Benjamin: First Baby Born as Part of Penn Medicine’s Uterus Transplantation Trial

The birth of Benjamin Thomas Gobrecht defied both expectation and imagination: His mother, 33-year-old Jennifer Gobrecht, was born without a uterus. Benjamin, who arrived in November 2019 at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, grew inside a womb Ms. Gobrecht received as part of an organ transplant research trial over a year earlier. Benjamin is the first baby born as part of Penn Medicine’s ongoing Uterus Transplantation for Uterine Factor Infertility (UN-TIL) trial, which launched in 2017. He is the second baby in the nation to be born following transplantation of a uterus from a deceased donor. The UN-TIL trial is currently the only US uterus transplant trial that is actively enrolling patients.

“One of the hardest days of my life was when I was 17 years old and learned I would never be able to

(search Award from the National Academy of Sciences and the inaugural mid-career award from the Psychonomic Society. Dr. Kahana is author of *Foundations of Human Memory* and more than 175 peer reviewed publications. The Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Endowed Term Chairs were established through a bequest by Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn. Edmund Kähn was a 1925 Wharton graduate who had a highly successful career in the oil and natural gas industry. Louise Kahn, a graduate of Smith College, worked for *Newsweek* and owned an interior design firm. They supported many programs and projects at Penn, including Van Pelt Library, the Modern Languages Program in Gregory College House, and other initiatives in scholarship and the humanities.

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Deaths

Joel G. Flaks, Biochemistry

Joel Flaks, emeritus professor of biochemistry and biophysics at the University of Pennsylvania, died November 27. He was 92.

Dr. Flaks focused his research on bio-synthesis and metabolism of purines. He graduated from City University of New York–Brooklyn College with a degree in chemistry in 1950 and earned his PhD from Penn in 1957. He began his teaching career here that same year as an instructor in biochemistry in the medical school. Later in 1957, he became faculty.

In 1962, Dr. Flaks was promoted to assistant professor in biochemistry and in 1973, he became full professor. He received funding in 1974 for Metabolism of Normal and Bacteriophage-Infected E. Coli. Together with Harvey Rubin, professor of medicine, microbiology and computer science, Dr. Flaks was awarded a Research Foundation Award in 1987 for Regulation of DNA Synthesis in P. Falciparum (Almanac May 12, 1987). He took an early retirement in 1994 and earned emeritus status at that time. In 1997 he was given the School of Medicine’s Basic Science Teaching Award; as one of two directors of the biochemistry course, he “played a crucial role in creating this innovative course for medical students” (Almanac April 15, 1997).

To Report a Death

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

However, notices of alumni deaths should be directed to the Alumni Records Office at Suite 300, 2920 Walnut St., (215) 898-8136 or email record@ben.dev.upenn.edu.

From the Office of the Secretary

Call for Presentations on Latin America and the Caribbean

Penn Global, in partnership with Penn in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLAC), will host the 5th Annual PLAC Symposium on Friday, March 27 at Perry World House. They aim to powerfully highlight Penn work in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and to foster interdisciplinary dialogue among stakeholders across campus to inform Penn’s ongoing engagement in the region.

The main feature of the symposium will be blitz presentations and discussion of LAC-related research, education and practice at Penn. All members of the Penn community are invited to present LAC-related work at the symposium. Blitz presentations should last no more than five minutes and use no more than three PowerPoint slides. The way users will be grouped into thematic panels to foster discussion and illuminate potential synergies across Penn. Those who would like to present should complete a brief form at https://tinyurl.com/xssyubtf, which requires only a title and a 2-3 sentence description by Monday, February 3. Applicants will be notified by late February if their presentation has been accepted for the symposium.

For more information contact Catherine Bartch, associate director of Latin American and Latino Studies, at labs@sas.upenn.edu or barch@sas.upenn.edu.

Vonage to Power Penn’s Campus Communications

Vonage, a global leader in business cloud communications, has partnered with the University of Pennsylvania’s Information Systems & Computing Department (ISC) to power communications for more than 14,000 faculty and staff. As a part of Penn’s “Next Generation” initiative, ISC selected Vonage’s fully integrated unified communications solution for an innovative approach to unifying communications across all departments on campus.

Following an RFP and proof of concept process, ISC chose Vonage as its cloud communications provider with an initial contract of five years and the anticipated rollout will commence in early 2020. Vonage’s unified communications solution will provide the University with tools and services to improve communications at Penn and improve productivity among staff. With messaging and presence capabilities, a mobile and desktop app, as well as audio and video conferencing, Vonage’s solution will enhance the way users will be grouped into thematic panels to foster discussion and illuminate potential synergies across Penn. Those who would like to present should complete a brief form at https://tinyurl.com/xssyubtf, which requires only a title and a 2-3 sentence description by Monday, February 3. Applicants will be notified by late February if their presentation has been accepted for the symposium.

The addition of Vonage’s unified communications capabilities will also help to reduce the time needed for maintenance and streamline everyday tasks with automation capabilities, such as automatic call handling (ACH) and adding new users and workflows. As the University continues to grow, building on its nearly 300-year history, Vonage solutions offer the institution the ability to scale and integrate additional Vonage services, such as its cloud-based contact center solution and communications APIs to enhance interactions with external stakeholders via embedded and contextual communications.

“Vonage shares the University of Pennsylvania’s vision of a cloud first, next generation future,” said James Roth, vice president, Applications Group East for Vonage. “We are thrilled to partner with Penn on their digital transformation journey, providing them with the tools and innovative solutions they need to support and serve not only their faculty and staff but also their students and the greater academic community.”
Benjamin: First Baby Born as Part of Penn Medicine’s Uterus Transplantation Trial

(continued from page 1)
Anita Allen: Honorary Doctorate

Henry R. Silverman Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy Anita L. Allen has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Tilburg in the Netherlands.

Yu Cheng Chang: AAP Fellowship

Recognized for his commitment to teaching, Yu Cheng Chang (GD’15, GD’16, D’18), assistant professor of clinical periodontics, has been awarded an American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) Foundation Teaching Fellowship. The fellowship is awarded annually to two individuals nationwide.

Cary Coglianese, Sarah Hammer: ALI Election

Penn Law’s Cary Coglianese, Edward B. Shils Professor of Law and Professor of Political Science, and director of the Penn Program on Regulation, has been named one of the 50 lawyers, judges and law professors recently elected to the American Law Institute (ALI). He also serves as the faculty advisor to the Program on Regulation’s widely read daily publication, The Regulatory Review. The ALI is an independent organization that produces scholarly work to clarify, modernize and improve the law. The ALI publishes model and uniform codes, principles of law and Restatements of Law that are used extensively by courts, legislatures and legal educators.

Charles Kane, Eugene Mele: John Scott Award

Charles Kane and Eugene Mele, both Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professors of Physics from Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences, were among the three scientists to receive the annual John Scott Award for 2019. First bestowed in 1822, the prize was endowed by John Scott, a chemist and pharmacist from Scotland, in honor of Benjamin Franklin. Awarded is a medal and a $10,000 cash prize.

Michael DiBerardinis: Civic Champion Award

Michael DiBerardinis, professor of practice at the Fels Institute of Government, has been awarded a 2019 Civic Champion Award by CORA Services, a Philadelphia non-profit that aids children, youth and families experiencing emotional, academic and social challenges.
(continued from page 4)

Neil Tomson: NSF CAREER Award

Neil Tomson, assistant professor of chemistry in Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences, has been awarded a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program Award. The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program is a Foundation-wide activity that offers the National Science Foundation’s most prestigious awards in support of early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization. Activities pursued by early-career faculty should build a firm foundation for a lifetime of leadership in integrating education and research.

Dr. Tomson’s group performs synthetic inorganic and organometallic chemistry as a way of investigating new concepts in structure, bonding, catalysis and materials chemistry. The research involves the use of rigorous air-sensitive synthetic techniques and draws on a wide range of physical methods for characterizing novel compounds.

The Fisher Fine Arts Library: Iconic Buildings List

Penn’s Fisher Fine Arts Library made Curbed.com’s recent list of Philly’s Most Iconic Buildings. The story noted that the library “stands out on Penn’s campus, thanks to its fiery red brick facade and its jaw-dropping interiors.” Designed by Frank Furness between 1888 and 1890, the library’s soaring reading room made a prominent cameo in the Tom Hanks movie Philadelphia. It’s been praised by modern architects like Robert Venturi, as well as Louis Kahn, who chose to teach his studios at Penn Design instead of in the design school next door.

Corey J. Langer: ASTRo Honorary Member

Corey J. Langer, professor of hematology-oncology at Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine and director of thoracic oncology in the Abramson Cancer Center, was chosen by The American Society for Radiation Oncology as its 2019 Honorary Member. This is the highest honor that ASTRO bestows upon cancer physicians and researchers in disciplines outside of radiation oncology, radiobiology and medical physics.

Mark Wolff: College of Physicians Fellow

Penn Dental Medicine’s Morton Amsterdam Dean Mark Wolff has been inducted as a fellow of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, alongside 23 other prominent leaders in medicine, academia and public health advocacy. Dr. Wolff was the only dentist among the new inductees, who were inaugurated at a ceremony held November 15 at the College. Highly respected in the field of cardiology and a lifelong advocate and dental provider for individuals with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities, Dr. Wolff has led Penn Dental Medicine as its 12th Dean since July 2018. Dr. Wolff holds both a DDS (1981) and PhD (1997) from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook.

Every spring and fall, new members are welcomed to the College’s prestigious fellowship program to join an ever-growing group of esteemed civic leaders, physicians, public health advocates and academics. The College, home of the Mütter Museum, was founded as a non-profit educational and cultural institution in 1787 with the mission of “advancing the cause of health while upholding the ideals and heritage of medicine.”

During the ceremony, the inductees had the opportunity to sign their names into the College’s historical register, alongside distinguished former fellows, including US Founding Father Benjamin Rush; former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop; and founder of the Mütter Museum, Thomas Dent Mütter, a pioneering American surgeon of the 19th century.

Dean Wolff was sponsored by current College members and Penn Dental Medicine alumni Peter Quinn (D’74, GD’78) and Arnold Weisgold (GD’65). Another Penn Dental Medicine graduate and College member, Joseph Greenberg (D’72, GD’76), accompanied Dean Wolff to the induction ceremony.

College Fellows take on vital roles in supporting and advising on a number of projects relating to the medical humanities, including the Mütter Museum, one of the country’s leading medical history museums; the internationally recognized project historyofvaccines.org; and a number of youth programs in Philadelphia designed to support high school students who wish to pursue careers in STEM.

Charles L. Nelson: ABOS Appointment

Charles L. Nelson, professor of orthopaedic surgery and the chief of adult reconstruction at Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine, was newly elected to a 10-year term on the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS). The board is made up of 21 members who are elected after recommendations from the American Orthopaedic Association (AOA), the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), and the American Medical Association (AMA). Dr. Nelson specializes in joint replacement.

Guobin Yang: Outstanding Article Award

Guobin Yang, Grace Lee Boggs Professor of Communication and Sociology, associate dean for graduate studies at Penn’s Annenberg School for Communication and director of the Center on Digital Culture and Society, received an Outstanding Article award from the 2019 Annual Convention of the Chinese Association for History of Journalism and Communication for his paper “Remembering Disappeared Websites: Internet Memory, Media Biography and Website History.”

Dr. Yang is also the deputy director of the Center for the Study of Contemporary China, a faculty member in the Graduate Group in History, the Graduate Group in East Asian Languages and Cultures, the Graduate Group in International Studies (Lauder Institute), the Center for East Asian Studies and an affiliated faculty in the Asian American Studies Program. Dr. Yang is editor of the award-winning The Power of the Internet in China: Citizen Activism Online and The Red Guard Generation and Political Activism in China.

Six Penn Med Clinicians: Academy of Ophthalmology Awards

The American Academy of Ophthalmology recognized six Penn Medicine clinicians and researchers at its annual meeting in October. These awards honor ophthalmologists in multiple stages of practice and for a range of activities, from humanitarian service and significant contributions to the profession, to mentorship and faithful volunteer service. The winners: Graham E. Quinn, an emeritus professor of ophthalmology, received an Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award, in recognition of his efforts to improve outcomes for infants with retinopathy of prematurity (ROP)—the leading cause of preventable blindness in premature infants worldwide.

Michael E. Sulewski, chief of ophthalmology at the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Maureen G. Maguire, the Carolyn F. Jones Professor of Ophthalmology, and Prithvi S. Sankar, professor of clinical ophthalmology, each received Secretariat Awards. This award recognizes members and non-members for special contributions to the Academy and ophthalmology outside the scope of the current Achievement Awards program.

Ebenezer Daniel and Brian L. VanderBeek, both of the Department of Ophthalmology, each received Achievement Awards, which recognize members and non-members who have accumulated 10 points towards the Achievement Awards program.
Human Resources:
Upcoming February 2020 Programs
us to hear from two leading experts about how you can plan ahead for the financial and legal aspects of long-term care and essential documents everyone over 55 needs.

Posture Strengthening in Your Workspace: 2/5; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Did you know your posture affects your mind, mood and emotional well-being? Join Chloie Cole, assistant director of fitness & wellness at Penn Campus Recreation, for this experiential workshop where she will share tips and exercises to loosen up muscles, increase body awareness and strengthen your core to support a healthy posture in your workspace. The workshop will conclude with a short chair yoga session with a yoga instructor.

Flexible Work Options: 2/10; 12:30-1:30 p.m. This presentation will provide an overview of Flexible Work Options and provide guidelines for proposing and implementing a flex request including: understanding the applicable HR guidelines and policies, assessing the fit between position and job responsibilities, reviewing a sample proposal, documenting the flexible work option request and implementing the request.

Guided Mindful Meditation: 2/12; 12:30-1:30 p.m. This workshop is offered twice a month for participants to practice present moment awareness with kindness and compassion. The guided meditation will focus on the breath and being in the body. Self-applied massage and gentle mindful movements that promote rest and relaxation and reduce stress may also be included in the workshop. No experience necessary, All are warmly welcome.

Mindfulness and Anxiety: 2/17; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Anxiety motivates us to get things done but it can interfere with what we want to do at home and at work and how we interact with people and circumstances. In this experiential workshop, you’ll see, feel and practice how mindfulness can help you to improve your ability to reduce anxiety. Participants will learn: how to be intentional, stay present, observe our thoughts and manage our feelings. Participants will enjoy learning how to let go of negative emotion in favor of more positive emotions like courageousness, acceptance and peace. No prior meditation or mindfulness experience necessary. Bring a journal and pen.

Admissions Brown Bag: Undecided About Program of Study? And the Liberal Arts?: 2/18; noon-1 p.m. Faculty and staff with college-age dependents are invited to join Penn’s undergraduate admissions office to hear from several admissions officers about the liberal arts, their experiences, advising and the breadth of possibilities.

Retirement Planning: An Emotional Perspective: 2/25; 12:30-1:30 p.m. This workshop reviews the six phases of retirement from a personal perspective: everything from pre-retirement planning, to the honeymoon phase and ultimately to reorientation and development of a new lifestyle. For many people, a major concern is how they will handle the emotional stages of retirement and how will they create a new identity. This workshop reviews all of these stages, from the imagination stage to the reality transition stage.

Penn Healthy You Workshops
Open to faculty and staff. Register at www.hr.upenn.edu/registration

Gentle Yoga: 2/6; 11 a.m.-noon. Let your body reward itself with movement! Join us for this Gentle Yoga session and explore the natural movement of the spine with slow and fluid flowing bends and soft twists. During this session, you will flow into modified sun salutations that lengthen those tightened muscles and joints of the lower back, neck, shoulders and wrists. And as an added bonus, you’ll get a workout in the process. Mats and props will be provided.

Oral Health 101—All You Want to Know About Your Teeth and More: 2/11; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Healthy mouth, healthy body: The link between them may surprise you. Taking care of your teeth isn’t just about having a nice smile and pleasant breath. The condition of your mouth is closely tied to your overall health. Find out how oral health is linked to diabetes, heart disease, cancer and more in this interactive seminar with experts from Penn Dental Medicine.

Chair Yoga: 2/19; noon-1 p.m. Interested in trying yoga but don’t know where to start? Join us for a wonderful class of chair yoga. You can get the same benefits of a regular yoga workout (like increased strength, flexibility and balance) but don’t have to master complex poses. Chair yoga can even better your breathing and teach you how to relax your mind and improve your wellbeing.

February Indoor Wellness Walk: 2/21; noon-1 p.m. February is American Heart Month, an appropriate time to pay attention to one of the most important organs in your body. On February 21, meet the Center for Public Health Initiatives Staff inside the Palestra for some heart-healthy exercise. As the center of your circulatory system, your heart is vitally responsible for just about everything that gives your body life. In keeping with this month’s Valentine’s Day and heart-health theme, participants are encouraged to wear red for this 1- to 2-mile walk. Bring your water bottle and don’t forget your sneakers!

Gentle Yoga: 2/27; 11 a.m.-noon. Please see 2/6 listing for program description

Walking with Basketball Coaches
All students, faculty and staff are invited for a walk & talk with Penn Basketball on Monday, January 27 from noon to 1 p.m. The walk will be led by Steve Donohue, Head Coach, and Head Women’s Basketball Coach and Mike McLaughlin. Hear about the team and get to know the players, and we will depart from the Ben Franklin statue in front of College Hall and end at The Palestra.

More information can be found at www.bit.ly/pennwalks

PENNTRIathlon
Test your overall fitness with three challeng- es in Penn Campus Recreation’s PENNTRI- athon on Saturday February 29. Prizes will be awarded to each of the top male and female finishers in a 3.1 mile run, 12.5 mile bike ride and 700 meter swim (all events indoors). Registration is limited to 30 spots and there is a $25 registration fee. Registration at recreation.upenn. edu closes on February 24.
At Annenberg Center in January

Showcasing Annenberg Center’s unique relationship with the University of Pennsylvania, INSIGHTS events feature Penn faculty, Penn student performing arts groups, area experts and of course, the artists themselves! Occurring pre- and post-show, INSIGHTS events explore and illuminate the work on stage and are always free for ticket holders.

On January 14, stay after the Company performance for a post-show talk with Annenberg Center Executive & Artistic Director Christopher A. Gruets and NextMove Dance Artistic Director Randy Swartz. This will occur at approximately 9:50 p.m.

On January 31, arrive early for a 7 p.m., performance by a Penn jazz combo before the Spanish Harlem Orchestra performance at 8 p.m.

On January 25 at Annenberg Center’s Harold Prince Theatre, The Daedalus Quartet, Penn’s quartet-in-residence, explores migration through music, illustrating how centuries of cultural cross-pollination has enriched our artistic and spiritual life. Music truly has no borders, unifying through the universality of the human experience. In this performance, the quartet will perform works that exhibit the richness and complexity of this cultural convergence, including a world premiere of traditional African American spirituals by Nansi Carroll.


For tickets, go to: annenbergcenter.org/events/ticket-info.php or the Box Office: (215) 898-3900. For the full list of upcoming events, visit annenbergcenter.org/events

Philadelphia Carolines: work by six local cartoonists; opening reception including a panel discussion with the artists: 6 p.m.; Brodsky Gallery, Kelly Writers House.

The Zama Zama Project, a multi-format installation by Rosalind Morris about the world of informal mining in the abandoned gold mines of South Africa; opening reception: January 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Slought. Through March 20.

READINGS AND SIGNINGS

Penn Book Center (PBC)
Info: www.pennbookcenter.com/event

30 Thirty West Presents: ‘Not Great/Thanks For Asking’ Release Party; 6 p.m.
27 Talk Till The Minutes Run Out; Benedict Grima, author; 6:30 p.m.

TALKS

23 Rethinking Facadism: Materiality and the Politicization of Historic Structures; Kasey Dicenzo, Morgan, anthropology; noon; Upper Gallery, Meyerson Hall (Weitzman).

24 Criminal Record Expungement Project (CREP); Taylor Pacheco and Sarah Marie Coyle, Lawyers for Social Equity; noon; rm. 108, The ARCH; RSVP: deluciar@upenn.edu (Affirmative Action; MLK Symposium on Social Change).

AT PENN Deadlines
The February AT PENN calendar will be published January 28. The deadline for the March AT PENN calendar is February 10. The deadline for the weekly Update is the Monday prior to the week of the issue’s publication.

Update
January AT PENN

EXHIBITS

Spanish Harlem Orchestra (above) and Daedalus (below) perform this month.

The University of Pennsylvania Police Department

Community Crime Report

About the Crime Report: Below are the Crimes Against Persons or Crimes Against Society from the campus report for January 6-12, 2020. Also reported were 6 crimes against property (2 thefts from building, 1 bike theft, 1 retail theft, 1 theft from vehicle and 1 other offense) with 2 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 January 6-12, 2020. The University Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from the Schuylkill River to 33rd 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: 8 incidents (3 domestic assaults, 2 indecent assaults, 2 robberies and 1 assault) with 1 arrest were reported for January 6-12, 2020 by the 18th District Patrol during the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

01/07/20 3:26 AM 3900 Walnut St Subjects in possession of weapon/2 Arrests
01/08/20 4:05 PM 3800 Locust Walk Confident sex offense
01/09/20 9:21 AM 3200 Chestnut St Complainant threatened by offender on the highway
01/11/20 6:46 AM 3931 Walnut St Complainant assaulted by juveniles

aretz@upenn.edu

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

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Using a series of inflatable protuberances, a flat sheet of stretchy silicone can morph into predetermined 3D shapes, gently lifting and manipulating objects on top of it.