Laura J. Alber and Ned Klingelhofer’s Gift to Endow SAS Professorship

Laura J. Alber, C’90, and Ned Klingelhofer, parents, have made a gift to establish the Alber-Klingelhofer Presidential Professorship to be held by a faculty member in Penn Arts & Sciences. Presidential Professorships are awarded to exceptional scholars selected on the basis of their achievements with an emphasis on enhancing the diversity of Penn’s faculty. Presidential Professors enrich the academic community and bring new perspectives to our students and faculty.

“Laura and Ned’s thoughtful gift will provide the resources needed to recruit and retain dynamic faculty at the College,” said Penn President Amy Gutmann. “It is critically important that our faculty at the College,” said Penn President Amy Gutmann. “It is critically important that our professors represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives to our students and faculty. We appreciate Laura and Ned’s desire to support our core academic teaching and research mission, which will greatly benefit our students and ensure that they are stronger and more dynamic leaders when they embark on their futures.”

“In honor of my 30th reunion, we wanted to make a gift that would really have an impact,” said Ms. Alber. “Faculty members are leading scholars, but they also can create transformative experiences in the classroom. Making this gift is an expression of appreciation for my Penn Arts & Sciences education and an investment in learning for future generations of students.”

“I’m grateful for Laura and Ned’s continued partnership,” said Steven J. Fluharty, Dean and Thomas S. Gates Jr. Professor of Psychology, Pharmacology, and Neurosciences. “Advancing Faculty Distinction is a key priority in The Power of Penn Arts & Sciences Campaign. The Alber-Klingelhofer Presidential Professorship will be held by an outstanding member of our diverse group of dynamic, collaborative scholars.”

Ms. Alber graduated from the College of Arts & Sciences in 1990 with a degree in psychology. She is a University Trustee, a member of the Parent Leadership Committee, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Penn Arts & Sciences Board of Overseers. Ms. Alber is Chief Executive Officer, President, and Director of Williams-Sonoma, Inc. Mr. Klingelhofer is a portfolio manager at Bitterroot Enterprises and a member of the Parent Leadership Committee. Previously, Ms. Alber and Mr. Klingelhofer have supported the Alber-Klingelhofer Scholarship, the Ronald O. Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics, the Arts & Sciences Annual Fund, and Penn Athletics.

$5.4 Million Grant for Penn Medicine Researchers to Find Genetic Drivers of Testicular Cancer

The international hunt to find more genetic risk markers for testicular cancer is expanding. A team of researchers led by Katherine L. Nathanson, deputy director of the Abramson Cancer Center and the Pearl Basser Professor for BRCA-Related Research in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, was recently awarded $5.4 million over five years from the National Institutes of Health to continue the long-standing genomics work of the TEsticular CAncer Consortium (TECAC).

A total of nearly $7 million has been awarded to TECAC, which includes researchers from 27 institutions around the world, whose collaborative goal is understand the genetic susceptibility to testicular germ cell tumors (TGCT).

TGCT are the most common cancer in the United States and Europe in men between the ages of 15 to 45, and the number of cases has continued to rise over the past 40 years. Approximately 50 percent of the risk of disease is due to genetic factors, higher than for other cancer types.

To date, TECAC has identified 22 novel susceptibility alleles, bringing the total number of risk markers to 66. Dr. Nathanson led a study in 2017 published in *Nature Genetics* that identified eight of those markers in previously unknown gene regions, as well as four in previously identified regions.

Members of TECAC also were the first to identify CHEK2, a moderate penetrance gene for TGCT. Penetration refers to the proportion of people with a mutation in specific gene. Unlike other solid tumor types (e.g. breast, ovarian), the inherited risk of TGCT is likely due to multiple variants rather than any single gene.

“Our work has revealed critical roles for genetic variants and mutations in testicular germ cell tumors and defined the biology of TGCTs as associated with defects in maturation of male germ cells, but there’s still much more to discover with this highly heritable disease,” Dr. Nathanson said.

“This grant will allow us to continue to pool our resources and expertise to better understand its biology and etiology, as well as provide data that can help identify men at higher risk of the disease and in need of surveillance.”

The latest round of funding will focus on three initiatives: to identify rare and common variants using whole exome genetic sequencing from biosamples of more than 2,000 men; to conduct a transcriptome-wide association study, or TWAS, to identify novel candidate susceptibility genes in nearly 250,000 men (the largest to date); and to further evaluate any variants or gene discovered from those two projects using tools, such as CRISPR.

Other Penn collaborators on this grant (R01 CA1649471 A1) include David Vaughn, Linda Jacobs, Li-San Wang and Mingyao Li.

$6 Million Grant for Penn Engineering and CHOP Researchers to Make AI More Resilient to Attacks

A team of researchers from the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Engineering and Applied Science and the Children’s Hospital of Pennsylvania (CHOP) have been awarded a five-year, $6 million Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) grant. The MURI program is the signature research funding mechanism of the Department of Defense.

The Penn team’s proposal, “Robust Concept Learning and Lifelong Adaptation Against Adversarial Attacks,” aims to leverage insights from human cognitive development to make artificial intelligence systems better at protecting themselves from malicious disruptions.

With these systems increasingly interacting with the physical world, they are more vulnerable to being confused by ambiguous information. Rather than attempt to directly access the software that controls a self-driving car’s accelerator, an ill-intentioned person could subtly alter a speed-limit sign such that the car’s AI no longer recognizes it.

By imbuing AI with the kind of robust, adaptive learning capabilities that biological intelligences exhibit, these cyber-physical systems will be able to work with broader categories of information and thus be less prone to potentially dangerous confusion.

The team is led by Insup Lee, Cecilia Fiter Moore Professor in Penn Engineering’s departments of computer and information science (CIS) and electrical and systems engineering (ESE). Dr. Lee is also the director of the PRECISE Center, which is dedicated to researching advanced safety and security solutions of these cyber-physical systems.

Other team members include research assistant professor Osbert Bastani, Ruth Yalom Stone Professor Kostas Damilidis, senior lecturer Eric Eaton, Eduardo D. Glandt Distinguished Professor Dan Roth, research assistant professor James Weimer, all in CIS, and Julia Parish-Morris, assistant professor of psychiatry at CHOP, who provides expertise in how children develop language and a theory of mind.

(continued on page 2)
Chair’s Report. Faculty Senate Chair Kathleen Hall Jamieson reported with appreciation that several areas of University leadership have expressed public support of the October 6, 2020, Resolution for Election Day, including a memo from President Amy Gutmann to the entire University community and Dean Steven Fluharty to all School of Arts and Sciences Fall 2020 Instructors and Teaching Assistants directly referencing the Resolution and urging them to offer flexibility to those needing time to cast votes or take on poll-worker duties as part of the 2020 General Election. The Resolution is an example of the Senate’s efforts rising above symbolic action and setting precedents that will shape future University policies. Prof. Jamieson also requested that SEC discuss the status of the October 14, 2020, Resolution on Engaged Scholarship with Provost Wendell Pritchett during his visit later in the meeting.

Past Chair’s Report. No report was offered.

2021 Senate Nominating Committee. SEC members voted to adopt a membership slate for the 2021 Senate Nominating Committee. The slate is published in this issue of Almanac (below) for comment by Standing Faculty members.

Proposal to Add the Senior Lecturer Track in the Wharton School. Prof. Jamieson presented a proposal from The Wharton School to add the Senior Lecturer track within the School. The Senate Committee on Faculty and the Academic Mission (SCOF) reviewed the proposal along with an endorsement from Provost Pritchett and voted unanimously in support of it. Professors William Braham and Chenoa Flippen, both of whom are SCOF members, offered brief comments in support of the documentation already provided. Following a brief discussion and a call to question, SEC members also voted unanimously in support of the proposal. Notification of these votes were shared with the Office of the Provost.

Update from the Office of the Provost. Provost Pritchett mourned the loss of the thousands of people who have died of COVID-19 complications, which includes some loved ones of SEC members. He then expressed appreciation for the support of the Faculty Senate and SEC during his tenure-to-date as Provost, whose guidance contributed significantly to the launch of enhanced student wellness initiatives at Penn and the creation of the Chief Wellness Officer position and the emphasis SEC has placed on engaged scholarship for both faculty and students. Deans have responded positively to the Engaged Scholarship resolution, and while several complicated details remain to be resolved, many school leaders have used the Resolution as a means of re-framing how they approach the resolution of those details. Upon adjournment of the meeting, Provost Pritchett participated in a Faculty Senate Seminar to which all members of the faculty were invited. A recording of that Seminar and all others is available for viewing here: https://provost.upenn.edu/senate/faculty-senate-seminar-series.

SENATE From the Senate Chair

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

TO: Members of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Chair
SUBJECT: Senate Nominating Committee 2021

1. In accordance with the requirements of the Faculty Senate Rules, notice is given to the Senate Membership of the Senate Executive Committee’s slate of nominees for the 2021 Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee nominates candidates for election to the office of the Faculty Senate Chair, to the At-Large and Assistant Professor positions on the Senate Executive Committee, to the Senate Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty, and to the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility. The nominees, all of whom have agreed to serve, are:

- Graciela Gonzalez Hernandez, Associate Professor of Informatics
- Roberta Rehner Iversen, Associate Professor of Social Policy and Practice
- Steven Kimbrough, Professor of Operations, Information and Decisions
- Marc Meredith, Associate Professor of Political Science
- Florence Monplaisir, Assistant Professor of Medicine at HUP
- Amy Offner, Associate Professor of History
- Andrew Postlewaite, Harry P. Kamen Professor of Economics and Professor of Finance
- Jennifer Punt, Professor of Immunology
- Rand Quinn, Associate Professor of Education
- Michael Weisberg, Professor of Philosophy

2. Pursuant to the Rules, additional nominations may be submitted by petition containing at least 25 signed names and the signed approval of the candidate. All such petitions must be received by Tuesday, November 24, 2020. If no additional nominations are received, the slate nominated by the Executive Committee will be declared elected. If additional nominations are received, a mail ballot will be distributed to the Faculty Senate membership. Please forward any nominations-by-petition via email to the Faculty Senate office, senate@pobox.upenn.edu. Questions may be directed to Mr. Walsh by email to the address above or by telephone at (215) 898-6943 (please leave a voicemail message).
Deaths

Noah Prywes

Computer and Information Science

Noah S. Prywes, professor emeritus of computer and information science in Penn’s School of Engineering and Applied Science, died on September 21. He was 94.

Dr. Prywes was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1925. He immigrated with his family to pre-state Israel in 1933; there, he later served in the Haganah and the beginnings of the Israeli Navy. He earned a BS in electrical engineering from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, then moved to the U.S. for graduate school. He earned a master’s degree at Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University) and, in 1954, a PhD in applied physics at Harvard University. Dr. Prywes first worked on early electronic computers at UNIVAC in the 1950s, leading the computing unit for the UNIVAC LARC computer, one of the world’s first supercomputers.

In 1958 Dr. Prywes was hired as an associate professor at the Moore School of Electrical Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania. Ten years later, he became a full professor in the Moore School’s relatively new department of computer science. He remained a professor of computer science at Penn for almost three decades, during which the department moved to Penn’s School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS).

While at Penn, Dr. Prywes advanced the school’s international academic presence: Dr. Prywes took a leave in 1975 to research budget allocation with researchers at Tel Aviv University and the Ministry of France in Israel. In 1984, he was part of a delegation Penn sent to the People’s Republic of China to strengthen academic linkages (Almanac, September 18, 1984). In 1996, he retired and took emeritus status (Almanac, May 7, 1996).

Dr. Prywes was a pioneer in early computer technology; under his stewardship, Penn’s Moore School developed one of the nation’s first computer science departments. One of his students, Sister Mary Kenneth Keller, was the first person to receive a PhD in computer science in June 1965. In the 1960s, Dr. Prywes created Multi-List, one of the first relational database management systems. Around the same time, he advanced and commercialized time-sharing, the predecessor to today’s cloud computing (Almanac, November 1969).

In the 1980s and 1990s, Dr. Prywes was at the forefront of automatic programming, non-procedural specification systems and reverse engineering and the application of these technologies to parallel and distributed computing. In the early 2000s, he developed innovative speech technology for use in telephony. These technologies have gone on to have many applications, ranging from Wall Street financial reporting to real-time systems for the military and aerospace. Dr. Prywes was awarded numerous patents and was a Fellow of the IEEE Computer Society.

Dr. Prywes is survived by his wife of 67 years, Ruth; his sons, Menahem, Daniel and Ron; and seven grandchildren.

To Report A Death

Almanac appreciates being informed of the deaths of current and former faculty and staff members, students and other members of the University community. email almanac@upenn.edu.

Peter Fixler: Chief Arborist, Morris Arboretum

Penn Dental Medicine has plans to launch an innovative postdoctoral training program in general dentistry designed to educate dental residents in primary dental care for vulnerable and underserved patients. The School has been awarded $2.1 million over five years from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the new AEGD program.

“This new program builds on our ongoing efforts at Penn Dental Medicine to address persistent health disparities and difficulties in accessing oral health care for vulnerable and underserved patients in Philadelphia,” said Dr. David Hershkowitz, Division Chief of Restorative Dentistry at Penn Dental Medicine and Principal Investigator on the HRSA grant, who will be the AEGD Program Director. “It is our plan that program graduates will receive advanced knowledge, skills, and experiences to better serve these populations.”

Dental residents in the AEGD program are anticipated to be placed in two of the School’s community-based sites—Penn Dental Medicine at Sayre Health Center, a federally qualified health center (FQHC) which has a four-chair dental care center; and Penn Dental Medicine at Puentes de Salud, serving the Latino immigrant community, where Penn Dental Medicine provides primary dental care within a three-chair facility.

Dental residents will also complete clinical dental care within Penn Dental Medicine’s soon-to-open Care Center for Persons with Disabilities, and in the School’s clinical dental program for Survivors of Torture in partnership with Philadelphian’s Nationalities Service Center.

“Through Penn Dental Medicine’s substantial ongoing investment in treating vulnerable populations, we see not only the need for excellent compassionate dental care, but also the need for advanced training in the delivery of that care,” said Dr. Olivia Sheridan, Professor of Clinical Restorative Dentistry, who leads the clinical care program for Survivors of Torture and will teach AEGD residents. “This program will provide that care and be a model for the advanced education of compassionate dental graduates to enhance their skills and understanding in the care of this population.”

Over the first planning year (July 2020–June 2021), Penn Dental Medicine will develop the program and apply for approval from the Commission on Dental Accreditation. It is anticipated that the first class will begin in July 2021, with four students accepted into the one-year program each year.

“The program will provide knowledge, skills, and clinical experiences in cultural competency and health literacy,” added Dr. Joan Gluch, Division Chief of Community Oral Health and a member of the program faculty. “We will also be tracking outcomes and develop systems for evaluating program impact regarding both access to care for the vulnerable and underserved and the quality of care received by patients.”

New Penn Dental AEGD Program Established to Focus on Vulnerable Populations

Peter Fixler: Chief Arborist, Morris Arboretum

When Morris Arboretum began to establish its fundraising goals for the Ever Green campaign, which began in April 2018, several key priorities were obvious, none more so than the establishment of a $1.5 million endowed fund to support a Chief Arborist position. It is hardly imaginable that Morris Arboretum would function without a Chief Arborist, but the economic fallout from 2008 required exactly that. Since that time, it has been a key objective to reinstate this important position in a financially sustainable manner. Creating endowments for key positions is one of the most financially stable ways to sustain them.

More than a year later, the Arboretum is thrilled to announce that Peter Fixler has been hired as the Chief Arborist, a position made possible by the McCausland Foundation and Janet and John Haas, who have combined forces to fully endow the Chief Arborist position. In doing so, they have chosen to honor Paul W. Meyer, who recently retired after 43 years of service, 27 of those as the F. Otto Haas Executive Director. To be known as The Paul W. Meyer Chief Arborist, Mr. Fixler’s position will strengthen the Arboretum’s tree care program while also helping to advance arboriculture education, programs and research.

“Funding the Chief Arborist position is something that we have been working toward for several years. It is remarkably gratifying to have secured the funding that has allowed us to fill this critical Arboretum role. I am so grateful to the McCausland Foundation and to Janet and John Haas for making this a reality,” said Anthony Aiello, The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator, Morris Arboretum.

Peter Fixler came to the Morris Arboretum with 20 years of professional experience. His background includes commercial experience at Ever Green and the historic landmark estate of Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. He has been active in the Arboricultural Association, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and the Philadelphia Horticultural Society for a number of years.

Mr. Fixler’s role is an important one at the Arboretum. Because its tree collection is the foundation of the Arboretum and a fundamental aspect of its mission, it is essential to preserve, maintain, and grow this collection to achieve the goals of research, recreation, and education. It takes continued effort to improve the Arboretum’s arboriculture to ensure that this resource continues for future generations.

The Chief Arborist is the person who heads up these efforts and manages the daily work flow that keeps the Arboretum’s trees safe and healthy, plans for future care, and contributes to teaching and outreach efforts. Mr. Fixler will oversee the Arboretum’s over 4,000 trees and manage signature specimens like the katsura tree, one of Morris Arboretum’s best-known trees. The Chief Arborist’s role is to ensure the health of these trees for many years to come.
Ritesh Agarwal: Fellow of the Optical Society

Ritesh Agarwal, professor in the department of materials science and engineering, has been elected a fellow of the Optical Society (OSA).

The scholarly society has, since 1916, been the “world’s leading champion for optics and photonics, uniting and educating scientists, engineers, educators, technicians and business leaders worldwide to foster and promote technical and professional development.”

The Optical Society cited Dr. Agarwal for “pioneering contributions to advancing complex light-matter interactions in low-dimensional semiconductors, phase-change and topological materials for applications in integrated photonics.”

Dr. Agarwal recently published a study in the journal Science, detailing his group’s creation of novel “quasiparticles” known as helical topological exciton–polaritons, as well as a new type of topological insulator that supports them. Dr. Agarwal’s group is now working on studying how topological polaritons interact with one another, which would bring them a step closer to using them in practical photonic devices.

Malitta Engstrom: SAMHSA Grant

Malitta Engstrom, faculty director of the master of social work (MSW) program at Penn’s School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2), has received a significant grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Engstrom, an associate professor at SP2, was awarded a grant to fund a substance use training program for MSW students at SP2. Social workers are uniquely positioned to reach people experiencing substance use disorders across a range of service settings; however, most social workers do not receive specialized training in substance use-related services during their professional education. The training program addresses this gap by ensuring that every MSW student will receive specialized education in evidence-supported practices to assist people affected by substance use concerns. The training will use evidence-supported pedagogical strategies to enhance substance use-related practice knowledge and skills, including the development of a multimodal curriculum with video, online, and standardized client trainings.

“Penn MSW students will have a rare and critically important opportunity to enhance their knowledge, skills, and effectiveness to work with individuals, families, and communities affected by substance use concerns. This training holds great promise to drive outcomes among people in a wide range of settings,” Dr. Engstrom said.

Overall, the program aims to ensure that individuals have consistent access to high-quality substance use-related services across diverse service settings and to reduce the gap between substance use treatment need and access. With the support of the project team—professor and director of SP2’s Doctorate in Clinical Social Work program, Jacqueline Corcoran; PhD student Jessica Cho Kim; and online learning coordinator Nicole Auge—the training will begin to be implemented in the MSW Program curriculum in 2021.

Deep Jariwala: Frontiers of Materials Award

The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society (TMS) has named Deep Jariwala, assistant professor in the department of electrical and systems engineering, a winner of their Frontiers of Materials Award.

Dr. Jariwala is an expert in nano- and atomic-scale devices that could have applications in information technology and renewable energy, among other fields. His recent research includes a new way of manipulating color with one such nanoscale device.

The TMS Frontiers of Materials Award is given to a top-performing early career professional capable of organizing a Frontiers of Materials Event centered around a hot or emergent technical topic at the TMS Annual Meeting & Exhibition. As a winner, Dr. Jariwala will organize an event on Low-Dimensional and Quantum Materials: Interface Design and Engineering, which is scheduled to take place at the TMS 2021 Annual Meeting & Exhibition, March 14-18, 2021 in Orlando, Florida.

Eleni Katifori: APS Early Career Award

Eleni Katifori, associate professor of physics and astronomy, has been awarded the 2021 American Physical Society (APS) Early Career Award for Soft Matter Research for “the seminal use of physical principles in understanding living transport networks.”

The Katifori group’s research seeks to uncover the physical principles behind the function and development of complex biological flow systems. This includes the investigation of how the connectivity and hierarchical nature of the networks lead to new emergent properties that could not have been predicted by detailed knowledge of the performance and behavior of an individual link.

Dr. Katifori was previously an independent group leader at the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization in Göttingen, Germany, before returning to the US to join the faculty at Penn. She has received a Burroughs Wellcome Career Award at the Scientific Interface and a National Science Foundation Career Award and is a Simons Investigator in the Mathematical Modeling of Living Systems.

Maria Torchia LoGrippio: NLN Academy of Nursing Education Fellow

Maria Torchia LoGrippio, the Kehler Family Assistant Dean of Curricular Affairs and Innovation and Practice Associate Professor in Penn Nursing’s department of family & community health, is one of 15 distinguished nurse educators selected for the 14th class of fellows to be inducted into the prestigious NLN Academy of Nursing Education.

The National League for Nursing Academy of Nursing Education fosters excellence in nursing education by recognizing and capitalizing on the wisdom of outstanding individuals in and outside the profession who have contributed to nursing education in sustained and significant ways. Fellows are expected to provide visionary leadership in nursing education and in the Academy, and to support the vision of the NLN. The induction ceremony took place at the Honors Convocation during the 2020 NLN Education Summit, held virtually from September 23-25, 2020.

Gabriel Raeburn: NISS Dissertation Grant

Gabriel Raeburn, a PhD candidate in the departments of religious studies and history, has been awarded the 2020 Dissertation Grant from the National Institute of Social Sciences.

Mr. Raeburn received the prestigious award for his proposal to research and complete his dissertation, “Preaching Prosperity: Pentecostals and the Transformation of American Evangelism.” He studies 20th-century US religion and politics and the histories of race, inequality, and evangelicalism. Mr. Raeburn’s dissertation explores how Pentecostal evangelists created the “Prosperity Gospel” and used their growing influence to remake the American religious and political landscape.

The National Institute of Social Sciences launched its Grants Program (originally called the Seed Grant Program) in 2011 to support outstanding graduate students in the social sciences. The grant funds support research in two political and religious archives that help illuminate the relationship between Pentecostals and conservative politicians/strategists throughout the 1980s.

Jordan Raney: DARPA Fellowship

Jordan Raney, assistant professor in mechanical engineering and applied mechanics, has been awarded a DARPA Young Faculty Award. His research involves developing a way for robots to respond to their environments using properties that are built into their materials.

Bioinspiration, the practice of using biological models as guides for materials, structures or systems, is becoming a prominent practice in research labs as the engineering demand for strong, multifunctional and adaptable materials has exploded. Dr. Raney is interested (continued on page 5)
in the Venus fly trap, a carnivorous plant that can snap shut when potential prey touches the hypostome hairs inside its leaves.

With this award, Dr. Raney will build on these structures to produce materials with “distributed intelligence.” By combining their mechanical logic gates into more complex arrangements, these materials may allow new capabilities in unconventional robots.

“In our previous work, we combined nonlinear mechanical mechanisms with stimuli-responsive materials to produce simple logic gates that evaluate and respond to their environment,” Dr. Raney said. “In this new project, we will utilize those principles but in larger-scale systems with many more such evaluations. These evaluations could be used, for example, to steer a robot away from a hazard, such as high temperatures, or toward a goal without a traditional control system.”

Dr. Raney’s research will make use of advanced 3D-printed materials to build these structures, such as polymers to sense solvents, hydrogels to sense water, and liquid crystal elastomers to sense temperature and light. Printing allows these structures to be spatially controlled and makes them a viable candidate for building flexible robots that can change shape and function when programmed conditions are met, such as a certain temperature increase or decrease.

Joseph Subotnik:
American Physical Society Fellow

Joseph Subotnik, Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Term Professor of Chemistry, has been named a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS). APS fellowships recognize those who have made advances in physics through original research and publication, or made significant innovative contributions in the application of physics to science and technology. Dr. Subotnik was honored “for pioneering advances in understanding the nature of nonadiabatic processes and merging electronic structure with chemical dynamics, advances that have allowed us to better model photo-induced processes and dissipation at metal-molecule interfaces.”

Dr. Subotnik is a theoretical chemist who focuses on electronic processes in the condensed phase. He has made key contributions in electronic structure theory, chemical dynamics, and statistical mechanics. His many prizes and awards include the 2014 Feynman Fellowship, a National Science Foundation Career Advancement Award, and the Presidential Early Career Award for Science and Engineering. APS is a nonprofit membership organization working to advance and diffuse the knowledge of physics through its outstanding research journals, scientific meetings, and education, outreach, advocacy, and international activities.

Chicago Booth’s Rustandy Center for Social Sector Innovation, the Harvard Business School Impact Collaborative, and the Wharton Social Impact Initiative of the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School recently announced the launch of the Impact Finance Research Consortium (IFRC), a joint effort to collect comprehensive data on impact investing funds. The IFRC’s key initiative is to build a database on the financial performance, due diligence practices, investor relations, legal governance, strategy, and management of impact investing funds across the world. The resulting Impact Finance Database (IFD) will catalyze groundbreaking research on this young but rapidly expanding field.

This effort comes as impact investing is becoming an increasingly important part of the investment landscape, with individual and institutional investors seeking to combine private sector financing with the promise of achieving broader social and environmental aims. The upswing in impact investing is evident from allocations of large institutions, foundations, development finance institutions, and family offices, as well as the increase in funds focusing on private and publicly held securities that seek to achieve both financial and social returns.

At the same time, many questions remain. For example, many impact investors assert that social and environmental benefits can be achieved without sacrificing financial performance, but there is little independent research to support or refute this claim. In addition, the way impact investments are structured to maximize efficacy is an important but open issue.

The Impact Finance Database builds on the Wharton Impact Research and Evaluation Database (WIRED), which was originally launched in 2014 by the Wharton Social Impact Initiative under the guidance of Professor David Musto and Vice Dean Katherine Klein.

“At Wharton Social Impact, we’re focused on building the community and the evidence base for impact investing. Our partnership with Chicago Booth and Harvard Business School will expand and accelerate our efforts to do both. The data we collect will contribute to leading research on the intersection of finance and impact, while also demonstrating the value of collaboration among practitioners and academics,” said Dr. Klein.

“The field of impact investing is developing, and the accelerating growth of impact funds makes now the perfect time to collect data on the industry,” said Jessica Jeffers, assistant professor of finance at Chicago Booth. “This partnership has the potential to provide access to fund-level goals and other quantitative metrics. And with access to more data, we hope, will come new evidence-based practices to guide the future of impact investing.”

Harvard Business School finance professor Shawn Cole said, “We are pleased to collaborate with Wharton and Chicago Booth on this effort. Both schools bring considerable resources and talent to this project. Quality data and rigorous research—on both financial and social returns—will not only dramatically advance conceptual understanding but aid actual practice in this space.”

The IFRC is actively contacting impact investing firms, with hopes of building a large and representative sample of the sector within six months.

Collaboration on Impact Investing Data Collection

Fall Recreation at Franklin Field and Penn Park

Franklin Field and Penn Park artificial turf fields are currently available for Open Recreation activities. Penn faculty and staff members have access to a complimentary Fall Open Recreation Membership, which provides free registration for Fall Open Recreation activities. To join the Fall Open Recreation Membership, click here. Please take a moment to review these policies and procedures as they will be strictly enforced.

Fall Open Recreation Information:
Franklin Field, 233 South 33rd Street
Entrance is located in the driveway between Weightman Hall & Dunning Coaches’ Center
Open recreation includes use of assigned track lanes and conditioning on the artificial turf in assigned quadrants. Additionally, a limited capacity Ballfield is offered each Wednesday at noon on the turf. Registration for the Ballfield is required. The use of sporting equipment (balls, sticks, goals, etc.) is not permitted in Franklin Field.

Penn Park, 3000 Walnut Street
Entrance is located at the east gate of Dunning-Cohen Champions Field and west gate of Ace Adams Field
Open Recreation includes socially distant physical activity in designated conditioning zones. Participants are permitted to bring sport-specific equipment. The following equipment will be provided and properly stationed to ensure physical distancing:
Adams Field: lacrosse goals, soccer goals, field hockey cages, rack of hurdles, baseball and softball hitting nets
DCC Field: soccer goals, field hockey cages, football goal posts, rack of hurdles

Fall Semester
Monday-Friday: 7-9 a.m., 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-7 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Virtual Homecoming 2020
Now through Saturday, November 14, 2020, experience a week of online programming, social media contests, and virtual campus tours as part of Penn Alumni’s Homecoming at Home. Hosted from Penn faculty, alumni, and students on topics ranging from social justice, healthcare, arts and culture, and Penn Athletics. Visit https://tinyurl.com/homecomingathome for the full list of featured programs and events.
Dear Penn Community,

We have begun our planning for the holiday season much earlier this year because of the pandemic. The Penn community continues to have a major impact during the holiday. We look forward to working with you again this year as we strive to make a difference in the lives of our deserving neighbors as we work to minimize the impact of COVID-19 and other challenges we are facing during these challenging times.

Below is a list of current opportunities. These opportunities are special in that they are designed to bring joy during the holidays. I look forward to working with you as we make a difference in the lives of our beloved community.

Thank you so very much for your continued generosity. Your contributions allow us to respond to various requests from local agencies, and families for donations during the holiday season.

Thank you for all you do.

—Izabel Sampson-Mapp
Associate Director, Netter Center for Community Partnerships

Holiday Food Drive, Through November 16: Let’s Take A Bite Out Of Hunger!

In the season of Thanks and Giving, please contribute to the Annual Food Drive at the University coordinated by Penn VIPS. Instead of bringing donated items to the University for distribution, we ask that you contact the following volunteers to get details on how to make your donation. They will provide a list of agencies and others who will be accepting your non-contact donations. They will ask you to use services like Amazon to mail items directly to the agency.

Please contact one of the Dropsite Committee Members listed below for more information:

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<th>President’s Office</th>
<th>Brenda Gonzalez</th>
<th><a href="mailto:Gonzalez@pobox.upenn.edu">Gonzalez@pobox.upenn.edu</a></th>
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<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>Syreeta Gary</td>
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Holiday Giving With Penn Volunteers In Public Service: Gift/Toy Drive

From November 17 to December 12, please join us in the Annual Penn Volunteers In Public Service Holiday Drive.

As you buy toys and presents for the holiday season, please consider spreading some cheer to deserving members of our community.

All items for the holiday drive must be new, not used and unwrapped.

Instead of bringing donated items to the University for distribution, we ask that you contact the above volunteers to get details on how to make your donation. They will provide a list of agencies and others who will be accepting your non-contact donations. Services like Amazon can be used to send items directly to the agencies.

Please contact one of the Dropsite Committee Members listed above for more information.

Penn Volunteers In Public Service: Adopt A Family for the Holidays Program

Several departments have adopted a deserving family for the holidays in the past. Although the challenges are great this year, we are still striving to provide toys and gifts so that many of our neighbors can have a joyous holiday via non-contact services like Amazon.

Description: During the holiday season this coming December, we will be facing some unprecedented challenges, but the Dropsite Committee has come up with a creative plan to address the current COVID-19 challenges. The adoption is usually done in lieu of departmental gift exchanges. The assigned family is treated to presents and sometimes holiday dinner. Families participate in the program on a one-time basis. Departments will be provided with the names and address of the family.

Again, we ask that you use services like Amazon to send the gifts directly to the families.

The department chooses the size of the family they would like to adopt.

Delivery options:
• You may send the online gifts directly to the family’s home if they are available to accept the online delivery (preferred times).
• You may identify one person in your department to shop and deliver your online purchases to the family.
• You may have individuals choose their own gifts to send directly to the family.
• You may have your online purchases delivered to Penn VIPS to have your delivery made to the family (we try to provide pictures).
• A department member might collect the donations to purchase the online gifts or a gift card for the family to make their own purchase (gifts or card can be shipped directly to the family or can be delivered by department or Penn VIPS).
• Departments may request a “wish list” from the family or they may choose their own gifts for the family members. Departments choose the number and types of gifts they will provide.

Departments are provided with size of the family, names, ages and sizes of each family member.

Departments are encouraged to send gifts directly to the families.

Eligibility: Families are selected from the Baring House Family Service Agency, People’s Emergency Shelter, local agencies and shelters. A small number of referrals are also accepted.

Dates: Selection of families begins in November and assignments are made during and prior to mid-December.

Contact Isabel Sampson-Mapp at (215) 898-2020 or send an e-mail: sampsonm@pobox.upenn.edu for additional information and/or to volunteer for this program.

Become a Dropsite Volunteer:

Participate in the four annual drives held by Penn Volunteers In Public Service (Penn VIPS) to benefit members of the surrounding community.

We are in need of locations around the University that can serve a drop-off point during our school, toy, gift drives, as well as others.

Your role would be to help advertise the event and to collect as well as deliver the donated items to our central location.

We look forward to having you join us.

Contact Isabel Sampson-Mapp at (215) 898-2020 or send an e-mail: sampsonm@pobox.upenn.edu for additional information and/or to make a donation.

Create Your Own Volunteer Activity for Your Department:

Would you and your colleagues or friends like to participate in a volunteer activity? Penn VIPS is happy to connect you to an activity or help you develop one of your own.

Contact Isabel Sampson-Mapp at (215) 898-2020 or send an e-mail: sampsonm@pobox.upenn.edu for additional information and/or to make a donation.

Remodeling the Office? No longer need that file cabinet or desk? Want to do something useful with no longer needed items used by your department, but still in good condition?

Penn VIPS maintains an extensive list of local agencies, and nonprofits in desperate need of your no longer needed items. We connect no-longer-needed items with members of the community that are happy to put donated items to good use. We can easily make arrangements for pick up.

Don’t throw it out! Contact Penn VIPS.

Contact Isabel Sampson-Mapp at (215) 898-2020 or send an e-mail: sampsonm@pobox.upenn.edu for additional information and/or to make a donation.

MLK Awards Deadline Extended

The deadline for the MLK Community Involvement Recognition Awards (Almanac October 13, 2020) has been extended to November 23. Due to COVID-19 nomination forms may be accessed and submitted through the deadline at: https://aarc.upenn.edu/mlk/mlk-award-nominations.

The awards will be presented as part of the University’s commemoration of the MLK holiday during the Interfaith program. Should you have any questions, please email aarc@pobox.upenn.edu.

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UPDATE

November AT PENN

FITNESS AND LEARNING


15 Coffee & Conversation: Aesthetic of the Cool: Yara and the Camera in Milford Graves’s A Mind-Body Deal; talk with graduate students about the current ICA exhibit; 3 p.m.; Zoom meeting; register: https://tinyurl.com/ica-coffee-conversation-nov-15 (ICA).

Penn Libraries

For info and to register, visit https://www.library.upenn.edu/about/exhibits-events/events

11 Intro to Video Editing with iMovie; 3 p.m.

16 Podcast Editing Basics with Audacity; 11 a.m.

17 Creating Animated GIFs with Adobe Photoshop; 2 p.m.

MUSIC

11 What She Said; an evening of musical theater written by women for women; 6 p.m.; online event; info: mbragle@sas.upenn.edu (Music).

READINGS AND SIGNINGS

12 Saving America’s Cities: Ed Logue and the Struggle to Renew Urban America in the Suburban Age; Lizabeth Cohen; 6 p.m.; Zoom meeting; register: https://tinyurl.com/cohen-reading-nov-12 (City and Regional Planning).

SPECIAL EVENTS

12 Rare Books in the Hands of Penn Students; guided tour of a “Met-worthy” collection of Japenese illustrated books; 4 p.m.; online event; register: https://penn.events.alumnia.com/go/hc20 (Penn Libraries; Penn Alumni).

13 Tales from the Crypt; Penn Dental librarians dive into the Evans art collection; 4 p.m.; register: https://penn.events.alumnia.com/go/hc20 (Penn Dental; Penn Alumni).

TALKS

10 Healing Properties Within Navajo Ceremonies; Lori Arviso Alvord, former U.S. surgeon general nominee; 4 p.m.; Zoom meeting; join: http://bit.ly/PNACC1 (Native American Community Council).

11 The Role of Utilization in Meeting Mid-Century Carbon Removal Targets; Peter Psarras, University of Wisconsin-Madison; 4 p.m.; Zoom meeting (Economics).

12 Towards Precision Medicine Therapies for ARDS: Insights from Causal Inference; Tiffany Jones, PSOM; 9 a.m.; BlueJeans meeting; join: https://bluejeans.com/568821540 (CCEB).

13 Culture, Ethnography, and Interaction; Peter Harvey, sociologist; noon; Zoom meeting (Sociology).

14 The Functional Consequences of Extinctions and the Evolution of Gigantism; Catalina Pimiento, Swansea University; noon; online event; info: ncriv-zar@sas.upenn.edu (EES).

15 Llama, Emperor, Icon, Tantra, and the Right to Rule; Karl Debreczyn, Rubin Museum; 6 p.m.; online event (CEAS; EALC).

17 Latent-State Models for Precision Medicine; Eric Laber, North Carolina State University; 3 p.m.; BlueJeans meeting; https://bluejeans.com/885381327 (CCEB).

18 Engineering Next-Generation CAR-T Cells for Cancer Immunotherapy; Yvonne Chen, UCLA; 4 p.m.; BlueJeans meeting; https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/wxbzgjty (BE; Immunology).

AT PENN Deadlines

The deadline for the December AT PENN is today. Submit events for weekly calendar updates at almanac@upenn.edu. Deadlines are Monday for the next Tuesday’s issue.

The University of Pennsylvania Police Department

Community Crime Report

About the Crime Report: Below are the Crimes Against Persons or Crimes Against Society from the campus report for October 26-November 1, 2020. Also reported were 15 crimes against property (5 vandalism, 2 auto thefts, 2 thefts from building, 1 burglary, 1 bike theft, 1 theft other, and 1 other offense) with 2 arrests. Full reports are available at: https://almanac.upenn.edu/sections/crimes. Prior weeks’ reports are also available. --Eds.

This summary is prepared by the Division of Public Safety and includes all criminal incidents reported and made known to the University Police Department between the dates of October 26-November 1, 2020. The University Police actively patrol from Market St to Baltimore Avenue and from the Schuylkill River to 43rd St in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police. In this effort to provide you with a thorough and accurate report on public safety concerns, we hope that your increased awareness will lessen the opportunity for crime. For any concerns or suggestions regarding this report, please call the Division of Public Safety at (215) 898-4482.

10/26/20 4:31 PM 3400 Market St Confidential sex offense
10/27/20 11:50 AM 3401 Civic Center Male cut with knife by known person
10/30/20 5:29 PM 3300 Woodland Walk Confidential sex offense
10/31/20 9:41 PM 101 S 39th St Suspect grabbed complainant’s buttocks

18th District

Below are the Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 7 crimes against persons (2 aggravated assault, 2 indecent assault, 2 robberies, and 1 domestic assault) were reported for October 26-November 1, 2020 by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

10/26/20 5:18 PM 3400 Market St Indecent Assault
10/27/20 1:12 PM 3500 Civic Center Blvd Aggravated Assault
10/30/20 11:23 PM 1229 S 46th St Aggravated Assault
10/31/20 9:21 PM 4600 Chestnut St Robbery
10/31/20 10:56 PM 101 S 39th St Indecent Assault
11/01/20 9:43 PM 4700 Chester Ave Robbery

THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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 other University-administered programs or in its employment practices. Questions or complaints regarding this policy should be directed to Sam Starks, Executive Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, 421 Franklin Building, 3651 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6250; or (215) 898-6963 (Voice).

ALMANAC November 10, 2020

www.upenn.edu/almanac
We are pleased to provide you with this electronic edition of the Penn Center for Innovation’s (PCI) Fiscal 2020 Year in Review.

This year’s report highlights many of PCI’s achievements across a wide range of commercial activities; accomplishments that were realized despite the significant operational disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the second half of the fiscal year.

PCI’s FY20 successes include the execution of nearly 650 commercialization agreements, the facilitation of a robust portfolio of faculty-led corporate sponsored research projects that resulted in $116 million of funding received and our industry-leading team supported Penn spinouts that collectively raised nearly $600 million of venture capital funding during the course of the fiscal year. PCI also continued its steadfast focus on increased client impact through our numerous programs and stakeholder engagement activities.

Adding to Penn’s innovation reputation nationally and internationally, at least two of the leading COVID-19 vaccine candidates currently in late-stage clinical trials incorporate key Penn-owned intellectual property assets, and Penn was recently ranked in the top ten of global R&D centers by FierceBiotech via the Nature Index.

I am extremely proud of the world-class staff at PCI and the impact of their sustained efforts to support Penn’s robust community of researchers and innovators. The team at PCI has shown remarkable fortitude, perseverance and resilience throughout the course of the current pandemic, and their dedication and professionalism is a testament to their commitment to serving the Penn community. We are all sincerely grateful for the sustained support and expert guidance from the Trustees of the University, President Gutmann, and all of Penn’s executive leaders.

A descriptive summary of PCI’s FY20 accomplishments can be accessed at the link above, and you are also welcome to print the poster of Penn’s key statistics in the areas of innovation and commercialization. We look forward to seeing you in person in the (hopefully!) near future.

—John S. Swartley, Associate Vice Provost for Research and Managing Director, PCI