**

October AT PENN

12 **Films**

- *Book Launch: Gego*; Mónica Amor, Maryland Institute College of Art; 6 p.m.; Institute of Contemporary Art; register: https://tinyurl.com/amor-book-launch-oct-17 (Institute of Contemporary Art).

13 **Special Events**

- *Chili Cook-Off*: revival of the annual Kelly Writers House Chili Cook-Off; anyone can enter the current competition and compete to win the title of best chili maker; to participate, please make a big batch of your best chili and bring it to the KWH ready to eat for a community tasting; 5:30 p.m.; Kelly Writers House; register: https://tinyurl.com/kwh-chili-oct-10 (Kelly Writers House).

17 **Talks**

- *New Actinide Molecules and Materials*: John Arnold, University of Berkeley; noon; Carolyn Hoff Lynch Lecture Hall, Chemistry Complex (Lecture Chemistry).

**Readings & Signings**

- *Unraveling Some Modern Mysteries About Illegal Drug Supply: Can Evolutionary Economic Theory Help?* Peter Reuter, University of Maryland; 1:30 p.m.; room 403, McNeil Building (Criminology).

**Mathematics**

- *Do Dollars Make Sense? How Russian Savers Responded to Sanctions*; Talia Y. Moore, University of Michigan; 10 a.m.; room 3N6, DRL.

- *Number Theory*; 10 a.m.; room 5N6, DRL.

- *Sample Duality*; Adrián González-Casano, University of California, Berkeley; 3:30 p.m.; room 4C8, DRL.

This is an update to the October AT PENN calendar, which is online now. The November AT PENN calendar will be published on October 31. Submit items for the November AT PENN calendar to almanac@upenn.edu by October 16.

Almanac

The University of Pennsylvania's journal of news and opinion is published twice a week during the academic year, and as needed during summer and holiday breaks. Its electronic editions on the Internet (accessible through the Penn website) include 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.

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An experimental mRNA vaccine provides protection in preclinical animal models against infection from Borrelia burgdorferi, the bacteria that cause Lyme disease, and can cause fever, headache, fatigue, and a skin rash. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system. Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics, but some individuals develop post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome (PTLDS), which can cause long-lasting symptoms like severe joint pain and neurocognitive issues. There is not currently a vaccine approved for routine use in humans.

“Bacteria are more complex organisms than viruses, and therefore it can be more challenging to develop effective vaccines against them,” said senior author Norbert Pardi, an assistant professor of microbiology in the Perelman School of Medicine. “Here we were able to identify a target for a mRNA vaccine that shows promising results for preventing B. burgdorferi infection in animal models.”

The mRNA vaccine, described recently in Cell Press, uses the same mRNA technology employed in the Pfizer and Moderna SARS-CoV-2 vaccines, which was pioneered at Penn. Along with mRNA vaccine pioneer Drew Weissman, the Roberts Family Professor in Vaccine Research and director of vaccine research at Penn Medicine, Dr. Pardi and his laboratory identified one of the proteins in B. burgdorferi that elicits a potent immune response, called outer surface protein A (OspA). OspA is a conserved protein in the multiple strains of B. burgdorferi, making it an ideal target for preventing an initial B. burgdorferi infection from progressing to Lyme disease.

Tests in animal models showed that the mRNA vaccine targeting OspA induced a strong antigen-specific antibody and T-cell response after a single vaccination that could protect from infection of B. burgdorferi. Even more stunningly, the vaccine elicited a strong memory B cell response, which can be activated later to help prevent infection by B. burgdorferi long after the vaccine is administered.

“Cases of Lyme disease have been rising sharply in the United States, underscoring the need for a vaccine to protect individuals from infection,” said Dr. Pardi. “The mRNA technology shows great promise for use in developing a vaccine that may prevent Lyme disease and subsequent development of the debilitating symptoms of PTLDS.”

Adapted from a Penn Medicine news release, September 19, 2023.

Removing the Barrier Surrounding Solid Tumors Clears Path for T Cells

While immunotherapies have shown great promise in treating blood cancers, most clinical trials aimed at treating solid tumors such as pancreatic or lung cancer have failed. Researchers have long thought that solid tumors’ resistance to treatment is due to the tumor microenvironment—the cells and matrix that surround solid tumors—but the exact mechanisms behind this blockade were unclear until now.

In a new study, Penn Vet researchers reveal how the tumor microenvironment prevents T cells from attacking tumors. Using mouse models, they showed that cancer-associated fibroblasts along with extracellular matrix within the tumor microenvironment create a physical barrier to T cell entry, and these cells also actively suppress T cell function. When the researchers used CAR T cells to target and remove these fibroblasts, rather than targeting the tumor cells themselves, T cells were able to infiltrate and attack the tumor.

“The physical barrier and immunosuppressive environment derived from cancer-associated fibroblasts limits or traps T cells and prevents them from entering into the tumor,” said first author Zebin Xiao, a physician and postdoctoral researcher at Penn Vet. “We showed that targeting those fibroblasts can disrupt that barrier and has a very great tumor inhibition effect.”

The study, which was a collaboration between researchers in the School of Veterinary Medicine, the Perelman School of Medicine, and the School of Arts & Sciences, was published in the journal Nature Communications.

The researchers say that using a dual approach—by first targeting cancer-associated fibroblasts and then sending in tumor-targeting CAR T cells—could achieve breakthroughs for treatment-resistant solid tumors. “It’s sort of like sending in a lead team to blow up things in the way,” said senior author Ellen Pérè.

Annenberg Public Policy Center Study Finds Many Don’t Know Key Facts About U.S. Constitution

The Annenberg Public Policy Center’s annual, nationally representative survey finds that when U.S. adults are asked to name the specific rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution, only one right is recalled by most of the respondents: Freedom of speech, which 77% named. The civics knowledge survey, released annually to celebrate Constitution Day (September 17), also finds that although two-thirds of Americans (66%) can name all three branches of government, 10% can name two, 7% can name only one, and 17% cannot name any.

As in the recent past, the Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey was conducted in a year of high-profile events that propelled the workings of government into the daily news cycle. This year saw four criminal indictments of former President Donald Trump and numerous trials for those charged in the 2021 assault on the U.S. Capitol. Led by a conservative supermajority, the U.S. Supreme Court sidelined race-conscious college admissions programs and the Biden administration’s student-loan forgiveness plan. Several of the associate justices were dogged by allegations of unethical conduct. A pleading to reduce a staggering amount of tax offenses by President Joe Biden’s son Hunter collapsed. In Congress, Republican Representatives discussed whether to open impeachment proceedings against President Biden.

“It is worrisome that one in six U.S. adults cannot name any of the branches of government and that only 1 in 20 can name all five freedoms protected by the First Amendment,” said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center and director of the survey. “One is unlikely to cherish or work to protect freedoms one does not know one has and will have trouble holding elected and unelected leaders accountable if one does not understand the nature and prerogatives of each branch and the ways in which the power of each is kept in check.”

The Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey is a nationally representative survey conducted annually in advance of Constitution Day by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania.

Adapted from an Annenberg School news release, September 14, 2023.