Wharton School’s New Quantitative Finance Major, Professorship and Scholarship Program with $8 Million Gift from Bruce I. Jacobs

Wharton Dean Geoff Garrett is delighted to announce a new chapter in finance research and education at the Wharton School. The MBA program is launching a new quantitative finance major within the finance department. New courses will be offered, bolstered by the establishment of the Dr. Bruce I. Jacobs Professorship in Quantitative Finance and the new Dr. Bruce I. Jacobs Scholars in Quantitative Finance. The Jacobs Scholars funding will provide top caliber students with the opportunity to compete for a second year financial academic award. The new professorship and scholars funds have been made possible by an $8 million gift from Bruce I. Jacobs (G’79, GRW’86). Together, they will usher in a new era of opportunities for students and faculty at Wharton.

The Dr. Bruce I. Jacobs Professorship in Quantitative Finance will support the appointment to Wharton’s finance department of faculty who are experts in quantitative finance. The Dr. Bruce I. Jacobs Scholarship in Quantitative Finance is an academic award dedicated to exceptional students entering their second year of the Wharton MBA program and majoring in quantitative finance. Recipients will each receive a $25,000 award in support of their tuition. Together, these students will form an elite group of Jacobs Scholars focusing on applying financial economics to security pricing and asset management. In addition to this financial support, Jacobs Scholars will be invited to explore networking opportunities with industry leaders at the annual conference of Wharton’s Jacobs Levy Equity Management Center for Quantitative Financial Research.

“Bruce is a pioneer and innovator in connecting academic research with investment management, and we are honored that he is making this bold new step in his immense ongoing support of the School,” said Dean Garrett. “His new gift will attract and nurture talented students and faculty in quantitative finance to prepare a new generation of leaders in finance for the challenges we face today and in the future. This, coupled with our new quantitative finance major, marks an exciting addition to Wharton’s stellar portfolio of finance offerings and opportunities for the incredible students and faculty in this community.”

The Jacobs Scholars funding will enable Wharton to attract top caliber MBA students, just as the professorship will fuel the recruitment and retention of stellar faculty in quantitative finance. The endowment will also provide targeted support for the new MBA major in quantitative finance, build on the momentum of quantitative finance programming at the School, and prepare leaders in quantitative finance for success and impact in communities across the world.

The new MBA major in quantitative finance will include cross-disciplinary content from accounting; statistics; and operations, information and decisions. The major will appeal to students with strong quantitative backgrounds in a variety of subjects, such as engineers and computer science majors, who aspire to develop their skills for quantitative applications in finance.

SEAS 2020 Teaching Awards

The recipients of the annual Penn Engineering teaching and advising awards are selected directly by Penn Engineering students after thoughtful consideration. The School of Engineering and Applied Science is filled with gifted educators who inspire students with their dedication and excellence.

The S. Reid Warren, Jr., Award
Liang Feng, assistant professor in materials science and engineering and electrical and systems engineering, has been awarded the S. Reid Warren, Jr., Award, which is presented annually by the undergraduate student body and the Engineering Alumni Society in recognition of outstanding service in stimulating and guiding the intellectual and professional development of undergraduate students.

One student remarked, “Dr. Feng is one of the most caring professors I’ve ever had and truly cares for the success of each and every one of his students. In taking his course last semester, I got a sense of the passion he has for inspiring the next generations of engineers.”

Dr. Feng received a BS and an MS in physics from Nanjing University in China. He subsequently earned a PhD in electrical engineering from the University of California San Diego.

Digital Penn Relays: April 24

On April 24, the iconic Penn Relays go online. The digital event will feature a Minecraft competition, virtual tables and a workout class. Gen.G, the Global eSports organization connecting the best gamers in the United States and Asia, and the Penn Relays are partnering to produce an all-new Digital Penn Relays, presented by the United States Marine Corps. The Digital Penn Relays will be the first-ever digital livestream with gaming-related content designed to connect the community with competition and infotainment. The event will take place on Friday, April 24, from noon to 5 p.m. at twitch.tv/theadennrelays This would have been day two of the previously scheduled three-day 2020 Penn Relays presented by Toyota that were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Important note: Please share this digital-only edition of Almanac with your colleagues. Read more.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Almanac

Tuesday
April 21, 2020
Volume 66 Number 31
www.upenn.edu/almanac

2 Senate: SEC Actions and Senate Nominations; University Comptroller
3 Deaths; Rules Governing Final Examinations
4 Honors & Other Things
5 Penn Environmental Humanities; Penn Solar Power Purchase; National Library Week
7 Earth Day: 50th Anniversary
8 Making the Call Podcast; Update; CrimeStats
8 Message on Summer Programming and Budget Considerations for Fiscal Year 2021

Until We Meet Again!

In-person ceremonies marking Penn’s 264th commencement have not gone away. They are merely postponed, waiting for a day when we can all once again safely gather together.

This is a class that has put the health of society and the safety of others first. And so, in a very real way, you will always be first in my heart.

In recognition of your hard work, your many achievements—and in anticipation of our gathering yet to come that will truly be like none Penn has seen before—I invite you to join me, the deans, your professors, classmates, families and friends for a fast, fun, online celebration of your myriad impressive academic achievements.

Please plan to join us on Monday, May 18 at 11 a.m. for the University-wide celebration.

For information and links to your individual School ceremony, as well as information regarding the various online celebrations, optional regalia orders and when students will receive their diplomas, visit Penn’s commencement site: commencement.upenn.edu, or Penn’s social media channels, to tune in.

In solidarity, in anticipation, and in the highest regard for all you have achieved,

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

### Faculty Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Actions

**Wednesday, April 15, 2020**

**Chair’s Report.** Faculty Senate Chair Steven Kimbrough informed SEC of the establishment of the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Planning for Post-Pandemic Penn (PPPPP). Professor Kimbrough provided a rationale for the establishment of PPPPP and enumerated its initial membership roster.

“The ongoing pandemic immediately puts universities, Penn not excepted, into difficult circumstances. Beyond the exigencies of the moment, we can expect deep uncertainty, difficult tradeoffs, and the risk of wrenching consequences in both the near- and longer-term future for these reasons, now is the time to bring our faculty’s intellectual resources to discussions, planning and decisions for the near- and longer-term future of post-pandemic Penn.

“In consequence, the Faculty Senate will create an ad hoc committee on Planning for Post-Pandemic Penn. Initial core members of PPPPP, all of whom have agreed to serve, have had significant faculty leadership roles. This affords legitimacy and draws upon a wide scope of pertinent experience. The committee will begin exploratory discussions immediately and ramp up its work over the summer and fall. In doing so, the committee will—as the main part of its mission—reach out across Penn to the faculty, and indeed to all of Penn, searching for ideas, insights, information and knowledge from all available perspectives.

“I would anticipate that the committee will follow the successful example of CIRCE (Senate Ad Hoc Committee on the Institutional Response to the Climate Emergency), expanding its membership and forming subcommittees that can work in parallel. Everyone who has been invited to serve on PPPPP has accepted the invitation. I imagine that hundreds of Penn faculty would be willing and eager to serve, and would have invaluable contributions to make. We must all acknowledge that this presents a formidable management problem. At the top of PPPPP’s agenda will be to develop approaches to discussions from the larger community.

“We have informed President Gutmann and Provost Pritchett of this plan. I believe that they see this as we see it: activating the PPPPP committee is a profoundly constructive and uniting event. May SEC’s goal of fostering exemplary deliberations be reaffirmed and taken to an even higher level of excellence.”

The initial membership roster of PPPPP includes:

- Jennifer Pinto-Martin, Viola MacInnes/Independence Professor of Nursing, Chair
- Anita Allen, Henry R. Silverman Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy
- William Braham, Professor of Architecture
- Peter Cappelli, George W. Taylor Professor and Professor of Management
- Chenou Flippen, Associate Professor of Sociology
- K. Sean Hall Jamieson, Elizabeth Ware Packard Professor of Communication
- Steven Kimbrough, Professor of Operations, Information and Decisions
- Howard Kunreuther, James G. Dinan Professor Emeritus of Operations, Information and Decisions
- Harvey Rubin, Professor of Medicine
- Santosh Venkatesh, Professor of Electrical and Systems Engineering
- Bethany Wiggin, Associate Professor of German

**Past Chair’s Report.** Faculty Senate Past Chair Jennifer Pinto-Martin, in her capacity as a member of the Faculty Senate Nominating Committee, informed SEC that the Faculty Senate Nominating Committee has appointed William Braham, Professor of Architecture, as Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate (see Senate Nominations article).

### Get Out the Vote Update.** SEC member and Professor of Communication, Psychology and Marketing Emily Falk reported on the successful Get Out the Vote initiative since the previous SEC meeting.

**Update from the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on the Institutional Response to the Climate Emergency (CIRCE).** CIRCE Chair and its Subcommittee on Operations Chair William Braham, chair of CIRCE Subcommittee on Community and Policy Chair Simon Richter, and CIRCE Subcommittee on Research and Education Chair Michael Machlin solicited each other’s ideas in turn on CIRCE across the larger community.

**Update from the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Scholarly Communication (ScholComm).** ScholComm Chair Daniel Raff, along with Associate Vice Provost and Deputy University Librarian Jon Shaw and Associate University Librarian for Collections Brigitte Weinsteiger, each offered interim reports in turn on the work of ScholComm to-date.

---

**Russell DiLeo: University Comptroller**

We are excited to share the appointment of Russell DiLeo as University Comptroller, following a national search. The University Comptroller is the chief accounting officer for the University and is responsible for ensuring that the University’s financial policies, procedures, operations and practices are appropriate, effective and efficient in a decentralized environment. The position requires strong leadership, the ability to collaborate broadly, high integrity, a deep understanding of accounting standards and tax regulations, and the ability to represent the institution on many levels and on multiple project teams. The University Comptroller plays a critical role in establishing systems and best practices that support the University’s education and research mission while also ensuring compliance with local, state, federal and international regulations. Through his work for over 19 years and through his leadership as interim comptroller, he has lived up to each of these demanding criteria.

Russell started at Penn in 2000 as general accountant and progressed through every level of the Comptroller’s Office, from associate comptroller, financial reporting and accounting operations, before he took on the interim Comptroller’s role after John Horn’s retirement (Almanac March 3, 2020). He has great credibility throughout his vast external network and has been recognized by his higher education peers and PwC, our external accounting firm, as having some of the strongest technical skills in the industry coupled with best-in-class execution skills. He is viewed as being on the front line of industry trends/accounting issues.

Russell is a strong collaborator across the University and is also known for his ability to develop excellent accounting professionals, many of whom are now in our Schools/Centers. He very much looks forward to deeper relationships across the University and the Health System. We wish to express our appreciation to the Hiring Committee comprised of senior financial executives from both the University and the Health System. His appointment will be brought to the Trustees for approval at its May meeting.

—Craig Carnaroli, Executive Vice President
—Mary Frances McCourt, Vice President of Finance and Treasurer

Pursuant to the Faculty Senate Rules, formal notification to members may be accomplished by publication in Almanac. The following is published under that rule.

**TO: Members of the Faculty Senate**

**FROM: José A. Bauermeister, Chair, Nominating Committee**

**SUBJECT: Senate Nominations 2020-2021**

1. In accordance with the Faculty Senate Rules, official notice is given of the Senate Nominating Committee’s slate of nominees for the incoming Senate Officers. The nominees, all of whom have indicated their willingness to serve, are:

   - **Chair-elect:** William Braham (Weitzman)
   - **Secretary-elect:** Catherine McDonald (Nursing)

2. At-large Members of the Senate Executive Committee: to serve a 2-year term beginning upon election:

   - Mary Regina Boland (PSOM/Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Informatics)
   - Dorota Brady (PSOM/Cancer Biology)
   - Rose Nolen-Walston (Veterinary Medicine)
   - Emily Steiner (SAS/English)
   - Assistant Professor Member of the Senate Executive Committee: to serve a 2-year term beginning upon election:

     - Cesar de la Fuente (PSOM/Psychiatry)

3. **Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility:** to serve a 3-year term beginning upon election:

   - Geoffrey Aguierre (PSOM/Neurology)
   - Sigal Ben-Porath (GSE)
   - Christopher Marcinkowski (Weitzman)
   - Raina Merchant (PSOM/Emergency Medicine)

4. **Senate Committee on Economic Status of the Faculty:** to serve a 3-year term beginning upon election:

   - Dawn Bird (PSOM/Neurology)
   - Eric Clemens (Wharton)
   - Graciela Gonzalez Hernandez (PSOM/Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Informatics)

   - Melissa Sanchez (SAS/English)

2. Again in accordance with the Senate Rules you are invited to submit additional nominations, which shall be accomplished via petitions containing at least twenty-five valid names and the signed approval of the candidate. All such petitions must be received no later than fourteen days subsequent to the circulation of the nominees of the Nominating Committee. Petitions must be received by email to the Faculty Senate, senate@pobox.upenn.edu by 5 p.m. EDT on Monday, May 4, 2020.

3. Under the same provision of the Senate Rules, if no additional nominations are received, the slate nominated by the Nominating Committee will be declared elected.

---
Deaths

Roselyne Eisenberg, Vet School

Roselyne (Roz) Eisenberg, professor emerita of pathology at the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Veterinary Medicine, died on March 14 after a fall and short illness. She was 79.

Dr. Eisenberg earned her AB in biology from Bryn Mawr College in 1960 and her PhD in microbiology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1965. She completed her post-doctorate at Princeton University before being hired by the University of Pennsylvania in 1968 as a lecturer in microbiology in the School of Dental Medicine. The next year she became an assistant professor.

She was one of several women in the early days of the women’s movement who filed a lawsuit against the University over discrimination based on sex, related to denial of tenure; the case was settled and she was given a seven-year tenure probationary period (September 19, 1978).

In 1978, she joined the School of Veterinary Medicine as an assistant professor in pathobiology. She went on to become an associate professor and then in 1985 she was promoted to professor in the Vet School.

While a professor and head of a Laboratory of Microbiology & Immunology in the Vet School, she collaborated on a vaccine to counter the ill effects of vaccinia virus and confer additional protection against smallpox (Almanac September 16, 2003). She also filed a patent application for herpes simplex vaccine while at Vet School, collaborating with Gary Cohen in Penn’s Dental School, and later received funding from the NIH for this research (Almanac March 1, 1988).

She was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and won multiple University Research Foundation Awards. She also earned a Penn Professional Women’s Award, the Lenore Rowe Williams Award (Almanac May 9, 2006).

She served on numerous committees, including the Consultative Review Committee on the Reappointment of Joan Hendricks as Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine and the consultative committee for selection of a provost in 2004. She also served on several Faculty Senate committees, including Academic Freedom and Responsibility, Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics, Faculty Grievance Commission, and Open Expression.

She was also among a number of senior women who were frequently concerned about the morale and security of the women students on campus (Almanac February 14, 1984; September 14, 1999).

She retired in 2018, earning emerita status at that time. She spent the last two years of her life in Davis, California. While there she worked on the retirement center’s monthly newsletter and led a science-scholarship discussion group.

Dr. Eisenberg is survived by children, Jeff Eisenberg and Ruth Anne Robbins; children-in-law, Jennifer Jett and Steve Robbins; and grandchildren, Shelby Robbins and Gwen Robbins.

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

Rules Governing Final Examinations

1. No instructor may hold a final examination nor require the submission of a take-home final exam except during the period in which final examinations are scheduled. The last day of this period may be extended by one day if, in the instructor’s judgement, the extension is needed. Final examinations as required by the Rules Governing Final Examinations may be granted for postponed examinations (see 3 and 4 below). No final examinations may be scheduled during the last week of classes or on reading days.

2. No student may be required to take more than two final examinations on any calendar day during the period in which final examinations are scheduled. If more than two are scheduled, the student must postpone the mid-term examination. If a take-home final exam is due on a day when two final examinations are scheduled, the take-home exam shall be postponed by one day.

3. Examinations that are postponed because of conflicts with other examinations, or because more than two examinations are scheduled on the same day, may be taken at another time during the final examination period. The student must notify the instructor of the change in time designated on the Final Exam Schedule in order to avoid conflicts. Students who are residing in a time zone other than Eastern Daylight Time should alert their instructor as soon as possible for any examinations. The University does not encourage the use of remote proctoring tools.

In addition, this year, Ramadan begins on Thursday, May 21, 2020 and continues through Saturday, May 23, 2020. Students are encouraged to contact their faculty and advisors as early as possible to discuss any potential conflicts between their academic work and observance of Ramadan. The Office of the Chaplain can offer support and respond to any questions or concerns concerning Ramadan.
Frances Jensen: Smith College Medal

Frances E. Jensen, chair of neurology in Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine, was awarded the Smith College Medal at a ceremony on February 20. The Smith Medal was established in 1962 to recognize Smith College alumni who exemplify in their lives and work “the true purpose” of a liberal arts education.

Dr. Jensen, who earned an AB in neuro-psychology from Smith College in 1978, is the first woman to lead the University of Pennsylvania’s department of neurology. Her research focuses on epilepsy and stroke, and how epilepsy interacts with other diseases, such as autism and dementia.

Beyond her academic role, Dr. Jensen authored The Teenage Brain: A Neuroscientist’s Survival Guide to Raising Adolescents and Young Adults, and she lectures about the teen brain at science museums, educational events and in other venues.

Four Penn Juniors: Goldwater Scholars

Four juniors at the University of Pennsylvania have been selected as Goldwater Scholars by the Barry Goldwater Scholarship & Excellence in Education Foundation, which provides scholarships of as much as $7,500 to undergraduate students interested in pursuing research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics or engineering. Penn has had 47 recipients of the scholarship since Congress established the foundation in 1986 to honor the work of US Senator Barry Goldwater.

Following are this year’s recipients:

Regina Fairbanks

Samuel Goldstein

Samuel Goldstein is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in physics and mathematics and a master’s degree in physics in the School of Arts and Sciences. He has been working with Dr. Hamilton on creating a cardiac surgical device with support from Penn Health-Tech.

Four Penn Juniors: Goldwater Scholars

Adam Konkol

Shreya Parchure

Shreya Parchure is a bioengineering major in Penn’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. She has been working with Roy Hamilton on creating a cardiac surgical device with support from Penn Health-Tech.

Adam Konkol is a PhD student in physics at Penn, and he is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on the behavior of quantum systems in low-dimensional mesoscopic systems.

Penn Gymnastics: Ivy Classic Champs

With a score of 194.850—the second-best in school history—the Penn gymnastics team won the Ivy Classic championship, their 13th overall and first in five years. Penn outperformed second-place Yale (193.800), third-place Brown (193.080) and host Cornell (192.975) at the competition in Ithaca, New York in late February.

The Quakers were the top-scoring team on the vault and bars, and they had second-highest marks on the beam and floor. The team’s vault score, 48.775, tied for the best in school history. A score of 49.125 on the beam by Penn also tied the program record.

Honors & Other Things
Abby Bosco, Gabby Rosenzweig: All-American Honors

Junior defender Abby Bosco and senior attacker Gabby Rosenzweig of the women’s lacrosse team have earned All-American recognition from Inside Lacrosse. Ms. Bosco is a Third-Team All-American and Ms. Rosenzweig is an Honorable Mention. The Quakers played five games before the rest of the season was canceled because of the coronavirus. They went 4-1, including a 17-6 win over #19 Georgetown in the season opener.

Ms. Bosco, from Suffern, New York, had 13 ground balls, 12 caused turnovers and 12 draw controls in the five-game season. She averaged 2.40 caused turnovers per game, the best record in the Ivy League and fifth in the nation. Last season, she started all 18 games and was a Second-Team All-Ivy selection.

Ms. Rosenzweig, from Somers, New York, amassed 12 team-high 22 points in the five games—11 points and 11 assists. She had three goals and five assists for a total of eight points against Georgetown in Washington, DC. A week later against Johns Hopkins at Franklin Field, she became the women’s lacrosse team’s all-time leading points scorer by scoring five points in Penn’s 15-12 victory.

Ms. Rosenzweig averaged 4.40 points per game in the shortened season, third in the conference, and 2.20 assists per contest, the best in the Ivy League.

In three of her four years at Penn, Ms. Rosenzweig earned All-American recognition from Inside Lacrosse. She was an Honorable Mention her sophomore season and a Third-Team All-American last season.

Penn Engineering 2020 Teaching Awards

Hatfield Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Lecturer and Practice Professor Track

Tania Khanna, senior lecturer in electrical and systems engineering, has been awarded the Hatfield Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Lecturer and Practice Professor Track. This award recognizes outstanding teaching ability, dedication to innovative undergraduate instruction, and exemplary service to the School in consistently inspiring students in the engineering and scientific profession.

Describing Dr. Khanna, a student remarked, “I have seen her take a personal interest in making sure every single one of her students builds a strong sense of intuition for the topics at hand, and it pays off. If it wasn’t for Dr. Khanna’s help, I’m not sure if I would’ve been interested in pursuing a career in electrical engineering.”

Dr. Khanna received a BS in electrical and computer engineering from Cornell University in 2005. She later earned SM and PhD degrees in electrical engineering and computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
This series of linked digital engagements from Penn’s Environmental Humanities is designed to showcase publicly engaged environmental research projects that marry environmental art and science. The platform is a culmination of the Penn Program in Environmental Humanities’ (PPEH) multi-year explorations of how data, paired with story, can spur action on climate. The platform’s homepage at climatesensing.org will officially launch on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day: April 22, 2020.

Climate Sensing and Data Storytelling: May 7-9

This live stream event is free and open to the public; register in advance on the homepage. In addition to a pre-recorded keynote address and live videoconferenced question-and-answer session with novelists Amitav Ghosh, this stream will include pre-recorded presentations by such scholars as Laura Barbas-Rhoden (Wof ford College), Dominic Boyer (Rice University), Allison Carruth (UCLA), Erin James (University of Idaho), Dolly Jørgensen (University of Stavanger), Patricia Kim (NYU), Jen Ladin (University of Idaho), Stephanie LeMenager (University of Oregon), Sheri Parks (MICA), and Bethany Wiggan (Penn); a live conversation between Amitav Ghosh and Columbia University atmospheric scientist Adam Sobel; moderated by PPEH Topic Director and Associate Professor of Anthropology Nikhil Anand; and a live limited enrollment artist workshop with PPEH Artist-in-Residence Amy Balkin.

These presentations will feature work designed to promote public engagement and generate conversations about environmental and data literacy and justice: art walks; workshops for speculative futures; dance; tours; and public writing, oral history and community science projects. Registered participants will also be invited to a remote “happy hour” and welcome session on the evening of May 7.

Penn’s Power Purchase Agreement with Community Energy for Largest Solar Project in Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania has signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the creation of a solar power project moving the University significantly closer to meeting its commitment of a 100% carbon neutral campus by 2042, as outlined in the Climate & Sustainability Action Plan 3.0. The agreement (consisting of two contracts) will result in the construction in central Pennsylvania of two new solar energy facilities with combined capacity of 220 megawatts, which is projected to produce approximately 450,000 MWh of electricity annually. Penn will purchase all electricity produced at the sites—equal to about 75% of the total electricity demand of the academic campus and the University of Pennsylvania Health System—for 25 years at a rate competitive with conventional electricity prices. The project partner, Radnor, Pennsylvania-based Community Energy, expects this to be the largest solar power project in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Starting in 2023, the PPA will supplement the University’s past and ongoing energy conservation and sustainability efforts, reduce the University’s entire academic campus carbon emissions by 45% from its 2009 levels, and meet the goal of the Paris Climate Accord seven years early.

The University of Pennsylvania became an early adopter of renewable energy purchases with a 10-year renewable energy contract signed with Community Energy in 2006 (Almana c April 11, 2006), for the Bear Creek Wind Farm, one of the first in Pennsylvania. Thanks to that contract and additional green power purchases, the University became a perennial leader atop the EPA Green Power Partnership list of college and university renewable energy purchasers. The new Penn solar project is expected to break ground in the fall of 2021 and the electricity will begin to be delivered beginning in 2023.

Making Sense

This online art exhibition features the work of PPEH Artist-in-Residence Amy Balkin, participating artists Roderick Cooer, Jessica Creane, Adrienne Mackey and Sarah Cameron Sunde, as well as creative interventions from the public research projects featured in the scholarly presentations. The new Penn solar project is expected to break ground in the fall of 2021 and the electricity will begin to be delivered beginning in 2023.

Penn Program in Environmental Humanities: Climate Sensing and Data Storytelling Website: Earth Day Launch

ALMANAC April 21, 2020

National Library Week: April 19-25

National Library Week celebrates the valuable role that libraries, librarians and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities. This year, from April 19 to 25, libraries across the country will mark the occasion under unprecedented circumstances. At Penn and elsewhere, libraries have moved their active hubs for learning and personal connection online. The Penn Libraries staff are working remotely to support the University’s swift pivot to online work and learning, expand access to e-resources, and even provide personal protective equipment to healthcare workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Until the Penn community is able to gather once again in person, the Libraries encourage you to stay connected online at library.upenn.edu:

- Read up on the Libraries’ efforts to 3D-print personal protective equipment.
- Stream movies and music from the comfort of your home.
- Browse thousands of e-books newly available through HathiTrust.
- Find inspiration through a curated selection of poetry, all digitally accessible.
- Share your story with Quakers Under Quarantine, the Libraries’ collaborative zine about life during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the spring semester comes to a close, if you’re looking for support from a librarian, or if you need resources for remote teaching or research, the Libraries can help. Visit the Virtual Support page to find the information you’ll need to access digital content, collaborate with research partners, and directly consult with librarians.

6 www.upenn.edu/almanac
Earth Day: 50th Anniversary

On April 22, the US commemorates the 50th anniversary of a milestone of environmentalism: the first Earth Day. Earth Day has an integral Penn connection, as the late Penn professor emeritus Ian McHarg was one of the founders of this event, which raised national awareness of the need for environmental sustainability in a changing world (Almanac March 20, 2001).

In 1969, students at Penn’s GSFA (now the Weitzman School of Design) founded an Earth Week Committee to air concerns about pollution, share resources and plan a week-long event in April 1970 that would bring attention to the planet’s plight. As local media announced the committee’s plans, businesses and civic leaders, both in Philadelphia and in other cities around the country, joined forces with these Penn students and their legendary leader, Dr. McHarg, professor of landscape architecture and regional planning. Dr. McHarg had a deep knowledge of the intersection of design and environmental conservation, having written a book on the subject, Design With Nature, in 1969. With the help of these leaders, the Philadelphia rally expanded from a Penn campus gathering to a city-wide event at Fairmount Park’s Belmont Plateau. A national-teach-in was also proposed, as well as a similar rally in New York (Almanac April 10, 1970).

Criticism abounded: skeptics stated that the event would draw attention away from the United States’ struggles in Vietnam (Dr. McHarg: “the people who destroy the environment are equally prepared to destroy their fellow man-kind”) and a Daily Pennsylvanian editorial columnist suggested that students had been distributing leaflets that ended up being dropped on the ground, contributing to the problem rather than solving it. However, the event itself drew a large audience. On April 21, 1970, a day of speeches at Independence Mall included appearances by Senator Hugh Scott and consumer rights advocate Ralph Nader. The next day, 25,000 people gathered at Belmont Plateau to hear speeches by Dr. McHarg (“why do I have to be the one to bring you the bad news? you’ve got no future!”), Maine Senator Edmund Muskie, City Councilman David Cohen, Nobel prize winner George Wald and beat poet Allen Ginsberg. Native American rock band Redbone, still four years from a national hit, “Come and Get Your Love,” also performed a set. The event raised money for the Ecology Fund, which planned to fund research and further Earth-related events.

Though Dr. McHarg and the event’s other organizers had hoped to make the event annual, it did not take on the necessary momentum, and by the 1980s, Reagan-era policies had undone much of the awareness that the 1970 Earth Week events had spread. In recent years, though, groups around the world have begun to build on Dr. McHarg’s legacy. In 1990, a new group founded Earth Week 20, an event that grew into an annual rally and continued to spread awareness of environmental conservation. In 1999, Penn founded the McHarg Center to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Design With Nature. The McHarg Center brings together thought leaders in urban ecological design.

Tomorrow, April 22, at noon, Penn Sustainability will host a BlueJeans webinar that features a panel of environmental leaders discussing power purchase agreements, and how Penn will support the construction of two new solar energy facilities, an anticipation of McHarg’s work. Register at bit.ly/ppapppa101.

Making the Call Podcast

As our policy makers, medical experts and first responders grapple with the choices forced upon us by the novel Coronavirus, doctors and hosts Dr. Zeke Emanuel and Dr. Jonathan Moreno will guide us on the code of ethics that are the backbone of modern medicine in the new podcast Mak-ing the Call. They will answer the key questions raised by COVID-19, including “How do we decide who gets a ventilator?”, “Who, if anyone, can force you to stay home in the interest of public health?” and “When there’s a vaccine, who will get it first?” Join the Dr. Emanuel, the “architect of the Affordable Care Act,” and Dr. Moreno, the “quietly most interesting bioethicist of our time” as they interrogate critical thinking in a time of crisis and show us what it means to be the ones Mak-ing the Call. The podcast can be found on Apple Podcasts and Spotify.
A Message on Summer Programming and Budget Considerations for Fiscal Year 2021

April 13, 2020

The guiding priority of the University, from the outset of the CO-VID-19 pandemic, has been to protect the health and safety of Penn students, faculty, staff, postdocs, patients and visitors. Moving to a virtual learning platform and depopulating the campus in a matter of days required an unprecedented effort. We are profoundly grateful to everyone at Penn who contributed to facilitate this extraordinary transition. It was a heroic accomplishment, and it ensures that our core missions of teaching, learning, and research can continue despite the significant disruptions brought about by the pandemic. While many of us are working remotely, we wish to thank and acknowledge the dedicated staff—including custodial, dining, safety officers, animal care, and skilled trades—who continue to come to campus to serve our students, support our faculty and research, steward our buildings, and keep us and our Philadelphia neighbors safe.

Many of you have asked about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the University’s finances. As the end of the semester approaches, we want to share with you the University’s plans for the summer and coming fiscal year, which begins on July 1.

Summer 2020 Activities and Programs

We are announcing today that all summer courses and in-person programs must be delivered remotely or online. There will be no summer programs offered in-person on campus, including summer camps and summer courses. This extends our previous guidance about the summer to include Summer Session II, which begins on July 2. For undergraduates, please check Penn InTouch for updated summer course information. For graduate and professional students, please consult your Schools and programs. For camps and other non-credit programs, please check with the program for specific guidance. Summer study abroad remains cancelled, along with all other University-related travel, as originally announced on March 13. There will be no changes to previously established costs and grading policies for credit-bearing undergraduate courses in the Summer Sessions.

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

The unpredictability and duration of the pandemic requires us to exercise the utmost prudence and caution in the year ahead. We are initiating a number of significant measures to reduce expenses, with the goals of reducing ongoing costs, preserving jobs, and maintaining salary continuity. Many of our financial mitigation actions focus on compensation, which accounts for roughly 60% of our annual University-wide expenses.

• Hiring Freeze: There will be a university-wide hiring freeze on all positions, both new and replacement, except grant-funded positions approved by the highest level of the School/center.

• Limited Merit Increase Program: There will be a limited merit increase program in fiscal year 2021 focused on our employees with a base salary at or below $70,000. For those with salaries above this threshold, including officers, Deans and Vice Presidents, there will be no annual wage or stipend increases for the 2021 fiscal year.

• Temporary Positions, Acting Rates, Additional Pays and Overtime Restricted: No new temporary staff, interns, non-work study student workers, or co-op students are permitted to be hired. No new acting rates or additional pays are permitted without the approval of the Dean, Director, or Vice President and the approval of Human Resources. Overtime should be minimized to the fullest extent possible and carefully monitored.

• Mid-Year Salary Adjustments Eliminated: There will be no mid-year salary adjustments available in fiscal year 2021.

In addition, we are extending through fiscal year 2021 the implementation of non-compensation actions currently in place:

• Reducing Discretionary Spending: We urge Schools and Centers to immediately implement reductions in discretionary spending that are not critical to the operation of the University. All University-related travel was prohibited on March 13. Should travel guidance be revised at a future date, we expect travel and entertainment expenditures to be substantially reduced. Other non-essential current expenses should be reduced to the fullest extent possible, including outside services, consulting, conferences, and meetings.

• Pausing Capital Projects: Capital projects that are already in design or construction and have a fully defined funding plan can continue. However, Schools and centers are being directed to review their capital planning to evaluate whether they can still commit the same levels of funding as previously planned, especially when utilizing unrestricted funds. No new feasibility or design studies will be initiated at this time. Per Governor Wolf’s executive order, construction projects deemed not “life-sustaining” have been directed to shut down.

• Prioritize Use of Donor Restricted Funds: Schools and centers are being directed to ensure that they use operating gifts and spendable endowed income balances in advance of unrestricted funds, consistent with gift terms, to provide the greatest degree of flexibility in responding to the economic circumstances.

In implementing the steps outlined above, our goal is to preserve the vast majority of staff positions at Penn until we can return to full campus operations, recognizing that no institution, including Penn, can accurately forecast today the full impact of this crisis on our future budgets.

In response to these rapidly changing economic conditions and their impact on our staff and third-party contractors, we have created The Penn COVID-19 Emergency Grant Assistance Fund. This fund will distribute grants to full-time and part-time employees, as well as certain contracted employees in need of emergency financial assistance due to the economic downturn created by the COVID-19 crisis. Eligible applicants who earn at or below $70,000 can receive a tax-free grant up to $1,500 for full-time staff and $750 for part-time staff. Staff and contracted employees are asked to visit https://coronavirus.upenn.edu for information and instructions on how to apply for these funds. Acceptance of applications began at noon on Monday, April 13.

The economic downturn will not affect Penn’s long-standing commitment to grant-based financial aid, sustaining need-based financial aid for undergraduate students, competitive stipends for PhD students, and extensive grants and subsidy programs for graduate and professional students.

While the steps we have taken are difficult and additional financial measures may need to be considered in the future, we are confident that there are better days ahead, and Penn will emerge from this crisis strong. We are inspired by Penn researchers who are working overtime to develop and test a vaccine and ever grateful for the team at Penn Medicine who are passionately and professionally caring for those afflicted and nursing them to health. We will overcome these challenging times because of the talent, resilience, and determination of every member of the Penn community.

Thank you for your patience and support, and we will continue to keep you updated as the situation moves forward.

—Wendell Pritchett, Provost
—Craig Carnaroli, Executive Vice President