

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA *Almanac*

Tuesday
November 13, 2018
Volume 65 Number 13
www.upenn.edu/almanac

Erika Gross: Chief Operating Officer for Wellness Services

Erika Gross, director for finance, administration & risk management in Penn's Student Health Service, has been named the inaugural Chief Operating Officer for Wellness Services in the Division of the Vice Provost for University Life. In this new role, Ms. Gross will oversee operations and the eventual co-location of Alcohol and Other Drug Program Initiatives, Campus Health, Counseling and Psychological Service, Penn Violence Prevention, and the Student Health Service.



Erika Gross

She will report to Chief Wellness Officer Dr. Benoit Dubé and, together, they will help VPUL carry out the vision of President Amy Gutmann and Provost Wendell Pritchett for Penn to provide a seamless and holistic wellness services for all undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

"I am honored and excited to take on this

critical new position," Ms. Gross said. "I look forward to working closely with VPUL wellness departments, and our partners across campus and the health system, to craft a world-class experience for the Penn community."

"Erika brings a profound knowledge base and thriving campus network to this role, which will serve her and our students well," Dr. Dubé added. "I am grateful to have her as a partner in this significant reimagining of our wellness services and delivery models."

Ms. Gross has a 25-year professional history at Penn. Since 2011, she has served as the director of finance, administration and risk management at SHS. From 1993-2011, she held positions of increasing responsibility in the Office of Risk Management, culminating as director of international risk management.

She earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Penn in 1990 and a MBA/MS in health/health-care administration/management from Temple University's Fox School of Business and Management in 2006.

She will begin the COO position immediately and continue to serve Student Health Service until a search for a replacement is underway.

Two Endowed History Professors

Two historians have been named endowed professors at the University of Pennsylvania.



Antonio Feros

Antonio Feros, professor of history, has been appointed Rose Family Endowed Term Professor of History. A leading scholar of early modern European history focusing on Spain and its empire, Dr. Feros is the author of two books, *Kingship and Favoritism in the Spain of Philip III, 1598-1621* (Cambridge University Press, 2000),

and *Speaking of Spain: The Evolution of Race and Nation in the Hispanic World* (Harvard University Press, 2017), as well as three co-edited volumes and many articles. He has received a Fulbright Scholarship in Portugal and research grants from the Centro de Estudios Hispánicos e Iberoamericanos, the Luso-American Development Foundation and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at NYU.

Dr. Feros is an esteemed teacher who has been recognized with the SAS Award for Mentorship of Undergraduate Research and the department of history's Dunn Award for Distinguished Teaching. He has served as the graduate chair of history and as a member of the Arts and Sciences Committee on Graduate Education and the University Scholars Council.

The Rose Family Endowed Term Chair was established in 1996 by Gary D. Rose (C'67) and Karen Bress Rose (CW'67, GED'68). Both Mr. and Mrs. Rose have a long history of volunteer

service and philanthropy to Penn. Mr. Rose is currently an emeritus member of the Penn Arts and Sciences Board of Overseers and is a retired partner of Goldman Sachs & Company.

Roquinaldo Ferreira joins Penn as the Henry Charles Lea Professor of History. A historian



Roquinaldo Ferreira

who specializes in the history of the transatlantic slave trade, colonialism and the histories of Africa, Latin America and the wider Atlantic world, Dr. Ferreira was previously Vasco da Gama Associate Professor of Early Modern Portuguese History at Brown University, where he also served as associate director of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice (CSSJ). He is the author of *Cross-Cultural Exchange in the Atlantic World: Angola and Brazil during the Era of the Slave Trade* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) and *The Costs of Freedom: Central Africa in the Age of Abolition, 1820 ca.-1880 ca.*, is forthcoming with Princeton University Press in 2019.

The Henry Charles Lea Professorship in History was established in 1928 through the estate of Nina Lea in memory of her father, Henry Charles Lea (1825-1909), a noted Philadelphia historian, publisher, activist and civic reformer. His career as a historian spanned over half a century, during which time he published 10 books and many articles on church history in the later Middle Ages; institutional, legal and ecclesiastical history; magic and witchcraft; and the history of the Italian city-states.

Marc Lo: Executive Director of Office of Penn First Plus Students



Marc Lo

Marc Lo has been named the inaugural Executive Director of the new Office of Penn First Plus Students, effective January 1, 2019. The announcement was made by Penn Provost Wendell Pritchett.

"Marc is a highly experienced expert in undergraduate student learning and development," Provost Pritchett said. "He is widely

recognized as a scholar and a professional leader whose research focuses on how students negotiate their multiple, intersecting identities and how those personal backgrounds and identities, from socioeconomic status to sexual identity and religious affiliations, affect their lives on campus and the choices that they make."

Dr. Lo is currently at the Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning at Brown University.

He has a broad range of experience across residential life, student assessment and LGBTQ student services in a career that spans more than 10 years at Brown University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and New York University. He was a first-generation, low-income undergraduate student at Northeastern University who went on to earn his MA in higher education administration and PhD in higher and post-secondary education from NYU.

President Amy Gutmann and Provost Pritchett established the Office of Penn First Plus Students earlier this year (*Almanac* May 8, 2018) to offer a hub of resources, support and community for undergraduate students from first-generation and/or low-income backgrounds (*Almanac* September 4, 2018).

As executive director, Dr. Lo will implement new programs, strengthen connections to faculty and alumni, and provide a strategic vision to sustain Penn First Plus initiatives. He will also work to connect the numerous existing programs and services and partner with Penn students and colleagues across the University, including Admissions, Student Financial Services and cultural centers to advance the success of outstanding Penn First Plus students.

INSIDE

- 2 Senate: Nominating Committee; Trustees Fall Meeting Coverage; Endowing the Morris Arboretum's Director of Facilities Position
- 3 Report of the Ad Hoc Consultative Committee for the Selection of a Dean of SP2; University Council's Open Forum Format
- 4 Honors & Other Things; Deaths
- 6 *Jessica Lang Dance* at Annenberg Center; HR: Upcoming Programs; Penn Science Cafe and Lighbulb Cafe
- 7 World AIDS Day; CrimeStats; Update; Penn's Way Raffle; Military Family Clinic
- 8 Research Roundup

Trustees' Fall Stated Meeting Coverage

At the University of Pennsylvania Trustees' Fall Stated Meeting on Friday, November 9, Chairman David L. Cohen noted that the Trustees had an engaging lunch-time presentation on Thursday by the faculty co-directors of Penn First Plus, Camille Charles and Robert Christ along with four Penn First Plus students.

Then, Thursday evening, there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Ronald O. Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics. In addition to Wharton alumnus Ronald Perelman there to cut the ribbon, the event was attended by Vicki Kennedy, widow of Ted Kennedy, and Cindy McCain, widow of John McCain.

At the Stated Meeting, the Trustees passed a Memorial Resolution for Emeritus Trustee Jon M. Huntsman (W'59, HON'96) and, who died in February (*Almanac* February 13, 2018).

Mr. Cohen noted that Emeritus Trustee Robert P. Levy (C'52), had recently passed away and a Memorial Resolution will be presented at a subsequent meeting.

They also passed a Resolution of Appreciation for Julie Beren Platt (C'79), as she is concluding her tenure as president of Penn Alumni and is currently an overseer of the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

A Resolution of Appreciation and a designation as Emeritus Trustee was passed for Michael J. Kowalski (W'74), chair of the Museum's board of overseers for 12 years.

William W.M. Cheung (D'81, GD'82), was elected an Emeritus Trustee.

Connie Duckworth (WG'79), James Johnson (C'74, L'7) and Ramanan Raghavendran, (ENG'89, W'89, LPS'15)—having each served as Alumni Trustees since 2014—were elected as Term Trustees.

President Amy Gutmann referred to the invocation that had been given by Rev. Charles Howard which described the vigil held on campus near the Peace Symbol after the massacre in the Pittsburgh synagogue that killed and injured many people, including Penn alumnus Jerry Rabinowitz (C'73, Med'77). President Gutmann described the geriatrician as a caring physician who had treated AIDS patients many years ago. She also said she was proud of the outpouring of love at Penn's vigil on College Green.

President Gutmann said that the recent Perelman Center ribbon-cutting included a riv-

eting discussion between Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent for NBC Andrea Mitchell, CW'67 and a trustee emerita, and 2018-2019 Presidential Professor of Practice Jeb Bush. The recently renovated and expanded building houses two of Penn's most popular majors, economics and political science, in one place (*Almanac* September 11, 2018).

President Gutmann also noted the recent passing of Lucy Hackney (*Almanac* November 6, 2018), a cherished member of the Penn community who will be long remembered.

President Gutmann then presented two resolutions concerning John L. Jackson, Jr., the first a Resolution of Appreciation for his "dynamic and visionary leadership of the School of Social Policy and Practice, reaffirming the University's enduring commitment to the values of social justice, social advocacy and social progress." The second one was to appoint him as dean of the Annenberg School of Communication, effective January 1, 2019 (*Almanac* February 13, 2018). Also approved was a Resolution to Appoint Sara Bachman as dean of the School of Social Policy and Practice, effective January 1, 2019 (*Almanac* September 4, 2018).

Provost Wendell Pritchett reported that the Take Your Professor to Lunch and Host Your Class Program which was revitalized last year had its usage quintupled last semester and he expects it to continue at that pace.

EVP Craig Carnaroli reported on the financials for the three months ended September 30, 2018. He said that for the Consolidated University, total net assets were \$18.6 billion, an increase of \$2.1 billion over the prior September. The change in net assets from operations reflected an increase of \$79 million, \$32 million above the prior year. For the Academic Component, capital expenditures totaled \$89 million, \$21 million above the prior year with notable projects including Stemmler Hall, Richards Building and Hous-ton Market renovations, and construction of the Wharton Academic Building and substation. The Health System had capital expenditures totaling \$235 million, \$114 million over the prior year.

Penn Med Dean and EVP for UPHS Larry Jameson reported that the Health System broke ground last month at Penn Medicine at Radnor for a new building.

The Academic Policy Committee presented

two resolutions for approval: the Trustees approved the establishment of a master of science in genetic counseling and a master of science in biomedical informatics, both in the Perelman School of Medicine.

The Trustees approved the following resolutions from the Budget & Finance Committee: to authorize an additional \$152.5 million for the design and construction of the New College House West; the design and construction of HVAC renovations at Kings Court, English House and Dubois College House, \$24.8 million; Vance Hall interior renovations, \$16.4 million; Huntsman Hall HVAC upgrades, phase 3, \$5.3 million; Silverman Hall classroom renovations, \$7.1 million; three-year lease renewal for Penn Wharton China Center in Beijing, \$5.3 million; and acquisition of property in East Petersburg, Pennsylvania, by Lancaster General Hospital, \$5.4 million.

There were also a series of resolutions to appoint numerous overseers to various boards.

SENATE From the Senate Chair

TO: Members of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Jennifer Pinto-Martin, Chair
SUBJECT: Senate Nominating Committee 2019

1. In accordance with the requirements of the Faculty Senate Rules, notice is given to the Senate Membership of the Senate Executive Committee's nine-member slate of nominees for the 2019 Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee nominates candidates for election to the office of the Faculty Senate Chair, to the At-Large and Assistant Professor positions on the Senate Executive Committee, to the Senate Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty and to the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility. The nine nominees, all of whom have agreed to serve, are:

Nelson Flores (Associate Professor of Education)

Richard Gelles (The Joanne and Raymond Welsh Chair of Child Welfare and Family Violence in the School of Social Policy & Practice)

Michael Golden (Associate Professor of Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania)

Jeffrey Jaeger (Professor of Clinical Medicine)

John MacDonald (Professor of Criminology and Sociology)

Lea Ann Matura (Associate Professor of Nursing)

Andrew Postlewaite (Harry P. Kamen Professor of Economics; Professor of Finance)

David Rubin (Professor of Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)

Santosh Venkatesh (Professor of Electrical and Systems Engineering)

2. Pursuant to the Rules, additional nominations may be submitted by petition containing at least 25 signed names and the signed approval of the candidate. All such petitions must be received by *November 28, 2018*. If no additional nominations are received, the slate nominated by the Executive Committee will be declared elected. If additional nominations are received, a mail ballot will be distributed to the Faculty Senate membership. Please forward any nominations-by-petition via intramural mail to the Faculty Senate, c/o Patrick Walsh, at Box 9, College Hall/6303 or by email to *senate@pobox.upenn.edu*. Questions may be directed to Mr. Walsh by email to the address above or by telephone at (215) 898-6943.

Endowing the Morris Arboretum's Director of Facilities Position

For decades, the Morris Arboretum has worked carefully to grow its endowment base in order to ensure ongoing fiscal strength and provide stable financial resources for programmatic growth. Among the greatest champions of this cause is Morris Arboretum Emeritus Advisory Board member Moses "Moe" Feldman. It is therefore the Arboretum's great honor to announce the establishment of the Moses Feldman Family Director of Physical Facilities. This new endowment fund, made possible by Mr. Feldman and his family as part of the *Ever Green* campaign, will support the costs of the director's position, thereby making it possible for the Arboretum to grow its physical facilities department, which maintains and cares for 30 buildings and many other features across the Morris Arboretum.



Tom Wilson

Thomas (Tom) Wilson, who has served as the Arboretum's director of physical facilities since 2013 (*Almanac* January 15, 2013), couldn't be happier with his new title. "I've worked alongside Moe for many years, and I am so proud to have my position be affiliated with the Feldman name. He has been a great source of support and inspiration for us all."



Susan and Moe Feldman

Report of the Ad Hoc Consultative Committee for the Selection of a Dean of the School of Social Policy & Practice

The Ad Hoc Consultative Committee for the Selection of a Dean of the School of Social Policy & Practice was convened by President Amy Gutmann on March 22, 2018. During its three months of work, the full Committee met on nine occasions and reported its recommendations to the President on June 20, 2018. The Committee members were:

Chair: Pam Grossman, Dean and George and Diane Weiss Professor of Education, GSE

Faculty: Jacqueline Corcoran, Professor, SP2
Ezekiel Dixon-Román, Associate Professor and Chair, Data Analytics for Social Policy Certificate Program, SP2
Peter Frumkin, Professor, Mindy and Andrew Heyer Chair in Social Policy, and Director, Nonprofit Leadership Program, SP2
Amy Hillier, Associate Professor of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) and City and Regional Planning (Design), and Director, MS in Social Policy Program
Judith Long, Sol Katz Professor of Medicine, PSOM
Phyllis Solomon, Professor, Kenneth L. Pray Chair in Social Policy and Practice, and Associate Dean for Research, SP2
Mark Stern, Professor (SP2) and Co-Director, Urban Studies Program

Students: Brie Starks, Master's student

Marquisha Lawrence Scott, PhD student

Alumni: David Ertel, Trustee and Chair, SP2 Overseers
Jodi Bergstein Rabinowitz, SP2 Overseer

Ex Officio: Joann Mitchell, Senior Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer

The search was supported by Adam P. Michaels, Deputy Chief of Staff in the President's Office, and Robin Mamlet, Robert Luke, and Christine Pendleton of the executive search firm Witt/Kieffer.

The Committee and its consultants conducted informational interviews and consultative meetings with individuals and groups throughout the Penn and Penn SP2 communities, as well as many informal contacts, in order to better understand the scope, expectations and challenges of the Dean's position and the opportunities facing the University in the years ahead. These consultative activities included full Committee meetings with Dean John Jackson and members of the SP2 leadership team. In addition, the Chair

and the Committee members held open meetings for faculty, staff and students. The consultants interviewed administrators from the central administration and from SP2 and sought nominations from academics and practitioners across the nation and the world as well as from leaders in government, foundations, academic societies and other organizations. Finally, members of the Committee engaged in extensive networking with Penn faculty and students, as well as colleagues at other institutions. The Committee also solicited advice and nominations from all SP2 faculty, Deans, and senior administrators via email and reviewed a variety of documents about the school.

Based upon these conversations and materials, the Committee's charge from the President and the Committee's own discussions, a comprehensive document was prepared outlining the scope of the position and the challenges a new Dean will face, as well as the qualities sought in a new Dean. The vacancy was announced (and input invited from the entire Penn community) in *Almanac*.

Over the course of its three-month search process, the Committee and its consultants contacted and considered nearly 300 individuals for the position. From this group, the committee evaluated an initial pool of 45 nominees and applicants and ultimately selected nine individuals for semi-finalist interviews with the entire Committee. Based on voluntary self-identifications and other sources, we believe the initial pool of 45 contained 16 women and 29 men, and seven persons of color. The four individuals recommended for consideration to the President included two women and two people of color.

On August 29, 2018, President Gutmann and Provost Wendell Pritchett announced the selection of Dr. Sara "Sally" Bachman as Dean of the School of Social Policy & Practice. Dr. Bachman is an acclaimed scholar, teacher and academic leader passionately committed to integrating the perspectives and tools of multiple disciplines and professions in research, community partnerships, policy development and education and training activities. She will assume her new office on January 1, 2019.

—Pam Grossman, Dean and George and Diane Weiss Professor of Education, Graduate School of Education
Chair, Consultative Committee on the Selection of a Dean of the School of Social Policy & Practice

Section IV.3(c) of the Council Bylaws provides that a University Council meeting "shall incorporate an open forum to which all members of the University community are invited and during which any member of the University community can direct questions to the Council."

All members of the University community are invited to bring issues for discussion to the:

University Council Open Forum Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 4:40 p.m. Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall

Individuals who want to be assured of speaking at Council must inform the Office of the University Secretary (ucouncil@pobox.upenn.edu) by 5 p.m. on Monday, November 26, 2018. Please indicate the topic you would like to discuss. Those who have not so informed the Office of the University Secretary will be permitted to speak only at the discretion of the Moderator of University Council and in the event that time remains after the scheduled speakers.

Please see the format given below. Questions may be directed to the Office of the University Secretary at (215) 898-7452 or ucouncil@pobox.upenn.edu
—Office of the University Secretary

Format for University Council's Open Forum December 5, 2018

The University Council will devote a substantial portion of its December 5, 2018 meeting to a public forum. The purpose of the Open Forum is to inform Council of issues important to the University's general welfare and of the range of views held by members of the University. The forum is open to all members of the University community under the conditions set by the Bylaws, following guidelines established by the Steering Committee of Council:

1. Any member of the University community who wishes to do so may attend the Council meeting. Individuals who want to be assured of speaking at Council, however, must inform the Office of the University Secretary (ucouncil@pobox.upenn.edu) by 5 p.m. on Monday, November 26, 2018, indicating briefly the subject of their remarks. Those who have not so informed the Office of the University Secretary will be permitted to speak only at the discretion of the Moderator of University Council and in the event that time remains after the scheduled speakers.

2. Speakers should expect to be limited to three minutes with the possibility of additional time in cases where members of Council engage the speakers with follow-up questions or remarks. The Moderator may restrict repetition of views. Speakers are encouraged to provide Council with supporting materials and/or written extensions of their statements before, during or after the Council meeting.

3. Following the deadline for speakers to sign up with the Office of the

University Secretary, the Chair of Steering and the Moderator of Council will structure the subject matter themes, speakers and times for the Open Forum session. In the event that there is not enough time available at the meeting to provide for all those who have requested to speak, the two officers may make selections which accommodate the broadest array of issues having important implications for Council's work and represent the breadth of Council's constituencies. The resulting order of the Open Forum of University Council will be made available no later than the Tuesday before the meeting, to be published on the Office of the University Secretary website (<https://secretary.upenn.edu/univ-council/open-forum>) and, if deadline constraints allow, in *The Daily Pennsylvanian* and *Almanac*.

4. Speakers' statements should be framed to present policy issues and be directed to University Council as a body through the Moderator. The Moderator will have discretion to interrupt statements that are directed against persons and otherwise to maintain the decorum of the meeting, as provided for in the Bylaws. In cases where questions or positions can be appropriately addressed by members of Council, or where a colloquy would seem to be productive given the time constraints of the meeting, the Moderator may recognize members of Council to respond to speakers' statements, with opportunities for follow-up by the speakers.

5. Should the number of submitted topics of community-wide interest exceed what can be accommodated during a single Open Forum session, discussion will be allowed to continue at the following University Council meeting.

Honors & Other Things

Penn Medicine: Most Wired List

For the sixth straight year, *Penn Medicine* has received Health Care's Most Wired Award, which recognizes hospitals and health systems that embrace and maximize technology to support the delivery of care. Penn Medicine has won the award every year since 2013 and was also named to the list from 2001 through 2008.

The Most Wired Awards have been given out for 20 years, previously by Hospitals & Health Networks. This year, they were taken over by the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME), and their focus shifted from only highlighting health systems' technology adoption to now including how well organizations closed technology gaps. The goal is to promote the strategic use of health-care information technology on a global scale.

Senior vice president and chief information officer at Penn Medicine Michael Restuccia identified two main areas where Penn Medicine significantly advanced its technological scope since winning the award last year: patient engagement and the exchange of patient data with external partners.

The award was announced during the CHIME Fall CIO Forum in San Diego. C. William Hanson III, vice president and chief medical information officer at Penn Medicine, accepted the award.

Bridgette Brawner: Richard L. Sowell Article of the Year Award

Bridgette Brawner, associate professor in Penn Nursing's department of family and community health, has won the 2018 Richard L. Sowell Article of the Year Award from the *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (JANAC)*.

This award recognizes an outstanding article published in the *JANAC* during July 1-June 30 of the year preceding ANAC's annual conference. Her article, "Focus Group Findings to Develop an HIV/STI Prevention Program for Heterosexually Active Black Adolescents with Mental Illnesses," concludes that heterosexually active Black adolescents with mental illnesses are at increased risk for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV. However, there are few HIV/STI prevention interventions that exist for this demographic.

Dr. Brawner presented the paper and accepted the award at the conference in Denver, Colorado last week.



Bridgette Brawner

Abe Nitzan: Earle K. Plyler Prize

Abraham (Abe) Nitzan, Donner Professor of Physical Sciences and professor of chemistry in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences has received the Earle K. Plyler Prize for Molecular Spectroscopy & Dynamics. This prize was established in 1976 and is now sponsored by *The Journal of Chemical Physics*, an AIP Publishing journal. The prize is given for experimental or theoretical achievements, for a single dramatic innovation, or for a series of research contributions which, when integrated, amounts to a major contribution to the field of molecular spectroscopy and dynamics.

Dr. Nitzan's research focuses on the interaction of light with molecular systems, chemical reactions in condensed phases and interfaces, and charge transfer processes in such environments. In addition to the textbook, *Chemical Dynamics in Condensed Phases* (Oxford U. Press, 2006), he has published over 300 papers, has been assigned a patent and has given invited talks at more than 150 scientific meetings.



Abe Nitzan

(continued on page 5)

Deaths

Tom Burns, Wharton and Fels

Thomas Francis Burns, former assistant professor at the Wharton School and group director at the Fels Institute of Government at Penn, passed away on August 3 from cancer. He was 71.

Dr. Burns received an undergraduate degree in architecture from the University of Minnesota in 1969, a masters of environmental studies from York University in Toronto in 1972 and a PhD in social systems sciences from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1981.

He went on to join Wharton's faculty in 1981 as an assistant professor in the department of social systems sciences. He also served as a senior research associate for Wharton's Management and Behavioral Science Center (MBSC) for several years. From 1986 until he left Penn a few years later, in addition to teaching, he was also the director of the organization and management group at what was then called the Fels Center for Government (now the Fels Institute).

After leaving Penn, Dr. Burns went on to become the founding director of the OMG Center for Collaborative Learning in Philadelphia, a national evaluation and strategy firm committed to innovation and shared learning in the social sector and then served as president of Urban Ventures Group, a national community development consulting company.

Dr. Burns is survived by his husband, Ray Davis; and brothers, Terrence and Timothy.

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

Tim Powell, Religious Studies



Tim Powell

Timothy Burgess (Tim) Powell, senior lecturer in the department of religious studies in the School of Arts & Sciences at Penn, died November 1 at his home in Philadelphia. He was 58.

Dr. Powell was born in New Haven, Connecticut, and grew up in Cheshire, Connecticut. He graduated from Cheshire High School in 1978 and then earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy and political science from Bucknell University in 1982. After graduating, he traveled to Egypt, where he taught English and met his wife, Eve Troutt.

Dr. Powell graduated with his master's degree in English in 1987 from Trinity College and then earned his doctoral degree in American literature and history in 1995 from Brandeis University. He taught at Kenyon College before joining the faculty at the University of Georgia in Athens. In 2006, both he and his wife joined the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania.

At Penn, Dr. Powell was a senior lecturer in religious studies and a consulting scholar at the Penn Museum. He taught courses in literature, cultural anthropology and religious studies, all of which encompassed Native American and Indigenous Studies, which became the legacy of his scholarly work. He founded the Educational Partnerships with Indigenous Communities (EPIC) at the Penn Language Center, which continued the work of digitizing archives in in-

igenous languages and returning these texts to their cultural homes and served as EPIC's director until his death. Additionally, he was a member of the Governing Board of the Price Lab for Digital Humanities, the Faculty Advisory Group of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Program, and the Faculty Working Group of the Penn Program in Environmental Humanities.

Dr. Powell devoted his career to the preservation and revitalization of Native American and Indigenous language and culture. The author of several scholarly texts, numerous articles and the recipient of 18 federal and philanthropic grants, he traveled throughout the US and Canada, visiting with indigenous communities to encourage the digital repatriation of native artifacts.

Outside of Penn, Dr. Powell was a consulting scholar at the American Philosophical Society, where he established the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research and served as its director from 2008 to 2016. Dr. Powell, who was the great-great grandson of the Christian preacher Dwight L. Moody, assisted his father David Powell, in establishing The Moody Center in Northfield, Massachusetts in 2018.

Dr. Powell is survived by his wife, Eve Troutt Powell, the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of History and African Studies at Penn; sons Jibreel (Gabe) (C'16) and Gideon; parents David and Lucia; brother, John (Heather) and their children Ian, Mackenzie and Henry; his aunt Gloria; sister-in-law Margot Keys (William) and their daughter Lena; brother-in-law David Troutt (Shawn) and their children Naima and Jasmine.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. on *Friday, November 16* at West Laurel Hill Cemetery Chapel, 225 Belmont Ave., Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

Jianghong Liu: TCPW Award

The Trustees Council of Penn Women's (TCPW) 7th Annual Advising Award was presented to *Jianghong Liu*, associate professor of nursing in Penn Nursing and associate professor of public health in the Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Liu received the award at the TCPW Fall Conference on November 8.



Jianghong Liu

The award recognizes "undergraduate advisors who have distinguished themselves in providing outstanding assistance and advice to their advisee students and who have made a significant impact of the academic experience of these students."

Laura W. Perna, Pell Institute Grant



Laura Perna

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 subcontract from the Pell Institute, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The one-year, \$250,000 grant, \$60,000 of which is to

Penn GSE, will support the production of the annual *Indicators of Higher Education Equity* report.

Dr. Perna's current projects focus on free tuition/promise programs and the institutional characteristics that predict bachelor's degree completion for Pell Grant recipients.

Jennifer Whittaker: Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship

Jennifer Whittaker, a PhD student in PennDesign's department of city and regional planning, has been selected to participate in one of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's leadership development programs, designed to equip leaders across the country to collaborate, break down silos and use their influence to make communities healthier and more equitable.

Ms. Whittaker was selected for the Health Policy Research Scholar program. The program helps researchers from all fields—from economics to epidemiology—apply their work to policies that advance equity and health while building a diverse field of leaders who reflect the changing national demographics. The four-to-five-year program provides participants with an annual stipend of up to \$30,000.

Ms. Whittaker will focus on addressing health disparities in rural communities in the US through partnering with systems outside of health care. Her work will explore how to implement community and population health-based approaches to providing care in ways that meet the unique needs of rural communities. She is working with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's PolicyLab and building on experiences from University at Buffalo's Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab.

Shu Yang: APS Fellowship

Shu Yang, professor in the departments of materials science and engineering and chemical and biomolecular engineering, in SEAS, has been elected a fellow of the American Physical Society (APS). Her fellowship nomination was from the scholarly society's Topical Group on Soft Matter.

The APS Fellowship Program was created to recognize members who may have made advances in knowledge through original research and publication or made significant and innovative contributions in the application of physics to science and technology. Dr. Yang was cited for her "contributions to the geometric design and controlled assembly of soft matter." Some of her most innovative work in those fields—learning to mimic the light-controlling structures that allow giant clams to efficiently farm algae inside their bodies—was recently featured in *The Atlantic*.



Shu Yang

2018 J.P. Eckert Master's Fellows

The department of computer and information science (CIS) in the School of Engineering and Applied Science announced the 2018 J.P. Eckert Master's Fellowships, which provide outstanding master's students who are US citizens or US permanent residents \$10,000 toward tuition. The purpose of the fellowship is to provide financial support to master's students and to advance Penn's interest in promoting student body diversity. This year's recipients are:

Erin Goldberg (Computer Graphics and Game Technology)

Stephanie Goldberg (Computer Graphics and Game Technology)

Shalmali Joshi (Embedded Systems)

Ada Li (Data Science)

Edidiong Okon (Computer and Information Science)

Tierra Sharae (Computer and Information Technology)

Rosalind Shinkle (Robotics)

During the year, students will have the opportunity to participate in various recruitment and outreach activities and will provide crucial insight and feedback to the department.



2018 Eckert Fellows. Left to right, CIS director of diversity and belonging *Rita Powell*, *Rosalind Shinkle*, *Stephanie Goldberg*, *Ada Li*, *Erin Goldberg*, *Tierra Sharae*, *Edidiong Okon*, *Shalmali Joshi* and associate dean *Boon Thau Loo*.

Photograph by Lamont Abrams

Kleinman Center 2018-2019 Funded Projects

Each year, the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy awards grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 to support new research or supplement existing research. To date, the center has distributed 43 research grants in Engineering, Design, Arts and Sciences, Law, and Wharton.

Following are the funded projects for 2018-2019:

Migration, Climate Change, and Sustainability Attitudes; Sabrina Arias, PhD student, international relations, School of Arts and Sciences; co-author: Christopher Blair, PhD student, international relations, School of Arts and Sciences

Architecture and Energy Transitions: The Case of the Bauhaus Dessau Building; Daniel Barber, associate professor, historic preservation, PennDesign

Repowering Ulaanbaatar: Urbanization after Coal; Stephanie Carlisle, lecturer, landscape architecture, PennDesign; co-author: Nicholas Pevzner, lecturer, landscape architecture, PennDesign

Power Issue of Scenario Journal; Stephanie Carlisle, lecturer, landscape architecture, PennDesign; co-author: Nicholas Pevzner, lecturer, landscape architecture, PennDesign

Uber and Lyft's Affects on Gasoline Consumption and Emissions; Xiaoxia (Summer) Dong, PhD student, city and regional planning, PennDesign

Fracking and Indigenous Demands in the South of Argentina; Tulia G. Falleti, associate professor, political science, School of Arts and Sciences

Jump-Starting the Market: Subsidies and Firm Entry; Felipe Flores-Golfin, PhD student, business economics and public policy, Wharton

Your Uber Has Arrived: Ridesharing and Emissions Impacts; Caitlin Gorbach, PhD student, real estate, Wharton

Endogenizing Fuel Price Risk (and Uncertainty); Steven Kimbrough, professor, operations, information and decisions, Wharton

The Politics of Carbon Taxes at the State Level; Ioana Marinescu, assistant professor, SP2

Energy Cost Burdens for Low-Income Households; Vincent Reina, assistant professor, city and regional planning, PennDesign; co-author: Constantine Kontokosta (NYU)

Fossil Fuels, the Building Industry, and Human Health; Franca Trubiano, associate professor, Architecture, PennDesign

Jessica Lang Dance at the Annenberg Center: November 30-December 1

“A master of visual composition” (*Dance Magazine*), Bucks County native Jessica Lang is a superstar in the dance world. Called “sophisticated and intelligent” (*The Los Angeles Times*) and “moving and masterful” (*Chicago Sun-Times*), Lang’s ballet-based yet contemporary-driven works are rich with stunning movement, compelling musicality and beautiful cinematic composition.

In a program of world and Philadelphia premieres, Jessica Lang will transform how audiences experience dance on *Friday, November 30* at 8 p.m. and on *Saturday, December 1* at 2 and 8 p.m. in the Zellerbach Theatre.

The program includes: *Solo Bach* (2008), *Aria* (excerpt) (2010), *glow* (2017), *us/we* (world premiere), and *This Thing Called Love* (2018) celebrating the music of Tony Bennett.

For tickets: annenbergcenter.org or call (215) 898-3900.

See discounts for Penn faculty, staff and students at: <https://annenbergcenter.org/events/penn-connections.php>



Catch Jessica Lang Dance at the Annenberg Center.

Human Resources: Upcoming December Programs

Professional and Personal Development Programs

Open to faculty and staff. Register at <http://knowledgeink.upenn.edu/>

TED Talk Tuesday: Got a Wicked Problem? First, Tell Me How You Make Toast; 12/11; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Making toast doesn’t sound very complicated—until someone asks you to draw the process, step by step. Tom Wujec loves asking people and teams to draw how they make toast, because the process reveals unexpected truths about how we can solve our biggest, most complicated problems at work. Learn how to run this exercise yourself and hear Mr. Wujec’s surprising insights from watching thousands of people draw toast.

Using Social Media for Your Job Search; 12/14; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Are you using social media in your job search? In this workshop hosted by Recruitment and Staffing, learn how to leverage your social platform to connect with University professionals and land your next job.

Psychology of Job Performance; 12/19; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Successfully overcoming performance issues in the workplace requires a basic understanding of how the human mind works. In this hour-long session, we will discuss how job performance intersects with concepts within the field of psychology, such as behavioral science and motivation. We will discuss how these concepts form a framework that can be used to diagnose performance issues and realize the most efficient and effective ways to overcome them.

Work-life Workshops

Open to faculty and staff. Register at www.hr.upenn.edu/registration

Guided Meditation; 12/4 and 12/14; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Practice mindful breathing that focuses your attention on the present moment with kindness, compassion and awareness. Self-massage and gentle mindful movements that promote relaxation and reduce stress may also be included in the workshop. No experience necessary.

Mindfulness; 12/12; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Mindfulness is “paying attention, on purpose, in the present moment, non-judgmentally,” according to 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 mindfulness can help you become more engaged and effective both at home and in the workplace. No prior meditation experience necessary.

Penn Healthy You Workshops

Open to faculty and staff. Register at www.hr.upenn.edu/registration

Get to Know What is Healthy at Houston Hall; 12/4; 11:30 a.m.-noon. Join Dan Connolly, Bon Appétit’s Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, on an interesting tour of the many delicious, healthy options in Houston Market. You will meet him at Houston Hall’s Information Desk, where he will give a brief history of Bon Appétit and explain the elements of a healthy meal. Then, you’ll follow Mr. Connolly downstairs to Houston Market, where he’ll walk you through the various food stations and explain how you too can eat healthy at Houston Market!

December Wellness Walk: Holiday Edition; 12/14; noon-1 p.m., starts at Locust Walk in front of College Hall. The holidays are quickly approaching and we hope that you are beginning to be in a festive mood. We will be having our monthly wellness walk, and we want everyone to come dressed in fun and crazy holiday decorations. Come adorned in your “ho-ho-ho” tie, reindeer antlers/hat, candy cane tights, jingle bells, and yes, we want to see that ugly holiday sweater that grandma gave you last year. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year’s Day or simply the spirit of the season, we hope you will join us for some healthy holiday fun! Hopefully the weather will be favorable and we will be able to enjoy everyone’s ornamentations. Even if dressing up is not for you, we still want you to grab your coworkers and join us for just an hour as we take advantage of the great benefits walking produces.

—Division of Human Resources

Penn Science Café and Lightbulb Café Lecture Series

The Penn Science Café and Lightbulb Café highlight the University’s accomplishments and research. The free public lectures in Center City take place at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and are followed by an audience Q&A session. The upcoming lectures are as follows:

Today: *Nudging Women to Run;* Dawn Teele, Janice and Julian Bers Assistant Professor of Political Science, SAS; Wilma Theater.

December 4: *The Physics of Foam;* Doug Durian, Professor of physics, SAS; Suzanne Roberts Theatre.

January 22: *Why the US President Doesn’t Matter for the Middle East Peace Process;* Ian Lustick, professor of political science and Bess W. Heyman Chair, SAS; Suzanne Roberts Theatre.

February 5: *Topic TBA;* J. Nicholas Betley, assistant professor of biology, SAS; Wilma Theater.

February 19: *The Academy Awards and World Cinema;* Meta Mazaj, senior lecturer in cinema and media studies, SAS; Wilma Theater.

March 12: *The Evolution of Cooperation;* Coren Apicella, assistant professor of psychology, SAS; Suzanne Roberts Theatre.

March 19: *Translating the Odyssey: Why and How;* Emily Wilson, professor of classical studies; SAS; Suzanne Roberts Theatre.

April 9: *Human and Superhuman Color Vision;* Phil Nelson, professor of physics & astronomy, SAS; Wilma Theater.

April 23: *American Jewish Men and the Anxieties of Breadwinning, 1850-1940;* Beth Wenger, Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of History and department chair, SAS; Suzanne Roberts Theatre.

June 11: *Topic TBA;* Suzanne Roberts Theatre.

RSVP is not required but is recommended, email juliansh@upenn.edu For more information about the upcoming 2018 lectures, visit <https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/sciencecafe/>

To learn about the 2019 lectures, visit <https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/penn-science-and-lightbulb-cafe-lecture-series-spring-2019>

**Penn's Way 2019
Raffle Prize Listing
Week Five Winners**

Visit www.upenn.edu/pennsaway for more information about the raffle and making a pledge. Entries must be received by 5 p.m. on the prior Friday for inclusion in a given week's drawing.

Philip Rosenau Co., Inc.: Walmart Gift Card (\$50); *Linda Fitzgerald*, Pennsylvania Hospital Wawa's Community Care: Care Box (\$35); *Linda Scott*, HUP

[solidcore]: Gift Card (\$75); *Luann Ljubic*, Wissahickon Hospice

12th Street Catering: Gift Certificate for 12" Cake (\$70); *Jillian Waring*, HUP

Airgas Healthcare: Lush Gift Set + \$10 Gift Card (\$50); *Elisa Spiewak*, Human Resources

Fisher Scientific: Home Depot gift card (\$50); *Ellen Stone*, Perelman School of Medicine

La Colombe: Premium coffee gift set (\$38); *Tenille Draper*, Presbyterian Medical Center

**Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic:
Honoring Veterans and their Families all Year**

Just over two years ago, the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic officially launched here at Penn (*Almanac* October 25, 2016). In those two years they have provided evidence-based behavioral health care to more than 650 veterans and military family members.

The Cohen Clinic is dedicated to breaking down accessibility barriers for veterans and the entire military family. So much so that they take the broadest possible definition of Veteran (anyone who wore the uniform for a day, regardless of discharge status) and family (anyone the veteran considers a family member—parent, child, significant other and more). And they offer:

- **No Cost Care**—All services are provided to veterans and military families regardless of insurance or ability to pay.
 - **Telehealth Services**—Launched just this year, telehealth appointments have made it possible for clients to access care from virtually anywhere.
 - **Transportation Assistance**—To help get clients to the clinic, we provide free parking and assistance with public transportation fares.
 - **Low Wait Times**—Initial appointments can be scheduled within one week from the first phone call.
- To learn more about the Cohen Clinic or see its impact, visit: pennmedicine.org/veterans

**World AIDS Day at Penn:
A Day With Art: Respect for Health**



On *Thursday, November 29*, 1-3 p.m. at Charles Addams Fine Arts Hall, 200 South 36th Street, there will be exhibits to commemorate World AIDS Day.

The event will feature two participative *Love/Live* art displays created by Penn fine arts students that raise awareness about people living with HIV/AIDS in our local communities. The art displays also help us all think about the issues involving people living with HIV and the health and equality they deserve. Spend a minute or spend two hours. There will be refreshments and giveaways.

The event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by University of Pennsylvania's HIV Prevention Research Division, Fine Arts Students, and Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs.

Update

November AT PENN

EXHIBITS

Now *The Artifact Lab: Conservation in Action*; working conservation lab exhibition; Penn Museum. *Through November 25.*

READINGS AND SIGNINGS

17 *The Devil's Diary*; Robert K. Wittman; 2 p.m.; Penn Museum; tickets: \$30/general, \$25/members (Penn Museum).

SPECIAL EVENTS

14 *Repatriating Tribal Objects in the Digital Age*; Eric Hollinger, Smithsonian's National Museum; 5 p.m.; Penn Museum (Museum, Wolf Humanities).

17 *Museum Shop Holiday Sale*; a discount on unique gifts from around the world; Penn Museum. *Through November 21.*

TALKS

17 *Watery Landscapes of Ancient Egypt, Their Depiction, and Why They Mattered*; John Baines, Oxford; 3:30 p.m.; Penn Museum (American Research Center in Egypt-PA Chapter).

AT PENN Deadlines

The November AT PENN is online. The deadline for the next week's Update is *today*; it will cover the remainder of November. There is no issue on November 27 due to the Thanksgiving Break. The December AT PENN will be published in the November 20 issue. The deadline for the January AT PENN is *December 3.*

**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 **October 29-November 4, 2018**. Also reported were 18 Crimes Against Property (1 burglary, 1 DUI, 1 fraud, 1 other offense and 14 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 **October 29-November 4, 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.

| | | | |
|----------|---------|------------------------|--|
| 10/30/18 | 8:29 PM | 4000 Baltimore Ave | Complainant struck in the face by male |
| 10/30/18 | 8:37 PM | 3700 Spruce St | Headphones taken/Arrest |
| 11/02/18 | 2:12 AM | 3400 Civic Center Blvd | Unwanted phone calls received |
| 11/03/18 | 9:14 PM | 3945 Chestnut St | Complainant assaulted by unknown males |
| 11/04/18 | 5:22 AM | 3600 Chestnut St | Female assaulted by male/Arrest |

18th District

Below are the Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 14 incidents (1 aggravated assault, 1 purse snatch, 2 domestic assaults, 4 robberies and 6 assaults) with 6 arrests were reported between **October 29-November 4, 2018** by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 10/29/18 | 1:45 PM | 4844 Spruce St | Robbery |
| 10/30/18 | 9:26 PM | 4000 Baltimore Ave | Assault |
| 10/30/18 | 9:27 PM | 3700 Spruce St | Robbery/Arrest |
| 10/31/18 | 8:41 PM | 400 S 48th St | Assault |
| 10/31/18 | 10:30 PM | 200 S 40th St | Purse Snatch/Arrest |
| 11/01/18 | 6:23 PM | 4021 Walnut St | Assault |
| 11/03/18 | 9:38 AM | 414 S 48th St | Assault |
| 11/03/18 | 6:04 PM | 4827 Woodland Ave | Aggravated Assault/Arrest |
| 11/03/18 | 6:39 PM | 48th/Baltimore Ave | Assault/Arrest |
| 11/03/18 | 8:51 PM | 4631 Sansom St | Robbery |
| 11/03/18 | 9:13 PM | 3945 Chestnut St | Assault |
| 11/03/18 | 9:51 PM | 4827 Greenway Ave | Domestic Assault |
| 11/03/18 | 10:16 PM | 4000 Market St | Domestic Assault/Arrest |
| 11/04/18 | 5:26 AM | 3600 Chestnut St | Robbery/Arrest |

Almanac

3910 Chestnut Street, 2nd floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3111
Phone: (215) 898-5274 or 5275
FAX: (215) 898-9137
Email: almanac@upenn.edu
URL: www.upenn.edu/almanac

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.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| EDITOR | Marguerite F. Miller |
| ASSOCIATE EDITOR | Louise Emerick |
| ASSISTANT EDITOR | Alisha George |
| STUDENT ASSISTANTS | Jackson Betz Justin Greenman Joel Lee Christina Lu |

ALMANAC ADVISORY BOARD: For the Faculty Senate: Martin Pring (chair), Sunday Akintoye, Christine Bradley, Daniel Cohen, Al Filreis, Cary Mazer. For the Administration: Stephen MacCarthy. For the Staff Assemblies: Jon Shaw, PPSA; Marcia Dotson, WPPSA; Rachelle R. Nelson, Librarians Assembly.

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 Sam Starks, Executive Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, 421 Franklin Building, 3451 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6205; or (215) 898-6993 (Voice).



High Prevalence of Atopic Dermatitis among US Adults

As many as 16.5 million adults in America suffer from a skin disease known as atopic dermatitis (AD), an inflammatory disease that results in red, itchy skin. The estimate comes from a new study from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, which also projected 6.6 million of these adults have disease that would be classified as moderate to severe, leading to a decrease in quality of life. Researchers published the findings in the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*.

According to the study's lead author Zelma C. Chiesa Fuxench, an assistant professor of dermatology at Penn, "Our findings show this disease affects 7% of the population, far more than other inflammatory conditions like psoriasis, which only affects about 3%. Yet psoriasis has eight biologic treatments available for patients, whereas atopic dermatitis only has one that's approved." Researchers surveyed 1,278 adults sampled from the GfK Knowledge Panel, a probability-based online panel that is thought to be representative of the US adult population. Among those respondents, 7.3% met the criteria for diagnosis of AD. Of these, 60% were classified as mild, 29% as moderate, and 11% as severe. Researchers used US census population data to project that 16.5 million American adults are living with AD, with 6.6 million of those cases being moderate-to-severe. Patients with AD and those with more severe disease also had higher scores in other patient-reported outcome measures, including the Dermatology Life Quality Index, indicating a worse impact on quality of life and an increased likelihood of anxiety or depression as measured by the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale.

"These findings show a disconnect between the prevalence of this disease and its impact on patient quality of life compared to the resources being dedicated to developing systemic therapies," said Dr. Fuxench.

Dr. Fuxench says the numbers also hint at larger questions about this population, including whether they developed the condition as they got older or whether they had it as children and stopped seeking treatment at some point during their lives due to unhappiness with or poor response to currently available therapies. Many patients, she notes, are told they will grow out of the disease, but these data suggest that may not be the case, and that the disease may change over time. She also notes the medical and social impact of AD can also lead to a financial impact for many patients.

New Hope for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Patients

About 15% of breast cancers are classified as triple-negative, lacking receptors for estrogen, progesterone and Her2. These cancers do not respond to targeted hormonal therapies and tend to be particularly aggressive. Researchers had observed that triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) patients who had higher numbers of a type of immune cell called myeloid-derived immunosuppressor cells (MDSCs) in their bloodstream had poorer outcomes.

A new report led by the School of Veterinary Medicine's Rumela Chakrabarti, an assistant professor of biomedical sciences, and Sushil Kumar, a postdoctoral researcher in Dr. Chakrabarti's lab, fills in crucial details about the connection between MDSCs and aggressive disease. In the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, Dr. Chakrabarti's team identified a protein, deltaNp63, on tumor cells that directs MDSCs to the tumor and metastatic sites. Blocking either this protein or the MDSCs themselves reduced tumor growth and metastasis in a mouse model of TNBC.

"We're excited because we think our findings could make a big difference for triple-negative breast cancer patients," said Dr. Chakrabarti. "Not only can deltaNp63 be used as a biomarker to help personalize treatment regimens, but targeting it may also provide an additive treatment for triple-negative breast cancer, in addition to chemotherapy and radiation."

Dr. Chakrabarti's team found deltaNp3 was elevated in samples of TNBC patient's primary tumors, as were numbers of MDSCs. When they manipulated the level of deltaNp63, they found lower levels corresponded with less metastasis to distant tissues. Knocking down levels of deltaNp63 made the tumors much less aggressive, and it reduced numbers of MDSCs recruited to the tumor but not other immune cell types.

The Penn researchers also showed that blocking two signaling molecules activated by the deltaNp63 reduced metastasis and blood-vessel growth associated with tumor growth, while increasing levels of these signaling molecules caused MDSCs to boost the secretion of pro-tumor growth factors.

Dr. Chakrabarti believes that a drug that zeroes in on MDSCs could fill a gap in triple-negative breast cancer treatment. Offered in conjunction with more general therapies such as chemotherapy and radiation, it may give patients an option that is more tailored to their cancer. Her lab is now working with animal models and cell lines derived from breast-cancer patients to test this combination approach to treatment.

Transcendence and Making Healthy Lifestyle Choices

A recent study published in *PNAS* found that a simple priming exercise in which sedentary people think beyond themselves before viewing health messages can make those messages more effective. Not only did participants' brain activity show that they were more receptive to the messages, but they actually became more physically active in the weeks that followed. The study involved 220 sedentary adults who were either overweight or obese.

"One of the things that gets in the way of people changing their behavior is defensiveness," explained senior author Emily Falk, associate professor of communication, psychology and marketing at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication. "When people are reminded that it's better to park the car further away and get in a few more steps, or to get up and move around at work to lower their risk for heart disease, they often come up with reasons why these suggestions might be relevant for somebody else, but not for them."

The researchers engaged the participants in one of two self-transcendence tasks (either reflecting on things that mattered most to them, or repeating positive wishes for both people they knew and strangers) and compared their responses to those in a non-transcendent control group asked to reflect on their least important value. While subjects were reflecting, they were in an fMRI machine, allowing researchers to see their brain activity in real time.

Then all participants viewed blunt health messages that encouraged them to be more active or explained why their current behaviors put them at risk. Those who had completed either of the self-transcendence tasks were significantly more active in the month that followed, with less time spent being sedentary. The researchers also found that during the self-transcendence tasks, people showed greater activity in brain regions involved in reward and positive-valuation, when compared to the control group.

"People often report that self-transcendence is an intrinsically rewarding experience," said lead author Yoona Kang, a postdoctoral fellow with the Annenberg School. These rewarding feelings, the researchers believe, can lead people to be more open to hearing otherwise-unwelcome health advice, and that allowing people to feel part of something larger than themselves can have positive health effects.

"People are capable of doing things for their loved ones that they'd probably never do for themselves," said Dr. Kang. The researchers are currently testing a phone app for the general public which delivers daily pairs of self-affirming and health messages, like those used in the study.

How to Reduce Concussions in Football

A recent study published in *JAMA* points to one way to make football safer: move the kickoff line. A 2016 and 2017 Ivy League experimental rule that moved the kickoff line from the 35- to the 40-yard line and the touchback line from the 25- to the 20-yard line reduced the average annual concussion rate by more than 68 percent, according to the research conducted by The Ivy League and Penn's Perelman School of Medicine.

Kickoffs have a much higher rate of concussion than other plays in the sport, most likely due to the high speed at which collisions can occur. In 2016 Ivy League football coaches recommended changing the kickoff line in hopes of causing more kickoffs to land in the end zone, thereby causing touchbacks, where the receiving player chooses to not advance the ball.

"The national conversation on concussions that occur in football can be informed by scientific research aimed at making sports safer," said senior author Douglas J. Wiebe, a PSOM professor of epidemiology in biostatistics, epidemiology, and informatics, who co-leads the Ivy League's concussion surveillance system, that has amassed data on more than 2,000 concussions since 2012.

The researchers identified the concussions that occurred in regular season in-conference games before the rule (2013-2015) and after the 2016 rule (2016-2017) by the type of play. In 68,479 plays during 2013-2017, 159 concussions occurred, an overall rate of 2.3 for every 1,000 plays. Kickoffs resulting in touchbacks more than doubled from an average of 17.9 percent per year before the rule change to 48 percent after. The rule caused average annual concussion rates (per 1,000 kickoffs) to go from 10.93 before the rule change to 2.04—a decrease of 68.8 percent. Concussions in non-kickoff plays also went down after the rule change, from 2.56 (per 1,000 plays) to 1.18 (per 1,000 plays).

Preliminary results of the Ivy League experimental kickoff rule change influenced the NCAA to adopt a new kickoff rule that went into effect for all levels of football at the start of the 2018 season. Under the new rule, receiving teams can call for a fair catch inside their 25-yard line and have it result in a touchback. The intent is the same as the Ivy League rule: to reduce the number of times the ball is returned on kickoff plays, while not changing the play fundamentally.