Cognitive Science: A Program Becomes an Institute

Penn's interdisciplinary Cognitive Science Program, begun in 1978 with a Sloan Foundation grant, has been restructured as the Institute for Research in Cognitive Science, co-directed by Drs. Aravind K. Joshi of computer and information science at SEAS and Lila R. Gleitman of psychology at SAS.

A faculty advisory committee is being formed, representing the various disciplines involved in cognitive science.

As a program, Cognitive Sciences has already integrated research and teaching in computer science, linguistics, philosophy, psychology and mathematics, more recently adding researchers from neuroscience.

An SAS-SEAS dual degree program for undergraduates, a number of graduate courses, a weekly seminar, visitors, and workshops—ongoing since 1980—have been among the results. About 40 graduate students, supported by the participating departments, are now involved in cognitive science and related areas.

The new institute is based on the premise that "a science of human mind is possible, but only through the collaboration of researchers from several disciplines," according to a recent proposal by the cognitive science group. "An understanding of the nature of mind has always been a central intellectual goal of mankind.

This goal has been made realistic by developments in linguistics, philosophy, psychology, and logic during the last thirty years. "Beyond its intellectual interest," the report continues, "a scientific understanding of how the mind works will prove crucial to designing machines that can capably perceive the world, learn, reason, communicate and act." The institute is organized around three interrelated themes:

Perception and Action: processes involved in the early stages of visual and auditory representation of spatial and spectral information, to higher order representations of more complex attributes, to storage and retrieval, and moving through the world so as to achieve goals, with potential for contributing to medical and artificial-intelligence technology.

Language Learning: a bridge connecting studies of representation and action to the structure and content of language, with technological spin-off in machine learning and automatic acquisition of lexical and grammatical information for language systems, grammars for text analysis and the like.

Language Processing: investigation of formal systems and computational models, in the context of empirical study of natural language, with impact on the technological base for human-computer interaction, and in particular for the design of natural language interfaces for database and knowledge-rich systems.

The co-directors are veteran Penn faculty members who took their advanced degrees here and who hold named chairs.

Dr. Gleitman, the Steve L. and Marsha P. Roth Professor in Psychology, is a 1952 alumna of Antioch College, in literature, who took her Ph.D. in linguistics here in 1967 while serving as a senior scientist at the Eastern Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute. She joined the faculty of Swarthmore as associate professor of linguistics in 1968, and came back to Penn in 1972 as the William T. Carter Professor of Education—the first woman at Penn to hold a named chair. She gave up the Carter chair in 1979 on moving to her present dual post as professor of psychology and adjunct professor of linguistics. A widely reprinted author of some 45 papers and four books (the latest her Collected Works, coming from MIT Press), Dr. Gleitman has been visiting fellow at MIT, Irvine and Oxford.

Dr. Joshi, the Henry Salvatori Professor of Computer and Cognitive Sciences, is a 1950 graduate of Poona University, India, with a diploma in communication engineering from the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore. He was an engineer with RCA Princeton before taking his Ph.D. at Penn in 1960; he then joined the SEAS faculty as assistant professor in 1961 and rose to full professor and chair of Computer and Information Sciences in 1972. He has joint appointments in linguistics and psychology. The former president of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Dr. Joshi is on the NSF Advisory Panel in Information Robotic and Intelligence Systems. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and in 1972 was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. He is the author of some 80 papers and of Elements of Discourse Understanding (Cambridge U. Press 1981) and the forthcoming Tree Adjoining Grammars.
1. **Faculty Club and the Campus Center Proposal.** SEC voted down by a wide majority a motion to recommend that space for the Faculty Club be included in the plans for a new Campus Center.

2. **Report of Senate ad hoc Committee to Review University Council.** Discussion continued briefly and a motion was then adopted to "postpone further discussion until the next SEC meeting."

3. **Library Report.** In response to Vice Provost Paul Mosher's report to SEC at its last meeting an overwhelming majority adopted the following motion:

   Whereas the libraries are the one research and educational resource that serves all faculty and students, and whereas the libraries at Penn have been declining on any of several measures for three decades, and whereas the current faculty and administration have the obligation to pass on to future generations a world-class research collection, the Senate Executive Committee resolves that the share of the libraries in the current billion dollar campaign should be raised to no less than 2.5% of the total and that, for the same reasons, the annual budgetary allocations be increased significantly.

4. **Continued Discussion of Provost's Ten Working Group Reports.** In discussion of several of the reports SEC by an overwhelming majority adopted the following motion:

   The Senate Executive Committee, while in favor of improving the present situation, finds that the Report of the Subcommittee on Advising and Retention raises troubling issues beyond the specific question of advising and retention and that the matter be referred for study to both the Senate Committee on the Faculty and to the Senate Committee on Students and Educational Policy.

5. **United Way Campaign Costs.** It was decided that additional information was needed and the item was deferred to the next meeting.

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### Penn's Way: A New Record

Against a goal of $275,000, the 1989-90 campus campaign for United Way/Penn's Way hit a new dollar record of $290,852.43, with over 31.4% of the 8145 eligible faculty and staff contributing. (See final report, below.)

Although college-based campaigns account for a modest $610,000 of the $56 million United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania drew in the four-county area, the Penn total is 47% of what was raised among the 39 participating colleges, according to Jesse's stalks of United Way. Temple, with a giving base of 4500, was next highest at $137,000.

For the second year the United Way/Donor Option Choice campaign offered giving categories called "targeted care" (TC) within the United Way campaign, as well as the Donor Option adopted in 1981 to allow givers to designate non-United Way agencies.

A breakdown of Penn givers' choices showed that $185,000 went to United Way and its TC areas, $71,000 of it undesignated. Of those who targeted or took an option, the top choices were Volleyball/Homeless TC (134 gave $15,192); Women's Way (98 gave $13,715), and Children and Youth at Risk TC (92 gave $9155.) Next, ranked by donor numbers, were:

- United Negro College Fund (59—$3594),
- Families & Women TC (54—$6303),
- Planned Parenthood of SEPA (44—$4824),
- Elderly TC (30—$2517),
- Action AIDS—TC 29—$1020).

Three units of Penn attracted donor option gifts—two units of HUP, $6815 from 18 donors, Center for Information Resources, $984, from 3 givers and the Penn Children's Center, $432 from 9.

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### United Way / Penn's Way Campaign 1989-90—Final Report

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<th>COORDINATOR</th>
<th>SCHOOL/ADMIN.UNIT</th>
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<th>NUMBER PARTICIPANTS</th>
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* AREA ACHIEVED GOAL

Prepared by B. Reagile
Speaking Out

Not 'Nirvana'

Much has been written and said recently about the United Way/Penn's Way Campaign. The discussion reaches toward the fundamental question of how to raise the most amount of dollars for all the community's human health and social service agencies. It is imperative that any discussion as important as this be full-bodied, vigorous and representative of all parties concerned; that's why I would like to address some issues touched upon in a January 16 "Speaking Out" piece.

I doubt that a donor will find a human services campaign as broad as United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania's. Just another federation? Hardly. The United Way Campaign is an umbrella of federations and human service agencies, supporting the good works of over 3,000 community organizations in the Delaware Valley. And unlike other federations, United Way is not vested in any one cause. It is the only system in this community which unites myriad elements and diverse interests into one flexible and reasoned vehicle for raising and distributing charitable dollars. The combined campaign of "equal partners" being advocated by some on the Penn campus, in reality, is not the nirvana of fundraising they would have it to be. In fact, the issue here is not equality, but preferential positioning of special interest organizations and federations within a campaign. Should an organization like United Way, which represents more than three thousand agencies and programs including all those federations calling for change at Penn, be placed on a parallel with federations representing several dozen agencies?

Amid today's ever-changing, increasingly competitive charitable environment, United Way is moving forward—but, without losing those characteristics which have made the movement the best way to support human health and social services in the community. United Way still maintains its low overhead; less than ten cents of every dollar contributed through the campaign is used for fundraising and administration, including the processing of donor designations. United Way initiates community problem solving efforts, like the highly-successful Homeless Family Initiative, the Hispanic Leadership Development Program and regional conferences dealing with affordable housing and children at risk. And United Way operates the most inclusive community campaign for local human health and social services.

United Way continues to give the workplace donor the most choice with the charitable dollar. In the campaign approaching this fall, donors will see more information, more agencies and more of what they need to make an informed decision.

On the Penn campus and throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania, the single workplace campaign for community needs—truly the most efficient, fair and compassionate—is the United Way Campaign.

Susan W. Catherwood, Trustee, University of Pennsylvania
Ted L. Moore, President, United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania

Something Better for Ben

In your February 6 edition Susan Garfinkel reminds us that Benjamin Franklin's legacy to Philadelphia is not something to be treated lightly.

I agree completely with what she has to say. And I have a specific suggestion.

In a codicil, which he attached to his will, Benjamin Franklin left his salary as president of Pennsylvania (a pre-Constitutional office) to help young people in Philadelphia and Boston who needed money to start into a trade.

Ms. Garfinkel's analysis that he gave us some flexibility as to what to do after two hundred years is also correct.

In this codicil he discusses the water problems of his day, such as the paving of the streets in Philadelphia and the consequent diminution and pollution of ground-water, that with the growth of the City and populations, water problems would worsen.

He realized that steps would need to be taken to enhance the water supply of the City of Philadelphia and the State of Pennsylvania to whom the remainder of the money would be left 200 years after his death.

He anticipated what we now know as non-point source pollution and ground-water pollution and contemplated the need, perhaps, of making the Schuylkill River navigable. As in many of his other endeavors, he anticipated that there would be serious water resources problems in this Commonwealth at this time.

As always his vision was clear and relevant.

The money he passed on to us to the State and the City amounts to approximately two million dollars today. The question is how should the money be spent to most closely approximate the intent of his will?

The reason I write this letter is because the Senate has recently passed Senate Bill 1135, which authorizes the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.

The Franklin Institute is one of our proudest and finest organizations, and it has done an outstanding job in perpetuating the spirit of Benjamin Franklin's dedication to science. It has also done much to help young people to understand the importance and pleasure of scientific pursuits.

However, a gift of this money to the Benjamin Franklin Institute does not properly pursue the purpose of the codicil to his will. Benjamin Franklin wanted, in some way, to help us with our natural resources problems at this time.

A more relevant way in which we could implement the codicil to his will is to create, in our state capital, a Benjamin Franklin Center for the History of Pennsylvania's Natural Resources. The purpose of the Center would be to serve as a repository for information on the history of Pennsylvania's natural resources and the people and policies which shaped it. The Center will provide an opportunity for students, faculty, and members of the public to learn about the unique history of Pennsylvania's natural resources.

I propose that the Center be administered under the aegis of the Department of Environmental Resources, the Executive Director of the Game Commission, the Executive Director of the Fish Commission, the Secretary of Agriculture, the State Librarian, the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, and the chairs of the House Conservation and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committees.

Pennsylvania has a unique history in the field of natural resources, and there were many important leaders in this field. The center hall of our Capitol commemorates some of these leaders. They include William Penn, Benjamin Franklin, Gifford Pinchot, Rachel Carson, and many other individuals who have made a significant contribution. One of the problems the Center could address is that some of our state natural resources agencies are running out of space to house important records.

Recently, for example, it became necessary for the Department of Environmental Resources to dispose of its stream file which contains the records of the water quality of Pennsylvania's streams for the past century. These are now temporarily stored at the Penn State Capital Campus. These and other important records regarding our natural resources history need to be professionally cataloged and stored and preserved.

In addition, the Center will serve as a place where information regarding the State's natural resources policies and people will be maintained, exhibited and made available to serve as a foundation for our future endeavors in this important field.

I hope others at the University will support the concept of the Institute and so advise the City's elected officials.

—Walter A. Lyon, Adjunct Professor of Systems Engineering
Department of Public Safety

This report contains tallies of part 1 crimes, a listing of part 1 crimes against persons, and summaries of part 1 crime in the five busiest sectors on campus where two or more incidents were reported between February 19, 1990 and February 25, 1990.


Date | Time | Location | Incident
--- | --- | --- | ---
2/22/90 | 7:22 PM | 3900 Blk Locust | Males demanded cash/threatened
2/23/90 | 9:47 PM | Hamilton Walk | Actor took wristwatch
36th to 37th; Locust to Walnut
2/19/90 | 12:16 PM | Christian Assoc | Unattended wallet taken from coat
2/21/90 | 12:57 PM | Faculty Club | Purse & contents taken
2/22/90 | 4:47 PM | Faculty Club | Unattended raincoat taken
34th to 36th; Locust to Walnut
2/23/90 | 8:41 AM | Van Pelt Library | Change taken from copy machine
2/24/90 | 6:22 PM | Van Pelt Library | Unattended wallet taken
2/24/90 | 10:01 PM | Van Pelt Library | Unattended wallet taken
2/25/90 | 1:41 PM | Van Pelt Library | Unattended jacket taken
34th to 38th; CVC CTR to Hamilton
2/20/90 | 11:45 AM | Blockley Hall | Unattended wallet taken
2/22/90 | 2:10 PM | Nursing Ed Bldg | Briefcase and contents taken
2/23/90 | 2:07 PM | Van Pelt Library | See above: crimes against persons
2/25/90 | 11:31 AM | Leidy Labs | Window broken/monitor taken
37th to 38th; Locust to Walnut
2/19/90 | 8:43 AM | Grad Sch of Ed | VCR taken
2/23/90 | 5:06 PM | Psychology Labs | Unattended wallet taken

There was no 5th busiest sector during this period.

Safety Tip: Lock your doors and windows—even in the day time. One out of every two burglaries take place during the daylight hours—so keep your door and windows locked—day and night.

18th Police District

Schuylkill River to 49th Street, Market Street to Woodland Avenue

Reported crimes against persons from 12:01 AM February 12, 1990 to 11:59 PM February 18, 1990.

Total: Incidents 21, Arrests 4.

Date Time Reported | Location | Offense/Weapon | Arrest
--- | --- | --- | ---
2/12/90 | 12:00 PM | 4600 Market | Robbery/strong-arm | Yes
2/12/90 | 10:15 PM | 4600 Chestnut | Robbery/strong-arm | No
2/13/90 | 12:15 PM | 4900 Woodland | Robbery/strong-arm | No
2/13/90 | 5:08 PM | 4600 Market | Robbery/strong-arm | No
2/13/90 | 6:15 PM | 3601 Walnut | Robbery/strong-arm | No
2/13/90 | 9:45 PM | 4223 Sansom | Robbery/strong-arm | No
2/14/90 | 4:00 AM | 3900 Chestnut | Ag Assault/fists | Yes
2/14/90 | 4:00 AM | 3900 Chestnut | Ag Assault/fists | Yes
2/14/90 | 5:16 AM | 4100 Ludlow | Robbery/strong-arm | No
2/14/90 | 11:53 AM | 4500 Market | Robbery/strong-arm | No
2/14/00 | 3:00 AM | 3600 Sansom | Robbery/knife | No
2/14/00 | 7:50 PM | 200 S. 36 | Robbery/strong-arm | No
2/14/00 | 9:00 PM | 4425 Sansom | Robbery/strong-arm | No
2/15/90 | 12:40 PM | 4000 Market | Robbery/strong-arm | No
2/15/90 | 6:00 PM | 115 S. 42 | Robbery/strong-arm | No
2/17/90 | 12:00 AM | 4200 Chestnut | Ag Assault/fists | Yes
2/17/90 | 5:18 PM | 4750 Paschall | Robbery/knife | No
2/18/90 | 12:43 AM | 4100 Walnut | Robbery/bottle | No
2/18/90 | 3:43 AM | 200 S. 43 | Robbery/strong-arm | No
2/18/90 | 11:00 PM | 4400 Spruce | Robbery/strong-arm | No

Hers Summer Institute

The Fifteenth Annual Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration (HERS) is a residential program on the Bryn Mawr College campus offering women faculty and administrators intensive training in educational administration which will be held July 1-26, 1990. The curriculum prepares participants to work with issues currently facing higher education, with emphasis on the growing diversity of the student body and the work force. For more information and an application please contact Linda A. Wiedmann 108 Logan Hall/6304, Ext. 8-7251.

College, Wharton Graduations

At Council on February 14, Provost Michael Aiken announced that a conflict in the hours of school graduation ceremonies for Wharton and the College has been resolved, and that the order of events on Sunday, May 13, will be: Baccalaureate at 2 p.m., Wharton ceremonies 4 p.m., College ceremonies 7 p.m.

Penn Plus Events

Penn Plus is offering discounts for three special events held in Philadelphia in March. The Ice Capades returns to the Spectrum on March 4 celebrating its 50th Anniversary of bringing family entertainment to the world. The Penn Plus Price is $10.50 per person for middle level seats. It has also secured general admission tickets for the 1990 Philadelphia Flower Show, March 11-March 18, that can be used for any day. In this year's show, lush tropical gardens, formal elegant groves of roses, and a special collaborative display by the Garden Clubs of Philadelphia and Monaco will occupy six acres of the Civic Center. The Penn Plus price is $9 per person. Penn Plus is offering discounts for the March 16 76ers-New Jersey Game for $11.50 per person. For more information, call Ext. 8-7517.

PSA Catering for Meetings

PSA Catering is now offering a variety of refreshment specials for office meetings. For breakfast meetings, coffee and danishes can be served. For lunch, the choices are deli trays or box lunches; soft drinks are included with both options. For evening conferences, cheese and vegetable trays are available with either soft drinks or wine. Payment is not due until after the customer is satisfied with PSA Catering's performance. For more information about prices, please call Ext. 8-7237.