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Penn Announces Transformative Renovation of the Annenberg School for Communication

The Annenberg School for Communication is embarking on a major transformation, reimagining its home at 3620 Walnut Street to support the next generation of students, scholars, and researchers working to understand the rapidly changing world of communication.

The renovation will bring Annenberg's academic programs, research networks, and community together in a connected and technologically advanced environment. Redesigned classrooms, innovative media laboratories, collaborative research spaces, and welcoming gathering areas will create new opportunities for teaching, discovery, and engagement.

The project marks a significant milestone for one of the world's leading communication schools. It also advances *Connected Futures*, the five-year strategic vision launched by Sarah Banet-Weiser, the Walter H. Annenberg Dean of the Annenberg School for Communication to expand Annenberg's impact through interdisciplinary research, transformative education, and collaboration for the public good.

The renovation is already inspiring philanthropic support, including a leadership gift from Penn President Emerita Amy Gutmann and her husband, Michael W. Doyle.

"Communication is central to nearly every challenge facing society, from public health and political discourse to rapidly evolving technologies," said Penn President J. Larry Jameson. "This renovation will strengthen the Annenberg School's leadership and create new opportunities for students and faculty to collaborate and share their innovative work with the world. We are especially grateful to Ambassador Amy Gutmann and Dr. Michael Doyle for their generous support, and for the Ambassador's continued commitment to advancing teaching and learning at Penn."

At the heart of the renovation is a simple concept: to create more opportunities for people and ideas to come together. The redesigned building will bring classrooms, research spaces, offices, and gathering areas into closer proximity, making it easier for students, faculty, and visitors to meet, exchange ideas, and work together.

Flexible, technology-enabled classrooms and seminar rooms will support new approaches to teaching and learning, while collaborative research and media spaces will provide new opportunities for experimentation and interdisciplinary work. A redesigned entrance and landscaped plaza will create a more welcoming connection to the broader Penn community.

At the center of the building, the new Media Commons will provide a gathering place for students, faculty, and visitors, complemented by a digital Media Wall showcasing Annenberg's research, scholarship, and creative work. Redesigned offices and research areas will also make it easier for faculty and graduate students to connect, leading to more opportunities for collaboration, conversation, and mentorship.

For Dean Banet-Weiser, the renovation represents an opportunity to align the school's physical environment with the ambitions of its academic community.

"Our faculty and students are doing extraordinary work to understand how communication shapes our lives, our institutions, and our relationships with one another," said Dean Banet-Weiser. "This project will give them an environment that reflects the creativity and ambition of that work and will benefit generations of Annenberg students and scholars."

An inspirational leadership gift from Penn President Emerita Amy Gutmann and her husband, Michael W. Doyle, will name the Media Commons and Media Wall in the Annenberg School.

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Penn Engineering and Oberlin College Launch 4+1 Partnership for Accelerated Master's Degrees

Oberlin College has launched a new partnership with Penn Engineering that gives students an accelerated pathway to earn both an Oberlin bachelor's degree and a Penn Engineering master's degree in just five years.

Beginning in fall 2027, the Oberlin-Penn Engineering 4+1 Partnership combines the breadth of a liberal arts education with graduate study in high-demand engineering fields such as biotechnology, energy and sustainability, materials science, scientific computing, and systems engineering.

"Oberlin students are known for their drive to create practical solutions to real-world problems—and a desire to apply their education to tangibly benefit society and improve lives," said David Kamitsuka, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Oberlin College. "Oberlin chose Penn as its partner because its world-class engineering school perfectly complements our academic programs and values."

"Addressing complex challenges requires engineers who can bring together technical expertise, creative thinking, and an understanding of the broader world," said Vijay Kumar, the Nemirovsky Family Dean of Penn Engineering. "Through this partnership with Oberlin, we're expanding access to a Penn graduate-level education, giving students the opportunity to build on the breadth of a liberal arts education while developing the advanced engineering skills needed to turn their ideas into solutions."

Students in the 4+1 program spend four years at Oberlin, building a strong foundation in the natural sciences, mathematics, and computing while exploring the arts, humanities, and social and behavioral sciences.

Through pre-approved pathways, students can apply select Oberlin coursework toward the requirements of Penn Engineering's master's programs. The partnership initially offers five pathways: biotechnology, energy and sustainability, materials science, scientific computing, and systems engineering, with the potential to expand programming in the future. Students apply during their fourth year and complete the remaining degree requirements as full-time Penn Engineering students.

Several Oberlin majors align naturally with these pathways. Biology majors can pursue biotechnology, while students majoring in en-

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Board of Trustees November Meeting Coverage

The stated meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Friday, November 13, 2026 at the Inn at Penn. Trustees Chair Ramanan Raghavendran highlighted the Silfen Forum, held on Wednesday, November 11. The forum's theme was 150 years of women at Penn.

Mr. Raghavendran presented memorial resolutions for Margaret R. Mainwaring and Charles K. Williams II, as well as resolutions of appreciation for Massi Khadjenouri, Patricia Martin, and Cheryl Peisach, which were all approved.

Penn President J. Larry Jameson highlighted Penn women who were the first to serve in various roles at the University. He also praised the work of students, faculty, and staff, including Penn Leads the Vote. He discussed the progress being made on Penn Forward initiatives, including the launch of a Penn Cost calculator (*Almanac* October 20, 2026).

President Jameson presented a resolution on the extension of the appointment of Vijay Kumar as Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science until June 30, 2029 (*Almanac* November 10, 2026), which was approved.

Provost John L. Jackson, Jr. invited all present to the Institute of Contemporary Art following the meeting to celebrate a new strategic plan for the arts and discussion with Vice Provost for the Arts Timothy Rommen. He then presented a resolution on faculty appointments and promotions, which was approved.

Executive Vice President Mark Dingfield presented the financial report. For the consolidated University, total net assets were $40.1 billion as of September 30, 2026, a decrease of $0.1 billion, or 0.2%, from June 30, 2026. During the same time frame, for the academic component, the change in net assets from operations for the University reflected a $19 million increase versus a $3 million increase last year. Total revenue of $1.3 billion was $24 million, or 1.9%, above last year. Expenses of $1.2 billion were $8 million, or 0.6%, above last year. For the health system, the change in net assets from operations reflected an increase of $131 million through September 30, 2026. Operating revenue increased $286 million, or 8.6%, from $3.3 billion, to $3.6 billion. Expenses increased $308 million, or 9.6%, from $3.2 billion, to $3.5 billion.

Jonathan A. Epstein, Executive Vice President for the Health System and Dean of the Perelman School of Medicine, presented the Penn Medicine report. He described efforts to modernize the medical school's curriculum. He also noted that Penn was ranked third among medical schools for receipt of NIH funding, and that last year, 66 faculty were issued 99 patents.

Chairs of Trustees Committees delivered reports from their meetings on Thursday, November 12. The following resolutions were presented and approved:

- To approve and authorize a transaction related to a joint venture with University of Pennsylvania Health System
- To authorize the design and construction of the Pottruck-Reina Wrestling Center at Weightman Hall in the amount of $20,415,000
- To approve the merger of Penn Praxis, Inc. into the University
- To establish a Master of Applied Science, School of Engineering and Applied Science

Mr. Raghavendran presented governance resolutions to elect Erik Gershwind and Aliya Sahai and to re-elect Krista M. Pinola as Trustees.

Michael Barrett gave the Penn Alumni report. Mr. Raghavendran also introduced 14 resolutions of appointments to Penn Medicine, advisory, and other boards, each of which was approved.

Penn Nursing's Nutrition Programs Selected as an Exemplar Track Winner in NIH's Integration of Nutrition Training in Healthcare Education Challenge

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Nutrition Research (ONR) has selected Penn Nursing's Nutrition Programs as an Exemplar Track winner in its Integration of Nutrition Training into Healthcare Education Challenge, awarding the school $75,000 to advance its innovative nutrition programs. The national recognition highlights Penn Nursing's expansive continuum of study, which connects undergraduate training, including a specialized nutrition minor and second major in nutrition science, with graduate education, including an online graduate nutrition minor and certificate, as well as an MS in nutrition science, and joint medical and dental degree options. Penn Nursing is the only nursing school in the nation to receive this prestigious recognition for an existing program.

"This recognition from the NIH validates Penn Nursing's leadership in preparing nurses, physicians, and health professionals to integrate evidence-based nutrition science directly into clinical practice and community care," said Antonia M. Villarruel, the Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing. "It also highlights the contributions and collaboration among several of Penn's twelve schools to address the depth and breadth of nutrition science."

Established in collaboration with the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS), Penn Nursing's undergraduate nutrition programs provide a seamless educational continuum for undergraduate nursing students, as well as pre-health and post-baccalaureate students from the College of Arts & Sciences. All bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) students complete foundational nutrition coursework, with options to pursue an advanced nutrition minor or a second major in nutrition science offered in collaboration with the CAS. At the graduate level, flexible online learning options, including the MSNS, a nutrition minor or certificate, and dual-degrees—allow medical and dental trainees, working clinicians, and health professionals nationwide to integrate advanced medical nutrition therapy, precision nutrition, and Food Is Medicine strategies into practice. Curriculum mapping of all nutrition courses offered shows near-complete alignment with the HHS Medical Education Nutrition Competency Framework, covering up to 97% of competencies and 94% of competencies across the undergraduate and graduate curricula, respectively.

A hallmark of Penn Nursing's nutrition curricula is their integration of experiential learning and community engagement. Through partnerships with the Netter Center for Community Partnerships, students participate in academically-based community service courses and local initiatives, such as the Good Food Bag program, which distributes thousands of pounds of fresh produce annually to food-insecure West Philadelphia families.

"By combining rigorous scientific inquiry with hands-on community engagement and emerging technologies like AI-assisted nutrition planning and omics-based approaches, our programs prepare graduates to translate evidence into actionable patient care across clinical, research, and public health settings," added Tanja V. E. Kral, the Ellen and Robert Kapito Endowed Professor, a professor of nutrition science, and director of nutrition programs in Penn Nursing.

COUNCIL

University Council Agenda

Wednesday, November 18, 2026
4-6 p.m.
Hall of Flags, Houston Hall

I. Welcome
II. Approval of the minutes of October 14, 2026
III. Follow up comments or questions on Status Reports
IV. Focus Issue: *Penn Faculty and Academic Honors: Awards, Elections, and Prizes*
V. Report on New Business topics raised at the October 14, 2026, University Council meeting
VI. Open Forum
VII. New Business
VIII. Adjournment

Open Forum Topics at University Council Meeting, November 18, 2026

The following topics have been submitted for the Open Forum at the November 18, 2026, University Council meeting, to be held in the Hall of Flags, Houston Hall.

1. Policies of the Provost's working group to establish a new teaching faculty track
2. Opportunities for students and administrators to partner on sexual violence prevention
3. Sexual violence at Penn

Interim Leadership Elected to Guide WPPSA Re-Establishment

An interim leadership election has been completed as part of ongoing efforts to re-establish the Weekly-Paid Professional Staff Assembly (WPPSA) and restore weekly-paid professional staff participation on University Council. The interim election marks an important milestone in the re-establishment efforts.

Tamla M. Tinsley has been elected interim chair, and Olivia Paone-Trainer has been elected interim secretary. The election results were certified on November 10, 2026.

The interim leadership will guide the re-establishment effort through the remainder of the 2026–2027 academic year, including reviewing, updating, and approving the organization's bylaws, and preparing for formal elections of permanent leadership in June 2027.

The Penn Professional Staff Assembly (PPSA) will continue to support and facilitate WPPSA's re-establishment throughout the interim period, providing guidance, resources, and institutional connections as needed, while supporting WPPSA's independent development and governance.

Eligible full-time, non-union, weekly-paid University employees are invited to participate in the re-establishment effort and help shape the future of WPPSA.

The first interim WPPSA meeting will take place on Friday, November 20, from 12:15 to 1:30 P.M via Zoom. Questions or expressions of interest in participating may be directed to PPSA@lists.upenn.edu or to WPPSA's elected interim leadership.

Additional information regarding upcoming meetings and opportunities to participate will be announced as the re-establishment process progresses.

—PPSA Tri-Chairs
—WPPSA Interim Chair and Interim Secretary

Deaths

Gerald Faulhaber, Wharton and Penn Carey Law

Gerald R. Faulhaber, an emeritus professor of business economics and public policy and of management at the Wharton School and a professor emeritus at the Penn Carey Law School, died on October 8. He was 87.



Gerald Faulhaber

Dr. Faulhaber received a bachelor's degree from Haverford College in 1962, an MS from New York University in 1964, an MA from Princeton University in 1974, and his PhD in philosophy from Princeton University in 1975.

Dr. Faulhaber joined the Wharton School in 1984 as a professor of business economics and public policy. He served as founding director of the Fishman-Davidson Center for the Study of the Service Sector at the Wharton School from 1984 to 1989. He gained a secondary appointment in the department of management in 1988, and also served as a lecturer in the Wharton Executive Education program. He retired from Penn in 2007 and became emeritus.

Dr. Faulhaber's research examined the microeconomics, management, and public policy aspects of technology and telecommunications firms. His work covered the wireless market, broadband public policy and markets, spectrum policy, public safety radio, file sharing and music copyright, and network neutrality. He published widely in professional journals and wrote several books, including *European Economic Integration: Technological Perspectives* and *Telecommunications in Turmoil: Technology and Public Policy.*

Dr. Faulhaber is survived by his children, Robert Faulhaber (Vera) and Lynn Faulhaber (Richard Song); and his grandchildren, Jack Faulhaber and Alessandra Song.

Joel Rosenbloom, Penn Dental Medicine

Joel Rosenbloom, M'62, GR'65, an emeritus professor of anatomy and cell biology in the School of Dental Medicine, died on October 4. He was 91.

Dr. Rosenbloom's work in the field of connective tissue biochemistry and molecular biology began as an undergraduate at Harvard, where he studied the biosynthesis of elastin in the laboratory of Paul Zameznik at Massachusetts General Hospital. After receiving his master's (1962) and doctoral (1965) degrees from Penn's School of Medicine, Dr. Rosenbloom began working at the Philadelphia Genealogy Hospital, where he collaborated with Darwin Prockop to conduct innovative biochemical studies of collagen biosynthesis. Dr. Rosenbloom then joined the faculty of Penn Dental Medicine in 1962 as a professor in the department of anatomy and cell biology, where he continued his studies on collagen production.



Joel Rosenbloom

He later chaired the department from 1975 through 1999. In collaboration with renowned dermatologist Jouni Uitto, Dr. Rosenbloom's laboratory was the first to clone the human elastin gene, which led to a better understanding of mutations responsible for several genetic diseases.

During his tenure, Dr. Rosenbloom also directed Penn Dental Medicine's Research Center in Oral Biology for over 25 years. Previously known as the Center for Oral Health Research (COHR), the center was founded in 1967 with a focus on oral health issues. Under Dr. Rosenbloom's leadership, molecular biology techniques were introduced into the field of dental research, which led to the identification of mutations responsible for amelogenesis imperfecta.

Dr. Rosenbloom retired from Penn Dental Medicine in 2004 after 34 years of service.

To Report A Death

Almanac appreciates being informed of the deaths of current and former faculty and staff members, students and other members of the University community. Call (215) 898-5274 or email almanac@upenn.edu.

However, notices of alumni deaths should be directed to the Alumni Records Office at Suite 300, 2929 Walnut St., (215) 898-8136 or email record@ben.dev.upenn.edu.

Penn's Way 2026: Last Week to Make a Difference

During this last week of the Penn's Way campaign, there is still time for you to make a difference for those in need in our communities.

Penn's Way provides University of Pennsylvania and Penn Medicine faculty and staff the opportunity to give back to the communities in which we live and work. As one of Philadelphia's largest private employers, our collective contributions have the ability to reach farther and the power to last longer. Increase your impact with the matching gift program* and help us make strides toward improving the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

We ask you to join us in *Going the Distance for Our Community*. Please consider donating to the Penn's Way Campaign before it concludes on November 20. We know you are busy, so we have made participating easier than ever. Pledges can be entered on the mobile-friendly Penn's Way website. Pledging online is secure and convenient.

Thank you for your generosity. Your support makes a difference.

—Kathleen Shields Anderson and Raina Merchant, Penn's Way Co-Chairs

**Matching Gifts*

Gifts will be matched 100% dollar-for-dollar up to $2,500.

If you give more than $2,500, the total donation will be matched at 50%, up to a match cap of $10,000.

Penn Engineering and Oberlin College Launch 4+1 Partnership for Accelerated Master's Degrees

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vironmental science, environmental studies, geosciences, physics, or chemistry are well positioned for the energy and sustainability path.

The program also leaves room for Oberlin students to take non-STEM classes and pursue double majors or minors.

"Students can come to Oberlin and specialize in individual sciences; cultivate their critical thinking, leadership, and creativity skills; then apply those strengths to building solutions with engineering tools," said Adam Eck, Oberlin's David H. and Margaret W. Barker Associate Professor of Computer Science, who teaches data science courses that are foundational in the 4+1 program.

Oberlin and Penn Engineering faculty worked closely to design the pathways connecting the institutions, including the specific Oberlin courses that best prepare Oberlin students to be successful candidates.

Lorena Grundy, director of the master's program in energy and sustainability engineering at Penn, calls Oberlin students "perfect candidates" for the program. "Engineering in general, but especially in energy and sustainability, is highly interdisciplinary. Successful leaders need not only engineering skills but also a broad understanding of environmental, social, and economic systems, along with a willingness to jump into wicked problems."

"Oberlin students' liberal arts training will prepare them to understand the human aspects of energy and sustainability systems, and their research and extracurricular experiences at Oberlin make them eager to get their hands on impactful, real-world projects," Dr. Grundy added. "With the engineering skills they'll learn at Penn, these graduates will have everything they need to become lifelong climate leaders."

The 4+1 is Oberlin's second engineering pathway, alongside its 3+2 engineering program. While the 3+2 program requires five years across two institutions to earn an engineering bachelor's degree, the 4+1 program allows students to earn a master's degree on an accelerated timeline while offering greater flexibility to double major, participate in athletics for four years, and explore interests beyond STEM.

The 4+1 program also offers academic and financial advantages. Accepted students can apply up to three approved Oberlin courses toward Penn Engineering's 10-course master's degree, creating a more efficient pathway to completing their graduate studies while reducing the overall cost of the degree.

Both programs support Oberlin's broader efforts to serve the growing number of students who want to study STEM in a liberal arts setting. Last year, the college launched a bachelor of science degree, giving students in 15 majors the choice of graduating with a BA or BS.

Matthijs Bouw Named to TIME100 Climate 2026 List

Matthijs Bouw, a professor of practice in landscape architecture and architecture in the Weitzman School, has been named to the TIME100 Climate 2026 list for "driving measurable, successful, and equitable business climate action" this year. He is the only designer and one of just four educators on the global list of climate leaders, which also includes UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and William, Prince of Wales.



Matthijs Bouw

Mr. Bouw is a Dutch architect and urbanist, and founder and president of ONE Architecture and Urbanism, an award-winning Amsterdam- and New York-based design and planning firm that is a global leader in the use of design for climate adaptation and mitigation. In New York City, ONE co-led the BIG Team that won the Rebuild by Design competition for the flood protection of Manhattan, and is one of the multi-disciplinary teams executing the East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) and Brooklyn Bridge Montgomery Coastal Resilience (BMCR) projects, as well as planning the Lower Manhattan Coastal Protection (LMCC) project, including the FiDi/Seaport Masterplan.

At Weitzman this fall, Mr. Bouw is leading a third-year studio for architecture and landscape architecture students that explores the intersections of climate resilience and urbanization in Miami-Dade County. Water as Leverage Miami, as the studio is called, is a partnership with the University of Miami's Climate Resilience Institute and TU Delft's Urbanism department. The studio's format is based on Water as Leverage, the international program that convenes elected officials, designers, engineers, academics, and community members to create integrated solutions to water challenges in vulnerable deltas and coastal cities.

Launched in 2023, the TIME100 Climate list is notable for including filmmakers and musicians along with CEOs and architects and designers. The 2026 list looks at 100 individuals who are leading and navigating the clean energy transition and investments in climate solutions globally.

"These innovators join a host of groundbreaking thinkers, investors, and pioneers who continue to write new playbooks for climate action, reminding us the world is full of leaders keeping their eyes on the future," said TIME editor-in-chief Sam Jacobs. According to TIME's announcement, the editors and correspondents reviewed hundreds of names, with a particular focus on those who achieved measurable and sustainable action over the past 12 months.

Malitta Engstrom: Associate Editor at JSSWR

Malitta Engstrom, an associate professor in Penn's School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2), has been named an associate editor of the *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research* (JSSWR), the journal of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR).

A leading journal in the field of social work research, JSSWR publishes rigorous quantitative and qualitative scholarship that advances policy, practice, and knowledge development across the field. Dr. Engstrom began her three-year term on October 1, joining the journal's editorial team of scholars from universities across the globe.



Malitta Engstrom

As an associate editor, Dr. Engstrom will draw upon her experience as a researcher, reviewer, and social worker to help oversee the peer review process by handling approximately 10-12 manuscripts each year, selecting reviewers, evaluating submissions, and making publication recommendations to the editor-in-chief. SP2 professor Phyllis Solomon also serves as an associate editor of the journal.

"I am profoundly honored to be selected to serve as an associate editor for JSSWR and am looking forward to collaborating with the editorial team to advance scholarship that addresses complex social concerns and can effect positive social change," Dr. Engstrom said.

Over more than two decades, Dr. Engstrom's research has made significant contributions to understanding substance use and its intersections with trauma, HIV, and criminal legal system involvement.

Supported by funding from the National Institutes of Health, the John A. Hartford Foundation, and other organizations, her work has informed innovative approaches to address these co-occurring challenges among individuals, families, and communities. She currently leads research in these areas in the United States and internationally.

In addition to her scholarship, Dr. Engstrom has held numerous leadership roles at SP2, including serving as faculty director of the Master of Social Work Program from 2020 to 2026 and chairing the school's Personnel Committee from 2018 to 2020.

Selena Ann Gilles: Honorary Fellow of SIENNA

Selena Ann Gilles, associate dean of school and community engagement and a practice professor in the biobehavioral health sciences department at Penn Nursing, has been named an honorary fellow of the Society of Internationally Educated Nurses in North America (SIENNA).

This designation honors distinguished leaders whose significant and enduring contributions reflect decades of collective expertise, service, and global influence. Their recognition celebrates careers dedicated to strengthening nursing, advancing education and policy, championing equity, and supporting the global nursing community.

Penn Nursing Announces 2026 Amy Gutmann Leadership Scholars

Endowed through a $2 million gift to Penn Nursing from University of Pennsylvania President Emerita Amy Gutmann and her husband, Michael Doyle, the Amy Gutmann Leadership Scholars program delivers vital financial support alongside specialized leadership training for exceptional undergraduate and graduate nursing students. Designed to cultivate the next generation of nurse trailblazers, the initiative empowers scholars to champion evidence-based practice, pioneer health research, shape public policy, ignite innovation, and advance social justice on a global scale.

By blending academic rigor with targeted leadership development, the program equips high-performing students with actionable tools to amplify their impact. Through immersive self-directed learning, tight-knit cohort collaboration, and intentional engagement across the School of Nursing, the broader University, and the community, scholars build comprehensive personal and professional growth road maps.

"With every new cohort of Amy Gutmann Leadership Scholars, the future of health and healthcare shines brighter," said Antonia M. Villarruel, the Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing. "Amy Gutmann, Michael Doyle, and everyone who supports the program have set in motion a wave of nurses who will lead as both practitioners and visionaries, working toward better health, better policy, and better futures."

The following are the 2026 Amy Gutmann Leadership Scholars, along with their areas of study:

- Yvonne Baptiste, Nurse Anesthesia DNP
- Anna Lefante, Women's Health and Gender-Related Nurse Practitioner
- Alexandra Levins, Women's Health and Gender MSN
- Nour Roxanne Mobasser, MPN
- Sean Morgan, Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Bethany Pratte, Nurse-Midwifery MSN
- Haowen Qu, Family Nurse Practitioner MSN
- Kelsey Shores, Nurse Anesthesia DNP
- Myla Walker, Nurse-Midwifery
- Cheryl (Xueqian) Wang, Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Amanda Yannett, MPN

Victor Pickard: 2026 Dallas Smythe Award from UDC

Victor Pickard, the C. Edwin Baker Professor of Media Policy and Political Economy in the Annenberg School for Communication, has received the 2026 Dallas Smythe Award from the Union for Democratic Communications (UDC).

At every UDC conference, the organization presents the Dallas Smythe Award to a critical media scholar or activist whose work "exhibits the spirit of engagement, democracy, teaching, and feistiness to which the UDC is committed" in honor of Mr. Smythe, a pioneer in the study of the political economy of communications. Dr. Pickard is recognized for his extensive scholarship on the history and political economy of media institutions, media activism, and the politics and normative foundations of media policy, as well as for his advocacy for structural media reform.

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Dr. Pickard's research has been published in more than 200 articles, essays, reviews, and book chapters in leading scholarly journals, anthologies, and popular magazines. He has authored or edited six books, including the award-winning *Democracy Without Journalism? Confronting the Misinformation Society* and *America's Battle for Media Democracy: The Triumph of Corporate Libertarianism and the Future of Media Reform*. He frequently speaks to the press on media-related issues and has been widely interviewed by leading news organizations.



Victor Pickard

As the co-director of the Media, Inequality & Change Center at Annenberg, he supports researchers and activists studying the intersections between media, democracy, technology, policy, and social justice.

"It means so much to me to receive this award," Dr. Pickard told the audience at the UDC, where he delivered the Dallas Smythe Lecture. "I've watched many of my heroes and mentors receive this award over the years, so it's a true honor to be included among them. It's also meaningful to me because of who it's named after: I think of Dallas Smythe as my intellectual grandfather."

The UDC is an organization of communication researchers, journalists, media producers, policy analysts, academics, and activists dedicated to critical study of the communications establishment; production and distribution of democratically controlled and produced media; fostering alternative, oppositional, independent and experimental production; and development of democratic communications systems locally, regionally, and internationally. The Dallas Smythe Award was established by the UDC in 1990.

Andy Tan: 2026 André G. Stanley Memorial Health Equity Award

Andy Tan, an associate professor of communication at the Annenberg School for Communication, has received the 2026 André G. Stanley Memorial Health Equity Award from the American Public Health Association's Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Section (ATOD).

The André G. Stanley Memorial Health Equity Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to health equity in the ATOD field. Dr. Tan is honored for his work examining the impact of marketing, media, and public health messaging on health behaviors and outcomes among diverse populations, including young adults, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) populations.



Andy Tan

As the director of the Health Communication & Equity Lab at Annenberg, Dr. Tan conducts community-engaged research with organizations that serve LGBT communities to design and develop culturally appropriate communication interventions informed by persuasion and message effects theories, social determinants of health frameworks, and implementation science.

Dr. Tan has published his work widely in peer-reviewed journals, and his scholarship has been cited by major news outlets, including CNN, *The Wall Street Journal,* and NBC News.

Penn Announces Transformative Renovation of Annenberg School for Communication

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Amy Gutmann is the retired U.S. Ambassador to Germany and served as Penn President from 2004 to 2022, the longest-serving president in Penn's history. She has strong ties to the Annenberg School as a scholar and a member of its faculty. Her husband, Michael W. Doyle, is a distinguished professor at Columbia University.

"I have long admired the Annenberg School faculty and leadership for the unsurpassed excellence of their scholarship and their understanding of the power and responsibility of communication to improve our world," said Ambassador Gutmann. "Michael and I are delighted to support this transformative project under Dean Banet-Weiser's leadership and President Jameson's tenure. The Media Commons will be a dynamic place where students and scholars come together, exchange ideas, and brainstorm new possibilities. There's no better investment than to create a more connected and collaborative future, which is precisely what this inspiring renovation of Annenberg represents."

Philanthropy has been central to the Annenberg School since its founding. In 1958, publisher, diplomat, and philanthropist Walter H. Annenberg established the school with a vision of communication as a powerful force for understanding, civic responsibility, and the public good. Since then, Annenberg has grown alongside a field transformed by new forms of media and technology. Its faculty and students continue to expand the boundaries of communication scholarship while addressing some of the most consequential questions facing society.

Just as Walter Annenberg's founding gift gave the school a home for the study of communication, this renovation will create spaces that better support how Annenberg's faculty and students teach, learn, and conduct research today.

Philanthropic support will be an important part of realizing that vision. Through additional giving opportunities, alumni and friends can help create the spaces and resources that will serve Annenberg students and faculty for years to come.

One Step Ahead

Security & Privacy Made Simple

Another tip in a series provided by the Offices of Information Security, Information Systems & Computing and Audit, Compliance & Privacy

Think Before You Share—and Before You Let AI Act

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools can help Penn staff work more efficiently, but they can also introduce security and privacy risks. Some AI tools simply generate responses, while newer AI agents can access files, interact with applications, send emails, and perform tasks on your behalf.

Protect Penn information by following these five practices:

1. *Keep sensitive data private.* Never enter confidential Penn information, personal information, financial records, or protected student, patient, or research data into public AI tools without the required institutional approvals.
2. *Know what you're authorizing.* Before using an AI tool or agent, understand what information it can access, which applications it can connect to, and what actions it can perform.
3. *Limit access.* Give AI agents only the permissions and system access necessary to perform their assigned tasks. Never provide an AI agent with your PennKey credentials.
4. *Think before you approve.* Review AI-generated content and verify its accuracy. Always maintain human oversight, especially before allowing an AI agent to send emails, modify records, delete files, or conduct financial transactions.
5. *Be alert to malicious instructions.* AI tools can be manipulated by malicious instructions hidden in documents, emails, websites, or other content they process. Don't assume an AI-generated recommendation or action is safe simply because the tool produced it.

Remember: AI can be a powerful productivity tool, but you are responsible for protecting Penn's information and reviewing the actions it takes.

Questions about using AI securely? Contact your Local Support Provider (LSP) or Penn's Office of Information Security at security@isc.upenn.edu.

Learn more:

- Penn Guidance on the Use of Agentic AI https://isc.upenn.edu/security/agenticAI
- Penn Guidance on the Use of Generative AI https://isc.upenn.edu/security/AI-guidance

For additional tips, see the One Step Ahead link on the Information Security website: https://isc.upenn.edu/security/news-alerts%23One-Step-Ahead.

Division of Public Safety
University of Pennsylvania Police Department Crime Report

About the Crime Report: Below are the crimes against persons and/or crimes against property from the campus report for **November 2-8, 2026**. The crime reports are available at: https://almanac.upenn.edu/sections/crimes. Prior weeks' reports are also online. *–Eds.*

This summary is prepared by the Division of Public Safety (DPS) and contains all criminal incidents reported and made known to the Penn Police, including those reported to the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) that occurred within our patrol zone, for the dates of **November 2-8, 2026**. 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

Crime Category	Date	Time	Location	Description
Assault	11/02/26	2:17 PM	4009 Baltimore Ave	Complainant was punched in the head during an argument
	11/03/26	12:04 AM	3700 Chestnut St	Assault/Arrest
	11/04/26	6:06 PM	3935 Walnut St	Complainant receiving threatening text messages
	11/04/26	4:03 AM	3900 Chestnut St	Domestic assault
	11/06/26	7:59 AM	1 Convention Ave	Subject transported to HUP Cedar for mental health evaluation during an assault
Auto Theft	11/02/26	3:04 PM	231 S 34th St	Theft of secured electric scooter from bike rack
	11/02/26	6:08 PM	3604 Chestnut St	Retail theft of tobacco products along with complainant's scooter
	11/03/26	12:32 PM	210 S 34th St	Theft of a secured electric scooter from bike rack
	11/03/26	5:09 PM	3730 Walnut St	Theft of a secured electric scooter from bike rack
	11/03/26	6:56 PM	3730 Walnut St	Theft of a secured electric scooter from bike rack
	11/03/26	10:08 PM	255 S 36th St	Theft of a secured motorized scooter from bike rack
	11/07/26	10:37 AM	3401 Walnut St	Theft of an e-bike from lobby of store
Other Offense	11/07/26	9:38 PM	3945 Chestnut St	Domestic verbal dispute
Retail Theft	11/04/26	8:55 PM	4233 Chestnut St	Retail theft of alcohol; offender fled area
	11/04/26	10:59 PM	3440 Market St	Retail theft of consumables; offenders fled area
	11/05/26	2:13 PM	4233 Chestnut St	Retail theft of alcohol
	11/05/26	8:56 PM	4233 Chestnut St	Retail theft of alcohol
	11/08/26	7:10 AM	3604 Chestnut St	Retail theft of consumables; offenders fled area
Robbery	11/04/26	8:44 AM	Health Service Dr	Strong arm robbery; complainant was transported to CCMB by police for injuries
Robbery-Retail	11/02/26	7:54 PM	3744 Spruce St	Retail robbery/Arrest
Robbery-Gun	11/03/26	7:36 AM	4100 Market St	Robbery with implied firearm
Sex Offense	11/07/26	3:12 AM	Confidential	Confidential
Theft from Building	11/02/26	3:54 PM	4240 Chestnut St	Package theft from apartment building's lobby area
	11/02/26	9:46 PM	3820 Locust Walk	Theft of clothing from common area laundry room
	11/03/26	2:13 PM	240 S 40th St	Theft of an Apple credit card and cash from secured location
	11/04/26	1:56 PM	3820 Locust Walk	Package theft from common area of lobby
	11/05/26	3:16 PM	4017 Baltimore Ave	Theft of clothing from a package in apartment building lobby
	11/06/26	11:06 PM	3631 Walnut St	Theft of money from tip jar on counter; offender fled area
Vandalism	11/02/26	10:31 AM	3025 Walnut St	Unknown person broke front glass window with unknown object

Philadelphia Police 18th District

Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue

Below are the crimes against persons from the 18th District: 12 incidents were reported for **November 2-8, 2026** by the 18th District, covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

Crime Category	Date	Time	Location
Aggravated Assault	11/04/26	4:09 AM	3900 Chestnut St
	11/04/26	6:52 AM	1217 S 47th St
Assault	11/02/26	2:17 PM	4009 Baltimore Ave
	11/03/26	7:38 AM	4138 Market St
	11/03/26	1:11 PM	S 47th & Pine Sts
	11/04/26	11:58 AM	S 33rd & Ludlow Sts
	11/04/26	8:44 PM	3700 Spruce St
	11/05/26	9:00 PM	613 S 42nd St
Assault/Arrest	11/03/26	12:43 AM	3720 Chestnut St
Robbery	11/02/26	7:55 PM	3744 Spruce St
	11/04/26	8:44 AM	3501 Civic Center Blvd
	11/04/26	11:43 PM	27 Farragut St

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

Update

November AT PENN

FILMS

18 *Flyhole*; short experimental film exploring transgender history and desire; includes discussion with Jocelyn E. Marshall, University of South Florida; 5:30 p.m.; Goodhand Room, LGBT Center (LGBT Center, Cinema & Media Studies).

19 *80 Angry Journalists*; portrays a decisive chapter in Hungary's democratic backsliding through the internal revolution of one newsroom; features discussion with director András Földes; 5 p.m.; room 109, Annenberg School; register: https://tinyurl.com/80j-nov-19 (Annenberg School for Communication).

LEARNING & WORKSHOPS

18 *Korean Craft Workshops: Hanji & Maedeup*; two crafts workshops, in which participants can make hanji (traditional handmade Korean paper crafted from the inner bark of the paper mulberry tree) and maedeup, the traditional Korean art of decorative knot-making and cord-braiding; 1-5 p.m.; suite 310, 3600 Market Street; RSVP: https://tinyurl.com/korean-craft-wkshp-nov-18 (Korean Studies).

Navitus Health Solutions Information Session; learn about Penn's new pharmacy benefit manager, Navitus, with staff from Human Resources, Navitus, and Health Advocate; 3 p.m.; online webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/navitus-nov-18 (Human Resources). *Also November 20*, noon.

President's Innovation Prize Session Featuring 2026 Recipient, Serpent Robotics; fireside chat with 2026 PIP recipient Serpent Robotics: Margaret Zhu and project mentor Jeffrey Babin, offering unique insights into the Innovation Prize processes, including expert advice and personal stories; 4 p.m.; room G08/09, College Hall; register: https://forms.gle/tZHy1jDXRRaHQkKMA (Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships).

19 *President's Engagement Prize Session Featuring 2026 Recipient, HAVEN*; fireside chat with 2026 PEP recipient HAVEN: Chloe Chang, Connie Ni, Darlene Leohansson, and project mentor Caroline Watts, featuring unique insights into the Engagement Prize processes, including expert advice and personal stories; 11 a.m.; room G08/09, College Hall; register: https://forms.gle/tZHy1jDXRRaHQkKMA (Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships).

21 *Conifers Tour*; explore the wide variety of conifers – both evergreen and deciduous – on display at the Morris Arboretum; these notable specimens provide multi-seasonal interest with an array of forms, foliage, bark, and of course, cones; 11 a.m.; Widener Welcome Center, Morris Arboretum & Gardens; free with arboretum admission (Morris Arboretum & Gardens).

Penn Libraries
Various locations. Info: https://www.library.upenn.edu/events.

19 *Coffee with a Codex: Statutes from Italy*; Kislak Center curator Dot Porter will discuss a copy of the Statutes of Castino in Italy, written in 1471; noon; online webinar.

20 *Community Archives Toolkit Lab with Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia*; day-long celebration of Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia's 10th anniversary, where members will come together to develop a resource tool kit for community groups; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Research Data & Digital Scholarship Exchange, Van Pelt Library.

Death Café; a judgment-free environment where participants, often strangers, can openly engage in discussion on the topic of death and dying; noon; Mixed Reality Lab/Design Thinking Studio, Holman Biotech Commons.

READINGS & SIGNINGS

17 *Furious Minds: The Making of the MAGA New Right*; Laura K. Field, Niskanen Center; 4:30 p.m.; the Forum, PCPSE; register: https://tinyurl.com/field-reading-nov-17 (Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy).

19 *Powers of Judgment: Hannah Arendt's Moral and Legal Philosophy*; David Luban, Georgetown University; 4:30 p.m.; Penn Carey Law; register: https://tinyurl.com/luban-reading-nov-19 (Center for Ethics & the Rule of Law).

SPECIAL EVENTS

20 *LA+ Launch Party*; party celebrating the launch of the latest two issues of *Landscare Architecture Plus*, titled *Media* and *Memory*; 5 p.m.; Upper Gallery, Meyerson Hall (Landscape Architecture).

21 *Holiday Garden Railway*; make your holiday even more magical with a visit to the Morris Arboretum's Holiday Garden Railway, as it is transformed for the season with thousands of twinkling lights; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily; Morris Arboretum & Gardens; free with arboretum admission (Morris Arboretum & Gardens). *Through December 30.*

TALKS

17 *Between Education and Mediation: How the Agenda of German Was and Is Being Transformed*; Frank Trommler, Germanic languages and literature; 5:15 p.m.; room 543, Williams Hall (Francophone, Italian & Germanic Studies).

18 *AdvGame: Safety Alignment of LMs via Non-Cooperative Games*; Brandon Amos, Reflection AI; noon; room 414, Gutmann Hall, and Zoom webinar; join: https://upenn.zoom.us/j/97645937545 (AI-Enabled Systems: Safe, Explainable, and Trustworthy Center).

AI in Animal Welfare Research at Penn Vet; Thomas Ede and G. Keith Bartley, New Bolton Center; noon; room 241, Van Pelt Library; register: https://libcal.library.upenn.edu/event/17812843 (Penn Libraries).

The Importance of Organizational Support for Nurse-Led Innovation; Robyn Barriffe, Scott James, Beena Peters, Danielle Weber, Johnson & Johnson Nurse Innovation Fellows; noon; Zoom webinar; join: https://tinyurl.com/nursing-jj-talk-nov-18 (Penn Nursing).

Democracy Amid Insecurity: The Way Forward in Latin America; Laura Chinchilla, former president of Costa Rica; 4 p.m.; Globe Forum, Perry World House, and Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/chinchilla-talk-nov-18 (Perry World House).

19 *States Versus Cities: The Fight for Control of Local Taxes*; Steve Adler, former mayor of Austin, Texas; Natalie Cohen, National Municipal Research; Janet Cowell, mayor of Raleigh, North Carolina; Abby Davidson, National Association of Counties; Jared Walczak, Walczak Policy Consulting; 11 a.m.; Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/iur-talk-nov-19 (Penn Institute for Urban Research).

Penn Bookstore's Annual Winter Sale-a-Bration

The Penn Bookstore's popular Winter Sale-a-Bration returns on Wednesday, December 2 and Thursday, December 3. Shoppers will enjoy a 20% storewide discount* during this spree, part of Shop Penn's Twelve Days of Deals. Special treats and activities will be sprinkled throughout both days.

10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Complimentary gift-wrapping
2 -3 p.m.: Penn Glee Club performance
2-6 p.m.: Wintry photo booth
4-6 p.m.: Dessert

Follow @PennBookstore on Instagram and Facebook to stay in the loop.

**Excluding course materials, electronics, gift cards, special orders, and café items.*

The Call Girls: Postwar Popular Culture, Pathological Prostitutes, and the Business of Sex; Jessica Pliley, Texas State University; noon; room 147, Silverman Hall, and Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/pliley-talk-nov-19 (Penn Carey Law).

Bridging Estimators for Causal Analysis of Health Disparities; John W. Jackson, Johns Hopkins University; 1:30 p.m.; room 07-031, 3600 Civic Center Blvd, and Zoom webinar; join: https://tinyurl.com/jackson-talk-nov-19 (Center for Causal Inference; Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Informatics).

Sexual Orientation and the Law: A Selective Bibliography on Homosexuality and the Law, 1969–1988; Nicholas Mignanelli, University of Tulsa; 3 p.m.; online webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/mignanelli-talk-nov-19 (Penn Carey Law Biddle Speaker Series).

This is an update to the November AT PENN calendar, which is online now. More items can be found in the online version of this update.To submit events for an upcoming AT PENN calendar or weekly update, email almanac@upenn.edu.

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The University of Pennsylvania's journal of record, opinion and news is published Tuesdays during the academic year, and as needed during summer and holiday breaks. Its electronic 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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Penn Libraries Exhibit: *150 Years of Women at Penn*



Photo by Eric Sucar.

President J. Larry Jameson at the 150 Years of Women at Penn *exhibit with co-curator Lynne Farrington, vice provost and director of the Penn Libraries Brigitte Weinsteiger, and co-curator Alicia Meyer (pictured left to right).*

When the first women students entered Penn in 1876 to study the sciences, they had no way of knowing they were breaking ground for generations of women to come.

This year, to mark the 150th anniversary of women students on campus, Penn Libraries has installed an exhibit running through December 11 highlighting some of the key moments and people who played roles in that effort.

The exhibit is not intended to be a comprehensive recounting of everything women accomplished at Penn over the last century and a half, but instead shares images, memorabilia, and stories of how women came into their own, said co-curator Alicia Meyer, curator of research services at the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts. "We knew we could never do justice to all of the stories of the people we discovered along the way," Dr. Meyer said.

Fellow co-curator Lynne Farrington agreed: "We wanted to highlight some of the challenges that women faced and some of the amazing things they were able to accomplish," said Ms. Farrington, the Kislak Center's director of programs and senior curator, special collections.

Penn's first women students faced a good deal of prejudice because they were stepping into a traditionally male domain, Dr. Meyer said. The debate in the late 1800s was about both access to education and access to employment. The first women at Penn, Gertrude Klein Peirce and Anna Lockhart Flanigen, had a particular interest in medicine and chemistry, and were aided by chemistry professor and future Provost Edgar Fahs Smith.

"He admitted these students and mentored them and even did research work with them," Ms. Farrington said. "He was somebody who really started that push, getting women admitted into courses and then later on into actual degree programs."

The earliest access for women was in graduate studies. They were referred to as "special students" and received certificates, not degrees, in the sciences, law, and music. It was only in the 20th century that women gradually gained admittance to undergraduate courses and degree programs, beginning with the Graduate School of Education and its precursors.

"In many cases, it was not just one woman who was the breakthrough student; it tended to be groups of women doing it together," Dr. Meyer said. "At every glass ceiling, it was not just one woman chipping it away."

Three Exhibit Highlights of Note

Athletics: A placard from the Penguinettes, Penn's synchronized swimming team, active from 1946 to 2003 and again recently, as well as a photograph of the women's rowing team in 1935. Both illustrate "these joyful moments of student life," Dr. Meyer said.

Civil Rights: A copy of a Truman Administration report on civil rights in America, "To Secure These Rights," from committee member Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander, inscribed to the faculty and students of the College of Liberal Arts for Women—"with the faith that from their number will come leaders determined," she wrote.

"*Prophecy*": In 1912, the class of 1913 created a 30-page handmade yearbook. It included a "prophecy" for 1928, stating that its members would be political leaders, artists, and social activists—even the mayor of Philadelphia. "Pennsylvania's daughters are making quite a stir in the world," they wrote.

Adapted from a Penn Today *article by Dan Shortridge, November 9, 2026.*



Photo by Denise Henhoeffer.

The exhibit 150 Years of Women at Penn *is on display through December 11.*