Cervical Cancer Care in Botswana

Andrew M. Hoffman, Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn Vet) has named Dipti Pitta, an internationally recognized scholar working at the interface of microbiology, agriculture, and dairy nutrition, the Mark Whittier and Lila Griswold Allam Associate Professor. Dr. Pitta possesses an exceptional record of scholarly accomplishments. Her seminal work in controlling methane production from dairy cows was awarded a prestigious USDA-NIFA IDEA grant of $995,000 in addition to other current grants and research awards from the USDA, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), the Center for Poultry and Livestock Excellence, and industry totaling over $2.5 million.

Dr. Pitta’s research program is integral to the new Center for Stewardship Agriculture and Food Security (Almanac November 1, 2022), where she is a faculty leader. In addition to the center, she has also served as a member of research groups and academic committees across the University of Pennsylvania (Penn), including the Internal Advisory Board for the Center for Host-Microbial Interactions, the Committee on the Academic Status of Students, and the Penn Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Dr. Pitta served as a faculty director for the Penn Global Research and Engagement Grant Program; and has recently established a highly successful mentoring program for veterinary students, undergraduate students, and high school students in her laboratory.

“Dr. Pitta’s work in microbiomics has become a resource for faculty in diverse areas of study here at Penn Vet,” said Katrin Hinrichs, the Harry Werner Endowed Professor of Equine Medicine and chair, of the department.

Dipti Pitta: Mark Whittier and Lila Griswold Allam Associate Professor at Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine

Dipti Pitta

Penn Libraries: $5 Million Gift from Wendy and Wayne Holman to Endow Holman Biotech Commons

A $5 million gift from Penn Libraries Board of Advisors member Wendy Commins Holman, W’97, her husband Wayne Holman, and their family will name the recently renovated Holman Biotech Commons.

The naming gift from the Holman family will ensure this dynamic space continues to meet the evolving needs of scholars who rely on the Penn Libraries’ services, resources, and expertise as they work to impact and improve human life.

“The Holman Biotech Commons has emerged as a hub for collaboration across the University and a launching pad for innovative study in the health sciences,” said Penn President Liz Magill. “We are extraordinarily grateful to Wendy and Wayne Holman for this commitment, which provides the Penn community with access to information using the latest tools and technologies to connect and explore across disciplines.”

This vibrant space proudly bears the name of the Holman family, and we at the Penn Libraries are deeply grateful to Wendy and Wayne for their enduring commitment to Penn, to the libraries, and to the biomedical community,” said Constantia Constantinou, H. Carton Rogers III Vice Provost and director of the Penn Libraries.

“Spaces like this demonstrate the essential infrastructure that the Penn Libraries provides. The Holmans’ support ensures that we will continue to answer vital needs and provide an extraordinary user experience to every member of our community who visits the Biotech Commons.”

The Holman Biotech Commons’ innovative design is the result of an $11.5 million renovation, completed in fall 2021, which was informed by input from library users, researchers, partners in the Perelman School of Medicine and the School of Nursing, facilities experts, and the Penn Libraries’ staff and subject specialists. Situated at the heart of biomedical activity on campus, the Biotech Commons facilitates relationships among the many interdisciplinary groups that surround it, including graduate and undergraduate students, clinicians, faculty, and researchers.

Wendy Holman, the CEO and co-founder of Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, has a passion for

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Penn Libraries: $5 Million Gift from Wendy and Wayne Holman to Endow Holman Biotech Commons

(continued from page 1)

global health and healthcare equality. In addition to serving on the Penn Libraries Board of Advisors, she is a member of the Sabin Vaccine Institute and the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).

“Most of my work focus—as a philanthropist, volunteer, and CEO—has a common thread: to have a tangible positive effect on health and human suffering,” said Wendy Holman. “Penn’s researchers, scientists, and scholars have done an incredible job leading the world in biomedical research, and our planet is a safer, better, and healthier place as a result. Penn’s libraries are not only a place to house our tremendous collections; they are centers of research excellence which continue to keep Penn at the forefront of innovation.”

Wendy Holman believes in the mission of the Penn Libraries because “the libraries support all of the schools and all of our students. They continue to be the great equalizer on campus while also serving as great research and development hubs.”

Wayne Holman added, “Wendy and I have dedicated our lives to advancing and harnessing healthcare innovation to address both unmet needs and underserved areas. We are confident the Holman Biotech Commons will be a place of learning, discovery, and collaboration that further advances the great contributions the University of Pennsylvania has already made to treating and curing human disease. We are honored and proud of our long-term partnership in advancing many common goals we share with the entire Penn community.”

The Holmans previously supported the Biotech Commons renovation project by funding the centrally located Wendy and Wayne Holman Reading Room, which serves as both an independent study area and a multipurpose event space with movable furniture to accommodate a variety of activities such as lecture-style events, book talks, and conferences.

Additional highlights of the facility include the Bollinger Digital Fabrication Lab, which offers 3D printing and poster printing services to aid academic, clinical, and research projects; the Anatomage Table, which allows for the virtual dissection and review of life-size virtual cadavers outside of clinical lab coursework; and a relaxation room, a vital space for stress relief to support students in high-stress medical education programs.

“The Holman Biotech Commons is a reflection of the Holmans’ commitment to the Penn Libraries and to supporting our biomedical community,” said Hannah Rutledge, the director of the Biotech Commons. “It’s an honor to work in such a welcoming, light-filled, and inspiring space that encourages innovation and collaboration among faculty, students, and our expert staff and librarians.”

“As problems grow in complexity, the need for diversity of thought and experience becomes more and more important,” said Wendy Holman. “Collaboration requires space to work together. My hope is that the Holman Biotech Commons helps to fill that need.”

Penn Medicine: $3.5 Million National Cancer Institute Grant to Improve Cervical Cancer Care in Botswana

(continued from page 1)

based patient navigation, that are best equipped to close gaps in the care continuum.

“We will test strategies that aim to shorten the gap from diagnosis to initiation of potentially life-saving treatments for all patients with cervical cancer,” Dr. Rendle said. “Our goal is to do so in the most cost-effective and efficient way, reducing burden on the health system.”

Since 2001, Penn has worked through the Botswana-UPenn Partnership (BUP) to improve health in Botswana. What began as a response to the burgeoning HIV/AIDS crisis has evolved into a wide-ranging health initiative focusing significantly on oncology over the last decade with support from Penn’s department of radiation oncology and Center for Global Health. BUP works closely with Botswana’s Ministry of Health & Wellness, the University of Botswana, and other partners to care for patients, and develop initiatives advancing cancer education, research, and capacity.

The team hopes that the study’s findings could ultimately be applied to care strategies for other cancer, in Botswana and in other countries facing similar barriers. “This project is reflective of Penn Medicine’s commitment to ensuring patients around the globe receive high-quality cancer care,” Dr. Rendle said. “By collaborating with and learning from leaders in Botswana and other countries, we aim to implement clinical solutions that are sustainable over time and directly responsive to the needs and priorities of our global partners.”
Deaths

Joseph Bienstock, Penn Dental
Joseph Solomon Bienstock, D’52, GD’54, a former clinical assistant professor of oral surgery in Penn’s School of Dental Medicine, died on July 17. He was 95.

Raised in Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Bienstock attended the Citadel, a military college in South Carolina, and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. In 1952, he received his DDS from Penn’s School of Dental Medicine, and completed a residency there two years later. He then became board certified in oral and maxillofacial surgery, practicing in New York City and then Philadelphia for several decades. Dr. Bienstock became a well-known oral and maxillofacial surgeon during tenures at Rolling Hill Hospital, Einstein Hospital Northern Division, and Kensington and Olney Hospitals. At multiple of these hospitals, he rose to the rank of chief of oral surgery. He served as a clinical assistant professor of oral surgery at Penn and as a clinical associate professor in the department of oral surgery at Temple University School of Dentistry. He helped develop maxillofacial capacities in the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, including as an oral surgeon chair of the dental division of the Allied Jewish Appeal. He served as the president of the Eastern Dental Society, the Philadelphia Society of Exodontists and Oral Surgeons, and the Greater Northeast Dental Society.

Outside of dentistry, Dr. Bienstock took pride in being a philanthropist, establishing scholarships at the Citadel and at Penn Dental and donating to the Chabad of Clearwater, Florida. Dr. Bienstock served his community in numerous ways throughout his life, providing weekly pro bono dental care to community members in need and serving on numerous professional boards and committees. Dr. Bienstock enjoyed travelling the world with his wife, Phyllis (who predeceased him), reading, dancing, staying current with world events, technology, and medical advances, and eating a good steak.

Dr. Bienstock is survived by his daughter, Michele Levin (Robert Marrazzo); his grand-children, Daniel Levin (Arielle), Laura Levin Schumacher (Christopher), and Sarah Levin.

Audrey Evans, CHOP
Audrey E. Evans, an emerita professor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania, the first chief of the division of oncology at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), and the co-founder of Ronald McDonald House Charities in Philadelphia, died on September 29. She was 97.

Born in York, England, Dr. Evans received her medical degree from the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh in Scotland in 1953, the only woman in the program that year. She came to the U.S. on a Fulbright Scholarship, and began training in pediatrics at Boston Children’s Hospital. After short stints there and at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, she briefly returned to the Royal Infirmary Teaching Hospital in the U.K., but after encountering sexism in the workplace, she returned to the U.S., where she was recruited to the University of Chicago as a pediatric oncologist in 1964. There, she began to hone in on what would become her life’s work, improving the lives of children with cancer from a caregiving perspective.

In 1969, future United States Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, then surgeon-in-chief at CHOP, recruited Dr. Evans to become CHOP’s first chief of oncology (as well as an associate professor of pediatrics; she advanced to full professor in 1972). She remained there until retiring in 2009, and became a renowned figure in the world of childhood cancer during her career at CHOP. In 1971 she developed the Evans Staging System, a protocol for assessing patients with neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer that involves nerve cell. The system helps determine which children need aggressive treatments and which can be aided with less invasive methods. The Evans Staging System was used for decades, and during Dr. Evans’ tenure at CHOP, the mortality rate for children with neuroblastoma dropped by 50 percent, according to some accounts. Dr. Evans recruited individuals in these fields well before many people had even heard of the disease. She advocated for a “total care” approach to cancer treatment, ensuring that patients’ social and familial needs were an integral part of CHOP’s program.

In 1974, Dr. Evans cofounded, with Philadelphia Eagles general manager Jimmy Murray, the first Ronald McDonald House, located on Spruce Street in Philadelphia. Named because several Philadelphia-area franchises of fast food chain McDonalds had largely funded the house using proceeds from Shamrock Shakes, the house offered a home away from home for families with a child afflicted by a serious disease requiring hospitalization. The house became a model for more than 375 other Ronald McDonald Houses in 45 countries and 689 RMHC-affiliated programs in 66 countries. “A family with a sick child is a sick family,” Dr. Evans said. “So you must think about everybody—the siblings, the mother, the father, maybe grandmother. You must remember that they’re part of a group.”

Dr. Evans retired from her leadership positions at Penn in 1989, but continued to work on neuroblastoma in the lab for another decade, retiring from teaching and taking emeritus status in 2001. In her retirement, she helped found the St. James School in Philadelphia in 2011, which seeks to make a difference in Philadelphia’s Strawberry Mansion neighborhood. She was widely honored over the course of her life: In 1994, she was listed in the book The Best Doctors in America, and she received the 1995 Distinguished Career Award from the American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and the 1997 William Osler Patient Oriented Research Award from Penn. She was elected an honorary member of the American Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology in 2008 (Almanac November 22, 2008), and in 2017, the International Society of Pediatric Oncology gave her its Lifetime Achievement Award. She was also elected an honorary fellow of her alma mater, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. The film Audrey’s Children, which has recently begun filming, is inspired by Dr. Evans’ life. Written by Julia Fisher Farbman, it will feature Natalie Dormer in the title role.

“When I would go on walks with her,” Ms. Farbman told The New York Times, “she would literally stop and smell the roses, cuddle strangers’ babies, hand out dog treats (which she always carried in her purse despite not having a dog), and she’d strike a conversation with anyone who seemed like they were having a bad day. If you asked her why, she would say, ‘We just made that person’s day a little better—that wasn’t so hard now, was it?’”

“The world has lost a true giant in medicine, a Renaissance woman, a mentor, and a role model for many,” said a tribute in Pediatric Research penned by her colleagues Ma Coppe and John Maris. “We all have become better people, better physicans, better researchers because of her many contributions, passion for perfection, and compassion for all around her.”

Outside of her professional duties, Dr. Evans was an accomplished equestrian and an aficionado of scuba diving. Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Philadelphia region and St. James School will co-host a public memorial for Dr. Evans at a date yet to be determined.

Irvin Hurwitz, Development
Irvin (Irv) Hurwitz, C’81, the former director of development at Penn, died on June 28. Mr. Hurwitz attended Penn as an undergraduate from 1977 to 1981, majoring in political science and sociology (and serving as a student on the University Council Committee for Recreation & Intercollegiate Athletics). Three years later, he graduated from Temple University’s Beasley School of Law with a JD. From the next few years, he worked as an attorney at Philadelphia-area law firms McBride & Murphy and Cutler, Kraut & Harris before rejoining Penn in 1988 as the associate director of development. He remained at Penn for over a decade, spearheading the Campaign for Penn from 1991 to 1995 and serving as director of regional major gifts until 1999. That year, the Perelman School of Medicine hired Mr. Hurwitz as its director of alumni development, position he held for three years. In 2002, he became the assistant dean for development and alumni affairs at Temple University School of Medicine. Afterwards, he held positions at the National Museum of American Jewish History, the University of Delaware, and consulting firm Schultz & Williams before becoming a freelance development consultant in 2021.

Mr. Hurwitz is survived by his wife, Janet (nee Leight); his children, Samuel (Kathryn) and Rachel Hurwitz; his mother, Anita (the late Alfred) Hurwitz; and his sister, Fran Hurwitz. Services and interment were private.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Abramson Cancer Center; Congregation Or Shalom; or a charity of the donor’s choice.

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ALMANAC November 22, 2022

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Robin Lisa Leidner, a former associate professor of sociology in the School of Arts and Sciences, died on September 23, 2022 of complications from breast cancer. She was 65.

Born and raised in Long Island, Dr. Leidner earned a BA in sociology from Harvard University in 1980, then acted in a feminist theater group in Providence, Rhode Island before entering graduate school. In 1983, she earned an MA, and five years later a PhD, also in sociology, from Northwestern University. In 1988, she joined Penn’s faculty as an assistant professor of sociology. She immediately became an engaged member of Penn’s feminist community, leading a seminar on Women, Work, and the Family: Contemporary Change for Penn’s 250th anniversary conference in 1990. During the 1990s and 2000s, she served on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, as well as several Penn-wide task forces and committees (like the Committee on Manufacturer Responsibility). In 1997, she engaged in a spirited debate among the faculty on whether faculty should be required to submit their course reading lists to the Penn Bookstore or allowed to submit them to independent bookstores near campus. (Almanac November 18, 1997). Dr. Leidner taught sociology of gender courses in the gender, sexuality, and women’s studies program in SAS in addition to her teaching in the department of sociology, where she also served as an undergraduate chair.

Dr. Leidner was a leading feminist scholar and a specialist on the sociology of work. Her book, Fast Food, Fast Talk: Service Work and the Routinization of Everyday Life, based on her doctoral research at Northwestern and at “Hamburger University” (a McDonald’s training program), showed how employers sought to alter the emotions of workers and clients. Exposing the scripts fast-food workers are compelled to follow while dealing with customers, she showed how workers were constrained by, and resisted, these efforts. The book has been cited over 2,500 times. Her research covered other topics as well. In 1992, Dr. Leidner received a University Research Foundation (URF) award for her project Parents’ Responses to Professional, Informal, and Institutionalized Advice on Childrearing. She published over 20 peer-reviewed journal articles about women’s workplace experience and fast food labor, and was awarded by the American Sociological Association, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and the U.S. Department of Education.

“Students often commented on her warm and supportive manner, praising the ways in which she would ask questions, probe their thinking, and suggest readings in ways which guided them to new intellectual paths,” wrote the sociology department in a tribute to Dr. Leidner. Former student Elizabeth Vaquera wrote, “Robin taught me so much about navigating academia with kindness and integrity.” Colleagues also noted her supportive demeanor. Daniel Aldana Cohen, a research affiliate at the Population Studies Center, wrote, “Robin was one of my kindest and most supportive colleagues while I was at Penn, and was admired by students and faculty alike.” Dr. Leidner appeared on Jeopardy for two nights in 1995, and sent quirky Groundhog Day cards to friends and family every year.

Dr. Leidner is survived by her mother, Marilyn Leidner; brother, Michael Leidner; sister-in-law, Beth Leidner; nephew, Destin Leidner; and her partner of 35 years, Sam Kaplan.

Alan Myers, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Alan Louis Myers, a professor emeritus of chemical and biomolecular engineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Science, died recently.

Dr. Myers earned a BS in chemical engineering from the University of Cincinnati in 1960 (which awarded him a Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1977), then a PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. After graduating in 1964, he was hired as an associate professor of chemical engineering at Penn. He remained at Penn for the next several decades. In 1969, Dr. Myers received a National Academy of Science appointment as a senior fellow at the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow as part of the Inter-Academy Exchange Program of the U.S. and U.S.S.R. Academies of Sciences; under the auspices of this program, he spent five months in Russia. In 1972, he was promoted to a full professor at Penn.

At Penn, Dr. Myers was an active faculty member, serving on the University Council and on several Faculty Senate committees, as well as ad-hoc University committees and working groups. In 1977, he was named chair of the department of chemical and biochemical engineering. He also served as a visiting professor at the Technical University of Graz, Austria, from 1975 to 1976. In 1983, he received Penn’s S. Reid Warren Award for Distinguished Teaching; 14 years later, he received the Institute Award for Excellence in Industrial Gases Technology from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. In his retirement from Penn, Dr. Myers served on the first executive committee of the Penn Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty (PASEF) in 2006. Dr. Myers was active in his field. He conducted prestigious research on the thermodynamics of surfaces, the interactions of unlike molecules absorbed in a solid surface, gas storage by adsorption in micropores, and adsorptive separation of mixtures. He co-wrote three books: Introduction to Chemical Engineering and Computer Calculations (1976, with W. Seider), Fundamentals of Adsorption (1984, with G. Belfort), and Adsorption Equilibrium Data Handbook (1989, with D. P. Valenzuela). In 1983, he co-founded the International Adsorption Society, a non-profit professional association dedicated to serving people, and organizations who seek to advance the art, science, and technology of adsorption and related subjects (Almanac July 13, 2010).

One Step Ahead

Security & Privacy

Made Simple

In the past two months, the Office of Information Security (OIS) saw an increased number of sophisticated phishing attacks targeting University faculty and staff. The attacks aim to lure the recipient to willingly give away their Penn WebLogin passwords and Two-Step Verification codes, allowing the attacker access to protected sensitive information. These methods include:

• Give away your Two-Step Verification code. A recipient may receive a text from someone asking for their Penn Two-Step Verification code. Once the recipient provides the code, the attacker can access the recipient’s accounts.
• The recipient may receive a link in a text or an email message to a web page that mimics a Penn WebLogin page. The fake webpage requires the recipient to enter his/her username, password, and the Two-Step Verification Code.

Take the following steps to protect Penn and your sensitive information:

• Install the Duo Mobile app on your mobile device. Using the Duo Mobile app provides an easy method of verification to access protected pages.
• Never share your Two-Step Verification codes in text messages with others.
• Use a password manager to create a strong, unique password for each of your accounts.
• Pay attention to the FROM email field. Hover over the FROM email field to verify the sender. Report the email to your IT support staff if the FROM field is not coming from a Penn email address or an address you know.
• To protect your data from a potential ransomware attack, consult with your School/Center IT staff on where to create a backup for Penn’s sensitive data.
• Hover over any links embedded in email before you click to verify the legitimacy of the link. If in doubt, consult with your IT support staff or the Office of Information Security at phishing@isc.upenn.edu.

For additional tips, see the One Step Ahead link on the Information Security website: https://www.isc.upenn.edu/security/news-alerts/One-Step-Ahead.
Penn Predoctoral Fellowships for Excellence Through Diversity

The University of Pennsylvania is pleased to invite applications for the 2023-2024 Predoctoral Fellowships for Excellence through Diversity. These awards are designed to provide mentorship and access to Penn’s resources for doctoral students in the humanities or social sciences, enrolled in graduate or professional programs at universities other than Penn, as they complete their dissertations. The fellowships are intended to support scholars from a wide range of backgrounds who can contribute to the diversity of Penn and the higher education community.

These residential fellowships for an academic year support graduate students in the final stages of dissertation research or writing. They offer an opportunity for scholars who plan an academic career to take advantage of Penn programs, libraries, and faculty expertise, as well as the resources of the Philadelphia region. Each scholar will be selected and hosted by a department or school and assigned a faculty mentor.

The fellowship provides a stipend of $41,000, health insurance, library privileges, and a $5,000 research and travel fund. The application deadline is January 17, 2023.

This year, up to five fellowships will be awarded

Qualification

Candidates for the fellowship must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, enrolled in a PhD program in the humanities or social sciences at an accredited university graduate or professional school other than Penn. Candidates must have passed any PhD qualifying examinations and be in an advanced stage of research and writing on an approved dissertation topic. Candidates must be students of exceptional academic merit who also belong to a group underrepresented in higher education; come from a socially, culturally, or educationally disadvantaged background or have faced other significant personal obstacles; and/or pursue academic research on cultural, societal, or educational problems as they affect disadvantaged or underrepresented sectors of society.

Application

Applicants should submit:

• A letter from a Penn faculty member with compatible research interests whom you have contacted and who has agreed to act as a mentor for the duration of the fellowship.
• Two letters of recommendation, signed and on official letterhead. One must come from the dissertation advisor, commenting on the student’s performance, potential, and expected time to degree. At least one of the letters must address the applicant’s contribution to diversity in higher education.
• Official graduate transcript(s)
• Current curriculum vitae.
• Responses to application questions in Interfolio:
  • Describe your dissertation’s aims and methodology (maximum 500 words).
  • Explain how your dissertation contributes to the field (maximum 250 words)
  • Explain how your dissertation contributes to understandings of diversity and inclusion (maximum 250 words).
  • Describe your future research and professional goals (maximum 250 words).
  • Explain how the Penn fellowship will support your goals (maximum 250 words).
  • Indicate your expected date of graduation (month and year).

Applications will be accepted at: https://apply.interfolio.com/117464. Questions can be addressed to the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty at: provost-fac@upenn.edu.

Dipti Pitta: Mark Whittier and Lila Griswold Allam Associate Professor at Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine

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of clinical studies at New Bolton Center. “Her collaborations have greatly increased the depth of the investigations of our clinical faculty, and she is an exemplar of what a tenure-track faculty member can contribute to a clinical department.”

Dr. Pitta earned her veterinary bachelors and masters degrees in India and received her PhD from Massey University in New Zealand. Following post-doctoral fellowships in New Zealand and at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center, Dr. Pitta joined Penn Vet’s faculty as an assistant professor in 2011. She was promoted to associate professor in 2021.

“The awarding of a named, endowed professorship is the highest honor bestowed upon a faculty member at Penn and reflects excellence in scholarly achievement,” said Dr. Hoffman. “Dr. Pitta embodies a commitment to scientific discovery, global engagement, mentorship, and service that is truly deserving of this honor.”

Penn Bookstore's Annual Sale-a-Bration

Penn Bookstore has announced the dates for its annual Winter Sale-a-Bration on Wednesday, December 7 and Thursday, December 8 from 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Take advantage of a special 20% off discount storewide,* all while enjoying seasonal festivities. Stop in one or both days for seasonal performances by the Penn Glee Club, free professional photos at the winter-themed photobooth (props provided), and hot chocolate and cookies. Find something special for everyone on your holiday shopping list at this fun and festive event. Follow Penn Bookstore on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter for more details as the sale approaches.

*In store only. Cannot be combined with other offers. Not valid for the purchase of gift cards, textbooks, electronics, and specialty items. Other restrictions may apply.

SHOP PENN Days of Deals: December 1-12

’Tis the Season to eat, shop and be merry! SHOP PENN Days of Deals are being held December 1-12 and features 12 days of sales and giveaways from our collection of eclectic stores and restaurants around campus in celebration of the season. Watch for special events, discounts, and contest giveaways, or check out the SHOP PENN Gift Guide to find the perfect present to purchase locally for the holidays.

Follow SHOP PENN on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter (@shopsatpenn) for more details and a chance to win gift cards to retail locations throughout the week. Visit https://www.shopsatpenn.com for more information.

XPN Policy Board Meeting

An Open Session of the XPN Policy Board will take place on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at noon at WXPN. For more information, contact tess@xpn.org.
December AT PENN

Notice: Event locations are subject to change. Always check the event website before attending.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR
12 Last day of classes.
13 Reading days. Through December 14.
15 Final examinations. Through December 22.
22 Fall term ends.

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES
27 Penn Museum Winter Break; recharge with in-person family time at the Penn Museum, featuring free gallery tours, story times, arts and crafts, and other activities; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Penn Museum; free with admission; info: https://www.penn.museum/calendar/1392/winter-break (Penn Museum). Through December 30.

Morris Arboretum
In-person events at Morris Arboretum unless noted. Info: https://www.morrisarboretum.org/.
1 Holiday Garden Railway; visitors of all ages will be wowed by a quarter mile of track featuring loops, tunnels, bridges, cable cars, and bustling model trains, all set in the lovely winter garden of the Morris Arboretum; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Through December 30.

Holiday Garden Railway: Nighttime Express; a special ticketed event where visitors can experience the illuminated magic of the Holiday Garden Railway during wintery nights; 4:30-8 p.m. Through December 30.

CONFERENCES
3 Penn Vet Shelter Medicine Symposium; aims to provide continuing education while facilitating connections among animal shelter leadership, staff, volunteers, and veterinarians in the Philadelphia shelter community; 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Hill Pavilion; register: https://tinyurl.com/vet-conf-dec-3 (Penn Vet). Also December 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

EXHIBITS
Museums Near Campus
For up-to-date information about, exhibits, prices, hours and COVID-19 restrictions for several museums on and near Penn’s campus, visit these websites.
Arthur Ross Gallery: http://www.arthurrossgallery.org/visit/schedule-your-visit/.
Brodsky Gallery: http://writing.upenn.edu/wb/involved/series/brodskygallery/.
Meyerson Hall: https://tinyurl.com/y27c5dyt.
Morris Arboretum: http://www.morrisarboretum.org/visit_hours.shtml.

Penn Museum: https://www.penn.museum/visit/plan-your-visit.
Quorum: https://sciencecenter.org/discover/quorum.
Slought: https://slought.org/.
Van Pelt Library: https://www.library.upenn.edu/about/hours/vp.
Wistar Institute: https://wistar.org/.

Now
Arthur Tress and the Japanese Illustrated Book; displaying a selection of Japanese books from the Arthur Tress collection along with his own photography, this exhibition engages Mr. Tress’s practices as both artist and collector, juxtaposing the two media to present moments of unexpected visual poetry that resonate across age and time; Goldstein Gallery, sixth floor; https://www.library.upenn.edu/about/hours/vp.

Through December 18.
Sissel Tolaas: RE_________; the largest presentation to date of Norwegian-born artist Sissel Tolaas’s work, which has been devoted to the olfactory rather than the visual or auditory; all the works on display are site-specific, developed or reworked especially for this exhibition; Institute of Contemporary Art. Through December 30.
Book. Data. File.; explores digitized books and resources and answers the question of what it takes to make digital objects useful for research; pushes the boundaries of data-driven research and resources and answers the question of what it takes to make digital objects useful for research; pushes the boundaries of data-driven research and resources; Kamin Gallery, first floor; Van Pelt Library. Through March 7, 2023.
Excluded/Inclusion: The Work of Chen Lok Lee; 18 prints, watercolors, and lithographs show the journey of Chen Lok Lee, a political refugee who swam to Hong Kong to escape Chinese political persecution; shows the human spirit of determination, personal agency, and the power of choice to survive; Arts Lounge, Annenberg Center. Through May 31, 2023.

Upcoming
Penn Museum
In-person events at Penn Museum. Info: https://www.penn.museum/calendar.
2 Global Guide Tour; 2:30 p.m. Also December 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 30.
3 Rome Gallery Tour; 11 a.m. Also December 18.
4 Eastern Mediterranean Gallery Tour; 2 p.m. Also December 4, 10, 11, 17, 18.
5 Middle East Galleries Tour; 11 a.m.
10 Highlights of the Penn Museum Tour; 11 a.m.

FILMS
7 Scene Not Heard: Women in Philadelphia Hip-Hop and Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes; a film tells the story of women hip-hop artists from Philadelphia as they struggle to succeed in a male-dominated industry, followed by a critical look at masculinity in hip-hop culture; 7:30 p.m.; Bruce Montgomery Theater, Annenberg Center; tickets: https://tinyurl.com/pla-film-dec-7 (Penn Live Arts).
8 Freestyle: The Art of Rhyme; chronicles the underground hip-hop culture of improvisational rap in the ‘80s and ‘90s, packed with rare, archival footage of some of the best MCs in history; 7:30 p.m.; Bruce Montgomery Theater, Annenberg Center; tickets: https://pennlivearts.org/event/freestyle-the-art-of-rhyme (Penn Live Arts).

New Italian Cinema, 2022 Edition

11 Egypt Galleries Tour; 11 a.m. Also December 17.

Ongoing Special Exhibits
Artwork from the “I Am” Collective; various artists from the “I Am” Collective, a storytelling initiative showcasing the diversity of social identities that exist within Penn, finish the sentence “I am...”, creating a blend of ink, paint, words, passion, and power; Brodsky Gallery.

Ancient Egypt: From Discovery to Display; provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to walk in the shoes of an archaeologist; includes more than 200 fascinating objects, many of which have never been on view before, throughout a three-part, 6,000-square-foot exhibition; Penn Museum. Eastern Mediterranean Gallery; contains 400 artifacts from the Eastern Mediterranean, which has been a crossroads of cultural exchange between diverse peoples, where merchants, migrants, and soldiers met to raise monuments to kings and gods, sail ships across the vast Mediterranean Sea, and share ideas in unexpected ways; Penn Museum.

U-2 Spy Planes & Aerial Archaeology; offers a look at the United States military’s top-secret aerial reconnaissance during the 1950s and 1960s, the key geographic features and lost landscapes they captured accidentally, and the role of “aerial archaeology,” using large-scale printed images and a small selection of objects from the Penn collection; West Merle-Smith Gallery, Penn Museum.

FITNESS & LEARNING
1 RealArts@Penn Internships: Info Session; learn how to launch a career in media with RealArts@Penn, which offers paid summer internships in publishing, TV and film, journalism, public relations, talent management, music, theater, and museums; noon; Arts Café, Kelly Writers House, and YouTube Livestream; register: https://forms.gle/DBmTykvpnDacmWw29 (RealArts@Penn).
Penn Home Ownership Services Webinar: Home Buying 101; an overview of the entire homebuying process; 1 p.m.; registration required: https://homeownership.business-services.upenn.edu/register-phos-webinar (Business Services).

Jewelry, Gems, and the Penn Museum; join a trained gemologist to look closely at the history of stunningly crafted jewelry and gems on display at the Penn Museum, then design and create your own jewelry keepsake; 6-8 p.m.; Penn Museum; tickets: $40/adult, $30/member; register: https://tinyurl.com/museum-gems-jewelry (Penn Museum).

Chinese Queer Women’s Group: Mandarin-speaking group open to Chinese queer women who identify as cisgender women, transgender women, non-binary, and questioning; 4 p.m.; lounge, LGBT Center; info: yupuwang@alumni.upenn.edu (LGBT Center). Also December 17.

Penn Nursing & Project Knitwvell - Fixing Common Mistakes in Knitting; knitting group that will discuss what common mistakes may occur for beginners and advanced knitters; 7 p.m.; online webinar; register: https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/details/forms.php?id=171 (Penn Nursing, Project Knitwvell).

Working Dog Center Tour; watch as the Working Dog Center staff explains the step-by-step process to preparing a dog to serve as in explosive detection, search & rescue, cancer detection, and more; 2 p.m.; Penn Working Dog Center; RSVP: pvwdcoutreach@vet.upenn.edu (Penn Vet).

Netter Center for Community Partnerships; will give the tools needed to manage nonprofit or faith-based organizations more efficiently, and will feature workshops by local experts in the field of nonprofit management; 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Netter Center for Community Partnerships; register: sammapp@gobox.upenn.edu (Netter Center).

Caregiving Now! Alexandra Drake, ARCH-ANGELS; an initiative designed to address the immediate need to improve caregiving in the U.S.; noon; Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/drane-workshop-dec-14 (Penn Nursing).

African American Resource Center Locations TBA. Info: https://aarc.upenn.edu/events.

Men of Color (Monthly Huddle Meeting); 1 p.m.

Women of Color at Penn Noontime Lunch Series; noon.

Community Lunch Program: Open Forum with African American Resource Center and Penn Women’s Center; noon.

College of Liberal & Professional Studies Info: www.upenn.edu/lps-events.

Master of Liberal Arts Virtual Information Session; noon.

Master of Science in Applied Geosciences Virtual Café; noon.

Master of Environmental Studies Virtual Café; noon.

Fels Institute of Government Virtual Information Session; 9:30 a.m.

Master of Chemical Sciences Virtual Information Session; 5 p.m.

Pre-Health Post-Baccalaureate Programs Virtual Information Session; 5 p.m.

Brazilian Samba (above) is one of several music ensembles of the School of Arts and Sciences’ music department who will perform their fall concerts in December, representing a variety of styles, genres, and national origins. See Music.

Graduate School of Education Online events unless noted. Info: https://www.gse.upenn.edu/news/events-calendar.

1 International Trip Leader Training; 9 a.m.; World Forum, Perry World House.

2 First Friday Virtual Info Sessions: International Educational Development Program; 9 a.m.

6 Executive Doctorate in Higher Education Management Program Information Session; 6 p.m.; Penn GSE Virtual Information Session: Malay; 6 p.m.; Virtual Information Session: Global Higher Education Management (Online) MSEd; 7 p.m.

Penn Libraries In-person events unless noted. Info: https://www.library.upenn.edu/events.

Research Data and Digital Scholarship; workshops all month covering scholarship and coding topics; full schedule: https://bit.ly/rdsdssfall22.

1 Board Games; 5:30-8 p.m.; Weigle Information Commons, Van Pelt Library. Thursdays.

2 Holiday Card Printing; noon-3 p.m.; Common Press, Fisher Fine Arts Library.

6 Coffee With a Codex; noon; Zoom webinar with Dot Poter, Kislak Center. Tuesdays at noon.

8 Stitch ‘n’ B!’&; 5:15-7:15 p.m.; Education Commons, Van Pelt Library.

14 Cozy Study Session; 6-8 p.m.; Education Commons, Van Pelt Library.

15 Make Your Own Holiday Gift; 3-5 p.m.; Education Commons, Van Pelt Library.

School of Social Policy & Practice Online events unless noted. Info: https://www.sp2.upenn.edu/sp2-events.

1 Master’s Online Information Session; 11 a.m.; Also December 7, 5 p.m.; Financial Wellness Peer Counseling; 1-3 p.m.; Also December 8, 15.

6 DSW Online Information Session; noon. Also December 19, 6 p.m.

13 MS in Nonprofit Leadership Online Information Session; 1 p.m.

Penn Arboretum In-person events at Morris Arboretum unless noted. Info: https://www.morrisarboretum.org/.

1 SCRAAATCH; performance by duo E. Jane and Chukwumaa, who create multimedia performance works, experimental music, and hybrid DJ sets; 6 p.m.; Institute of Contemporary Art; register: https://tinyurl.com/scraaatch-in-person; Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/sca-weitzman-lectures (Fine Arts, ICA).
6 Wadada Leo Smith; the prolific string quartet composer with a fifty-year body of work will play excerpts and show sections from scores that illustrate what the “sonic-field” looks and sounds like; 5:15 p.m.; room 101, Lerner Building, and Zoom livestream; join: https://tinyurl.com/smith-performance-dec-6 (Music).

11 The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass: A Very Brassy Christmas; brass ensemble that brings together top musicians from across the country will ring in the season with Christmas classics, including arrangements from Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker and Handel’s Messiah; 7 p.m.; Zellerbach Theater, Annenberg Center; tickets: https://pennlivearts.org/event/rodney-marsalis-phila-big-brass (Penn Live Arts).

Music Department Fall Concerts
In-person fall concerts by Penn music ensembles. Info: https://music.sas.upenn.edu/events.

3 Penn Flutes at the Museum; 1 p.m.; 3rd floor Rotunda, Penn Museum; Penn Chorale; 7 p.m.; St. Mary’s Church, 3916 Locust Walk.

4 Music in the Stacks: Penn Flutes Holiday Concert; 4 p.m.; main lobby, Van Pelt Library.

5 Penn Collegium Musicum; 7:30 p.m.; St. Mary’s Church, 3916 Locust Walk.

7 Penn Sound Collective; 7:30 p.m.; room 419, Fisher-Bennett Hall.

8 Penn Arab Music Ensemble; 8 p.m.; Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall.

9 Penn Chamber; 7 p.m.; room 419, Fisher-Bennett Hall.

10 Penn Symphony Orchestra: Sibelius Symphony No. 2; 8 p.m.; Irvine Auditorium.

12 Penn Samba; 7 p.m.; Hall of Flags, Houston Hall.

ON STAGE

8 In Between; an award-winning, semi-autobiographical one-man show written and performed by Ibrahim Miari that portrays the complexities and contradictions inherent in Palestinian-Israeli identity; 7 p.m.; Penn Museum; tickets: $20/adult; $15/member; $15/student; register: https://www.penn.museum/calendar/1388/in-between (Penn Museum). Also December 11, 2 p.m.

9 Rennie Harris Puremovement: Rome & Jewels; a complete re-mounting of one of celebrated choreographer Rennie Harris’s most celebrated works, which challenges preconceived notions of Shakespeare with a hip hop journey through the streets of Philadelphia; 8 p.m.; Zellerbach Theater, Annenberg Center; tickets: https://pennlivearts.org/event/rennie-harris-puremovement-1102 (Penn Live Arts). Also December 10, 2 and 8 p.m.

16 Classic Nutcracker: Rock Dance; a treat for the whole family, ushering in the spirit of the season as it brings Clara’s story to life, featuring choreography by Peter Stark, Rock School; 7 p.m.; Zellerbach Theater, Annenberg Center; tickets: https://pennlivearts.org/event/the-rock-companys-classic-nutcracker (Penn Live Arts). Also December 17, 1 and 6 p.m.; December 18, 1 p.m.

READINGS & SIGNINGS

2 China’s Next Act: How Sustainability and Technology are Reshaping China’s Rise and the World’s Future; Scott Moore, Penn Global; 12:30 p.m.; room 418, PCPSE (Center for the Study of Contemporary China).

5 Abolish the Family: A Manifesto for Care and Liberation; Sophie Lewis, Brooklyn Institute for Social Research; 3:30 p.m.; room 345, Fisher-Bennett Hall (Gender, Sexuality & Women’s Studies).

6 Joan is Okay; Weike Wang, author; 1:45 p.m.; room 419, Fisher-Bennett Hall; register: https://tinyurl.com/wang-reading-dec-6 (Asian American Studies).

7 Advanced Witnessing: A Reading By Syd Zolf’s Students; an unforgettable reading by the students in ENGL3105, Advanced Poetry, and ENGL3501, Writing & Witnessing; 5:30 p.m.; Arts Café, Kelly Writers House, and YouTube livestream; join: https://youtu.be/wo27IJvwayw (Kelly Writers House).

9 Making Scientific Lives; Arthur Wang, Annenberg School; 5 p.m.; room 330, Fisher-Bennett Hall; info: jondick@sas.upenn.edu or elombard@jondick@sas.upenn.edu (English).

Curious Minds: The Power of Connection; Dan Bassett, physics & astronomy; Perry Zurn, American University; includes discussion and signing; 5:30 p.m.; Penn Bookstore (Penn Bookstore).

SPECIAL EVENTS

1 SHOP PENN Days of Deals; special events, discounts, contest giveaways, and experiences; info: shopsatpenn.com (SHOP PENN). Through December 12.

7 Penn Bookstore Sale-A-Bration; take advantage of a 20% off discount storewide while enjoying a seasonal performance by the Penn Glee Club, hot chocolate and cookies, and a photo booth; 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Penn Bookstore (Business Services).

12 Penn Nursing December Graduate Recognition Ceremony; 10 a.m.; Irvine Auditorium (Penn Nursing).

SPORTS

Home games only. Info and tickets: https://pen-sports.com/

1 Women’s Basketball vs. Stony Brook; 7 p.m.; the Palestra.

3 Men’s Squash vs. Rochester; 1 p.m.; Penn Squash Center.

Men’s Basketball vs. La Salle; 2 p.m.; the Palestra.

Men’s Squash vs. Haverford; 4 p.m.; Penn Squash Center.

4 Men’s Squash vs. Chatham; 11 a.m.; Penn Squash Center.

6 Women’s Basketball vs. Bucknell; 7 p.m.; the Palestra.

8 Women’s Basketball vs. St. Francis Brooklyn; 7 p.m.; the Palestra.

9 Wrestling vs. Army; 7 p.m.; the Palestra.

10 Men’s Basketball vs. Temple; 1 p.m.; the Palestra.

11 Women’s Basketball vs. Temple; noon; the Palestra.

28 Men’s Basketball vs. Wilkes; 2 p.m.; the Palestra.

30 Women’s Basketball vs. Gwynedd Mercy; 2 p.m.; the Palestra.

TALKS

1 Documentary of Abandonment: Reportage, Art, and Photography as Intermedia in Early South Korea; Jae Won Chung, Rutgers University, New Brunswick; noon; room 623, Williams Hall (Korean Studies).

The History & Future of The Indian Child Welfare Act: Implications for Tribal Sovereignty and Native Family Preservation; panel of speakers; 2 p.m.; online webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/carey-law-talk-dec-2 (Carey Law School).

Coordination of Cell Fate Specification and Morphogenesis in Early Trachea Development; Jeffrey Bush, University of California, San Francisco; 4 p.m.; 4 p.m.; room 11-146, Smilow Center (Penn-CHOP Lung Biology Series).

Using Large-Scale Comparative-Omic Analyses to Uncover Functional Elements in Plant Genomes; Andrew Nelson, Boyce Thompson Institute; 4 p.m.; auditorium, Claire Fagin Hall, and Zoom webinar; join: https://www.bio.upenn.edu/events/seminars/zoom (Biology).

China’s Technology Engagement With the World, On the Brink of Decoupling?; Paul Triolo, Albright Stonebridge Group; 4:30 p.m.; room 418, PCPSE (Center for the Study of Contemporary China).

Perseus and Medusa at Eleusis (Between Athens and Argos); Jeremy McInerney, classical studies; 4:45 p.m.; room 402, Cohen Hall (Classical Studies).

Fels Racial Equity & Social Justice Speaker Conversation Series; Isaiah Thomas, Philadelphia City Council; 6 p.m.; location TBA; register: https://www.fels.upenn.edu/events/isaiah-thomas (Fels Institute of Government).

2 Fútbol, Futebol, and Nation: Identity, Class, and Gender in Latin America’s Most Popular Sport; Brenda Elsey, Hofstra University; noon;
Knowledge professor; noon; room 307, Levine Hall (Computer & Information Science).

How is Sexual Violence Against Women Covered by the Press?: Media Ethics and Deontological Approach in the Spanish Context; María Sánchez-Ramos, gender, sexuality & women's studies; noon; room 345, Fisher-Bennett Hall, and Zoom webinar; info: https://gsws.sas.upenn.edu/events/ (GSWS).

Phage Therapy to Combat Infections by Antibiotic-Resistant Bacterial Pathogens; Paul Turner, Yale University; noon; Austrian Auditorium, CRM, and BlueJeans webinar; join: https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/sxqybyh (Microbiology).

Flexible Protein Networks in Membrane Biology and Medicine; Jeanne Stachowiak, University of Texas at Austin; 3:30 p.m.; Wu & Chen Auditorium, Levine Hall (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering).

How Behavioral and Evolutionary Constraints Sculpt Early Visual Processing; Stephanie Palmer, University of Chicago; 3:30 p.m.; room A8, DRL (Physics & Astronomy).

Becoming an UNESCO World Heritage Site; C. Brian Rose, classical studies; 6 p.m.; Penn Museum and online webinar; tickets: $15/general, $10/member, $5/virtual; register: https://tinyurl.com/rose-talk-dec-7 (Penn Museum).

The Relative Weights of Income & Substitution Effects in Insurance; Claudio Lucarelli, Wharton School; noon; room 1104, Blockley Hall, and Zoom webinar; join: https://upenn.zoom.us/j/95353951407 (Deans' Distinguished Visiting Professorship Seminar).

How Memory Guides Value-Based Decisions; Daphna Shohamy, Columbia University; 3:30 p.m.; Glandt Forum, Singh Center for Nanotechnology (Bioengineering).

Fels Public Policy in Practice Speaker Series; Joseph Westphal, former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia; 6 p.m.; Zoom webinar; register: https://www.fels.upenn.edu/events/ppp-speaker-series-westphal (Fels Institute of Government).

ICA and Stuart Weitzman School of Design Lecture Series; Na Mira, artist; 6 p.m.; ICA; register: https://tinyurl.com/na-mira-dec-8; Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/icaweitzman-lectures (ICA).

Monkeypox: Epidemiology, Clinical Recognition and Management; David Pegues, HUP; 7 a.m.; online webinar; registration: $25; register: https://tinyurl.com/pegues-talk-dec-9 (Penn Dental).

The Card Index of Leo Olschki and the Card Catalog System in Early 20th Century Central Europe; Federico Botana, Schoenborn Institute of Manuscript Studies; noon; online webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/botana-talk-dec-2 (Leonard Davis Institute).

The Causal Impact of Poverty Reduction on Infant Brain Activity and Family Processes; Greg Duncan, University of California, Irvine; 12:30 p.m.; Class of 1978 Orrey Pavilion, Van Pelt Library, and Zoom webinar; info: https://tinyurl.com/thirston-talk-dec-6 (Penn Vet).

AI and Medicine: One Possible Future for Augmented Care; Kevin Johnson, Penn Integrates

Circumventing Autophagy Inhibition in Cancer; Christina Towers, Salk Institute for Biological Studies; 2 p.m.; Austrian Auditorium, CRB, and Zoom webinar; join: https://pennmedicine.zoom.us/j/99219477102 (Pennsylvania Muscle Institute).

Identiﬁcation and Characterization of Archaeal Cell Shape Determinants; Heather Schiller, biology; 4 p.m.; room 209, Johnson Pavilion, and BlueJeans meeting; join: https://bluejeans.com/711965291409/081153475367 (Microbiology).

The Other Disabled President: JFK, Low Back Pain & the Posture Sciences in Cold War America; Beth Linker, history & sociology of science; 5 p.m.; 1st floor conference room, Penn Medicine Rittenhouse, 1800 Lombard Street, and Microsoft Teams webinar; join: https://tinyurl.com/linker-talk-dec-20 (Deans' Distinguished Visiting Professorship Seminar).

Economics
In-person events. Info: https://economics.sas.upenn.edu/events.

5 The Heterogeneous Effects of Changing SAT Requirements in Admissions: An Equilibrium Evaluation; Emilio Ortega Lyonnais, economics; noon; room 225, PCPSE.

6 What Explains the Decline of Local News Coverage? Evidence from U.S. Newspapers; Lucie L’Heude, economics; noon; room 200, PCPSE.

Monotone Additive Statistics; Xiaosheng Mu, Princeton University; 4 p.m.; room 101, PCPSE.

Medical Ethics & Health Policy
In-person events. Info: https://medicalethicsandhealthpolicy.med.upenn.edu/events.

5 Ethics and Medical Device Regulation: Balancing Safety and Innovation; Rita Redberg, University of California, San Francisco; noon; room 506, Jordan Medical Education Center.

6 Ethical Issues That Arise in the Ambulatory Medicine Setting; Marina Di Bartolo and Niharika Sarate, Rowan University; noon; room 1402, Blockley Hall.

8 The Ethics of Transplanting Organs from Donors with HIV or Hepatitis C Infection; Jeremy Sugarman, medical ethics & health policy; Peter Reese, Johns Hopkins University; 4:30 p.m.; auditorium, Jordan Medical Education Center.

13 Interrogating Choice in Disability Law and Bioethics; Jasmine Harris, Carey Law School; noon; room 1402, Blockley Hall.

Sociology
In-person events at room 367, McNeil Building. Info: https://sociology.sas.upenn.edu/events.

2 Linking Electronic Health Records and In-Depth Interviews to Uncover Barriers to Health and Well-Being Among Women in a Disadvantaged Coal-Mining Community; Jennifer Silva, Indiana University; noon.

5 Rural Rationality in the History of the U.S. Schooling: Evidence from Linked U.S. Censuses; Michael Lachanski, Population Studies Center; 10 a.m.

Michael E. Mann: Stroud Award for Freshwater Excellence

Michael E. Mann, one of the world’s leading voices on climate change, has been awarded the 2022 Stroud Award for Freshwater Excellence by the Stroud Water Research Center. The award was presented at the 20th annual the Water’s Edge gala at the Delaware Museum of Nature & Science.

Dr. Mann, Presidential Distinguished Professor of Earth and Environmental Science in the School of Arts and Sciences and director of the Penn Center for Science, Sustainability and the Media, also holds a secondary appointment in the Annenberg School for Communication. His research interests include the study of Earth’s climate system and the science, impacts, and policy implications of human-caused climate change. Dr. Mann was lead author on the observed Climate Variability and Change chapter of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Third Scientific Assessment Report in 2001, and was organizing committee chair for the National Academy of Sciences Frontiers of Science in 2003. He has received numerous honors and awards, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s outstanding publication award in 2002 and selection by Scientific American as one of the 50 leading visionaries in science and technology in 2002. In all, Dr. Mann has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed and edited publications, numerous op-eds and commentaries, and five books.

“Water is the primary medium through which we feel the impacts of climate change, and Michael Mann is a leading voice on climate change. His groundbreaking research and masterful science communication have given weight and shape to the conversations needed to initiate climate action,” said David Arscott, executive director of the Center for Science, Sustainability and the Media. The award was presented at the ASP Biennial Meeting, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The award, officially presented at the meeting, supports ASP associate members (students and postdocs) with travel expenses to present work as the first author of a study. Dr. Sourvanos was notified of his selection in August 2022, allowing him to travel to the meeting and present his research.

Penn Dental Medicine: Apple Distinguished School for 2022-2025

Penn Dental Medicine has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for 2022-2025—the second time receiving this designation for its innovative use of learning technologies, having also been an Apple Distinguished School for 2019-2022. Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of innovation, leadership, and educational excellence that use Apple technology to inspire creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. They showcase innovative uses of technology in learning, teaching, and the school environment and have documented results of academic accomplishment.

“This designation recognizes our school’s ongoing commitment to using innovation and technology to support and enhance teaching and learning,” said Penn Dental Medicine’s Morton Amsterdam Dean, Mark S. Wolff. “It was in 2014 that the school first established the Learning Technologies Team (LTT)—now the Center for Educational Technology and Innovation (CETI)—to support the incorporation of new learning technologies into the curriculum. Since then, the use of educational technology has only continued to grow and evolve.”

In 2015, Penn Dental Medicine rolled out its one-to-one iPad initiative, which provides each first-year DMD student with an iPad, along with the digital learning content and comprehensive support to use it as an educational tool. Now, the one-to-one iPad initiative has expanded to include all incoming students in the school’s PASS program, foreign-trained dentists who join the second-year DMD class each January to earn their DMD.

With iPads for everyone, we are optimizing the teaching and learning experience,” said Shia-Wei Wu, executive director of the Center for Educational Technology and Innovation. With support from the school’s information technology department, each iPad is distributed with relevant applications and settings pre-installed.

As the iPad has become a fixture in Penn Dental Medicine classrooms, faculty members have continued to adapt lecture materials to digital formats. To date, 97 Apple Books, or digital textbooks, have been developed with the support of the CETI, which are now primary classroom resources. They can be continually updated and offer a variety of high-tech features, including interactive components, HTML5 widgets, instructional videos, 3D renderings, online quizzes, and animation, that bring complex topics to life.

Along with supporting teaching and learning, the CETI has expanded into the development of instructional training resources for faculty and staff, producing Apple Books and online training modules.

Dennis Sourvanos: 2022 American Society for Photobiology Frederick Urbach Student Travel Award

Penn Dental Medicine postdoctoral student Dennis Sourvanos, GD’23, DScD’23, was awarded the 2022 American Society for Photobiology (ASP) Frederick Urbach Student Travel Award, enabling him to present his research at the ASP Biennial Meeting, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The award, officially presented at the meeting, supports ASP associate members (students and postdocs) with travel expenses to present work as the first author of a study.

“Being part of this renowned international scientific event for photobiology is a rare opportunity for a dental clinician-scientist as we strive to engage with multidisciplinary groups to enhance our research in dental medicine,” said Dr. Sourvanos.

At the ASP meeting, Dr. Sourvanos presented research on photobiomodulation treatment after dental surgery, with an emphasis on calculating dose and related mechanisms to induce tissue regeneration. He presented his study alongside an international group of photobiology research scientists during the “Photodynamic Treatments and Mechanisms” session.

Dr. Sourvanos, who is completing his postdoctoral training in periodontics along with a concurrent DScD degree, is a current fellow in the Center for Innovation and Precision Dentistry (CIPD)’s, NIDCR T90/R90 Postdoctoral Training Program. The CIPD is a collaborative center between Penn Dental and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

As an NIDCR T90/R90 fellow, Dr. Sourvanos is part of a multidisciplinary collaboration with mentorship by Timothy C. Zhu and Theresa M. Busch of the department of radiation oncology in the Smilow Center for Translational Research at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He is also mentored by Joseph P. Fiorellini and Rodrigo Neiva within the department of periodontics at Penn Dental Medicine and CIPD co-directors Michel Koo and Kathleen Stebe.

“I am very appreciative that the CIPD fellowship has helped recruit exceptional mentors from radiation oncology,” said Dr. Sourvanos. “Attendance at the ASP meeting was a testament to the NIDCR T90/R90-CIPD mission, and I am actively working toward a career as an independently funded academic investigator that is bolstered by scientific immersion, equitable access, and diverse mentorship.”
PhD Student Leave of Absence Policy

PhD students will be granted a leave of absence for military duty, medical reasons, or family leave; any of these may require documentation. Military, medical and family leave “stops the clock” on time to completion. Personal leave for other reasons may be granted with the approval of the Graduate Group Chair in consultation with the Graduate Dean of the student’s school, but does not, absent exceptional circumstances, “stop the clock” on time to completion.

Notification of permission or denial of leaves of absence will be communicated in writing by the student’s Graduate Group Chair. The terms of the leave will be specified at the time the leave is granted, including the extent to which the student will have access to resources, facilities, or campus – either physically or remotely – during the leave period. Requirements for return may be imposed by the Graduate Group Chair in consultation with the Graduate Dean of the student’s school; such requirements will be provided in writing to the student when the leave is approved.

Leaves of absence from PhD studies are typically granted for one or two semesters. Leaves requested for a longer period are approved only in exceptional circumstances (for example, mandatory military service). Students may request an extension of leave, to be approved by the Graduate Group Chair in consultation with the Graduate Dean. Extension requests should be made by the student at least 30 days before the expiration of the original leave of absence.

Continuous registration as a graduate student is required unless a formal leave of absence is granted. A student is considered to have withdrawn from candidacy for the degree if the student: (1) fails to return from leave as scheduled, (2) fails to secure an extension of a prior leave, or (3) does not have an approved leave of absence and fails to register each semester. In these cases, approval to return by the Graduate Dean and recertification are required as outlined in the Academic Rules for PhD Programs.

While on leave, a student’s funding from the University is deferred until the student returns from leave. Students receiving funding from external sources, such as government grants, are subject to the conditions established by the funding source. Students whose University funding includes coverage of the Penn Student Insurance Plan will continue to receive coverage for their individual health insurance while on medical or family leave for one full semester; students may petition for an additional semester. Students with external funding that includes health insurance coverage that will not continue if on leave will also receive coverage for their individual health insurance from their school while on medical or family leave for one full semester; these students may also petition for an additional semester. No language or other degree examinations may be taken while a student is on a leave of absence. Students may not earn credit for courses taken at another institution during a leave of absence. Leave should not be granted for the purpose of evading tuition charges.

Students returning from leave are not guaranteed to return to the same research group, project, or lab. If necessary, the Graduate Group will make every effort to find a suitable new research group, project, or lab for the student.

In order to ensure successful completion of the PhD, a student’s leave(s) should generally not exceed two years over the course of the doctoral program. If, however, it is determined in an individual case that extension of the leave period(s) beyond two years is appropriate, students may need to repeat coursework or other requirements, as determined by the Graduate Group Chair. Original funding limits remain in place for students who must repeat requirements. In addition, the Graduate Group Chair, in consultation with the Graduate Dean, will annually review each case in which a further extension has been granted, or repeated leaves have been taken, to assess if the length and/or number of leaves have made it impossible for a student to make sufficient continuous academic progress to complete the degree. In such a case, the student will be advised that no further extensions will be granted and that they will be withdrawn from the program.

Important note: Students taking Family Leave who anticipate adding a dependent (e.g., newborn) to their Penn Student Insurance Plan must remain in active student status at the start of the fall semester. See more information at https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/family-friendly-policies-phil-students/.

The procedures for requesting and returning from leave are outlined here.
full semester; these students may also petition for an additional semester. Upon paying a fee, students on approved Family Leave will retain their PennCard, e-mail accounts, library privileges, and building access.

E. Funding commitments from the institution are deferred until the student returns from Family Leave. Students receiving funding from external sources, such as government grants, are subject to the conditions established by the funding source.

F. Service requirements (e.g., teaching, research) will be met by the student following return from Family Leave.

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**Human Resources: Upcoming December Programs**

**Professional and Personal Development Programs**

Open to faculty and staff. Register at [http://knowledgeLink.upenn.edu/](http://knowledgeLink.upenn.edu/)

**Applying Leadership Basics**; 12/7; noon-1 p.m.; free. Applying leadership skills in the workplace and in life, will set you apart from others as someone who is in charge, capable and driven. Being in a position of leadership puts you in a place where others watch what you do, look to you for direction and notice if your actions are in line with your beliefs. Making your intentions known will clarify the team’s goals and inspire those you are directing to tune in to your vision. This virtual workshop defines what sound leadership is, discusses characteristics of effective leaders and explains what effective leaders do well. The workshop also identifies potential leadership pitfalls.

**Creating and Maintaining Your LinkedIn Profile**; 12/15; 12:30-1:30 p.m.; free. This live, online session will review tips on creating a great LinkedIn profile that will get you noticed by recruiters and industry professionals.

**Work-Life Workshops**

Open to faculty and staff. Register at [www.hr.upenn.edu/registration](http://www.hr.upenn.edu/registration)

**Understanding Social Security with MetLife**; 12/6; noon-1 p.m.; noon-1 p.m.; free. There are advantages to delaying Social Security. In this online workshop, employees will learn about those advantages, the consequences of earned income, and how taxes can affect benefits.

**Virtual 30-Minute Guided Meditation**; 12/2, 12/9, 12/16; noon-12:30 p.m.; free. Meditation, quite simply, is training your attention. In an age of distraction, it is a very important skill to maintain focus, mental acuity, and develop emotional intelligence and fitness. This meditation is guided to encourage spaciousness and stability in your life. It may be the most worthwhile 30 minutes of your day!

**Caring with Mindfulness**; 12/8; noon-1 p.m.; free. At work and at home, we seem to spend much of our time caring for others. A mindfulness-based approach can help us to make a genuine connection while maintaining our own balance. This virtual workshop will explore the ways that mindfulness can support heartfelt caring for others while taking care of ourselves at the same time.

**Managing Holiday Stress**; 12/13; 12:30-1:30 p.m.; free. Stress is stress, but for some reason it seems to quadruple around the holidays! This virtual workshop addresses the multiple causes of holiday stress and provides tips on how to reduce these stressors so participants can maintain their productivity, achieve a better balance and more fully enjoy the holiday season with friends and loved ones.

**Virtual Guided Mindful Meditation**; 12/15; noon-1 p.m.; free. This workshop is for participants to practice present moment awareness. Our practice will include guided meditation focusing on the breath, body awareness, mindful movement, and other practices to cultivate well-being for self and others. This workshop is appropriate for people new to mindfulness practice as well as more experienced practitioners.

No experience necessary.

**Later Career—Creating Your Financial Foundation with PNC Bank**; 12/20; noon-1 p.m.; free. Join PNC for their online workshop Creating Your Financial Foundation: Budgeting, Saving and Credit. This budgeting workshop can help you manage expenses, pay down your debt, and save for future goals. Also learn how to find a budgeting tool you like, integrate savings into your budget, and borrow responsibly.

**Penn Healthy You Workshops**

Open to faculty and staff. Register at [www.hr.upenn.edu/registration](http://www.hr.upenn.edu/registration)

**Virtual Chair Yoga Plus Core**; 12/5, 12/12, 12/19; noon-12:30 p.m.; free. Chair Yoga + Core program consists of moves you can do to tone your abdominals, lengthen your spine, and strengthen your entire torso region. Many activities depend on a strong core, from the simple act of bending to put on shoes to the most athletic endeavors. Chair yoga for the core helps you learn to engage your abdominals correctly. With the abdominals engaged, you’ll find a natural lift and length without having to force anything. In just 30 minutes, beginners and those who regularly exercise can learn what to do without leaving their desks.

**Developing A Journaling Practice for Calm and Self-Care**; 12/6; noon-1 p.m.; free. This 60-minute virtual class will allow you time and space to learn about creating an intentional journaling practice for calm and self-care. Learn how to pause and reflect intentionally for centering yourself. Learn journal prompts to free intuition and deeper clarity. The process supports confidence, courage, self-awareness, healing, and self-acceptance.

**Virtual Chair Yoga; 12/14; noon-1 p.m.; free.** Plenty of people turn to yoga for exercise, but striking a pose isn’t for everyone. If you’ve been tempted to try it but don’t know where to start, it’s time to try chair yoga. Chair yoga is a more moderate form of yoga that’s done while sitting in a chair or using a chair for support. You get the same benefits of a regular yoga workout (like increased strength, flexibility and balance) but don’t have to master complex poses. Chair yoga can even better your breathing and teach you how to relax your mind and improve your wellbeing. Ready to give it a try? Join us for a free chair yoga workshop. And don’t worry about your experience or flexibility—chair yoga can be modified for all levels! This workshop will be led by Judith Glass from UPHS.

**Monthly Wellness Walk—Holiday Style**; 12/14; meet at noon; Locust Walk by College Hall; free. Meet the team at noon on Locust Walk by College Hall and the Ben Franklin statue. The CPHI will lead you on a two-mile walk on/near campus that will help you increase physical activity and steps, plus build community among participating Penn staff and faculty. Be sure to wear sneakers or comfortable shoes, bring water, and invite a colleague to join the celebration! For December, show your holiday spirit by wearing some holiday apparel or accessories! Please watch for announcements regarding mask use and social distancing. We look forward to walking together and promoting staff and faculty well-being.

**Healthy Holiday Eating Workshop with Corporate Wellness Nutrition**; 12/15; noon-1 p.m.; free. Holidays are filled with celebrations and food. Let us help you master staying on track during the holidays while still enjoying yourself. Join Corporate Wellness Nutrition’s registered dietician, Autumn Limegrover, who will provide you with a clear plan on how to reach your health goals over the holidays.
**Update November AT PENN**

**EXHIBITS**

25 **Penn Museum**
Info: https://www.penn.museum/calendar.

26 **Rome Gallery Tour**; 11 a.m.
Eastern Mediterranean Gallery Tour; 2 p.m.
Guided Tour Guide; 2:30 p.m.

27 **Egypt Gallery Tour**; 11 a.m.
Eastern Mediterranean Gallery Tour; 2 p.m.
Guided Tour Guide; 2:30 p.m.

**FITNESS & LEARNING**

21 **Admissions Web Chat Series**; ask questions about the Weitzman School’s graduate programs and interact with current students and admissions staff; noon; Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/weitzman-admissions-nov-30 (Weitzman School).

Graduate School of Education
Online events unless noted. Info: https://www.gse.upenn.edu/news/events-calender.

29 **Penn GSE Teacher Programs Information Session**; 5 p.m.

Penn Nursing
Online events unless noted. Info: https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/calendar/.

29 **Penn Nursing Innovation Accelerator Information Session**; 4 p.m.

**READINGS & SIGNINGS**

30 Panel Discussion—Black Panther: Wakanda Forever; Dagmawi Woubshet, Peter Decherney, Alianra Qianru Cloutier, English; 5:30 p.m.; Gutmann College House, and YouTube livestream; join: https://youtu.be/LYQPUt8omow (English).

**TALKS**

28 Behavioral Tectonics; Roland Snooks, Snooks + Harper; 6:30 p.m.; Plaza Gallery, Meyerson Hall (Architecture).

29 **Data Privacy is Important, But It’s Not Enough**; Katrina Liggett, Hebrew University; 3:30 p.m.; Wu & Chen Auditorium, Levine Hall (Computer & Information Science).

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 November 7-13, 2022. Also reported were 26 crimes against property (8 thefts from building, 4 automobile thefts, 4 other thefts, 4 vandalisms, 3 retail thefts, 2 bike thefts, and 1 burglary) with 1 arrest. Full reports are available at: https://almanac.upenn.edu/sections/crimes Prior weeks’ reports are also online. ~5%.

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 November 7-13, 2022. 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.

11/07/22

1:41 AM
3800 Market St
Attempted car jacking/assault

11/08/22

3:38 AM
3549 Chestnut St
ATM machine money stolen

11/08/22

7:19 PM
4233 Chestnut St
State store robbed at knife point

**18th District**

**Below are the Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 3 incidents (2 robberies and 1 aggravated assault) were reported for November 7-13, 2022 by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th St & Market St to Woodland Avenue.

11/08/22

3:43 AM
3549 Chestnut St
Robbery

11/08/22

7:20 PM
4233 Chestnut St
Robbery

11/09/22

6:40 PM
4600 Blk Walnut St
Aggravated Assault

**ECONOMICS**

28 Automatic Debiased Machine Learning with Generative Machine Learning for Static and Dynamic Causal Parameters; Vasili Syrgkanis, Stanford University; 4:30 p.m.; room 100, PCPSE.

29 **Algorithmic Design with Investment**; Shengwu Li, Harvard University; 4:30 p.m.; room 101, PCPSE.

30 **Does the Gender Composition of an Occupation Affect Wages?**; Nicola Fuchs-Schüendeln, Goethe University Frankfurt; 4 p.m.; room 101, PCPSE.

**Sociology**

Online and in-person events. Info: https://sociology.sas.upenn.edu/events.

29 **When My Reflection Is Who I Am: Vulnerability and Credibility in Digital Asian Feminism and Public Scholarship**; Paulina Inara Rodis, Annenberg School; 10 a.m.; room 367, McNeil Building.

28 **The Geography of Income Polarization and Its Intergenerational Consequences**; Siwei Cheng, New York University; noon; room 150, McNeil Building.

**Workshop in the History of Material Texts**

In-person events at Class of 1978 Orrery Pavilion, Van Pelt Library. Info: https://penmaterialtexts.org/about/events/.

28 **Partnership in the Studio: Reconsidering Oi and Hokusai**; Julie Davis, history of art; 5:15 p.m.

This is an update to the November AT PENN calendar. To submit events for an upcoming AT PENN calendar or weekly update, send the salient details to almanac@upenn.edu.

**No Almanac Next Week**

There will be no issue of Almanac next week, Tuesday, November 29, because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The next issue will appear on Tuesday, December 6. The last issue of the semester will appear on Tuesday, December 13, which will also include the January AT PENN calendar. To submit a news item, 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 interlink information may be posted in electronic-only form. Guidelines for readers and contributors are available on request and online.**

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Groupwork to Connect Basic Science and “Real-World” Application in a Professional Program

Stephen D. Cole

Louis Pasteur opened his famed essay *Germ Theory And Its Application on the Antiseptic Principle of the Practice of Surgery* with a phrase that can be translated as “the sciences gain by mutual support.” The concept behind this statement is applicable in science and medical education as well. Not only can scientific fields support other fields, those studying a science can also support each other. Students in some science-based, professional programs (like ours at Penn Vet) may work in groups in certain types of clinical courses (e.g., problem-based learning discussion groups, clinical rotations), but they also spend a considerable amount of time in basic science and clinical lectures without active peer engagement.

Alongside the logistical and time barriers that make integrating groupwork difficult into a busy basic science course, I recognize that it can be difficult for our students to engage with the relevance of the immune system when inundated with learning content covering seven different domestic animal species. It is not easy to make a mostly “invisible” (AKA microscopic) system stand out among the rhythmic beating of the heart or the rigid complexity of the skeleton or the dramatic gasps of the lungs. In this article, I will describe how, in a traditionally didactic course, I have used groupwork that integrates knowledge and skills from other parts of our curriculum to make immunology, one of the basic science courses in the curriculum, feel more relevant to our students’ career goals.

Our immunology course is team taught by ten dedicated and brilliant faculty with expertise across a wide range of every major aspect of the immune system. Each lecture is dynamic, top notch and cutting-edge. However, the disadvantage to this team-taught approach is that the course can feel like a high-end lecture series that doesn’t flow smoothly. When I became the course organizer, it was my goal to help the students connect the “basic science” that they learn in the lectures to the “real-world” patients and problems they will soon face as clinical veterinarians. To accomplish this, I wanted to design virtual groupwork activities where students would use skills beyond those we teach directly in our course. I put in some extra work to understand where my students stood in terms of the skills that I would need them to use. I looked through syllabi from other courses, spoke with other instructors and conducted informal conversations with students after each activity session. As instructors, it’s important that we understand what our students learn elsewhere in the curriculum (although I admit I have a distinct advantage because I am a graduate of our VMD program).

Ultimately, I designed four activities, first used in spring 2021 and then again in spring 2022 with some adjustments. All activities were held via Zoom breakout rooms in randomly assigned groups of 5-6 students. At least two faculty were available for questions in the main room throughout. Groups submitted their work together via a Canvas group page upload and feedback was provided via comments on that page from the course organizer. Completion and active participation contributed to their final grade in the course. The four activities were:

**Journal Club:** We used this activity to introduce novel topics and help students see the relevance of research to clinical practice. After some preparation presented by the faculty that explained topics students might not be familiar with, students read a short article on toll-like receptor expression during a clinical case of demodicosis (an overgrowth of skin mites). Then they worked in groups to evaluate the article’s scientific rigor, patient population and implications on clinical practice.

**Show-and-Tell:** Each student in the group performed background research on a commonly used diagnostic immunoassay for infectious diseases of domestic animals. They specifically identified what the test detected (e.g., antibody or antigen), described the technology used (e.g., ELISA) and explained a particular factor that could affect interpretation of results (e.g., age of animal, vaccination status). The group then completed a table for submission following review of the background research by each student.

**Infographic:** Following a lecture on vaccinology and vaccine hesitancy in pet owners, groups selected a platform (either Piktochart or PowerPoint) to design an infographic to answer the question “Are vaccines safe?” which were submitted for evaluation. After students completed this project, we highlighted the importance of clear communication skills and indicated the importance of approachable language explanations.

**Clinical Case Work-up:** Following a lecture on inherited disorders of the immune system in dogs, students were asked to work through a “paper case” of a puppy with recurrent infections. Together, students developed a problem list that ranked the dog’s problems in degree of specificity, then linked the dog’s breed to an inherited disorder of Border Collies and crafted a message to describe the diagnosis and prognosis to the dog’s owners.

I believe these activities have been successful, not only because they are engaging and make the material more applicable, but also because they help to provide context for our course within the entire professional veterinary program. Throughout we emphasized that we chose small groups for these activities so that students can build rapport over the activities (we assign groups randomly, which stay fixed across the four activities). We also explained that the group approach is reflective of smaller, consistent teams which are the norm in a veterinary setting.

After two years of completing these activities, feedback from students has been positive overall. Students have stated that “the activities” were a great way to get us thinking about the material” and that “while they were not in person, they were some of the most engaging labs that I have had at Penn.” Occasionally we have heard that they “are what students make of them” and that some groups “mostly worked in silence in the online format.” Future directions for our class include making sure that all groups are getting something out of the activity with active check-ins or debriefs.

At Penn, across the faculty and schools, most of us teach within the context of a larger program. Many of our students may or may not have similar career goals or ideas, but active groupwork can be used to help contextualize our courses within that larger program and within a field or fields that students are likely to pursue. It shows our students that we care about their success beyond our own individual courses or classrooms when we can draw on their other experiences in a program and show them how they may ultimately use what they are learning. Within the Penn Vet immunology course, I suspect it points out to our students that the skills and knowledge they gain in our course have implications on their entire career path. Groupwork allows students to practice key abilities and demonstrate foundational understanding, but most importantly, work with potential future colleagues while it is still “okay” to make mistakes.

Stephen D. Cole is an assistant professor of clinical microbiology at Penn Vet.

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

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