Penn’s College of Liberal and Professional Studies: Online Bachelor’s Degree

The University of Pennsylvania announced that the School of Arts and Sciences’ College of Liberal and Professional Studies (LPS) has launched a new program that, for the first time, makes an Ivy League bachelor’s degree accessible online. Beginning in the fall of 2019, the Penn LPS Online platform will offer a fully-accredited, online education from Penn for working adults and other non-traditional students.

Nora Lewis, Penn Arts and Sciences’ vice dean of professional and liberal education, said, “The goal of this new platform is to make an Arts and Sciences education more accessible, flexible and affordable for working adults. Penn LPS Online redefines the notion of who can get an Ivy League education by making it accessible to anyone who demonstrates the ambition and potential to earn it, without sacrificing the quality of the education offered.”

The new bachelor of applied arts and sciences (BAAS) degree combines general-education requirements and interdisciplinary concentrations. The program, designed by an advisory board of Penn Arts and Sciences standing faculty, is distinctive for its emphasis on connecting a liberal arts education to professional and career outcomes. An additional advisory board involving management executives from more than 20 regional, national and global employers is working with LPS to advise on workforce trends and the skills necessary for students to be successful in their careers.

Steven J. Fluharty, dean of Penn Arts and Sciences and Thomas S. Gates, Jr. Professor of Psychology, Pharmacology, and Neuroscience, said, “This new degree is unique among our peers and places Penn at the forefront in creatively meeting the expanding need for adult education in the liberal arts. I’m proud that Penn’s innovative faculty are opening doors for more students to learn and to become empowered by education. In the United States today, only 30 percent of adults over the age of 25 have completed a bachelor’s degree, and with this new initiative LPS is moving forward to meet this educational need.” While other institutions have programs that combine online and on-campus course requirements, the Penn BAAS degree requirements are met almost entirely online, with two limited on-campus experiences designed to be accessible to working professionals. The program, Ms. Lewis says, builds upon 20 years of experimentation with online teaching by Penn Arts and Sciences faculty.

Peter Struck, professor of classical studies, (continued on page 3)
Penn Medicine and Penn Nursing have launched a formal alliance with the Vingroup—an enterprise that encompasses a newly formed private not-for-profit university project, VinUni, as well as the largest and leading private health service provider in Vietnam. Vinmec—the first private hospital in Vietnam—will aim to improve health care and to create new undergraduate and graduate medical training programs in Vietnam.

“Penn is proud to share our 250 years of experience in research and clinical care—steeped in innovation, education, and community service—to help train, educate and provide better care to the citizens around the world,” said J. Larry Jameson, executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania for the Health Systems and dean of the Perelman School of Medicine.

The partnership will focus initially on the establishment of medical and nursing schools within VinUni and on the enhancement of graduate medical education and health-care programs within the Vinmec Health Care System. Together, Penn Medicine and Penn Nursing will also work to develop the undergraduate curriculum and align faculty and institutional support structures to establish high-caliber educational and training programs.

“The Penn Center for Global Health currently operates Centers of Engagement in Africa and Latin America; extending our reach into Vietnam with the new Center of Engagement in Southeast Asia was a natural step, and a very exciting one for Penn, global health as a whole and most importantly for the people of Vietnam,” said project director Glen Gaulton, vice dean and director of Penn’s Center for Global Health.

Vietnam, a country of roughly 96 million people, has significant disparities in both the access to and provision of health care. The partnership will provide opportunities to implement effective public health approaches such as preventive medicine, mobile health technologies and population-data analytics. The new initiative is part of the Center for Global Health’s strategy of establishing Regional Centers of Engagement to address disparities in health equity worldwide through efforts that unite Penn Medicine’s missions of education, research, clinical care and community service.

“The Center of Engagement in Southeast Asia and our partnership with the Vingroup represents the unique opportunity for Penn Medicine and Penn Nursing to innovate in interdisciplinary education and to provide faculty and trainees opportunities at VinUni and Penn to engage in studies to improve the health of the Vietnamese people,” said Penn Nursing Dean Antonia M. Villasenor.

Penn will also support the Vinmec Health Care System to enhance the quality of care and clinical training, initially at the International Hospital in Times City, Hanoi. The ultimate goal is to build a new VinUni/Vinemc teaching hospital in Hanoi, along with future plans to create the medical residency training programs and a robust clinical research portfolio focused on translational medicine.

“The University of Pennsylvania, Penn Nursing and Penn Medicine have set a world-class standard in education and have a very well-respected global reputation,” said Le The Anh, Vinmec CEO. “Penn has exemplified a standard of excellence that we hope to achieve. And of course, with its legacy of excellence in education and clinical practice, Penn gives us confidence that we are collaborating with one of the leaders in the world.”

Penn will form joint working groups with colleagues in Vinmec and VinUni led from Penn by Gail Morrison, the William Maul Measey President’s Distinguished Professor in Medical Education in PSOM; Lee Fleisher, department of anesthesiology and critical care chair, Robert Dunning Dripps Professor of Anesthesiology, and professor of medicine in PSOM; Julie Socia, associate professor of nursing, associate dean for academic programs and Class of 1965 25th Reunion Term Chair in the School of Nursing; Lisa Bellini, vice dean for academic affairs, professor of medicine, vice chair of education and inpatient services in the department of medicine in PSOM; and Gaulton to advance the project goals.

(continued from page 1)
Deaths

Naomi Lynch, GSE
Naomi Evers Lynch, a lifelong educator who began pursuing a doctoral degree at Penn’s GSE at the age of 61 and battled cancer for the duration of her time in the mid-career program in educational leadership, died September 2 in her home in Virginia. She was 64.

Ms. Lynch’s research focused on using civics lessons to help adolescents become engaged citizens with strong critical-thinking skills. She spent more than 40 years in classrooms around the globe.

She grew up in Atco, N.J., and was one of five black graduates in 1975 from Georgian Court College. She earned a master’s degree in adult and community college education from North Carolina State University. She also worked as a lead transition officer for the US Army Installation Management Command, supporting veterans moving into civilian life.

Ms. Lynch is survived by her two daughters.

Robert Venturi, Architecture
Robert Venturi (H’80), Pritzker-prize winning architect and former PennDesign faculty member whose work can be seen across Penn’s campus, died September 18 at his home in Philadelphia from complications due to Alzheimer’s. He was 93.

Mr. Venturi was the pioneer of the post-modern architectural movement who lived by the mantra “less is a bore” and who embraced history, humor and diversity in his work, was born in Philadelphia. After attending Episcopal Academy in Merion, PA, he received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Princeton. After working for architects Eero Saarinen in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and Louis Kahn (GAR’24) in Philadelphia and spending two years as a fellow at the American Academy in Rome, Mr. Venturi joined the faculty of Penn’s Graduate School of Fine Arts (now PennDesign) in 1957. He continued to teach at Penn until 1965. He also taught at Yale and Harvard. Mr. Venturi authored two key, influential books on architectural theory: Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture (1967) and Learning from Las Vegas (1972; with Denise Scott Brown and Steven Izenour).

Mr. Venturi founded his own firm in 1965; his wife, Denise Scott Brown (GCP’60, GAR’65, H’94), whom he met at Penn, became a partner in 1969. Venturi Scott Brown & Associates (later renamed VSBA Architects & Planners) designed a number of internationally recognized buildings, including the Sainsbury Wing at the UK’s National Gallery; Gordon Wu Hall at Princeton; the Houston Children’s Museum; a huge government complex in Toulouse, France (Almanac January 23, 2001); and in Philadelphia, two early ground-breaking works, Guild House (1961-1966) and the Vanna Venturi House, designed for his mother. VSBA has been responsible for a number of architecture and campus planning commissions at Penn. Among them are the Clinical Research Building, the restoration of Fisher Fine Arts Library, the Roy and Diana Vagelos Laboratories and planning and design of alterations and additions to Houston Hall, Logan Hall (now Claudia Cohen Hall), Irvine Auditorium and Perelman Quadrangle. His close relationship with PennDesign continued to evolve over the course of his life. From 1985 to 2002, he served on the Board of Overseers.

LPS: Online Bachelor’s Degree
(continued from page 1)
has taught online at Penn for more than 15 years and says it has been an amazing experience. “The technology has advanced to a point now where nearly anything is possible,” said Dr. Struck, who is also chair of the Arts and Sciences Online-Line Faculty Committee. “We’re not just trying to replicate what happens in a live classroom but to innovate a different kind of education around the unique possibilities of an online environment.”

“Teaching all-online courses has completely refreshed my methodology,” said Al Filreis, Kel- lary Family Professor of English, who has taught modern poetry online since 1995. “My students are intergenerational, diverse in all ways, typically geographically far-flung and often living in communities underserved by educational resources. They challenge me with intensely intellectual but often nonacademic questions, bringing into being the best sort of ideas-based community.”

In addition to the BAAS, Penn LPS Online is launching for-credit certificate programs. Initial offerings include programs in leadership and communication, creative writing, and professional writing, with additional certificates in applied positive psychology, data analytics, modern Mod- dle Eastern studies and climate change scheduled to launch during the next year. Students will have the option to take single courses or to earn the certificate by completing four to five courses. Each course is designed and developed by Penn faculty to be highly interactive, including ongoing feedback from instructors and peers.

Applications for certificates and the BAAS program are now open. Additional information is available at www.lpsonline.sas.upenn.edu

In 1998, the firm began working with Penn’s Architectural Archives to establish the Venturi, Scott Brown Collection. In the subsequent two decades, they transferred drawings, models, photography and correspondence papers to the Archives, creating the most extensive documentation of their architectural and planning projects to be found anywhere in the world. (Almanac November 14, 2006). He retired from the firm in 2016.

He won the Pritzker prize in 1991, and, together with his wife, received the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects, was an honor- ary fellow of the Royal Institute of British Archi- tects, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He received an honorary doctorate in fine arts from Penn in 1980.

Mr. Venturi is survived by his wife Denise Scott Brown and his son, James. The family is planning a memorial to celebrate Mr. Venturi’s life; details will be announced.

Lecture on Diversity: October 2
On Tuesday, October 2, The Provost’s Lec- ture on Diversity will feature Catharine MacKinnon, the renowned feminist legal scholar and pioneering activist for women’s rights, whose ideas have helped shape the national conversation about sexual harassment, rape, pornogra- phy, prostitution and gender equality.

Dr. MacKinnon, the Elizab eth A. Long Pro- fessor of Law at the University of Michigan and the James Barr Ames Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, will have a dialogue with the audience and interviewer Lubna Mian (L’97), Penn’s executive director for faculty and an adjunc- tive professor of law. The lecture, at Amenberg Center’s Zellerbach Theatre; 4:30-6 p.m., is co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost and Penn Law School and is part of Toll Public Interest Week.

RSVP appreciated but not required. Visit https://provost.upenn.edu/faculty/provost-lecture or email provost-fac@upenn.edu

Shlomo Benartzi: Distinguished Senior Fellow BCFG Initiative
Shlomo Benartzi has been named a Distinguis hed Senior Fellow at the University of Penn- sylvania’s Behavior Change for Good (BCFG) Initiative (Almanac September 18, 2018). BCFG unites a world-class, interdisciplinary team of scientists with leading practitioners in education, health care and financial services to test interventions intended to make behavior change stick. Dr. Benartzi will focus on applied behavioral economics and financial decision-making for lasting behavior change.

Dr. Benartzi is a professor and co-founder of the Behavioral Decision-Making Group at the Anderson School of Management, University of California, Los Angeles. He received his PhD from Cornell University’s Johnson Graduate School of Management in 1994. A behavioral economist, Dr. Benartzi works on creating digi- tal nudges that leverage technology to test and scale up interventions capable of helping millions make better financial decisions.

Dr. Benartzi, with Nobel Laureate Richard Thaler, pioneered the Save More Tomorrow™ (SMaRT) program, a behavioral program that nudges employees to increase their savings rates gradually over time. In their original research, Dr. Benartzi and Dr. Thaler found that SMaRT increased savings rates from 3.5 percent to 13.6 percent. The SMaRT program is now offered by more than half of the large retirement plans in the US and a growing number of plans in Australia and the UK. The program has also been incorporated into the Pension Protection Act of 2006, enabling approximately 15 million Americans to boost their retirement savings.

As a BCFG Distinguished Senior Fellow, Dr. Benartzi will work with Penn Professors and BCFG Co-Directors Ange- la A.8, Zellerbach Theatre, with executive director for faculty and an adjunc- tive professor of law. The and, together-
Twenty-Five Year Club: New Members for 2018

Since 1956, Penn has celebrated a rite of passage each year for faculty and staff who meet one common requisite: they have been members of the University community for 25 years. Another 158 new members crossed the 25-year mark in 2018 and will be welcomed at the University of Pennsylvania annual 25-Year Club celebration on Thursday, October 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. in Houston Hall. Registration is required to attend, and guests are asked to register at www.hr.upenn.edu/25yearclub For more information call (215) 898-3463 or email 25yearclub@hr.upenn.edu

This event is presented by Penn’s Division of Human Resources.

The New Bolton Center will have a separate celebration on Wednesday October 17. David Holt will speak at 4 p.m. about his cancer research at the Ryan Hospital. Cocktails will be at the Allam House from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and dinner will follow at the Alumni Hall. Guests are asked to contact Anne Drumheller at ald@vet.upenn.edu to register.

Michael A. Acker, Perelman School of Medicine
Paul H. Axelsen, Perelman School of Medicine
Jeffrey A. Babin, School of Engineering and Applied Science
Marisa S. Bartolomei, Perelman School of Medicine
Paul Batastini, Jr., School of Dental Medicine
Marta M. Bates, School of Veterinary Medicine
Nancy A. Bentley, School of Arts and Sciences
Richard Wayne Berman, School of Arts and Sciences
Maureen J. Bernfield, Perelman School of Medicine
Michael T. Blakley, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Steven Blum, Wharton School
Gordon Bodnar, Wharton School
Kathryn H. Bowles, School of Nursing
David J. Bozentka, Perelman School of Medicine
Garrett M. Brodeur, Perelman School of Medicine
Linda Denise Burton, Perelman School of Medicine
Barbara Cavanaugh, University Library
Ara A. Chalian, Perelman School of Medicine
Mary Y. Chin, Perelman School of Medicine
Melpo Christofidou, Perelman School of Medicine
Denise E. Clifton, School of Veterinary Medicine
Meryl Cohen, Perelman School of Medicine
Christopher R. Cook, Information Systems and Computing
Cynthia Cronin-Kardon, University Library
Edward T. Crotty, School of Arts and Sciences
Joseph G.P. Cruz, Wharton School
Andrew J. Cucchiara, Perelman School of Medicine
Patricia O’Brien D’Antonio, School of Nursing
Pauline V. Darden, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Frederick R. Dickinson, School of Arts and Sciences
Dennis A. Disbrow, Development and Alumni Relations
Marcia Dotson, School of Arts and Sciences
Amy M. Eader, School of Arts and Sciences
Pamela J. Erney, Executive Vice President
Anthony P. Esposito, School of Arts and Sciences
Ann C. Farnsworth-Alver, School of Arts and Sciences
Jeffrey Michael Field, Perelman School of Medicine
Annette Fierro, School of Design
Loretta Flanagan-Cato, School of Arts and Sciences
Howard Paul Frainam, School of Dental Medicine
Brenda Fraser, President’s Center
Steven Fredricks, Information Systems and Computing
Lisa Jane Futch, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Gale Garrison, School of Arts and Sciences
Gregory G. Ginsberg, Perelman School of Medicine
Joseph V. Giorla, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Lisa A. Goodrich, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Antonella Grassi, School of Arts and Sciences
Kathryn J. Grippo, Development and Alumni Relations
Adda Grinsberg, Perelman School of Medicine
Erika N. Gross, Student Services
Sung Y. Gwak, School of Engineering and Applied Science
Kevin Ross Hardy, Perelman School of Medicine
Ellena F. Hayes, Perelman School of Medicine
Stephen Heim, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Rebecka S. Hess, School of Veterinary Medicine
Thomas C. Hettinger, Information Systems and Computing
Janet M. Hines, Perelman School of Medicine
Margaret L. Lizotte, Perelman School of Medicine
Laurie A. Loenver, Perelman School of Medicine
Albert John Louie, School of Social Policy and Practice
Paul J. Marcotte, Perelman School of Medicine
Ellen M. Martin, Perelman School of Medicine
Christina Master, Perelman School of Medicine
Michael F. Mavracick, School of Veterinary Medicine
Rebecca A. Maynard, Graduate School of Education
Kevin McBride, School of Veterinary Medicine
Helen McFie-Simone, School of Arts and Sciences
Annie McKee, Graduate School of Education
David C. Metz, Perelman School of Medicine
Maureen P. Miller, School of Arts and Sciences
Loretta Flanagan-Cato, University Library
Annette Fierro
Jeffrey Michael Field
Ann C. Farnsworth-Alvear, School of Arts and Sciences
Paul Batastini, Sr., School of Engineering and Applied Science
Ara A. Chalian
John T. Prendergast, Development and Alumni Relations
Abdolrahim Rajaei-Rizi, Perelman School of Medicine
Elizabeth B. Rand, Perelman School of Medicine
Cheryl A. Randall, Facilities and Real Estate Services
Steven Eugene Raper, Perelman School of Medicine
Patrick M. Reilly, Perelman School of Medicine
James J. Riley, Perelman School of Medicine
Gwyn Meredith Roberts, School of Arts and Sciences
Josephine S. Rook, Provost’s Center
Lori Rosenkopf, Wharton School
David Roush, Law School
Matthew H. Rusk, Perelman School of Medicine
Pamela L. Sankar, Perelman School of Medicine
Amita Selgcial-Field, Perelman School of Medicine
James A. Serpell, School of Veterinary Medicine
John T. Seykora, Perelman School of Medicine
Doris M. Shank, Perelman School of Medicine
Dennis A. Sharkey III, School of Dental Medicine
Trudi Sippola, Human Resources
Thomas Sollecito, School of Dental Medicine
Karin Soremno, School of Veterinary Medicine
Vivian Stacy, School of Veterinary Medicine
Joseph A. Styers, Facilities and Real Estate Services
(continued on page 5)
Penn Law’s Quattrone Center’s Grants to Penn Faculty Researching Ways to Improve Fairness of US Justice System

The Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the University of Pennsylvania Law School is now accepting proposals to fund original research projects that will generate new knowledge that can improve the US criminal justice system. The program is open to all Penn faculty.

“The Quattrone Center takes an interdisciplinary, data-driven and systemic approach to understanding the errors in the criminal justice system and proposing solutions to enhance fairness,” said Paul Heaton, senior fellow and academic director of the Center. “We’re excited about the possibilities this program presents to encourage new research that will prevent errors and further criminal justice reform efforts.”

The Quattrone Center anticipates funding multiple projects each academic year, with an average award size of roughly $50,000 per project.

The Center has previously funded proposals from Penn faculty in numerous schools and departments, including Penn Law, the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the School of Nursing and the Perelman School of Medicine.

Proposal submissions on any topic related to the Center’s mission will be considered, with particular consideration given to proposals that address the following issues:

• The plea-bargaining process;
• Measuring and improving prosecutorial quality;
• Potential for the research to generate real-world impact;
• Relevance to the mission of the Quattrone Center;
• Project originality and innovation;
• Feasibility of the research plan and appropriateness of methods;
• Over-criminalization and sentencing policy;
• Forensic science; and
• White collar crime.

Proposals will be selected through a peer review process. Reviewers will evaluate submissions using several criteria, including:

• Relevance to the mission of the Quattrone Center;
• Project originality and innovation;
• Feasibility of the research plan and appropriateness of methods;
• The ability of the proposed research team to conduct the work as described;
• Potential for the research to generate real-world impact; and
• The likelihood that the project could catalyze future, follow-up on research.

Funding proposals will be considered on a rolling basis.

Penn faculty may submit a proposal online at https://tinyurl.com/y0lw534a

Proposals should include a narrative of no more than three pages that describes the proposed research question and its significance, data and research methods and proposed deliverable (e.g. journal article, law review article, dataset, etc.). The narrative should also include a list of project personnel, projected completion date and requested funding amount. Submissions also require CVs of key personnel and a short itemized budget.

For questions regarding the grant program, contact Paul Heaton at pheaton@law.upenn.edu

Penn Dental Medicine: Training in Use of NARCAN to Opioids Education

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that on average 115 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose. Yet, when an overdose emergency does occur, prompt action can save lives.

That was the message to Penn Dental Medicine students at the first of a series of lectures on the only FDA-approved nasal form of naloxone to counteract life-threatening effects of an opioid overdose, part of the School’s ongoing efforts to keep students and faculty informed and engaged in addressing the opioid crisis.

Approximately 150 Penn Dental Medicine students attended the August 24 presentation of the science and application of intranasal naloxone by ADAPT Pharma®, the manufacturers of NARCAN® (naloxone HCI) Nasal Spray, the leading FDA-approved emergency treatment for opioid overdose, to health agencies, first responders and retail pharmacies. Additional lectures are planned to ensure all DMD students as well as postdoctoral students and faculty members will be trained in the use of this delivery system.

“Unfortunately, this is the epidemic of our time, and it does not discriminate,” said Dr. Mark Wolff, Morton Amsterdam Dean of Penn Dental Medicine.

“We have been teaching our students how to reduce opioid prescriptions as practitioners, but with this training, we are taking it a step further. As health care providers, we need to be trained on how to manage an emergency whether our patient or not. Our students are out in the community, and we want them equipped to respond—one of them may save a life.”

“Designed for easy delivery with a spray in the nostril, the intranasal naloxone is given right away should an individual overdose with an opioid or show signs of a possible opioid overdose with breathing problems and severe sleepiness or not being able to respond. ADAPT Pharma® stresses that the spray does not take the place of emergency medical care, which should be called immediately after administration, but it temporarily reverses the effects of opioids.

In Pennsylvania and many other states, intranasal naloxone is available without a prescription, directly from a pharmacist. The cost will vary depending upon an individual’s insurance. One Penn Dental Medicine student reports that with the health insurance she receives through the School, the co-pay for NARCAN® Nasal Spray at a local pharmacy was $40 for two doses with shelf life of approximately two years.

“Our students and faculty may have friends and family with opioids in the home and have concerns within the community at large. It’s important to make them aware of the protocols for use and the ease of access should they choose to acquire the spray,” noted Dean Wolff. Penn Dental Medicine is exploring adding intranasal naloxone to the School’s emergency crash carts.

“The ease of administration and safety of this drug also make it particularly beneficial in alleviating any apprehension someone may have in an emergency situation,” added Dr. Elliot Hersh, professor of pharmacology at Penn Dental Medicine.

“If by chance a patient is unconscious with poor ventilation for some other reason like an alcohol overdose or insulin shock, the naloxone won’t make it worse.”

Dr. Hersh has been a leader in the study of non-addicting pain relievers like ibuprofen and naproxen sodium for post-surgical dental pain and lectures extensively on the topic. “Over the past five years, we’ve seen a dramatic reduction in the opioids prescribed by dentists,” said Dr. Hersh, “but that is not going to help the many people that are currently misusing and are addicted to these drugs and are at significant risk for overdose and death. Our students must be prepared to deal with opioid overdose situations outside the School, and in the future, their practices, and intranasal naloxone is a potential life saver.”
David Asch, Gail Morrison, Stanley Plotkin: AAMC Awards

Three faculty members in Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine have been selected to receive awards from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the professional organization of all 151 accredited medical schools in the United States and nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems nationwide. The winners of the awards will be honored at the AAMC annual meeting, in Austin, Texas, on Sunday, November 4.

David Asch, executive director of the Penn Medicine Center for Health Care Innovation, the John Morgan Professor of Medicine and Medical Ethics and Health Policy at Wharton, will receive the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation David E. Rogers Award, given for “major contributions to improving the health and health care of the American people.” He is a pioneer in combining economic analysis with moral and psychological theory and marketing in behavioral economics.

Gail Morrison, the William Maul Measy President’s Distinguished Professor in Medical Education and former long-time senior vice dean for medical education, is one of four recipients of the Alpha Omega Alpha Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award. For decades she has led research, development and implementation of medical school curriculum changes at Penn and across the nation.

Stanley Plotkin, emeritus professor of pediatrics at Penn, will receive the Award for Distinguished Research in the Biomedical Sciences. Among his notable advances in the field of vaccine research and development is the attenuated RA27/3 rubella virus vaccine, licensed in the United States in 1979 and now used worldwide. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, his vaccine led to the eradication of rubella in the US and the Western Hemisphere. Today’s well-known MMR vaccine comprises the RA27/3 vaccine and vaccines for measles and mumps.

Matthew Breitenstein, Blanca Hinn, Susan Yoon: NSF Grant

Matthew Breitenstein, PSOM instructor of biomedical informatics, Blanca Hinn, PSOM assistant professor of informatics in biostatistics and epidemiology, and Susan Yoon, Penn GSE professor in the teaching, learning and leadership division, have received a grant of $1,036,108 from the National Science Foundation for the project “Professional Development Supports for Teaching Bioinformatics through Mobile Learning.” The project aims to help create an engaged population of informatics-informed students who are capable of critically analyzing information and able to solve local problems related to their health and well-being.

Manuel González Canché: National Academy of Education Grant

Manuel S. González Canché, associate professor in the higher education division of Penn’s GSE, has received a $70,000 grant from the National Academy of Education. The grant is for his project “Overcoming the Geography of Disadvantage: A Spillovers Framework to Identify Structural Means to Enhance Community College Students’ Educational Outcomes Despite Their Location.”

Kate Kinney Grossman: Philly School Partnership Grant

Kate Kinney Grossman, director of the Teacher Education Program in Penn’s GSE, has been granted $182,368 by the Philadelphia School Partnership. The award is for incubation of specialized coursework and fieldwork that supports pre-service teachers in the Urban Teaching Apprenticeship Program to enact Project Based Learning and/or use Design Thinking approaches in their classrooms.

Jorge Henao-Mejia: Burroughs Wellcome Fund Grant

Jorge Henao-Mejia, assistant professor of pathology and laboratory medicine in Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine, has received the Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease (PATH) award from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, an independent foundation based in Research Triangle Park, NC, dedicated to advancing the biomedical sciences. Dr. Henao-Mejia, who was one of 12 recipients, will receive $500,000 over five years.

Under the grant, Dr. Henao-Mejia will work to uncover how minute organisms in the gut contribute to obesity and type 2 diabetes, findings which could pave the way for new treatments to reduce the growing number of people diagnosed with these medical conditions.

PATH awards provide support for assistant professors to bring multidisciplinary approaches to the study of human infectious diseases, with a focus on how the microbiota affects human health.

Deep Jariwala: Nano Letters Early Career Advisory Board

Deep Jariwala, Penn assistant professor in the department of electrical and systems engineering, has been named to the Early Career Advisory Board for The American Chemical Society’s journal Nano Letters. On the board, junior researchers provide new perspectives and insights to their senior peers.

Dr. Jariwala is an expert in nano- and atomic-scale devices that could have applications in information technology and renewable energy, among other fields. Dr. Jariwala was named to the Forbes 30 Under 30: Science list in 2017 (Almanac December 12, 2017).

Despina Kontos, Lewis Chodosh: NIH Big Data Grant

Despina Kontos, associate professor of radiology, and Lewis A. Chodosh, chair of cancer biology and associate director of the Abramson Cancer Center, both in Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine, have received a five-year $4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop more effective, personalized approaches for selecting tailored treatment options for breast cancer patients.

Dr. Kontos and Dr. Chodosh aim to determine whether certain tumor-imaging characteristics, combined with artificial intelligence, can provide additional information to established imaging tools and genetic methods for predicting risk for breast cancer recurrence.

With this grant, the Penn researchers have several goals: to better capture the variety of primary tumors in size, shape and molecular composition; to determine the value of the imaging features in combination with molecular profiling in predicting risk of recurrence; and to perform an independent validation of their model with prospectively collected data at Penn.

Considering that multiple types of imaging are increasingly used as part of routine clinical care, the study could provide new imaging biomarkers to improve treatment decisions at a minimal additional cost.

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Marsha Lester: ACS Award

Marsha Lester, Edmund J. Kahn Distinguished Professor in the department of chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania, and editor of The Journal of Chemical Physics, will receive the American Chemical Society Philadelphia Section Award. The award was created in 1962 to honor scientific achievement, important contributions to knowledge and aiding public appreciation of chemistry. The award lecture will take place in the Carolyn Lynch Lecture Hall, Chemistry Building on October 16 at 6 p.m.

Jonathan Moreno: Bioethics Lifetime Achievement Award

Describing him as “one of the world’s foremost experts in bioethics and politics and bioethics in national security,” the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities has awarded Penn Medicine bioethicist Jonathan D. Moreno its 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is the Society’s highest honor.

Dr. Moreno is the David and Lyn Silfen University Professor and a Penn Integrates Knowledge (PIK) professor. He is also a professor of medical ethics and health policy; history and sociology of science; and philosophy. With appointments in Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine and the School of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Moreno writes and teaches on topics related to bioethics, culture, science and national security.

The society noted that Dr. Moreno is being honored for his innumerable scholarly writings, service to national and international commissions and contributions to public discourse on bioethics. “His career in integrating bioethics with the history of ideas, technology and public affairs has led to his recognition as one of the key translators and interpreters of ethical issues in science for policy makers and one of the leading public intellectuals in the field of bioethics.”

Dr. Moreno is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and is the US member of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee. He has served as an adviser to many governmental and non-governmental organizations, including three presidential commissions, the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In 2008-2009 Dr. Moreno served as a member of President Barack Obama’s transition team. His next book, Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven but Nobody Wants to Die: Bioethics and the Transformation of American Healthcare, co-authored by President Amy Gutmann, will be published in 2019.

The award will be presented October 19 at the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities’ annual conference in Anaheim, California, following which Dr. Moreno will deliver an invited lecture.

Laura Perna: Institute of Education Sciences, Research for Action Grants

Laura Perna, the James S. Riepe Professor and chair of the higher education division in Penn’s Graduate School of Education and executive director of Penn AHEAD, has received a $600,000 grant from the Institute of Education Sciences with project partners Robin LaSota of Development Services Group and Joshua R. Polanin of the American Institutes for Research. Their two year project, “The Effects of College Aid Programs: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis,” aims to estimate the relationships between different types of financial aid programs and student progress through post-secondary education.

Dr. Perna has also received a $300,000 subcontract from Research for Action, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant will support the project “Evaluating free college programs,” which is designed to advance understanding of design, implementation and effects of selected state and local free community college programs.

Carlin Romano: Free Speech Fellow

Annenberg School lecturer Carlin Romano has been named an Inaugural Free Speech Fellow by the University of California’s new National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement in Washington, DC. The Center, a project driven by UC President Janet Napolitano, former secretary of homeland security under President Obama, seeks to catalyze attention to free-speech issues across the country. It will convene a major conference on such matters at its Washington headquarters in early 2019.

Mr. Romano’s fellowship, which comes with a $20,000 honorarium, invites him to visit a University of California campus of his choice in the fall to deliver two lectures on free speech, engage in a public debate with a UC faculty member on a key public issue and conduct a Town-Hall conversation after the screening of a film involving freedom of expression. Mr. Romano, who has been involved in several free-speech controversies in his career, will visit the University of California, Irvine, site of its own prominent free-speech clashes in the past decade.

As part of the project, Mr. Romano is also writing a four-part series, in his role as Critic-at-Large of the Chronicle of Higher Education, under the general rubric, “When Free Speech on Campus Becomes ‘Unacceptable.’”

Neil C. Tomson: MIRA for Early Stage Investigators Grant

Neil C. Tomson, assistant professor of chemistry, has been awarded the Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award (MIRA) for Early Stage Investigators grant. The grant is made by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, which, as a part of the National Institutes of Health, supports basic research that increases understanding of biological processes and lays the foundation for advances in disease diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

MIRA grants provide early-career investigators with stability and flexibility, enhancing scientific productivity and the opportunity for important breakthroughs.

The five-year, $1.6 million grant supports Dr. Tomson’s research on electrostatic effects in model compounds of metalloenzyme active site models. The Tomson group performs synthetic inorganic and organometallic chemistry as a way of investigating new concepts in structure, bonding, catalysis and materials chemistry. Dr. Tomson’s research is particularly interested in energy problems and works to take advantage of modern concepts in bonding theory to generate materials that can influence how energy from renewable sources is collected, stored and released.

Four Penn Students: Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation POST Grants

In an effort to fund childhood cancer researchers at early stages in their careers, Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) awarded 53 Pediatric Oncology Student Training (POST) Grants students across the country. Each student is awarded $5,000, dedicating at least eight full weeks to the program, either joining a research project underway in a mentor’s lab or beginning an original investigation.

This year’s students from Penn, their mentors and the titles of their projects are:

- Allison Hare, PSOM
  Mentor: Dr. Kristopher Bosse (co-funded with Love Your Melon)
  “Validating GPC2 as an Immunotherapeutic Target in Medulloblastoma”

- Sabina London, SAS
  Mentor: Dr. Yael Mossé (co-funded with Northwestern Mutual)
  “Targeting SHP2 in Receptor Tyrosine Kinase-driven Neuroblastomas”

- Kavitha Muralidharan, PSOM
  Mentor: Dr. Vinodh Pillai
  “Predicting Cytokine Release Syndrome Before Chimeric Antigen Receptor Therapy in B Lymphoblastic Leukemia”

- Alberto Guerra, PSOM
  Mentor: Dr. Yael Mossé
  “ALK as an Immunotherapeutic Target in Neuroblastoma”
There is something that will make your day. Join us for this invaluable treasure hunt!

TED Talk Tuesday: Why You Think You’re Right, Even When You’re Wrong; 10/9; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Perspective is everything, especially now! You will be surprised and delighted by more than 100 “hiddens than you knew existed! Be prepared to be surprised and delighted by more than 100 ‘hidden benefits’ we will reveal in this session. We’re sure there is something that will make your day. Join us for this invaluable treasure hunt!

Penn Medical Day; 10/13; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; up to four free screenings. The 26th Annual Penn Medical Day welcomes faculty, staff and postdoctoral scholars to Shoemaker Green and the historic Franklin Field to enjoy sports, games, science, cultural activities and more as we celebrate Penn community. Order your tickets by October 8 at www.hr.upenn.edu/familyday or the Penn Athletics Ticket Office in Wehrmann Hall, 235 South 33rd Street. You can get up to four free tickets for the tailgate party and football game. Additional tickets are $8 each.

Stress Management; 10/16; 12:30-1:30 p.m. It is natural to become stressed when the demands on time and energy have become too great. This can happen both at home and at work, and can severely limit productivity and effectiveness. This workshop shows the psychological stages of stress development, and its harmful effects on the body. It also addresses the defining symptoms and different sources of stress. This useful information is incorporated with helpful stress relievers and imagery techniques.

The Challenges of Infant Sleep; 10/16; noon-1 p.m. Becoming a parent is one of the greatest joys you will experience, but often the accompanying sleep deprivation is one of the greatest struggles. Our workshop with Dr. Melissa Moore, a certified lactation consultant and sleep expert in Philadelphia, can help. She will share with you the common causes of pediatric sleep issues and different solutions that we can use to shape the foundation of a healthy sleep routine for our little ones. This workshop is tailored for parents and caregivers of infants, toddlers and children under five. This event is co-hosted by the Family Center and the Division of Human Resources, open to all Penn families. Lunch will be provided. Please register in advance.

Balancing Work-Family-Life; 10/17; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Balancing your work and home life can seem impossible in our busy world. Feelings of guilt and turmoil are stirred by demands of work and home, and the lack of personal time and time for family and friends. Through open discussion, this workshop outlines how to work toward attainable professional and personal goals, while reducing stress and improving workday tips for reducing discomfort and guilt, and successfully “keeping it all together.”

Mindfulness; 10/17; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Mindfulness is “paying attention, on purpose, in the present moment, non-judgmentally,” said Jon Kabat-Zinn. Mindfulness practice develops awareness of your present thoughts and feelings to help you manage different situations. In this once-a-month experiential workshop, you’ll see how mindful practice can help you become more engaged and effective both at home and in the workplace. No prior meditation experience necessary.

New and Expectant Parent Briefing; 10/18; 12:30-1:30 p.m. This is an introductory resource briefing designed for expectant parents and those who are new to parenting or child care. Participants will learn about local and university child care and parenting resources including breastfeeding support and advice, the Parents@Work program, childcare locations, back-up care, adjusting to new schedules and flexible work options, among other topics. This session will also cover Penn’s time away policies including short-term disability (STD), parental leave and related sick leave policies.

It is Not The Fountain in the Lobby: What to look for in a Long Term Care Community; 10/22; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Of course some of us want to live in the big house with the grand chandelier, pool, and a car garage. So it’s no shock that if we were to consider a nursing home or assisted living community for ourselves, we would want a place that has all the balls and whistles—not a dingy nursing home like many of us have come across. Although, even with nursing homes, looks may be deceiving. This seminar will address options for senior living communities, what to look for when choosing a long-term care community and resources available to help identify the best fit for your family.


“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, “What are you doing for others?”
Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

MLK Community Involvement Recognition Awards: November 1

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Involvement Recognition Awards will be presented to five individuals in the following areas:
• Community Award presented to two residents (youth and/or adult) of the greater Philadelphia community involved in community service and/or working for social justice efforts.
• Community Award presented to a faculty or staff of the Penn community involved in community service and/or working for social justice efforts.
• Community Award presented to a Penn student involved in community service and/or working for social justice efforts.
• The Rodin Education Award presented to a Penn faculty, staff, student or Philadelphia resident who demonstrate significant contributions in community service and/or working for social justice efforts through the advancement of education and educational opportunities in Philadelphia.

The awards will be presented as part of the University’s commemoration of the MLK holiday during the Interfaith program. We seek your help in nominating individuals whose work most merits recognition. Please share this information with others in your families, communities, schools, departments and organizations so that we may identify those most deserving of this award.

Nomination forms may be submitted through November 1, 2018. Electronic submissions at: www.upenn.edu/aarc/mlk/award.htm are preferred but not required. If you prefer sending by mail, please send to the African American Resource Center, attn: Colleen Winn, 3643 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6230. Should you have any questions, please contact the African-American Resource Center at (215) 898-0104 or aarc@pobox.upenn.edu
—2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Symposium Executive Planning Committee

Planning Programming for the 2019 MLK Symposium: November 30

Each year, during the month of January, the University of Pennsylvania and our surrounding communities come together to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This commemoration includes a day of service on our campus and in the Philadelphia community on Monday, January 21, 2019, and continues with programming and events through Friday, Februa

We invite your organization to plan a program in conjunction with this year’s symposium. Programs can include reflection, action and response on/to contemporary issues and should raise issues of social change, social justice and community engagement while incorporating Dr. King’s challenging vision to end racism and poverty, to strengthen and embrace diversity and to support free expression. All programs sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania will be publicized on the MLK 2019 website and on the January AT PENN calendar. Before submitting a program please review the current MLK 2019 event calendar for similar programs or timing conflicts. To submit a program or event request, please visit the Penn MLK Symposium website: http://www.upenn.edu/aarc/mlk/calendar_mlk.htm You will find the link to the submission form on our calendar of events page. The deadline for program submissions is Thursday, November 30, 2018. If you have any further questions, email mlk.symposium@gmail.com
Thank you for your consideration.
—2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Symposium Executive Planning Committee

Women of Color Day 2019 Awards—Call for Nominations: November 1

To Members of the University and Surrounding Community:

The National Institute for Women of Color (NIWC) has proclaimed March 1 National Women of Color Day. Penn, UPHS, Presbyterian and Pennsylvania Hospital seek to increase awareness of the talents and achievements of women of color by recognizing them with the Women of Color Day Award. The Women of Color Awards are given in recognition of individuals who have conscientiously endeavored to increase respect for women of color at Penn, University of Pennsylvania Health Systems, Presbyterian, Pennsylvania Hospitals and the Delaware Valley community. Annually, awards are given in up to five categories:
• Helen O. Dickens Award
• Joann Mitchell Outstanding Legacy Award
• Faculty/Staff, Graduate or Professional Student Award
• Undergraduate Student Award
• Community Member Award

Nominees must be affiliated with UPHS, Presbyterian or Pennsylvania Hospital and/or the local Philadelphia area and have demonstrated:
• Outstanding leadership
• Distinguished service
• Positive impact on the community

Commitment to enhancing quality of life and/or serving as a role model for women of color

Learn more about the 2019 WOCAP Day Awards Luncheon at: http://www.upenn.edu/aarc/wocap/annual.html
—Women of Color Executive Planning Committee

Reserve Your Tickets for The 26th Annual Penn Family Day

The 26th Annual Penn Family Day is on Saturday, October 13. Don’t forget to order your tickets by October 8 at www.hr.upenn.edu/familyday or the Penn Athletics Ticket Office in Weightman Hall, 235 South 33rd Street. You can get up to four free tickets for the tailgate party and football game. Additional tickets are $8 each.

Penn Family Day welcomes faculty, staff, and postdoctoral scholars to Shoe maker Green and the historic Franklin Field to enjoy games, sports, science, cultural activities and more as we celebrate Penn community.

For more information about Penn Family Day, visit www.hr.upenn.edu/familyday

Accessing Almanac Online

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ALMANAC September 25, 2018
www.upenn.edu/almanac
Penn Convening to Promote Teacher Research, Advance Social Justice

On Saturday, October 6, local educators are invited to participate in an annual day of learning, reflection and joy as school, community and University-based researchers share promising practices for advancing writing and literacy from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in Houston Hall.

Sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania’s Philadelphia Writing Project (PhiWP) and Teachers Institute of Philadelphia (TIP), this year’s Celebration of Writing and Literacy will feature a keynote presentation by James Forman, Jr., Pulitzer prize-winning author of Locked Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in America. Mr. Forman’s talk will build on a teacher seminar he led on the criminal justice crisis at the Yale National Initiative’s summer program in July. He will be joined by TIP Fellow Matthew Menschner, Kensington Creative and Performing Arts High School teacher, who will share a curriculum unit he wrote on racism in the criminal justice system while enrolled in Mr. Forman’s seminar. The audience will be invited to think about what educators can do to make a difference and contribute to change.

Matt Kay, SLA English teacher and author of Not Light, but Fire: How to Lead Meaningful Race Conversations in the Classroom will open the day sharing what he has learned from over a decade of leading meaningful conversations about race in classroom. He will engage educators in thinking expansively about their responsibility as educators to help students become “better citizens, thoughtful scholars and empathetic neighbors.” The day will also include featured sessions facilitated by Penn GSE professor Gerald Campano and Maria Ghiso, authors of Partnering with Immigrant Communities, which recently won NCTE’s Russell Award; and Noah Tennant (Principal, Boys’ Latin of Philadelphia Charter School) Patty Cruice and Martha Richmond, Penn GSE Mid-Career graduates who will discuss the writing process for their chapters in the recently published Teachers College Press book Repositioning Educational Leadership: Practitioners Leading from an Inquiry stance. Local middle and high school student winners of the 2018 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards will be featured in a special lunchtime launch of the 2019 awards program.

Register online at https://tinyurl.com/y9w36wz8

Celebrating the Korean Harvest Festival at Morris Arboretum: September 29

Celebrate traditional and modern Korean culture at Morris Arboretum on Saturday, September 29, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Discover this Asian country’s way of life through music, dance, food sampling and garden tours that highlight Korea’s native plants.

Experience Korean arts by entertainers from the Korean Traditional Music of Philadelphia and by two University of Pennsylvania student groups; all with a unique expression of the nation’s soul.

- 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Korean Traditional Music of Philadelphia, drum and dance performances, including the Five Drum Dance and the Fan Dance
- 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m., Penn DuRe, a traditional drum troupe of Penn students
- noon & 2 p.m., Penn Sori, a capella singing group of Penn students

In between music sets, learn about plants that are native to Korea on a 45-minute tour of the 92-acre botanical collection. Led by Arboretum Guides, tours begin at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Featured trees include:

- **Pinus densiflora:** The national tree of Korea, will also be on the tour. Hear stories about this tree’s spiritual and material influence on the Korean people for 5,000 years.
- **Zelkova serrata:** In Korean folklore, the tough trunk of the Zelkova symbolizes a strong will, and the attractive leaves symbolize politeness; these trees are known as “good spirit” trees.
- **Prunus densiflora:** The national tree of Korea, will also be on the tour. Hear stories about this tree’s spiritual and material influence on the Korean people for 5,000 years.

Before and after the walking tour, sample complimentary Korean food favorites, such as kimchi and Asian pears, while supplies last.

This event is included with garden admission and made possible by a grant from the University of Pennsylvania’s Provost Interdisciplinary Arts Fund.

For more information, visit www.morrisarboretum.org

Planning an Event? Email Almanac

Mounting an exhibit? Orchestrating a concert? Planning a play? Showing a film? Let Almanac know so it can be included in the monthly AT PENN calendar!

Almanac’s monthly AT PENN calendar is the only all-inclusive calendar of Penn events on campus. With a readership in print and online, a free listing in the AT PENN increases visibility and attendance.

Email us at almanac@upenn.edu with your event details, including the event date, time, topic, speaker information and sponsors. For more information, visit https://almanac.upenn.edu/deadlines-for-submitting-at-penn-information

One Step Ahead

Security & Privacy Made Simple

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

Protecting Student Record Information

As we begin the new academic year, it’s important to know about FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. FERPA is a federal law that provides certain rights to students and imposes certain obligations on University faculty and staff regarding the privacy of “education records,” or student record information, including limitations on sharing information with parents and guardians.

At Penn, FERPA’s requirements are incorporated in our Policy on the Confidentiality of Student Records: http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v56/n25/confidentiality.html. The policy states in general that University faculty and staff may not disclose personally identifiable information from a student’s records except with the student’s written consent.

One important exception allows for sharing with school officials with “legitimate educational interests”—in other words, where the information would be helpful in the performance of official duties. This allows Penn faculty and staff to access the student information they need to perform their jobs.

In general, you may not share student records with parents or guardians. There are some exceptions, including when there is a health or safety emergency, in which case you must work with VPUL and your Dean’s office before contacting a parent. Disclosure is also allowed if the student has provided written consent. Students may also set their privacy choices electronically within Penn InTouch, under Profile, Privacy & Emergency, and Share Academic/Financial Information.

For more information, visit the FERPA page of Penn’s Privacy website’s (www.upenn.edu/privacy) and check out the FAQs for Faculty & Staff. Questions about student privacy can be addressed to privacy@upenn.edu

For additional tips, see the One Step Ahead link on the Information Security website: www.upenn.edu/computing/security/
Photographs by Ed Stemmler
Now at the Burrison Gallery
Water and Solitude, Photographs by Ed Stemmler
are at the Burrison Gallery now through October 9. Mr. Stemmler enjoys the curious and amazing; the calm before a storm and droplets on the leaves after. He likes details and nuance; frost on a window, a foggy morning in Maine, a sunset over the south rim of the Grand Canyon, a field of wildflowers at dawn, morning dew on spider webs, flowers, birds, life. Photography lets him share memories of these moments with friends and colleagues and are pleasant reminders of his journeys.

He is a graduate of Ursinus College and has worked at Penn for 30 years, currently as a senior data analyst at ISC. In his spare time, he has volunteered as an EMT and as a firefighter. A true polymath, he enjoys woodworking, blacksmithing, masonry and landscape design as well as singing in a local choir, baking, tending his koi pond and attacking the ever-present “old house” maintenance.

The Burrison Gallery, in the University Club at Penn on the 2nd floor of The Inn at Penn, is open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Wolf Humanities Center’s Forum on Stuff

The Wolf Humanities Center’s 2018-2019 Forum on Stuff focuses on the madness and the physicality of cultural lives. Topic Director Julie Nelson Davis, professor of history of art, asks: “Has the rise of digital and virtual culture fundamentally altered our thinking about materiality, or just given us more stuff to think about? Could a more concerted effort to understand our relations to stuff assist us in a time of political turmoil, increasing scarcity of resources and escalating environmental dangers, when the sheer volume of stuff we make, consume and discard threatens the very ecosystems that sustain us? Can we solve what George Carlin said was the great problem of contemporary life, that of finding a place for our stuff?”

In partnership with the American Sign Language Program in Penn’s Department of Linguistics and the Deaf Hearing Communication Centre, the Wolf Humanities Center will provide ASL interpretation at many of the live events in the 2018-2019 Forum on Stuff, and in their online counterparts.

Visit www.wolfhumanities.upenn.edu for more information, event location and registration information and a listing of 2019 events.

The following are the 2018 events in the Forum on Stuff:

- September 26, 5-6:30 p.m.; Dr. S.T. Lee Distinguished Lecture in the Humanities, Acts, Facts, and Artifacts: The Stuff of Black Culture; Kevin Young, Herman Beavers
- October 10, 5-6:30 p.m.; Design and the Stuff of Everyday Life, Ise Crawford
- October 14, 2 p.m.; Random Acts of Legacy: Film Screening
- October 17, 5-6:30 p.m.; Segregation: The Stuff Social Media is Made Of, Wendy Hui Kyong Chun
- October 24, 5-6:30 p.m.; Buried in Treasures: When Stuff Takes Over, Gail Steketee
- November 8, 5-6:30 p.m.; Think Me Nothing? Raising Awareness of the Black Deaf Community, Ritchie Bryant
- November 11, 2 p.m.; PoE: The Story of Our Song, Film Screening
- November 14, 5-6:30 p.m.; Repatriating Tribal Objects in the Digital Age, Eric Hollinger
- November 28, 5-6:30 p.m.; Re-Stuffing Theory, Re-Thinking Assemblage, Bill Brown

The University of Pennsylvania Police Department
Community Crime Report

About the Crime Report: There are no Crimes Against Persons or Crimes Against Society from the campus report for September 10-16, 2018. Reported were 17 Crimes Against Property (1 DUI, 1 narcotic, 1 other offense, 1 traffic, 1 vandalism and 12 thefts) with 5 arrests. 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 between the dates of September 10-16, 2018. 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.

18th District

Below are the Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District; 2 incidents (1 assault and 1 domestic assault) were reported between September 10-16, 2018 by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Incident Type</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>09/10/18</td>
<td>10:36 AM</td>
<td>4300 Kingsessing Ave</td>
<td>Domestic Assault</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/13/18</td>
<td>6:53 PM</td>
<td>4418 Spruce St</td>
<td>Assault</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Update

September AT PENN

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 27 Trolley Portal Gardens Official Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting; 5-7 p.m.; 40th Street & Baltimore Avenue; register: https://tinyurl.com/yantz7 (University City District).

AT PENN Deadlines

The October AT PENN calendar is now online. The deadline for the November AT PENN is October 15. The deadline for the weekly Update is Monday for the following week’s issue.

CLASSIFIED—UNIVERSITY

ECO-REPS WANTED

Go green & join Penn’s Staff & Faculty Eco-Reps program. We meet monthly (with lunch provided) to discuss and help implement the University’s Climate Action Plan. For more information and to sign up, visit: http://www.sustainability.upenn.edu/eco-reps/staff-faculty-ecoreps

RESEARCH

Together we can help end HIV. Interested in finding out if you are eligible for one of our HIV prevention research studies? Need healthy men & women age 18-40 to join research trial to find a new way to prevent HIV infection. Must be HIV negative. Participation includes: Free HIV counseling & testing, physical exam, compensated for your time & travel. Contact us at: 866-448-7399 or phillyvax.org/outreach

Almanac is not responsible for contents of classified ad material.

For information, call (215) 898-5274 or visit at https://almanac.upenn.edu/about-almanac/manage-subscription

The University of Pennsylvania’s journal of opinion, record and news is published Tuesdays during the academic year, and as needed during summer and holiday breaks. Its electronic editions on the Internet (accessible through the Penn website) include HTML, Acrobat and mobile versions of the print edition, and interim information may be posted in electronic-only form. Guidelines for readers and contributors are available on request and online.

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The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected class status in the administration of its admissions, financial aid, educational or athletic programs, or other University-administered programs or in its employment practices. Questions or complaints regarding this policy should be directed to Pam Stark, Executive Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, 421 Franklin Building, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6200, or (215) 898-6993 (Voice).
Leading Discussion

Sheila Murnaghan

When I first started teaching discussion-based courses, I felt satisfied if I could just keep the students talking throughout the entire class time. But a conversation with a more experienced colleague reminded me that part of the point of being a teacher is knowing that the students do not and that I was not really doing my job if I didn’t convey some of that knowledge, no matter what the format. Ever since, I have thought of leading discussion as a balancing act between encouraging and honoring students’ responses to the material we are studying and making sure they come away with some of the understanding that I have developed over many years in the field. It is a challenging, unpredictable form of teaching, in which success cannot be guaranteed through even the most careful planning, but exhilarating when it goes well.

Planning plays an important role in generating discussion that is truly instructive, but it has to be balanced by flexibility. I try to go into a class with a set of ideas in mind that I hope will emerge but also aware that getting that to happen will require making spontaneous decisions and seizing opportunities in the moment. The deadlast times are those in which I realize I am trying to get the students to say something that they simply are not inclined to. Sometimes it is best just to come out and admit that, identifying the point I was hoping they would make and openly providing the information or perspective I want them to take away. Sometimes I can turn the fact that they didn’t make my point into another question. “Aren’t any of you bothered that classical Athens, a society that valued freedom for its citizens, was so repressive in its treatment of the other cities that it dominated?”

Formulating effective questions—and reformulating them as needed—is obviously key. I try to ask questions that are concrete but genuinely open-ended, often starting with a particular passage in a text we are reading and flagging some feature that I think is puzzling in itself and raises larger issues. “Why is Antigone being so mean to her sister when she is risking her life for the sake of her brother?” It is helpful if the subject matter lends itself to questions about which I myself am in doubt, to which the students’ opinions are an appropriate answer, or for which they have at least as much expertise as I do. “Are there any features of classical Athenian society that we would benefit from adopting?” “Where do you see the influence of Homer’s Odyssey in contemporary popular culture?” “What did you find most surprising about the Odyssey when you read it this time?” Specific and pragmatic questions work surprisingly well to open up large and abstract issues. Asking which texts I should include and asking the information or perspective I want them to take away. Sometimes that means that I enter into a brief dialogue with a particular student, asking them to clarify their point, bringing up something from the reading I think might complicate or contradict it. But that should not go on for long without the other students being involved. Ideally, someone else will jump in; if it makes sense to do so, I may simply ask whether or not the other students agree or encourage one of them to relate the most recently made point to something they themselves said earlier. I am always trying to dramatize my conviction that their initial thoughts are interesting in themselves and worth testing and developing.

Deliberately framed questions, along with the other strategies I’ve described, will get most students to say something, but that is, of course, only the beginning. The experience I want students to have involves formulating and articulating an idea, but also having that idea extended and refined through what I and the other students have to say in response. Sometimes that means that I enter into a brief dialogue with a particular student, asking them to clarify their point, bringing up something from the reading I think might complicate or contradict it. But that should not go on for long without the other students being involved. Ideally, someone else will jump in; if it makes sense to do so, I may simply ask whether or not the other students agree or encourage one of them to relate the most recently made point to something they themselves said earlier. I am always trying to dramatize my conviction that their initial thoughts are interesting in themselves and worth testing and developing.

If the chemistry in the group is right and the discussion takes on a life of its own, I am glad to see that, but I still provide some grounding to the students’ thinking. I usually end the session by summing up what I myself took away from their conversation. Or I might do that as a way of opening the next class and setting the agenda for a discussion that integrates what emerged the last time with whatever new material we are looking at. That is one way of providing the structure that is essential if students are going to develop a deeper understanding of any topic through discussion. Once that structure is in place, it is equally essential to maintain flexibility so that they can work from their own insights, articulating their ideas, building on those ideas, filling in the gaps and making new connections in dialogue with a teacher and with each other.

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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 for previous essays.