A Message from President Amy Gutmann to the Penn Community Regarding Provost Wendell Pritchett

In May, our esteemed colleague and dear friend Wendell Pritchett announced that he would be taking a leave of absence from his duties as Provost to tend to some significant health challenges. I am very pleased to report that Wendell is healthy again and that he is eager to return to campus in January, which is very good news for all of us who treasure his friendship and value the extraordinary work he has done for Penn.

At this point, after much reflection with his family, Wendell has decided that he would like to return to his position as a member of the faculty of the Penn Carey Law School. While I had very much hoped to welcome him back as Provost, I fully understand and support this deeply felt and very personal decision.

Kathleen Shields Anderson: Interim Vice President for Public Safety

Senior Executive Vice President Craig Carnaroli announced the appointment of Kathleen Shields Anderson as the Interim Vice President for Public Safety effective January 1, 2022. Mr. Carnaroli previously announced the retirement of Maureen S. Rush, following 27 years of dedicated service to the University, including 20 years as Vice President for Public Safety.

Ms. Anderson currently serves as the executive director of operations and chief of staff and has been with the Division of Public Safety for the past (continued on page 3)

Konrad Kording, George Demiris: Named University Professorships

Two Penn Integrates Knowledge Professors, Konrad Kording and George Demiris, have received named University Professorships. The announcement was made on December 6 by President Amy Gutmann.

“Konrad Kording and George Demiris are innovative, cross-disciplinary Penn scholars whose outstanding teaching and research reflect the inspiring legacies of Nathan Francis Mossell and Mary Alice Bennett,” said President Gutmann. “I am delighted to name these University Professorships, and I am proud to ensure Mossell and Bennett’s memory lives on far into the future. It is because of these two pioneers’ determination and their greatness, that Penn endures as a leader in education and medicine.”

Dr. Kording, who holds joint appointments in the Department of Neuroscience in the Perelman School of Medicine (continued on page 2)

From the Chief Wellness Officer

A Message to the University Community: Penn Cares COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Clinic

December 7, 2021

I am pleased to announce that the University will be holding a three-day COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Clinic for all students, faculty, staff, and postdocs on December 15, 16, and 17, at the Gimbel Gymnasium in the Pottruck Health and Fitness Center. Due to supply constraints, we will be offering the Pfizer vaccine exclusively. You can schedule your appointment by visiting coronavirus.upenn.edu. You can read more information below or visit the Penn Cares Getting Vaccinated page.

Schedule Your Booster

The clinic will be open from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day, and appointments can be scheduled by visiting coronavirus.upenn.edu. As this event overlaps with final exams for many of our students, we encourage faculty and staff to schedule their appointments on either Wednesday or Thursday, leaving Friday appointments for students.

Bring Your Vaccine Card

As a reminder, the CDC recommends that everyone ages 18 and older get a booster shot at least six months after their second Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or two months after their Johnson & Johnson vaccine. To this effect, please be sure to bring your vaccine cards with you to your appointment.

Mixing and Matching

The CDC recommendation also allows for mixing of vaccine manufacturers for booster shots. Individuals who received two doses of Moderna at least six months ago and individuals who received a single dose of Johnson and Johnson at least 2 months ago are eligible for a Pfizer booster. The CDC issued Emergency Use Instructions (EUI) allowing Pfizer boosters for those who received a non-FDA recognized vaccine. Bottom line: the best booster shot is the one that is currently available to you.

Upload Your Booster Information

Although the University is not requiring booster vaccines at this time, students should ensure their booster vaccine (3rd dose) information is uploaded to their Student Health Portal, and faculty, staff, and postdocs should upload their (continued on page 2)

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The following is published in accordance with the Faculty Senate Rules. Among other purposes, the publication of SEC actions is intended to stimulate discussion among the constituencies and their representatives. Please communicate your comments to Patrick Walsh, executive assistant to the Senate Office, either by telephone at (215) 898-6943 or by email at senate@pobox.upenn.edu.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions
Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Report from the Senate Tri-Chairs. Faculty Senate Chair William Braham reported on the following matters:

- Dr. Gutmann will join the January 2022 SEC meeting, and advanced questions, comments, and discussion topics for her are welcomed by writing the Senate Office (senate@pobox.upenn.edu).
- Prof. Brand invited feedback from Faculty on the class meeting time schedule launched earlier during the Fall 2021 semester.

Continued discussion on a proposal to amend the Faculty Handbook to remove gender binary language. A proposal to amend the Faculty Handbook to remove gender binary language, revised by the LGBTQ+ Faculty Diversity Working Group, which drafted the original proposal, was shared with SEC members. The revised proposal, which recommends that gender binary language be replaced with “they” and “them” and calls out all places in the current Handbook where specific edits should be made, was shared with SEC members for further discussion. The revised proposal includes a preamble that lists potential meanings of the word “they.” An amendment to the revised proposal was offered by a SEC member that truncates the preambulatory list to read as follows: “Throughout this Faculty Handbook, the singular pronoun “they” is used to refer to faculty, staff, students, and other persons, and is inclusive of people of all genders.”

The proposal, together with a note of endorsement by the Faculty Senate, will be forwarded to the Vice Provost for Faculty with a request that the proposed changes be implemented.

Per the Faculty Senate Rules, Section (9)(A)(iii), the action will not take immediate effect if a minimum of twenty protests against the action is registered by Members of the Faculty Senate with the Senate Office in writing (senate@pobox.upenn.edu) no later than January 7, 2022.

All-faculty Seminar in collaboration with SNP Paideia: “Academic Freedom and Responsibility in Contingent Times”. At 4 p.m. ET, a Faculty Senate Seminar was held virtually and open to all Penn faculty, of which an archived recording will soon be available on the Faculty Senate Seminar Series website.

Coverage of December Trustee Meetings

During a Stated Meeting of the Executive Committee of the University of Pennsylvania Board of Trustees on Thursday, December 9, 2021, President Amy Gutmann reported on the in-person Commencement Ceremonies for the Class of 2020 and the Class of 2021 (Almanac November 16, 2021). She also noted the launch of a $750 million investment to advance Penn’s pathbreaking contributions to innovative and impactful areas of medicine (Almanac November 3, 2021). President Gutmann also congratulated Penn’s two 2022 Rhodes Scholars (Almanac December 7, 2021).

Trustee Board Chair Scott Bok presented revisions to resolutions approved at the November meeting; the first to clarify that the creation of Penn Live Arts did not change the name of the Annenberg Center building. The second resolution revised the start date of the term of Mr. Imasogie as a Charter trustee to January 1, 2022. Mr. Bok also presented a Resolution to elect Kevin S. Penn to the Investment Board. Interim Provost Beth Winkelstein reported that the results of a recent faculty survey indicated the majority of faculty members were pleased with their level of engagement with their students. She also indicated that, as part of Penn’s sustainability initiatives, a pilot program was launched to provide a free SEPTA Key Card to all enrolled Penn graduate and professional students who live in the Philadelphia area.

During the Budget & Finance Committee meeting earlier that day, Executive Vice President for the Health System J. Larry Jameson provided an update on Penn Medicine’s research space planning and recent advances by Penn Medicine physicians. He also discussed the faculty growth rate and research spaces.

Three financial resolutions were approved at the Stated Meeting. For more details, visit https://almanac.upenn.edu/articles/coverage-of-december-trustee-meetings.

The Board of Trustees winter meeting will be held on March 3-4, 2022.

Penn Cares COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Clinic

(continued from page 1)

Together, we have the ability to make thoughtful choices as we head into the final weeks of the semester and into a much deserved winter break. The decisions we make today can help us avoid outcomes such as having to quarantine due to exposure, delaying or limiting travel during the break, and disrupting our end-of-semester academic activities.

Thank you for continuing to do your part to keep Penn and our surrounding communities healthy and safe.

—Benoit Dubé, Associate Provost and Chief Wellness Officer

Konrad Kording, George Demiris: University Professorships

(continued from page 1)

and the department of bioengineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Science, will become the Nathan Francis Mossell University Professor. When Nathan Francis Mossell graduated in 1882, he became the first African American to earn a medical degree from Penn. He soon became a prominent physician, the first to be elected to the Philadelphia County Medical Society. He helped found the Frederick Douglass Memorial Hospital and Training School, which treated Black patients and helped train the next generation of Black doctors and nurses. “Dr. Mossell was truly inspiring. He had to fight for everything, yet never reneged on his principles. He pretty much started a hospital and was a major champion for the advancement of equality for African Americans,” Dr. Kording said. “In my research, where I study how intelligence works, I am inspired by scholars like him who combine many different insights. He was a wonderful man, and I will be proud to carry his name.”

Dr. Demiris, who holds joint faculty appointments in the department of biobehavioral health sciences in the School of Nursing and the department of biostatistics, epidemiology, and informatics in the Perelman School of Medicine, will become the Mary Alice Bennett University Professor. Mary Alice Bennett was a physician and the first woman to obtain a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, she was the first female superintendent of the women’s section of the state mental hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania, and the first woman president of the Montgomery County Medical Society.

“It’s an immense honor to receive a professorship in the name of Dr. Bennett, who was a trailblazer, leader, and innovator. Her work highlighted the importance of respecting patients’ privacy and dignity and demonstrated her passion and commitment to improving people’s lives,” Dr. Demiris said.

Consultative Committee for Vice President for Public Safety

(continued from page 1)

Stuart Weitzman School of Design
Lisa Lewis, Faculty Director, College Houses & Academic Services and Gregory College House; Associate Dean for Equity & Inclusion; and associate professor, School of Nursing
Caroline Li, Penn Undergraduate Assembly Member
Joann Mitchell, Senior Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer
Richard Moore, President, Spruce Hill Community Association
Jeff Browall, Executive Director, Staff & Labor Relations and Recruitment Services, Division of Human Resources

Sharon Smith, Associate Vice Provost for University Life

Michele Volpe, Chief Executive Officer, Penn Presbyterian Medical Center
Wendy White, Senior Vice President and General Counsel

Marie Witt, Vice President, Business Services

The work of the committee will be supported by Senior Vice President for Human Resources, Jack Herger, working with Mark Hall of Spellman Johnson, a premier executive search firm dedicated to serving higher education. Confidential nominations and applications can be sent to mah@spellmanjohnson.com.
Annual Notice Regarding 403(b) Plan Eligibility and Contribution Limits

This notice is to provide you with a reminder of:

- Your eligibility to participate in a 403(b) retirement plan sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania, and
- The annual limits on employee and employer contributions made through the University’s retirement plans that may apply to you.

Eligibility

With only a few limited exceptions, all employees of the University who receive compensation reportable on an IRS Form W-2 are eligible to participate in a University-sponsored 403(b) plan. Certain student employees, leased employees, and nonresident aliens are not eligible to participate in the University’s 403(b) plans. Eligible employees may elect to make 403(b) plan contributions to the University of Pennsylvania Supplemental Retirement Annuity Plan. In addition, employees who are eligible to receive retirement plan contributions from the University may elect to make 403(b) plan contributions to the University of Pennsylvania Matching Plan.

Eligible employees who wish to enroll or make changes in one of the University’s 403(b) plans should visit www.hr.upenn.edu/retirement and click the “enroll or make changes” link. Eligible employees may also call the TIAA Retirement Call Center at (877) 736-6738 for enrollment assistance or to make changes to their current elections.

Annual Contribution Limits

There are Internal Revenue Code rules that limit the amount that you can contribute to the University’s 403(b) on a pre-tax and/or Roth basis in any given year and that also limit the overall amount of employee and employer contributions you may receive from all employer-sponsored retirement plans in any given year.

- Pre-Tax and Roth Contribution Limit. IRS Code Section 402(g) limits the amount of pre-tax and/or Roth contributions that you may contribute to the plan and any other employer-sponsored retirement plans for a calendar year. For 2022, you can contribute up to an aggregated total of $20,500 ($27,000 if you are age 50 or over and eligible to make catch-up contributions) in a calendar year on a pre-tax and/or Roth basis.

- Overall Annual Additions Limit. In addition to the pre-tax and Roth contribution limits described above, IRS Code Section 415(c) limits the total amount of annual additions (contributions you make or that are made on your behalf) to the University’s retirement plans for a calendar year and, importantly, any other qualified retirement plan (including a SEP or Keogh plan) sponsored by a trade or business that you own or control. That is, the code aggregates annual additions to the University’s retirement plans with annual additions to qualified retirement plans sponsored by entities that you own or control. This means, for example, that if you have a separate consulting business and make contributions to a retirement plan established for that consulting business, those contributions must be aggregated with the annual additions to the University’s retirement plans. For 2022, the IRS Code Section 415(c) limit is the lesser of: (1) 100% of your eligible compensation for the year, or (2) $61,000.

You are responsible for monitoring compliance with these limits. In particular, it is your responsibility to notify the University if you participate in any other qualified retirement plan (including a SEP or Keogh plan) sponsored by a trade or business that you own or control. If your contributions or the contributions made on your behalf exceed the applicable code limits, the excess amounts will be addressed in the manner described below.

Excess Deferrals of Excess Annual Additions

If the total amount of your pre-tax and/or Roth contributions made to the University’s 403(b) plans and any other qualified retirement plan exceed the code limits in any calendar year, you will have made “excess deferrals.” These excess deferrals, adjusted by any gains or losses, must be distributed to you from the plan (or the other qualified retirement plan in which you participated) by April 15 of the year following the year in which the excess deferrals were made. Depending on whether you made pre-tax or Roth contributions, you may need to pay federal income tax on the excess deferrals and any gains or losses for the year in which the deferral is made. To request a distribution of your excess deferrals, please submit your request by March 1 of the year following the year in which the excess deferrals were made by emailing the Penn Employee Solution Center at solutioncenter@upenn.edu. Please attach a copy of the applicable W-2 from the other employer, or the last pay statement for that year. Please note that TIAA cannot take refund requests directly from the participant. The benefits office will request the refund from TIAA on the participant’s behalf.

Excess Annual Additions

If the total amount of annual additions (contributions made by you or your employer on your behalf) to the University’s retirement plan (or any other qualified retirement plan sponsored by a trade or business that you own or control) exceeds the annual additions limit, you will have “excess annual additions.” Any such excess annual additions must be corrected by distributing the excess amounts (including and any earnings on such excess amounts) from the plan and/or other qualified retirement plans that you participated in during the year. If at any time you become aware that you have excess annual additions, you must notify the Benefits Office by emailing the Penn Employee Solution Center at solutioncenter@upenn.edu.

Additional Information

For more details about eligibility to participate in the University’s 403(b) plans and the annual contribution limits that may apply to your retirement plan participation, please refer to the “Summary Plan Description” (SPD) for the 403(b) plan or other plan in which you participate, or by contacting the TIAA Retirement Call Center at 877-736-6738.

-Division of Human Resources

Kathleen Shields Anderson: Interim Vice President for Public Safety

(continued from page 1)

10 years, having joined from the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office. Her experience will help facilitate seamless operations during the leadership transition. As previously communi- cated, Ms. Rush has agreed to remain as a special advisor to the SEVP to assist in successful transition and onboarding of the next Vice President for Public Safety.

Call for Honorary Degree Nominations

Dear Colleagues,

We invite you to nominate candidates to receive an honorary degree from the University of Pennsylvania at Commencement. Candidates should exemplify the highest ideals of the University, which seek to educate those who will change the world through innovative scholarship, scientific discovery, artistic creativity, and/or civic leadership.

We encourage you to involve your faculty colleagues, within and across departments and schools, in the nomination process. Nominations should highlight how nominees meet the criteria for selection. Please do not contact the nominees, as the selection process is confidential and candidates should not know that they are being considered. We particularly encourage nominations from departments and schools whose fields have not been recognized by the awarding of honorary degrees in recent years. You can view a list of previous Penn honorary degree recipients here.

The University Council Committee on Honorary Degrees welcomes nominations at any time and conducts review on an ongoing basis. Candidates may ultimately be selected several years after their initial nominations. Please note that it is University policy to bar from consideration Penn standing faculty, trustees, and center boards of advisors. The University Council Committee’s recommendations are forwarded to the Trustee Committee on Honorary Degrees and Awards for final selection.

If you would like to submit a nomination, please follow this link to additional information on the honorary degrees selection process, including an online nomination form. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Brennan at lmbr@upenn.edu or (215) 573-5047.

Penn emeritus faculty are eligible to receive honorary degrees through a special nomination process. University deans propose candidates for consideration by the Council of Deans. The Council’s nominations are then reviewed by the President and Provost, and final selection is made by the Trustee Committee on Honorary Degrees.

Honorary degrees are important statements of Penn’s values and aspirations, and we strongly encourage your participation in this process.

—Amy Gutmann, President
—Jonathan Moreno, Chair, University Council Committee on Honorary Degrees

A Message From President Gutmann Regarding Provost Pritchett

(continued from page 1)

identical search process, he made clear to the search committee that he did not wish to be considered as a candidate. This is consistent with his plans to return to teaching, which is his great personal passion.

Beth Winkelstein, who has been serving admirably as Interim Provost during Wendell’s leave of absence, has graciously agreed to continue in that role until Penn’s next president selects the next provost.

As thrilled as I am that Wendell will be back in College Hall next semester, working closely with me, I am most delighted to know that Wendell is healthy and well. I know you will all join me in welcoming him back to campus in January and in celebrating the exceptional job that he did as Penn’s Provost, while also treasuring the fact that he will continue to serve our students long into the future.

—Amy Gutmann, President
www.upenn.edu/alamanc 3
Honors & Other Things

Adeyinka Dayo: TORCH Scholar
Penn Dental Medicine faculty member Adeyinka Dayo has been recognized by the National Dental Association Foundation and Colgate-Palmolive as the inaugural recipient of their Trailblazers in Oral Health Research Scholars of African American Heritage (TORCH) fellowship. The TORCH program seeks to attract and develop young researchers of African heritage with the goal of increasing representation and participation in oral health research in both academia and industry, and in turn, ultimately advance the impact of oral health science on communities of color. Selected for their contributions to the field and their promise for making future contributions, recipients receive a stipend, mentorship, and professional development programs as well as industry exposure through Colgate.

"As an African American clinician-scientist, I understand the gravity of the global impact of health disparities and the importance of translational clinical research in bridging the gap," said Dr. Dayo. "I’m honored to be part of this program, because it will provide me the tools which I need to further refine my research and dedicate my time to establish possible radiographic links between vascular calcifications and comorbidities, most especially diabetes – a condition affecting over 34.2 million U.S. adults.

Originally from Nigeria, Dr. Dayo, an assistant professor of oral medicine, has been part of the Penn Dental faculty since 2019, after obtaining her master’s in dental science and certificate in oral and maxillofacial radiology from the University of Texas Health, San Antonio in 2018. Presently, she is a 2022 DMD candidate in the Penn Dental Medicine advanced standing students program, which enables foreign-trained dentists to earn their degree.

Currently, she plans to conduct an ethically guided retrospective chart review, as well as design new prospective clinical trials with broad collaboration, to establish the link between medial arterial calcification, diabetes, and periodontal bone loss. The World Health Organization (WHO) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG target 3.4) aims to reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment. "NCDs kill about 40 million people annually [and cause] approximately 70% of deaths globally," said Dr. Dayo. "Hence, sensitive biological predictive markers for early detection of these disease conditions will contribute toward achieving the goal of reduction in mortality rate from NCDs. It will be a privilege for me to be able to contribute in this way to help reduce the global burden of diabetes."

Holly Fernandez Lynch, Quayshawn Spencer, and Connie Ulrich: Hastings Center Fellows
Three faculty from the University of Pennsylvania, Holly Fernandez Lynch, Perelman School of Medicine; Quayshawn Spencer, School of Arts & Sciences; and Connie Ulrich, School of Nursing, have been named Hastings Center Fellows for deepening public understanding of complex ethical issues in health, health care, science, and technology.

Drs. Fernandez Lynch, Spencer, and Ulrich are three of 13 Hastings Center Fellows joining an elected group of more than 200 that produce publications on ethical issues in health, health care, science, and technology.

Holly Fernandez Lynch is the John Russell Dickson Presidential Assistant Professor of Medical Ethics in the department of medical ethics and health policy at Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine with a secondary appointment as an assistant professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School. Dr. Fernandez Lynch’s scholarship focuses on clinical research ethics and regulation, access to investigational medicines outside clinical trials, Food and Drug Administration policy, and the ethics of gatekeeping in health care. She is the founder and co-chair of the Consortium to Advance Effective Research Ethics Oversight, a group working to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of institutional review boards. She served as a member of the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections from 2014 to 2019. She currently serves on the boards of Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research and the American Society of Law, Medicine, and Ethics.

Quayshawn Spencer is the Robert S. Blank Presidential Associate Professor of Philosophy in Penn’s School of Arts & Sciences. He specializes in metaphysical issues in the philosophy of science, philosophy of biology, and philosophy of race. He has written about the nature of a biologically real object, the nature of a scientifically real object, the nature and reality of race in U.S. race talk, and whether there exists any biological racial classification that is useful in medical research. His most recent book is What Is Race? Four Philosophical Views (Oxford University Press, 2019).

Connie Ulrich is the Lillian S. Brunner Chair in Medical and Surgical Nursing and a professor of medical ethics and health policy and nursing in Penn Nursing’s department of biobehavioral health sciences. She is also associate director of the NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health and has a secondary appointment in the department of medical ethics and health policy in Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine. Her research focuses on advancing empirical bioethics in clinical practice and research. Dr. Ulrich’s current work includes a project that aims to better understand the role and responsibilities of clinical ethicists during COVID-19 and the ethical challenges in supporting clinicians, patients, and families and will produce a book, Nurses and COVID-19: Ethical Considerations in Pandemic Care. She is also the principal investigator of a bioethics educational grant that aims to develop and train nurse and physician bioethicists in Tanzania.

The Hastings Center is a nonprofit, nonprof- it organization created from multiple disciplines, including philosophy, law, political science, and medicine. The Hastings Center was critical to establishing the field of bioethics in 1969 and has been evolving ever since. Founded by philosopher Daniel Callahan and psychoanalyst Willard Gaylin, the Hastings Center is the oldest independent, nonprofit, interdisciplinary research institute of its kind in the world.

Three Schwarmann Scholarship Recipients
A University of Pennsylvania senior and two 2019 graduates have received Schwarzman Scholarships, which fund a one-year master’s degree in global affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

Daniel Ruiz de la Concha, from Puebla, Mexico, is a double major in international relations and in urban studies and is minoring in Latin American and Latinx studies (LALS) in the School of Arts & Sciences. Shuxi (Shirley) Liu, originally from China, and Heather Tang, originally from Toronto, graduated in 2019 from the Wharton School. They are part of the seventh class of Schwarzman Scholars and will enroll at Tsinghua in August. This year, 151 Schwarzman Scholars were selected from more than 3,000 applicants and include students from 33 countries and 106 universities.

Ms. Liu is interested in promoting cross-cultural understanding through commerce. She recently worked supporting global acquisitions at Roland Berger, an international management consultant firm, in Boston. She also was an intern with financial and consulting firms in the U.S., France, and China. As a Schwarzman Scholar, she plans to study strategies to influence and strengthen relations between China and the rest of the world through cross-border mergers and acquisitions and overseas operations.

Mr. Ruiz de la Concha is president of the Mexican student association Mex@Penn, on the board of Wharton Latino, and a member of the LALS Undergraduate Advisory Board. He has been an advocate for the Latino community, fostering unity among students from Latin America, and establishing service opportunities within the local Latino community. He has led research and fundraising projects to create awareness and fight human rights violations in Mexico, particularly violence against women.

Ms. Tang currently leads Google Canada’s on-platform COVID-19 response initiatives, partnering with local government agencies to contextualize information. She is interested in accelerating social impact through tech entrepreneurship and public policy and plans to further explore this intersection through the Schwarzman Scholars program.

Mr. Ruiz de la Concha and Ms. Tang applied for the Schwarzman Scholarship with assistance from Penn’s Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships.
Deaths

Horst S. Daemmrich, German

Horst S. Daemmrich, emeritus professor and former chair of the department of Germanic languages and literatures, died November 26 at his home in Flourtown, PA. He was 91.

Born in Paua, eastern Germany to parents who ran a successful business making cloth and delicate white lace, his idyllic childhood ended at age 9 as German forces invaded Poland. His family was forced to manufacture Nazi uniforms instead of lace. Over the next six years, his family faced starvation, falling-apart shoes, and even the bombing of his boarding school. His father was drafted in 1944 and captured by the American army. In 1947, with Germany divided, schools reopened and his father safely home, he joined a friend in protesting the East German communist regime by handing out banned western newspapers before escaping to West Germany.

He completed his high school studies in Munich and worked for a United States Army PX. In November 1953, he boarded a freighter for America. In Detroit, Dr. Daemmrich lived with an aunt while studying political science at Wayne State University. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa, Dr. Daemmrich won a scholarship in 1959 to pursue graduate studies at the University of Chicago. He switched his academic focus to German literature and achieved his PhD in 1964.

Dr. Daemmrich trained two generations of graduate students in German literature at Penn and chaired the department for a decade before retiring in 1998. Famous for his engaging lecture style, Dr. Daemmrich made his popular culture style, Dr. Daemmrich made his popular

James McGann, International Studies

James McGann, senior lecturer of international studies at the Lauder Institute, director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, and senior fellow at the Fels Institute of Government, died on November 29. He was 66.

Dr. McGann earned his MA and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a National Fellow at Stanford University, writing his doctoral thesis, which examined the nature and evolution of public policy research organizations in the United States such as the Brookings Institution, the Heritage Foundation, RAND Corporation, the Urban Institute and others. He compared and contrasted the mission, structure and operating principles of these leading think tanks to determine how those factors influenced the institutions’ role in policymaking. His research and consulting enabled him to work with government and civil society organizations in over 100 countries. He authored over 15 books on think tanks and was the creator and editor of the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index.

Dr. McGann previously served as assistant director of the International Relations Program at Penn. Earlier in his career, Dr. McGann served at the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Harvard University Institute of Politics, among other roles in the higher education and philanthropic sectors. His lifelong interest in think tanks arose from his doctoral dissertation, completed at Penn, which examined the evolution of some of the United States’ most influential think tanks, including the Brookings Institution, Heritage Foundation, and others. Dr. McGann was also affiliated with the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia.

Dr. McGann served as a consultant and adviser to a range of organizations including the United Nations, the Carnegie Corporation, and the World Bank. Dr. McGann also created a global network of think tanks and was a sought-after thought leader on the challenges and opportunities facing the sector. Among his many passions, Dr. McGann was dedicated to mentoring interns and training the next generation of think tank scholars and staff. The Think Tanks program hosted hundreds of interns over the years, who stand as a significant part of his legacy.

Think tanks around the world expressed significant sadness at Dr. McGann’s passing, echoing the feelings of Heritage Foundation founder and former president Ed Feulner, who said, “Jim had a brilliant intellect, a big heart, and he desired to make the world a better place for all humankind. He achieved that in spades with the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program that he created. That is the legacy he leaves to the world. He was a good friend of Heritage and of the think tank community, and he will be deeply missed.”

He is survived by his wife, Emily M. Cohen; daughter, Maya; siblings, Jack McGann (Linda), Loretta McGann, Katherine McMahon, and Barbara Maguire; sister-in-law, Amy Cohen (Noel Rubinton); and many nieces and nephews. His memorial service was on December 4.

Marcy Meyerson, Penn Libraries Board

Margo Meyerson, G’93, a philanthropist and a former member of the Board of Advisors of the Penn Libraries, passed away on November 16. She was 98.

Born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Brooklyn, Mrs. Meyerson won an essay contest at an early age and was invited to tea with Eleanor Roosevelt at the White House. She attended high school at the Brooklyn Friends School and then graduated from the University of Chicago. After graduating, she obtained a master’s degree in urban planning from Bryn Mawr College, thereafter became an eminent urban planner. In that field, she met her husband Martin Meyerson, HON’70, who served as Penn president from 1970 to 1981. Mrs. Meyerson served for several decades on the Board of Advisors (formerly Overseers) of the Penn Libraries, and after Mr. Meyerson’s death in 2007, remained an engaged citizen of Penn, establishing the Martin Meyerson Assistant Professorship in Interdisciplinary Studies at the School of Arts & Sciences. In 1993, she received a master’s degree in sociology from Penn.

Mrs. Meyerson taught at Drexel University and the University of California, Berkeley, and co-edited the book Urban Housing with Bill Wheaton and Grace Milgram. She was a noted scholar of urban studies, serving as a research director of the American Society of Planning Officials and as a research fellow at Yale University. She served on several prominent boards around the world and led the restoration of the Darwin Martin House, a Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece in Buffalo, NY, which is now one of Buffalo’s leading tourist attractions. She was named a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania by the Governor of the Commonwealth in 1982.

A 2008 recipient of the Alumni Award of Merit, Mrs. Meyerson was a steadfast participant at innumerable university events over the years, not only as one of Penn’s most cherished first ladies, but also as a long-time member and emeritus member of the Penn Libraries Board of Advisors. In addition to her service on the Libraries’ board, she also served as co-president of the Friends of the Penn Libraries, honorary chair of the Orrery Society, co-chair of the committee for the library’s 250th Ceoration, and long-time member of the Penn Museum’s Women’s Committee.

“As ‘First Lady’ of the three universities, she was a gracious and beloved hostess and a close intellectual partner with her husband. She was deeply curious, an extensive reader, and an engaging conversationalist,” said Mrs. Meyerson’s sons in a written tribute.

Mrs. Meyerson is survived by her sons, Adam (Nina Shea) and Matthew (Sandra), seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Horst S. Daemmrich

James McGann

Margaret Meyerson
The Book Nook

White Evangelical Racism: The Politics of Morality in America; Anthea Butler; religious studies and history; reveals how white evangelical racism, propelled by the benefits of whiteness, has played a provocative role in increasingly fracturing the electorate since the nation’s founding; $24.

Locomotion: A Novel; Jacqueline Woodson; a poetic examination of where everyone can achieve excellence at work and wisdom in life; $24.

The Great Disserter: The Story of John Marshall Harlan, America’s Judicial Hero; Peter Canesello; C'94; biography of an American; Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan, who stood against all levies for the forces of Gilded Age America from Penn; $32.50.

The Shopping Revolution: How Retailers Succeed in an Era of Digital Distraction Accelerated by COVID-19; Barbara Kahn, marketing; examines the companies that have been most successful during a tsunami of change in the industry and offers fresh insights into what we can learn from continued transformation in the face of unprecedented challenges; $21.99.


The Problem of Alzheimer’s: How Science, Culture, and Politics Turned a Rare Disease into a Crisis and What We Can Do About It; Karin Lawish, Penn Medicine; a definitive and compelling book on one of today’s most prevalent illnesses; $14.99.

How Change: The Science of Getting from Where You Are to Where You Want to Be; Katy Milkman; Wharton; reveals a proven path that can take you from where you are to where you want to be, featuring a foreword by Angela Duckworth; $28.

Making Money Moral: How a New Wave of Visionaries Is Linking Purpose and Profit; Jade Rodin, former Penn president, and Saadia Sulaiman; bold and ambitious innovators who are unlocking radical solutions to solve global problems; $22.99.

False Dawn: The Rise and Decline of Public Health Nursing; Karen Butler-Wilkerson; explores the defining work on the creation, work, successes, and failures of public health nursing in the United States, written by a beloved Penn Nursing professor who passed away in 2010, featuring a foreword by Julie Faustman, Nursing; $28.95.

The Creativity Playbook for Lawyers: Strategies for the Business of Legal Practice; Adam Tu, C'17; consolidates powerful strategies for creative problem solving that can transform your legal practice; $13.99.

January at Penn

Wherever this symbol appears, more images are available on our website. www.upenn.edu/almanac/at-penn-calendar. All events are in EST unless noted otherwise.

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

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

12 First day of classes (Monday classes on Wednesday).
17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed (no classes).
25 Course selection period ends.

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES

Penn Museum
Online events. Info: www.penn.museum/calendar.

4 Global Voyagers: Destination China; 11 a.m.

19 History Alive! Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings; 6 p.m.

CONFERENCES

11 Bioengineering Graduate Research Symposium; featuring keynote by Elham Azizi, Colombia; 12:15-6 p.m.; Wu and Chen Auditorium, Levine Hall and online webinar; info: be@seas.upenn.edu (Bioengineering).

20 Annenberg Forum on Palestine and Communication Studies; brings together scholars and journalists from the USC and Penn Annenberg Schools to analyze the Israel–Palestine crisis with precision and compassion while collaboratively envisioning a new path forward; 5-7 p.m.; Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/annenberg-forum-jan-20 (Annenberg School).

26 New Directions in Feminist Thought: Research in Times of Crisis and Change; will consist of panels on a range of subjects connected to gender and research in times of crisis and change; 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; location TBA; info: https://tinyurl.com/annenberg-conf-jan-26 (Annenberg School).

28 Learning Together: Creating Inclusive Communities Online; will focus on community, inclusivity, and innovation, with panelists including members of the Penn community and guests from higher education and industry partners; 10 a.m.-1:15 p.m.; online webinars; register: https://tinyurl.com/oli-conf-jan-28 (Online Learning Initiative).

EXHIBITS

Museums
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: https://writing.upenn.edu/wh/involved/series/brodskygallery/

On January 9 the Penn Museum and the Wolf Humanities Center will host the Second Sunday Culture Film, featuring short films by Sámi people.

Esther Klein Gallery: https://sciencecenter.org/discover/ekg
ICA: https://icaphila.org
Kroez Gallery, Fisher Fine Arts Library: http://tinyurl.com/hyvle14
Meyerson Hall: https://tinyurl.com/v27c5dv
Morris Arboretum: http://www.morrisarboretum.org/visit/Hours.shtml
Penn Museum: https://www.pennmuseum.org/visit/plan-your-visit
Quorum: https://sciencecenter.org/discover/quorum
Slough: https://slought.org/
Van Pelt Library: https://www.library.upenn.edu/about/hours/vp
Wistar Institute: https://wistar.org/

Now The Stories We Wear: reveals how clothing and accessories offer powerful expressions of identity and examines the purpose and meaning behind what we wear, showcasing 2,500 years of style via 250 objects. Through June 12, 2022.

FCC On 6, 7, 8: Na Kim; installation consisting of 250 objects. Through June 12, 2022.

Ongoing

Art By Mail; display of art made by community members with kits that Kelly Writers House distributed in January; Brodsky Gallery, Kelly Writers House.

Martha Rich: It Goes By Fast; an exuberant and joyful splash of energy that takes full advantage of a 75’ by 20’ brick wall, painted by Martha Rich, MFA ’11; Feintuch Family Lobby, Penn Live Arts Annenberg Center.

Upcoming

28 Building in China: A Century of Dialogues on Modern Architecture; an exhibition tracing China’s shifting design practices over a century in which many of its leading practitioners and scholars were educated at Penn; Architectural Archives, Fisher Fine Arts Gallery. Through April 28, 2022.

29 No Ocean Between Us: Art of Asian Diasporas in Latin America & The Caribbean, 1945–Present; features modern and contemporary art by Latin American and Caribbean artists of Asian descent, highlighting artists whose work reflects the global dialogues between their Asian heritages and their Latin American or Caribbean identities, as well as the major artistic movements of their times; Arthur Ross Gallery. Through May 17, 2022.

FILMS

9 Short Films by Sámi People; three short films that reflect on the lifeways of the semi-nomadic people of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia; 2 p.m.; online screenings; register: https://446.blackbaudhosting.com/446/Short-Films-by-Sami-People (Penn Museum, Wolf Humanities Center).

19 A Journey Through the Psychedelic Revival: An Introduction to Psychedelics; an introduction to psychedelics, including historical roots and their emergence into Western medicine; 6:30 p.m.; BlueJeans webinar; register: https://prime.timebluejeans.com/a2m/register/yhxzrkzp (Penn Nursing).

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (LPS)

Online events. Info: www.upenn.edu/lps-events.

4 Master of Environmental Studies Virtual Café; noon.

5 Fels Institute of Government Virtual Information Session; noon.

6 Master of Science in Applied Geosciences Virtual Café; noon.
Graduate School of Education (GSE) Unless noted, online events. Info: https://www.gse.upenn.edu/news/events-calendar.

Executive Doctorate in Higher Education Management Program Information Session; 4 p.m.

Mid-Career Virtual Information Session; 6 p.m.

Medical Education Virtual Information Session; 4 p.m.

Penn GSE Live with Scott Van Pelt; 12:30 p.m.

International Educational Development Program Virtual Info Session; noon.

Human Resources Unless noted, online events. Info: https://tinyurl.com/penn-hr-programs.

Chair Yoga; noon. Also January 26.

30-Minute Guided Meditation; noon. Also January 21, 28.

Happy New Year, Happy New Me; noon.

Power of the Positive: Cultivating Optimism; 12:30 p.m.

Project Management; 12:30 p.m.

Guided Mindful Meditation; noon.

Morris Arboretum

Wellness Walks; 10:30 a.m. Weekends. Garden Highlights Tours; 1 p.m. Weekends.

Garden Design for Homeowners; 10 a.m. Also January 25.

Penn Nursing

Online events. Info: https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/calendar.

Admissions Information Session: Master’s Programs; 10:30 a.m. Also January 12, 6 p.m.; January 20, 10 a.m.

Admissions Information Session: MS in Nonprofit Leadership (NPL); 11 a.m.

SP2 Minute; 2:30 p.m.; room D26/D27, Caster Building.

School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2)

Admissions Information Session: Master’s Programs; 3:30 p.m.

School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) Virtual Information Session; 3 p.m.

School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) Admissions Information Session: MS in Nonprofit Leadership (NPL); 3:30 p.m.

Writing and the Business of Writing Virtual Information Session; 10 a.m.

Meetings

WXPN Policy Board Meeting; noon; WXPN, 3025 Walnut Street; info: tess@xpn.org or (215) 898-0626.

Music

Campbell Brothers: John Coltrane’s A Love Supreme; the Campbell Brothers cover the classic jazz album in the style of sacred steel—a fusion of African American gospel with electric steel guitars and soaring vocals; 8 p.m.; Harold Prince Theatre, Annenberg Center; tickets: https://pennlivearts.org/event/campbell-brothers (Penn Live Arts).
Women’s Basketball vs. Harvard; 2 p.m.

Men’s/Women’s Squash vs. Cornell; noon.

Gymnastics vs. Yale; 1 p.m.

TALKS

Equine Skin Cancer; David Levine, Penn Vet; 6:30 p.m.; online webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/levine-talk-jan-4 (Penn Vet).

Structural and Functional Mechanisms of TMCI, the Mechanoelectrical Transduction Channel Essential for Hearing; Angela Ballesteros, molecular physiology & biophysics; 4:15 p.m.; Austrian Auditorium, Clinical Research Building, and Zoom webinar; join: https://tinyurl.com/ballesteros-talk-jan-5 (Penn Museum).

Narmer: The First King of Upper and Lower Egypt?; David Silverman, Penn Museum Egyptian section; 6 p.m.; Penn Museum and online webinar; tickets: $5/virtual, $9/member; $15/general; register: https://tinyurl.com/silverman-talk-jan-5 (Penn Museum).

Microstructural Design Principles for Achieving Stable Electrochemical Interfaces for Nanoelectronics for Extreme Harsh Environments; Matthew Whipple, Materials Science and Engineering; 12:30 p.m.; Zoom webinar; register: info@seas.upenn.edu (Materials Science and Engineering).

Gendered Conceptions of Preconception Health; Andy Tan, Annenberg School; Susan Mello, Northeastern University; noon; location TBA; info: https://tinyurl.com/un-mello-jan-14 (Annenberg School).

Health and Cognition Among Elderly Chileans; Irma Elo, sociology; noon; room 473, McNeil Building; register: https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_cGSHCVZGuXrbjym (Center for Latin American and Latinx Studies).

Sovereignty!: Japanese Independence After the Meiji Restoration (1868) and the San Francisco Peace Treaty (1951); Kaoru Iokibe, University of Tokyo; 5:15 p.m.; location TBA; info: https://tinyurl.com/iokibe-talk-jan-16 (Center for East Asian Studies).

Israelis and Palestinians: The Problem of “Solution”; Ian Lustick, political science; noon; online webinar; info: https://provoest.upenn.edu/pasef/events-2021-2022 (Penn Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty).

1619 and 1776: The American Revolution in Black and White; Mia Bay, history; 5 p.m.; location TBA; info: https://www.history.upenn.edu/node/14433 (History).

The Chinese Question: The Gold Rushes and the Mishneh Torah; Eve Krakowski, Princeton; noon; Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/katz-talks-2021 (Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies).

Religion and Political Transformation; Tarek Masoud, Harvard; Zakia Salime, Rutgers; 4:30 p.m.; room 220, PCPSE (Middle East Center).

Data, Policy, and the Journey from Academic Clinician to Policymaker; Lee Fleisher, anesthesiology & critical care; noon; Colonial Penn Center and Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/fleisher-talk-jan-21 (Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies).

The Sexuality of a Hard Edge: Leon Polk Smith, Ellsworth Kelly, and Robert Indiana; Beatrice Cosgrove, History; 10 a.m.; online webinar; tickets: $5/virtual, $9/member; $15/general; register: https://tinyurl.com/cosgrove-talk-jan-21 (Leonard Davis Institute).

Tiny But Tough: GaN-and Graphene-Based Nanoelectronics for Extreme Harsh Environments; Debbie Senesky, Stanford; 10 a.m.-noon; Zoom webinar; info: peterliti@seas.upenn.edu (Mechanical Engineering & Applied Mechanics).


Should We Take Authoritarian Anti-Corruption Seriously? Evidence from South Korea; Christopher Carothers, Center for the Study of Contemporary China; noon; location TBA; info: https://tinyurl.com/carothers-talk-jan-27 (Korean Studies).

Oral Health Promotion for Older People: Towards Healthy Ageing; Hiroshi Ogawa, Niigata University; 6 p.m.

Preventive Nutritional Interventions for Individuals with Special Needs; Matthew Whipple, Penn Dental; 5:30 p.m.

Opportunities and Challenges for Global Oral Health Research; Michael Glick, Center for Integrative Global Oral Health; noon; room B-60, Levy Building and Zoom webinar.

Dental Care for those with Disabilities: A Rewarding Practice; Mark Wolff, Penn Dental; 7 p.m.

History of the Penn Lions; Henry Chow, Sang Kee Duck; 6 p.m.; online webinar; tickets: $5/general; free/5 and under; free/PennCard; register: https://tinyurl.com/chow-talk-jan-27 (Penn Museum).

Integrating Data from Health and Criminal Legal Systems to Inform Public Health and Safety Interventions; Ali Rowhani-Rahbar, University of Washington; auditorium, Colonial Penn Center, and Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/rowhani-rahbar-jan-28 (Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication).

Failed Formats: Goethe’s Literary Anthology for the German People; Carlos Spaethorse, Bielefeld University; 5:15 p.m.; Class of 1978 Orrery Pavilion, Van Pelt Library and Zoom webinar; info: malcolm@sas.upenn.edu (Workshop in the History of Material Texts).

Fashioning the Foreign: Language, Value, and Identity in Imperial Russia; Brian Kim, Russian & East European Studies; 6 p.m.; room 209, College Hall (History).

Penn Dental

Unless noted, online webinars. Info: https://www.dental.upenn.edu/news-events/events/.


Oral Health Promotion for Older People: Towards Healthy Ageing; Hiroshi Ogawa, Niigata University; 6 p.m.

Preventive Nutritional Interventions for Individuals with Special Needs; Matthew Whipple, Penn Dental; 5:30 p.m.

Opportunities and Challenges for Global Oral Health Research; Michael Glick, Center for Integrative Global Oral Health; noon; room B-60, Levy Building and Zoom webinar.

Dental Care for those with Disabilities: A Rewarding Practice; Mark Wolff, Penn Dental; 7 p.m.

Gymnastics vs. Yale; 1 p.m.

Columbia University professor Mae Ngai will speak on January 26 about the history of Chinese exclusion from immigration and citizenship in the anglophone world.
MLK Commemorative Symposium on Social Change Events Calendar

Please note: Information regarding location and time subject to change due to pandemic guidelines. Visit https://aarc.upenn.edu for more information.

Events are sponsored by the African-American Resource Center with additional sponsors listed in parentheses.

18 Penn Virtual Financial Literacy Seminar; managing a standard monthly budget is a great way to track your cash flow, but we all experience costs that don’t fit neatly into our plans. Join Financial Wellness @ Penn for a conversation about how to budget, plan in advance for irregular expenses, and the importance of an uncertainty fund. We’ll also discuss investment advice in partnership with Aaloola. We’ll talk IRAs, index funds, and more!; 5:30-7 p.m.; online event; register: https://bit.ly/2022PennReadsBookDonation; info: toliverd@upenn.edu.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Virtual Vigil; the Mighty Psi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., along with the Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the African-American Resource Center host an annual vigil on Martin Luther King Day to commemorate Dr. King and his legacy; 7-8 p.m.; info: hansori@sas.upenn.edu (Mighty Psi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.).

20 The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: An Interfaith Commemoration and Conversation in Social Justice; this annual event that commemorates the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will feature a speech by Penn alum, the Rev. Liz Theoharis, who co-chairs the Poor People’s Campaign; Dr. William Barber; 6-7:30 p.m.; online event; info: (215) 898-8456 (Office of the Chaplain, Office of the President, AARC).

22 MLK Sports & Wellness Event; Young-Quakers Community Athletics’ (YQCA) would like to invite families from across Penn and West Philadelphia to engage in sports and wellness and service activities under the guidance and encouragement of Penn students and staff. Attendees will participate in a service activity, rock wall climbing, Zumba, and a lacrosse clinic led by professional player, Damon Edwards from the New York Riptide. Open to 4th - 8th grade students from Comeygs, Lea, and Hamilton University-Community Assisted Schools; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; online event (Division of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics, Nettner Center, AARC).

Virtual Grant Funder Research-a-Thon; virtual volunteer effort to help the AVP find funding to expand the number of Philadelphians they can serve using your online research skills! With the dramatic increase in gun violence in Philadelphia, demand has increased for AVP’s free individual and group therapy, victim/witness services and school-based violence prevention programs for Philadelphians affected by violence - but government funding is restricted and limited. AVP will identify potential funder websites and ask volunteers to determine whether the funder’s guidelines indicate a good match for AVP’s programs. No prior experience is necessary to join this virtual volunteer effort. For this program, AVP and Penn Libraries staff will provide a brief training to familiarize you with AVP and how to conduct online research; 5:30-7 p.m.; online event; https://bit.ly/AVPsearchathon; info: umankaur@pebox.upenn.edu (Penn Libraries, AARC, Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia).

25 The 2022 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture in Social Justice; featuring Alexis McGill Johnson, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of American and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund in conversation with Dorothy Roberts, George A. Weiss University Professor of Law and Sociology and the Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights; 5:30 p.m.; online event (Center for Africana Studies, Annenberg School, Black Alumni Society).
After Penn Medicine’s First Living Donor Uterus Transplant, Donor Meets Baby Carried in Her Transplanted Womb

As proud new mom Chelsea Jovanovich tenderly placed her newborn son into Cheryl Cichonski-Urban’s arms, the two women marveled at baby Telden’s angelic features, sweet disposition, and one other remarkable detail that two moms don’t typically share: The uterus where Telden spent months growing inside Ms. Jovanovich’s body is the same uterus that brought Ms. Urban’s children into the world about a decade before. It was a profound moment that marked a special bond between the two prior strangers involved in Penn Medicine’s first-ever living donor uterus donation.

After having her own two kids, Ms. Urban, who is from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, never gave too much thought to her uterus again until one day in June of 2019 when she saw a story about uterus donation on the local news. “When I heard [this donor’s] story, I was blown away. I needed to find out more,” Ms. Urban said. “Whether it be faith, stars aligning or whatnot, something drew me to this story. I felt it in my heart that this was something I was meant to do.”

She was so inspired by the story, she decided right then and there she wanted to donate her own uterus. With the support of her daughter, son, and her husband, Brian, Ms. Urban signed up online for Penn Medicine’s Uterus Donation program the very next day.

More than 2,000 miles away in Billings, Montana, Ms. Jovanovich was also looking at the Penn Medicine Uterus donation website. After years of heartbreaking fertility news, she was hoping to be accepted as a recipient.

What these women didn’t know at the time was they would go on to be linked forever by a selfless gift that would allow Ms. Jovanovich and her husband to have the baby they had long hoped for. When she was 15, Ms. Jovanovich learned from her doctor that she had Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser (MRKH) Syndrome, a congenital disorder in which women are born without a uterus. Women with the condition suffer from Uterine Factor Infertility (UFI), a previously irreversible form of female infertility that affects as many as five percent of reproductive-aged women worldwide. A person with UFI cannot carry a pregnancy either because she was born without a uterus, like Ms. Jovanovich, or had the organ removed for medical reasons. Individuals may also have UFI because they have a uterus, but pregnancy is not possible due to fibroids, scar tissue, or other conditions.

“It was a lot harder on me emotionally as I got into my child-bearing years,” Ms. Jovanovich said, recalling the devastating diagnosis. “Your friends are having babies, and you can’t. It was pretty hard and I went away, I needed to find out more.” Ms. Urban said. “Whether it be faith, stars aligning or whatnot, something drew me to this story. I felt it in my heart that this was something I was meant to do.”

As it turns out, Ms. Jovanovich was accepted into the program, and Ms. Urban said meeting with the doctors reinforced her decision. “Once I met Dr. O’Neill and Dr. Latif, they totally gained my trust and I 100 percent put my faith in them.”

After the successful surgery, Ms. Jovanovich and her husband stayed in Philadelphia for the next step in their journey. They learned the embryo had successfully implanted, and with a little help from science, were officially pregnant.

Almost a year after the transplant, with a baby boy on the way, Ms. Jovanovich reached out to Ms. Urban through their social workers to thank her for her gift. Since that day, the two began talking more regularly—Ms. Urban joined the Jovanovitches at their virtual gender reveal and baby shower, and the two women met in person for the first time in May of 2021. “She and I went from communicating through our social workers, to sending emails, to trading cell numbers. It’s amazing how we click. Two strangers who instantly became soul sisters,” Ms. Urban said.

On May 18, 2021, Ms. Jovanovich gave birth to a healthy baby boy, the child she and her husband had dreamed about, and the first grandchild on her side of the family. A few weeks later, Ms. Urban and her husband, Brian, arrived to meet the Jovanovich family for a very emotional reunion, and to see baby Telden for the first time.

“Thank you for everything,” Ms. Jovanovich said through tears as she hugged the couple. Despite the discomfort that comes with major surgery, it’s been a journey Ms. Urban said fondly.

“It’s been like a fairytale,” she said. “It’s so unbelievable. I sit, think about it, and I can’t believe it happened. I can’t believe it worked.”
Penn’s First COVID-19 Lung Transplant Patient Recovered to Celebrate Triplets’ High School Graduation

On some of the worst days of his battle with COVID-19, Fred Rahmanian remembers waking up in his hospital bed to look at photos of his wife and three kids that someone had lovingly taped to the wall in his room. Mr. Rahmanian was one of millions of Americans sickened by COVID-19, but when he first went into the hospital in October of 2020, it didn’t cross his mind that he might be the first patient with COVID-19 to receive a lung transplant at Penn Medicine, and the first in the state, months later.

In October, Mr. Rahmanian, a 54-year-old husband and father of teenage triplets, was one of four people in his family to test positive for COVID-19. While his kids recovered quickly, he found himself in an ambulance on the way to his local hospital in Reading, PA, where he continued to feel worse and wasn’t responding to treatment.

His condition continued to deteriorate, and late on November 11 he rapidly became so sick that doctors deemed him too unstable to even transport to a tertiary center for more advanced care. That’s when his local hospital called for assistance from Penn’s Lung Rescue Mobile ECMO team, kicking off a long chain of Penn Medicine care that would see Mr. Rahmanian through to a remarkable recovery.

Penn’s Mobile ECMO team usually travels by helicopter to quickly pick up very sick patients. The Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) machine provides functions normally performed by the patients’ own heart, lungs, or both. It withdraws unoxgenated blood from the patient, oxygenates it, and pumps it back into the body — this oxygenation process removes carbon dioxide and replaces oxygen just as healthy lungs would. Usually transplant patients take six to eight weeks to recover in the ICU, but after just 20 days Mr. Rahmanian was taken to Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Center, where he continued his recovery.

Fred’s case was unique because although his lungs were severely injured by the virus, he was otherwise a healthy man. We were confident that with the care he would receive at Penn, he had a good chance of recovery, and we all worked together to make sure we got every detail right,” Dr. Crespo said.

Hearing that is when Mr. Rahmanian said the gravity of the situation really set in. “When I realized what they were asking me, that’s when it dawned on me, this is the last of the options. Otherwise this is it for me. My family had already resolved with the fact that this was probably it if I don’t decide to do the transplant,” he said, recalling what went through his mind. “I want to see them go to college. There’s so many things that we haven’t done yet.”

The Transplant Infectious Diseases Program at Penn Medicine has been in operation for decades, providing comprehensive care for the evaluation and management of infectious diseases for patients before and after transplant. This year they played an especially critical role with the COVID-19 pandemic, as transplants were still critical to saving lives of patients with various illnesses. Sarah Longworth, assistant director of the Transplant Infectious Disease Program, cared for Mr. Rahmanian during his treatment.

“At with any patient being considered for transplant, we want to make sure that recent infections are at minimum controlled, and at best fully resolved. This is true for COVID-19 as well, particularly in patients like Fred in whom this infection was the cause of his organ failure,” Dr. Longworth said. “Since Fred was the first patient we transplanted for COVID-related lung disease, we were in uncharted waters with no clearly defined standard of care. He was tested multiple times for COVID-19 to ensure the infection had cleared before we proceeded to transplant, in order to minimize risk of re-infection of his new lungs.”

Qualifying to be a transplant patient is complex under normal circumstances, but here doctors were dealing with those complexities on top of a patient who was critically ill with COVID-19, a virus that the medical community was still learning about with a constant flow of new discoveries. This translated to a new list of criteria for Penn Medicine patients to meet before being placed on the transplant list.

Not every ECMO patient with COVID-19 can be considered transplant candidates. For example, to qualify, candidates have to be under 60 years old if they’re on a ventilator or ECMO, can’t have more than one organ failing, and must have a BMI less than or equal to 35, along with additional guidelines. These specific lung transplant guidelines for COVID-19 related lung injuries were developed and issued by Dr. Crespo, Joshua Diamond, associate medical director of the Penn Lung Transplant Program, and Christian Bermudez, director of thoracic transplantation at the Penn Transplant Institute.

“Currently the stakes are high for lung transplants. First, there’s the absence of enough organ donation to meet the need for lung transplants in the U.S. Further, there’s the impact of patients who have been on prolonged ECMO support before they can become transplant candidates – for those patients, surgery can carry a high risk.”

“I was told, you made history, you’re the first one in Pennsylvania!” he said. “This whole thing has been a miracle. Everyone knew I was at the end of the line. There was no expectation that I would live until Penn stepped in.”

Usually transplant patients take six to eight weeks to recover in the ICU, but after just 20 days Mr. Rahmanian was taken to Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Center, where he continued his recovery.

“At with an incredible mental and physical strength Fred was able to overcome adversity with the help of the ICU nurses, doctors, and physical therapists, and was in optimal condition for transplant after more than seven weeks of ECMO support. This hard work fortunately paid off as he had a swift recovery leaving the hospital only 20 days following his lung transplant.” Dr. Bermudez said.

On February 24, 2021, Mr. Rahmanian spent the first night in his own bed since October 27, 2020. At the time of the surgery, fewer than eight lung transplant centers nationwide were performing lung transplants in COVID-19 patients with acute lung injury. As of March, Penn was one of 28 hospitals in the United States that had performed heart or lung transplants for patients with COVID-19 according to the United Network for Organ Sharing.

“At Penn I felt very comfortable that I was being taken care of. Everyone that I interacted with was very helpful, very sympathetic. They essentially granted me a miracle by choosing to do this for me.”

Dr. Rahmanian said that from the moment he agreed to the transplant, his driving force to recover was his family and return to some sense of normalcy. Recently, he did get to watch his triplets turn 18 and graduate from high school. “I was grateful that I was given more time,” he said.

Articles adapted from ones published in Penn Medicine News.
Penn Medicine: COVID-19 Care Innovations Saved Patients’ Lives

Nearly two years since COVID-19 first appeared, there are more tools than ever before to tackle the pandemic, including highly effective vaccines and a much better understanding of the disease and its treatment, we have the evidence to show that a trio of bright ideas implemented at Penn Medicine to provide the right care in the right places have saved lives and greatly improved the way we care for patients with COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Triage Tool

Released at the height of the spring 2020 surge, the COVID-19 Triage Tool was developed to give patients an easy, effective way to determine what level of care (if any) they may need in response to COVID-19 exposure or symptoms. It was also designed to ease the burden on health care providers by steering patients with mild cases away from emergency departments and escalating sicker patients to the right level of care.

A study recently published in the Annals of Internal Medicine described the tremendous success of another Penn-born tool, COVID Watch. This automated text messaging system provides continual monitoring of patients with a COVID-19 diagnosis through twice-daily check-ins. When patients indicate symptoms, the automated text that they have worsening symptoms, they are sent follow-up questions and put directly in touch with a nurse staffing the program who can direct them to the hospital, if needed.

Researchers found that use of the system helped save lives, as often as one life every three to four days. COVID Watch also demonstrated equity and efficacy among different populations: “We saw a higher proportion of higher-risk patients and also low-income and Black patients enrolled in COVID Watch compared to fact that we measured a significant benefit associated with enrollment in the program is a good indicator that there truly is a treatment benefit for everyone,” said the study’s lead author and co-primary investigator, M. Kit Delgado, an assistant professor of emergency medicine and epidemiology, as well as the deputy director of the Penn Medicine Nudge Unit.

The COVID Accelerated Care Pathway

When patients are hospitalized with COVID-19, they don’t always need to be in an ICU on ventilator support. In fact, some just require a day or two of inpatient care to stabilize before they can be discharged to ride out the rest of the illness at home, with monitoring. This idea was the foundation of the COVID Accelerated Care Pathway (CACP), which debuted at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania almost exactly one year ago, and which was described in a new analysis in the American Journal of Managed Care.

The CACP helps clinicians determine which patients can be admitted briefly to observation units and then safely return home, which frees up beds for sicker patients, increases efficiency, reduces readmission rates, and aids in recovery. Patients cleared for discharge are followed up with via CO and then safely return home, which frees up beds for sicker patients, increases efficiency, reduces the

A study in Applied Clinical Informatics noted that the Triage Tool, which comprised a Frequently Asked Questions page and an automated chatbot, categorized the overwhelmingly majority of patients who used it into the appropriate severity level. For those patients whose symptoms warranted immediate attention, the tool, integrated into Penn Medicine’s systems, directed them where to turn for next steps, instead of toward a call center which would only have to repeat the screening. The researchers say symptom-checking tools like this—whether for COVID or another health crisis—should both improve patients’ experience and safely free up call centers and clinicians to attend to the patients who are most in need.

COVID Watch

Use a credit card rather than a debit card when making online purchases. Credit cards are not directly connected to your bank account—if there are problems with a shady seller, your bank funds remain uninvolved.

Review any available feedback on your seller when purchasing via an online marketplace, such as eBay or Etsy. How long have they been in business? What are their seller ratings? Review the listing carefully to make sure you know exactly what you are purchasing. Be sure you understand any return or refund policies the seller has in place for the item. If you have questions, ask before buying. Remember, most selling platforms also have customer service departments to assist you if you have additional questions, or experience a problem with a purchase.

Only use payment methods supported by your purchasing platform. Do not accept any offers from a seller to “go off platform” for any reason to conduct or complete a transaction. Also do not use PayPal’s “Friends and Family” option to purchase from a seller, since that option offers no payment protection to you as a buyer. Only use the endorsed payment methods, and nothing else.

Confirm purchase protection status before you buy. Know what purchase protections are offered by the purchase platform you are using, particularly if making a major purchase. If you are planning to purchase from a platform like Facebook Marketplace, where only certain items carry purchase protection, be extra vigilant.

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 Museum**

**Info:** https://www.penn.museum/calendar/

17 Virtual Global Guide Tour: Asia Galleries; 2:30 p.m.
18 Asia Galleries Tour; 11 a.m.
   Global Guide Tour: Africa Galleries; 2:30 p.m. Also December 29, 2:30 p.m.
19 Egypt Galleries Tour; 11 a.m.
   Global Guide Tour: Middle East Galleries; 2:30 p.m. Also December 30, 2:30 p.m.
29 Highlights Tour; 11 a.m. Also December 30, 11 a.m.

**FITNESS AND LEARNING**

14 Study and Intern Abroad in Latin America and Portugal; learn about Penn programs in Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, and Portugal; 12:30 p.m.; room 473, McNeil Building, and Zoom webinar; register: https://bit.ly/PennAbroad (Penn Global; Center for Latin American & Latinx Studies).

Graduate School of Education (GSE) Online events. Info: https://www.gse.upenn.edu/events-calendar.

16 Mid-Career Virtual Information Session; 6 p.m.

LGBT Center

Online and in-person events. Info: https://tinyurl.com/lgbt-center-calendar.

**TALKS**

15 Immuno-Stromal Axes in Pulmonary and Biomaterial-Mediated Fibrosis; Daniel Abebayehu, University of Virginia; 11 a.m.; Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/abebayehu-talk-dec-15 (Center for Engineering Mechanobiology).
   Certifiable Outlier-Robust Geometric Perception: Robots that See through the Clutter with Confidence; Heng Yang, MIT; 2 p.m.; Wu and Chen Auditorium, Levine Hall, and Zoom webinar; join: https://tinyurl.com/chr-talk-dec-16 (Penn Institute for Urban Research).
   Neural Engineering and the Primate Brain: Working at the Electrical and Optical Interface; Bijan Pesaran, NYU; 3:30 p.m.; room 216, Moore Building (Bioengineering).

Economics

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

14 Closed-Form Solutions in Additive Random Utility Models; Andrew Shephard, economics; noon; room 101, PCPSE.

Penn Dental Online webinars. Info: https://www.dental.upenn.edu/news-events/events/.

18th District

**Below are the Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Society and Crimes Against Property from the campus report for November 29-December 5, 2021.** Also reported were 15 crimes against property (4 theft from building, 3 bike theft, 2 theft other, 2 vandalism, 1 auto theft, 1 burglary, 1 fraud, and 1 retail theft) with 1 arrest. Full 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 and includes all criminal incidents reported and made known to the University Police Department for the dates of November 29-December 5, 2021. The University Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore 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.

12/01/21 4:09 PM 3800 Walnut St Confidential sex offense
12/01/21 11:46 PM 51 N 39th St Confidential sex offense
12/03/21 1:40 PM 4200 Chestnut St Confidential sex offense
12/03/21 8:10 PM 3925 Walnut St Offender threw a bag of candy at employee
12/04/21 2:26 AM 200 S 37th St Gunpoint robbery—wallet stolen
12/05/21 3:27 PM 4100 Walnut St Unknown offender pushed complainant to the ground
12/05/21 6:57 PM 4000 Walnut St Boyfriend struck complainant in face

12/01/21 1:35 PM 4101 Pine St Robbery/Assault
12/02/21 4:42 PM 3401 Civic Center Blvd Aggravated Assault
12/02/21 2:41 AM 4001 Pine St Robbery
12/01/21 5:20 PM S 38th St and Walnut St Indecent Assault
12/01/21 7:29 PM 4806 Market St Robbery
12/02/21 6:00 PM 4200 blk Chestnut St Robbery
12/03/21 1:27 PM 4813 Trinity St Robbery
12/03/21 8:37 PM 3925 Walnut St Assault
12/02/21 2:35 AM 4618 Walnut St Assault
12/04/21 2:41 AM 200 S 37th St Robbery
12/05/21 2:57 PM Walnut St and S 41st St Assault
12/05/21 3:41 PM 200 blk S Melville St Rape
12/05/21 7:30 PM 4000 blk Walnut St Domestic Assault

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**Almanac Publication Schedule**

This is the final issue of Almanac for the fall 2021 semester.

The first issue of Almanac for the spring semester is Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

For the full publication schedule, visit https://almanac.upenn.edu/publication-schedule-deadlines.

To submit a news item, event, honor, or other piece for publication, email almanac@upenn.edu with any necessary details.

**AT PENN Calendar**

More December events are available in our December AT PENN calendar.

To submit an event for an AT PENN calendar or a weekly update, send the salient details to almanac@upenn.edu.

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Forty years ago, Penn Engineering established the Office of Minority Programs, centralizing the school’s growing efforts to recruit and retain a more diverse and representative body of students and faculty members. Now known as the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI), this branch of Penn Engineering is redoubling its commitment to this mission. As part of the $10 million in DEI investments laid out in the school’s strategic plan, Penn Engineering has prioritized physical spaces where students can come for support, collaboration and community.

Last week, ODEI cut the ribbon on its new suite in the Towne Building, featuring a conference room and study space dedicated to two of its foundational figures: Cora Ingrum, ODEI’s former director, and Donna Hampton, the office’s longtime administrative assistant.

The Donna Hampton Study Space features a modern, comfortable architecture intended to encourage informal student gatherings and group work. Surrounding the study space is a suite of offices for ODEI staff and the Cora Ingrum Conference Room, which can be connected to the study space to accommodate larger gatherings.

The ribbon cutting was preceded by a gathering of faculty, staff, students and alumni, celebrating the honorees and the four decades of progress they inspired.

There, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion C.J. Taylor, Raymond S. Markowitz President’s Distinguished Professor in Computer and Information Science, and ODEI director Laura Stubbs provided a retrospective of the school’s DEI efforts, many of which Ms. Ingrum established in the decade preceding her appointment as director of the Office of Minority Programs.

Alumni also sent in video messages, showing how much Ms. Ingrum and Dr. Hampton’s office mattered when they were feeling isolated or discouraged by the added pressures of being an underrepresented minority student.

A virtual tour of the new ODEI suite can be found at https://diversity.seas.upenn.edu/virtual-tour/.

Cora Ingrum’s Legacy

Cora Ingrum was the director of multicultural programs in Penn’s School of Engineering and Applied Science. She had worked there for over 55 years, starting out as a department secretary in 1960, fresh out of high school in Egg Harbor, New Jersey, near Atlantic City. “When I came to Penn, it was not open in the way you think,” she once said. “Students would come in, but there were so many barriers for African-American students. ‘You can’t do this, You can’t do that. You won’t make it. Why are you here? Why are you in my class?’ People would actually say that to students.”

For 21 years, Ms. Ingrum served as the co-investigator and director of a National Science Foundation LAMP grant designed to increase underrepresented minority candidates for bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in STEM disciplines at Penn.

To read more, visit https://thepenngazette.com/cora-ingrums-legacy/.