Nurse-Managed Care

University City has a new managed care program for frail elders, the only nurse-managed site in a national program delivering comprehensive health care and social services to the elderly in their homes. Penn Nursing and St. Agnes Medical Center/CHI hold federal contracts to operate the system in two locations—St. Agnes in South Philadelphia and the Penn installation, called the LIFE center (for Living Independently for Elders) at 4101 Woodland Avenue.

Cutting the ribbon at the Woodland Avenue site Friday, October 9, were (left to right) LIFE’s Executive Director Chris Allen, Secretary of the University Rosemary McManus; LIFE’s first enrollee, Marjorie Pope; and School of Nursing Dean Norma Lang.

For more on this program, and on a Penn/Macy initiative to extend academic nursing practice elsewhere, please see page 4.

A Bower Award for Dr. Vagelos

Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, Penn Trustees chair and former chairman of the board and CEO of Merck & Company, has been chosen for the Franklin Institute’s 1999 Bower Award in Business Leadership, for his work to combat “river blindness” a disease spread by contaminated water in many countries.

In the same ceremony next April, the Institute’s Franklin Medal in Computer and Cognitive Science will be given to Penn alumnus Dr. Noam Chomsky, professor of linguistics at MIT, for his analysis of human and computer language.

The Beaux Arts Ball at Penn: Lights! Camera! Action!

Every year Philadelphia’s Foundation for Architecture selects an “architecturally significant space, under construction,” in which to give a party. Or rather, the party of the year—the Beaux Arts Ball—the city’s “grandest and most outrageous costume gala, the largest party of its kind in the country,” attracting over 3,500 revelers. In recent years the Foundation has saluted the Convention Center, The Court at King of Prussia, the Philadelphia Navy Yard and, last year, the Apollo at Temple.

This year the choice is Penn’s Sansom Common, where the 17th annual Beaux Arts Ball will be held Saturday, October 24. For 1998’s “Silver Screen” theme, architects, designers and artists have competed to build interactive decorative elements, expressing the “dynamism and thrill of famous movie walks, journeys or show-downs along a bridging walkway,” and a jury will choose four that capture the “star-struck madness of the Silver Screen” to feature as scenery for the Ball.

Cocktails and dinner will be from 6:30 until 9 p.m., followed by the ball from 9 p.m. until 3 a.m. The attire for the evening: creative black tie or shimmering silver. The year’s best couple or individual costume will win two round-trip tickets to London; a sound stage full of prizes and awards will be given to other original and glamorous costume winners.

Dinner tickets are $250, and include the cocktail party, dinner, valet parking and admission to the ball. Advance ball tickets are $75, $85 at the door. Tickets are available from the Foundation for Architecture at 569-3187 (cash, check and major credit cards). Proceeds continue Foundation educational programs such as Architecture in Education, an eight-week introductory course for public and private school students K-12; as well as the annual Louis I. Kahn lecture, and walking tours of the city.

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Dr. Arthur Bloomfield, International Economic Advisor

Arthur I. Bloomfield, a professor emeritus of economics who was an advisor to many of the world’s emerging nations during his long and distinguished career, died on October 6 at the age of 84.

Dr. Bloomfield was on the faculty here for 27 years, joining the economics department as a full professor in 1958 and retiring in 1985. He had also been a visiting professor at the City University of New York, Columbia, Princeton, Johns Hopkins and the University of Melbourne.

As a State Department and Ford Foundation consultant, Dr. Bloomfield advised on central banking, development banking, foreign aid and financial policy in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Congo/Zaire, the Philippines and the Caribbean.

He was a frequent contributor to economic journals and served on the editorial board of the Journal of Post-Keynesian Economics. His many books included Capital Imports and the American Balance of Payments, 1934-1939; Monetary Policy under the International Gold Standards, 1880-1914; Speculative and Flight Movements of Capital in Postwar International Finance; Short Term Capital Movements under Pre-1914 Gold Standards; and Patterns of Fluctuation in International Investment before 1914. His most recent work was Essays in the History of International Trade Theory, published in 1994.

Dr. Bloomfield was a native of Montreal who took his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from McGill University. After taking his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago in 1942 he joined the staff of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, where he was a senior economist and consultant until 1958. During this time he served on several governmental commissions, among them the Wilbur Commission to Indo-China and the Randall Commission on foreign trade policy.

In 1949-50 he was a financial advisor to the Bank of Korea, where his work formed the foundation of central banking in that country. With J. P. Jensen, he co-authored Banking Reform in South Korea, published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in 1951. In addition, he served as a financial advisor to the Korean Ministry of Finance and the United Nations Korea Reconstruction Agency.

He received a special citation from the Government of Korea at the Korea-USA Centennial in 1983, and an honorary doctorate in economics from Han Yang University in Seoul in 1987. Other awards included Social Science Research Council Fellowship in 1956; a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship in 1957-58; Ford Foundation faculty research fellowship in 1962.

Dr. Bloomfield was married to the former Dorothy E. Reese in 1987. He is survived by his wife, a step-son, Alan Reese; a sister, Harriet Joseph; five nephews and four nieces.

Robert G. Lorndale, Former Secretary of Council

Robert G. Lorndale, the retired Associate Secretary of the University whose 28 years at Penn were marked by outstanding service as Secretary to the University Council, died on October 11 at the age of 72.

Mr. Lorndale was born in Chicago and graduated from the Asheville School in North Carolina. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, on destroyer escort in the Pacific, then took his bachelor’s degree from Princeton in 1947 and an MBA from the Wharton School in 1951.

In 1961 he returned to Penn as Assistant Secretary of the University, with responsibility for staffing numerous all-University committees and for coordinating Commencement and other major convocations. He was later promoted to Associate Secretary, and as the University’s governance activities increased in scope and complexity, Mr. Lorndale was regarded as a touchstone of equanimity in times of controversy. “Bob Lorndale’s career was devoted to serving Penn’s varied constituencies, and he did so with taste and with pride,” said President Emeritus Martin Meyerson.

After retiring in 1989, Mr. Lorndale served on the board of the Christian Association at Penn, volunteered for the University Museum, rowed from the Ondine Boathouse, and was active in the affairs of All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Wynnewood.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Barbara Quick Lorndale; his son, Robert Gordon Lorndale, Jr.; two daughters, Dieder Griffin and Kathryn Miller; and four grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family suggest memorial contributions to the Zoological Society of Philadelphia, 3400 Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Dr. Harold Persky, Scholar of Hormonal Effects

Dr. Harold Persky, an emeritus professor of psychiatry who had taught at PennMed for 20 years before retiring in 1983, died on Wednesday, October 14, at the age of 81.

Dr. Persky was an alumnus of the University of Chicago, where he took his bachelor’s degree, his master’s and his Ph.D. in biochemistry.

He joined Penn in 1963 after teaching at Albert Einstein Medical Center, Indiana University Medical School, Indianapolis, and the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago. Frequently cited for his studies in the links between hormones and moods, he was among the first to indicate that testosterone affected the sexuality of women, and he was still actively researching these issues when he retired in 1983.

Dr. Persky is survived by his wife, Trudy Dworkin Persky; a son, Joseph; three stepsons; and two grandchildren.
Dr. Kevin Salhany, Anatomical Pathologist

Dr. Kevin Salhany, an award-winning teacher, scholar and consultant who was associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, died Thursday, October 15, at the age of 41.

“This tragedy touches each and every one of us in the Department, as well as so many others throughout the University Health System who interacted with Kevin,” said Dr. Mark L. Tykocinski, chair of pathology and laboratory medicine. “Kevin was respected as a physician and a scholar, and he was greatly admired as a truly fine human being.”

A 1978 graduate of Tennessee’s Southern Missionary College, Dr. Salhany took a master’s degree at Hinsdale in Illinois and his M.D. at Loma Linda University in California. After residencies and fellowships at Vanderbilt University, he joined Penn Medical School in 1991 as assistant professor. A member of the surgical pathology and hematopathology services and of the University of Pennsylvania Cancer Center, publishing widely and serving as a consultant to regional pathologists, hematologists and oncologists outside Penn. Within the University he worked with the hematology-oncology group and also with individuals in surgery, thoracic surgery and otorhinolaryngology in the evaluation of lymphoid proliferations in various organ systems. His personal research interests included studies of cutaneous and other lymphomas, focusing on T-cell proliferations.

“Kevin was a team player and gave of himself in the teaching of medical students, residents and fellows,” Dr. Tykocinski said. In 1994 he won the Peter C. Nowell Teaching Award, and in 1997 he received a Student Teaching Award given by the first-year class.

At prestate, funeral arrangements were in progress. The Department will announce a campus memorial service for Dr. Salhany in November.

Memorial Reminder: The memorial service for Dr. Marvin Wolfgang, who died in April, is tomorrow (October 21) at 4 p.m. in the Faculty Club. All members of the University are welcome.

Correction: In the October 6 obituary for Dr. Svi Rin, a reference to “Dr. Hadas Rin, who took his M.A. here” should have read “took her M.A.” Almanac regrets the misunderstanding.

Council: State of the University Highlights...Some Committee Assignments

Wednesday at University Council, President Judith Rodin and Interim Provost Michael Wachter gave their State of the University reports, primarily on three topics:

- Agenda for Excellence: Dr. Rodin gave detailed highlights of Penn’s progress toward the goals announced under the strategic plan drawn up during her first year in office. For example, Goal 1, “Attain comprehensive excellence and secure Penn’s position as one of the world’s premier research and teaching universities,” was fleshed out with specifics such as bringing the undergraduate program to top ten status. Dr. Rodin used increased selectivity as one measure of success (only 29% of applicants were admitted for the class entering this fall), and rankings as another (the undergraduate program ranked 6th by U.S. News, the Wharton undergraduate program ranked first in the nation for the second year in a row). She also traced increases in diversity, listed over a dozen curricular innovations and indicated the appointment of world-class faculty in one of the schools after another.

- Under Goal 2, “Secure greater research funding and new sources of support,” Dr. Rodin gave a school-by-school rundown prefaced by such overall data as Penn’s rise in ranking in federal R & D (from 13th in 1995 to 10th in 1996, the last year for which federal data are available). Internally, Penn’s goal of bringing FY1998 awards up 2% was more than met; the rise was 14%, to a total of $415 million for the fiscal year. She also gave figures for Agenda for Excellence initiatives, which include $382 million overall—with $49 million to date toward enduring undergraduate financial aid; and 18 newly endowed chairs.

She also detailed progress on other academic goals in the presentation, which is being transcribed for publication in full in a future issue of Almanac, as will the full text on:

- West Philadelphia Initiatives: President Rodin outlined five overall goals for community improvement, and updated the Council on progress toward meeting them. The goals are to ensure that our community is clean and safe; provide high-quality, diverse housing; enhance and improve public school options for neighborhood children; revive commercial activity; and accelerate economic development.” In this report (also being transcribed for publication) Dr. Rodin sketched progress on all five fronts, then turned the floor over to Vice President Stephen Schutt and GSE Dean Susan Fuhrman for a more detailed outline of the collaborative program with the public schools that was announced this summer (Almanac July 14). Three components of the announcement were reiterated:

  - Providing leadership for the West Philadelphia and University City “Cluster Resource Boards” that are part of the city-wide initiative to improve public schools at all levels;

  - Finding a home for the city’s science magnet high school, now in deteriorating space in the Northeast, and bring it into a relationship with Penn, Drexel, the Science Center and other local resources.

  - Create a demonstration school on the former Divinity School site in the 4200 block of Spruce, for 750 students pre-K through 8th grade. In her outline of the educational goals of this project, Dean Fuhrman stressed that Penn’s approach differs from other models in choosing to be part of a public school system, rather than creating a private school for its own members.

- The College Houses: Dr. Michael Wachter introduced a team led by Dr. David Brownlee, who is both chair of the Residential Faculty Council and Faculty Master of Harnwell House, to report on the House System’s implementation this fall. Dr. Brownlee gave samples of the varied ways that the Masters, the House Deans, the Faculty Fellows, and the students themselves work to create community, emphasizing that some modest changes in space use and programming may create interaction even in the “high houses,” whose size and structure (up to 750 residents spread on 25 floors) were one of the major factors to be considered as all of Penn’s undergraduate residences became parts of a College House system this year.

Housekeeping: The Committees

At Council October 14, the chairs of two standing committees—Dr. Anthony Rostain for Student Affairs and Dr. Peter Dodson for Community Relations—presented their year-end reports for 1997-98. (Under a new arrangement with the Office of the Secretary, these are to be posted verbatim on the web, with official summaries provided for publication in Almanac in print.)

At the September 23 meeting of Council, a major agenda item had been discussion of potential items of business for Council and its committees in the coming year. One of the topics—raised in September—an inquiry into the progress of hard-wiring fraternity houses in what is known as GreekNet—was referred for immediate response to the Communications Committee. Wednesday the Committee’s chair, Dr. Martin Pring, reported on wiring projects completed and scheduled, with some background on the age, historical status and other factors that affect wiring projects—including differences in ownership in a system where houses may be owned by the University, a national fraternity, or a commercial landlord.

In his role as chair of Steering Committee, Professor John Keene referred members Wednesday to an e-mailed memorandum which gave the following disposition of the remaining topics proposed in September:

- Items for Referral to Committee for Review And Subsequent Reporting to Council
  1. Admissions and Financial Aid: Quick review of recent reports on the broad issues of faculty and undergraduate student minority presence; check numbers at other Ivies, and report summary to Council (November or December).

  2. Communications Committee: Review and evaluate WXPN goals and as they relate to service to the community.

  3. Community Relations: Review development of corridor West of 40th Street and any Penn impact, or only discuss at Council, or both. Discuss development to the East. Ask committee to explore linking Penn Latinos with North Philadelphia Latinos.

  4. Facilities: Evaluate and propose alternatives to the lack of facilities large enough to hold convocation and other ceremonies.

  5. International Programs: Consider the question of Penn tuition being charged to students who study abroad.

  6. Safety: Review unique situation of graduate students living off campus and of international students. Safety Committee and Committee on Open Expression draft video monitoring policy may be ready for the November Council meeting.

  7. Student Affairs: Discuss improving computing quality across schools in consultation with the Communications Committee.

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The Penn Nursing Network: Two Initiatives at Work

At LIFE Center, Care for the Elderly

The University’s School of Nursing and the St. Agnes Medical Center/CHI have been awarded contracts by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to sponsor eastern Pennsylvania’s first Long Term Capitated Care Assistance Program (LTCCAP). (The program, nationally known as PACE, for Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, is called PACE/LTCCAP in Pennsylvania, to distinguish it from the Commonwealth’s prescription drug subsidy PACE program.)

PACE/LTCCAP is a congressionally-authorized managed care system for frail older people who are certified eligible for nursing home care. Based on the concept of capitated care, it uses interdisciplinary teams to provide elderly patients a full range of health, medical, and social services under one system. The program enables frail elders to live independently at home as an alternative to nursing home placements.

LIFE Begins at 41st & Woodland: School of Nursing leaders at the new center’s opening, left to right are Dr. Lois Evans, professor of nursing and director of Academic Nursing Practice; Dr. Mary Naylor, associate dean and director of undergraduate studies; Chris Allen, executive director of LIFE; and Dr. Karen Buhler-Wilkerson, professor of community health and director of the Center for the Study of Nursing History. Dr. Naylor and Dr. Buhler-Wilkerson are faculty directors of LIFE.

Penn-Macy: Spreading an Idea to Peer Schools

The Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation of New York and Penn’s School of Nursing have announced a new program to assist schools of nursing to advance academic nursing practices. Under a $500,000 grant from the Foundation, faculty and administrators from up to twenty schools of nursing in research-intensive environments will have the opportunity to attend one of two Penn Macy Institutes—week-long, intensive summer conferences with follow-up consultation by Penn faculty.

Since 1995, under the umbrella of the Penn Nursing Network, the School has successfully launched seven community-based clinical practices where advanced practice nurses provide a range of health services to clients across the life-span. The Macy Foundation’s president, Dr. June E. Osborn, called the Penn Nursing Network “a strong example of how academic practices can serve as clinical laboratories for the development of knowledge through research, education, and evidence-based practice.”

“Exposure to clinical environments that incorporate the latest research on clinical care delivery is essential for the nursing discipline to prepare practitioners for the twenty-first century.”

Since few schools of nursing now operate clinical practices, most have little control over the clinical context in which their students learn to baccalaureate or advanced practice nurses, the Dean continued. Securing and maintaining clinical placements has become increasingly problematic as more of the education of nurses, physicians, and other health providers moves out of the hospital.

Collaborating with Penn and the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation is the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the Regional Nursing Centers Consortium (RNCC). For the past five years AACN has engaged in an effort to support academic practice and the integration of practice into the missions of schools of nursing through its annual conference on faculty practice. RNCC is an alliance of nursing centers located throughout Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey that works to ensure the fiscal sustainability of nursing centers, educate policy makers and payers, and obtain and disseminate outcome data that supports the effectiveness and efficiency of nursing centers.

The Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation was established in 1930. In recent years, the Foundation has dedicated its resources to enhance and improve the education of health professionals, increase minority representation in the health professions, achieve better communication among and between health professions, and educate health professionals in primary care settings serving high-need populations.
Call for Nominations: Shelley Term Chair in Women’s Studies

The Women’s Studies Program is very pleased to announce the generosity of Donna Shelley (C ’82) and Larry Shelley (W ’80) in establishing the Shelley Term Chair in Women’s Studies for faculty in the Arts and Sciences.

The purpose of the chair is to honor the recipient’s excellence in scholarship and teaching and to capture a designated portion of that individual’s time for the Women’s Studies Program. The term of the chair is five years, during which time the chairholder will receive a yearly research fund of $5,000. During the term of the chair, the recipient will teach at least one course a year in the Women’s Studies Program, with the subject matter to be determined in consultation with the Director of Women’s Studies and the chair holder’s department. The chair will thus reward distinguished faculty in Women’s Studies, expand course offerings, and enhance the ability of the Women’s Studies Program to make long term curriculum plans. It is also hoped that the individual will be active in the Women’s Studies Program more generally.

The Women’s Studies Program is currently seeking nominations for this award. Applicants for the Shelley Chair must be full or associate professors and should have demonstrated scholarly and pedagogical achievement in the study of women and gender. Applicants should submit a c.v. and a letter of reference from another faculty member at Penn. Applications should be sent to E. Ann Matter, acting director, Women’s Studies, 411 Logan Hall, by November 13, 1998.

— E. Ann Matter, R. Jean Brownlee Term Professor
Department of Religious Studies

Policy on Copying Software: An Important Caution

The Chronicle of Higher Education reports that software piracy is a growing problem on college and university campuses (CHE, 10/9/98 “Colleges Need to Get Serious About Stopping Illegal Copying of Computer Software”). Software piracy at academic institutions takes several different forms. One way it happens is when officials allow more software copies to be installed than is permitted by the software license. Another way is when faculty, staff or students carelessly make copies without checking to see if the number of allowable copies has been exceeded. Some people trade copyrighted software, often over the Internet. Such activity subjects the institution and the individuals involved to civil and possibly criminal penalties, as well as unfavorable publicity. In July 1997, the City of Philadelphia paid $121,000 to settle claims of illegal software copying. The Los Angeles Unified School District now faces a proposed five-million-dollar settlement for alleged copyright infringement.

The following practices will help to ensure that illegal software copying does not become a problem:
— Budget appropriately for your software purchases.
— Make sure that you are getting the best price for software. Through the Computer Connection in the Penn Bookstore, the University makes the vast majority of software products used on campus available to faculty, staff and students at substantial discounts. Additionally, through ISC’s Site License and Volume Discount Program, campus-wide site licensing agreements or volume purchase agreements are negotiated. For details, see www.upenn.edu/computing/licenses/overview.html.
— As new software is purchased, retain licenses, registration and invoices centrally in your department or unit. Periodically audit your computers to ensure that the number of software copies installed falls within the number permitted.

All faculty, students and staff are reminded that the unauthorized copying of licensed computer software is a violation of University policy (reprinted below). If you have questions about this policy, or would like help ensuring that your office complies with this policy, contact David Millar, University Information Security Officer at 898-2172 or security@isc.upenn.edu.

If you know or suspect that serious violation of software copyright is occurring on University computing facilities, you may report what you know anonymously to the Corporate Compliance Office reporting number, 1-888-BEN-TIPS.

— James J. O’Donnell, Vice Provost for Information Systems and Computing

University Policy on Unauthorized Copying of Copyrighted Software

The University of Pennsylvania does not condone or tolerate the unauthorized copying of licensed computer software by staff, faculty, or students. The University shall adhere to its contractual obligations and shall comply with all copyright laws, and expects all members of the University community to do so as well. Members of the University community who violate this policy may be subject to discipline through standard University procedures. An individual or University department engaged in the unauthorized copying or use of software may also face civil suit, criminal charges, and/or penalties and fines. Subject to the facts and circumstances of each case, such individuals or departments shall be solely responsible for their defense and any resulting liability.
Tickets are available for $5 at the door.

and the Curtis Organ Restoration Society.

screenings October 31, at 6 p.m. and

progress at Irvine Auditorium. There are two

music, continues by moving the event to the

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Locust Walk Mile

For Homecoming, the Department of Recreation presents the 3rd Annual Locust Walk Mile, “A Homecoming Tradition,” Saturday, October 31, at 10 a.m. The start and finish will be at Van Pelt Library. Registration is Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., at both Hutchinson and Gimbel Gymnasium. Long-sleeve tee shirts will be given to the Top 40 male and female finishers and top 10 walkers, and medallions will be presented to the top 20 male and female finishers and 5 walkers. For further information call 898-6100.

Following the start of the race, a “Homecoming Festival on the Green” will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for all Penn alumni and students on Locust Walk between 34th and 36th Streets. Admission to the festival, sponsored by the Alumni Society and Student Life, is free—with food available for purchase from a vendor.

University City, from BRITE to Green: October 24

Last year as the neighborhood project called UC BRITE wound down, a new one took root in its place: UC Green, dedicated to increasing the presence of growing things in the area west of campus. It is estimated that 2500 new light bulbs were installed during UC BRITE, President Judith Rodin quipped at Council last week, UC Green now plans to put in 2500 plant bulbs. Volunteers from King’s Court/English College House are part of the core group who will assemble, starting at 11 a.m., at 40th and Pine Street to begin planting bulbs—mainly tulips and daffodils—along Pine and Baltimore Avenue. But more volunteers are welcome, said Hillary Aisenstein, C’99. The planting is expected to go on until about 3 p.m.

“UC Green got started over the summer,” said Ms. Aisenstein, who works closely with Dr. Esaol Sanchez, formerly of UC BRITE, to coordinate its projects. “In its beginning stages, we have mostly supported existing efforts, such as planning a site for Into the Streets, and helping to coordinate plantings done by PennCorps at the Paul Robeson House at 50th & Walnut. For this event we are working with Baltimore Avenue in Bloom as we did with the Into the Streets site we hosted.” Volunteer teams will be led by some members of University City Garden Club. Campus Apartments will be lending a truck to cart around mulch provided by the Fairmount Park Commission and wood chips left over from the previous Into the Streets event.

For more information on volunteering for Saturday’s planting, or future events of UC Green, e-mail hillarya@sas.upenn.edu.

Health & Welfare Benefits Information: 1-888-PENNBEN

Human Resources has partnered with Hewitt Associates L.L.C. for the administration and service delivery of Penn’s health and welfare benefits. This change affects how you conduct certain benefits transactions and make individual inquiries about your benefits. Specifically, Hewitt is servicing our medical, prescription drug, dental, and group life insurance programs, as well as our health care and dependent care spending accounts. This means that since October 12, 1998, you now call the Penn Benefits Center at Hewitt to enroll in or change your elections for any of these programs, as well as to review your current elections and make inquiries about these particular benefits.

The Penn Benefits Center, located at Hewitt’s Woodlands, Texas location, is staffed by representatives who have a comprehensive knowledge of Penn’s health and welfare benefits, access to technology and training and who will be dedicated to providing service to you. Since Monday, October 12, The Penn Benefits Center is available to you 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (ET) at 1-888-PENNBEN (1-888-736-6236). We encourage you to keep your “Benefits Contact Information” sheet handy and to fill in your PIN number for easy access to the Penn Benefits Center and your benefits information.

For other Penn benefit programs (retirement plans, tuition, short and long term disability, sick leave, other types of leaves and paid–time off), you will continue to call the Benefits Office in Human Resources at 215-898-7282 or 215-898-7993 if you are a Medical School employee or 215-349-5435 if you are an employee of the Clinical Practices of the University of Pennsylvania (CPUP).

—Leny Bader, Director of Benefits/Human Resources

OPPORTUNITIES at PENN

There are currently over 500 positions open at Penn for qualified applicants in office support, research, computing, professional, and financial areas among others. All open positions are posted on the Human Resources website at www.hr.upenn.edu. Positions are searchable by title, job, school and posting date. Applicants can apply on-line at this site and are encouraged to do so.

Applicants are also welcome to visit the Penn Job Application Center at 3550 Market Street, Suite 110, where five computer stations are available for you to browse open positions and apply on-line. It is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. Today’s Penn Partnership (formerly Today’s Penn Temporaries) is also at this site, and continues to provide quality office support temps to Penn departments. In addition, Today’s Penn Partnership has expanded its services to Penn hiring offices of recruitment of regular full-time office and support staff. Applicants interested in full-time or temporary office support work, who have at least 3 months office experience and computer proficiency, are encouraged to visit the Application Center.

NOTE: Faculty positions and positions at the Health System are not included in these listings.

— John J. Heuer, Vice President for Human Resources
The University of Pennsylvania Police Department
Community Crime Report

About the Crime Report: Below are all Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Society from the campus report for October 5 through October 11, 1998. Also reported were Crimes Against Property: 27 total thefts & attempts (including 2 burglaries, 1 theft of auto, 5 thefts from autos, 2 thefts of bicycles & parts), 4 incidents of criminal mischief & vandalism, and 2 incidents of forgery & fraud. Full reports on the Web (www.upenn.edu/almanac/v45/n08/crimes.html).—Ed.

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 5 and October 11, 1998. The University Police actively patrols from 3rd and Market Streets to 43rd Street and from 34th and Sansom Streets 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 898-4462.

Crimes Against Persons

34th to 38th/Market to Civic Center: Robberies (& attempts)—1; Aggravated Assaults—1; Threats & Harassment—4

10/07/98 3:59 PM 3600 Blk Locust Complainant reported being followed by unknown male

10/07/98 7:41 PM 3437 Walnut St Unknown suspect robbed store of money

10/09/98 2:23 AM Filer Dorm Complainant reports being harassed

10/09/98 10:19 AM 37th & Walnut Complainant reports being harassed

10/10/98 8:34 PM 3400 Blk Spruce Complainant reports being harassed

10/11/98 1:31 AM Newman Center Shots fired at vehicle/no injuries

38th to 41st/Market to Baltimore: Robberies (& attempts)—1; Simple Assaults—1; Threats & Harassment—2

10/09/98 3:14 PM Veterinary School Complainant reports being harassed

10/09/98 5:33 PM 4007 Pine St Complainant reports being assaulted by ex-boyfriend

10/10/98 3:18 AM 4000 Spruce St Complainant reports being harassed/threatened by unknown male

10/11/98 3:41 AM 4015 Walnut St Complainant reports unknown male attempted to rob her

41st to 43rd/Market to Baltimore: Robberies (& attempts)—1

10/09/98 11:05 AM 42nd & Walnut Cash drawer taken from establishment by 2 unknown males

Crimes Against Society

34th to 38th/Market to Civic Center: Disorderly Conduct—1

10/07/98 10:49 PM 3420 Maravian St Male causing disturbance/had false ID/arrest

38th to 41st/Market to Baltimore: Alcohol & Drug Offenses—1

10/08/98 1:50 AM 3900 Blk Walnut Male driving recklessly/arrested for driving under influence

18th District Crimes Against Persons

16 Incidents and 5 Arrests (including 6 aggravated assaults, and 10 robberies) were reported between October 5, 1998 and October 11, 1998, by the 18th District, covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street and Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

10/05/98 2:57 PM 811 49th Aggravated Assault/assault

10/05/98 7:52 PM 4700 Chester Robbery

10/05/98 7:55 AM 4800 Osage Robbery/assault

10/05/98 7:30 PM 3437 Walnut Robbery

10/05/98 2:15 PM 4946 Larchwood Robbery

10/09/98 9:30 PM 4800 Regent Robbery

10/11/98 11:05 AM 4201 Walnut Robbery

10/09/98 1:34 PM 3922 Market Robbery

10/10/98 7:20 PM 3917 Ludlow Aggravated Assault

10/10/98 7:00 PM 3820 Woodland Aggravated Assault

10/10/98 3:14 PM 4444 Sanson Aggravated Assault/assault

10/10/98 8:28 AM 4512 Walnut Robbery

10/11/98 1:05 PM 3700 Walnut Aggravated Assault

10/11/98 11:12 AM 4804 Chester Aggravated Assault/assault

10/11/98 3:15 AM 4045 Walnut Robbery

10/12/98 1:20 PM 2930 Market Robbery

Talking Urban Education In Lecture Hall and Theater

Next week on in a campus lecture and a Center City theater evening, the Graduate School of Education’s Constance Clayton Chair inaugurates its program with two events examining urban education. The stellar chair, held by Dr. Diana T. Slaughter-Defoe, honors the GSE Ph.D. alumna who headed the Philadelphia Public Schools from 1982 until 1993.

At the Museum: On October 29, internationally known child psychologist Dr. James P. Comer of Yale’s Child Study Center and School of Medicine will give the Inaugural Constance Clayton Lecture, 4 p.m., in the at the Rainey Auditorium of the University Museum. Dr. Comer, known for founding a successful school restructuring program, will focus on issues raised in his most recent book, Waiting for a Miracle: Why Schools Can’t Solve Our Problems and How We Can (Penguin 1997).

The lecture is free and open the public under the aegis of GSE and its co-sponsors: the University’s African American Studies Program; Center for Health, Achievement, Neighborhood Growth and Ethnic Studies (CHANGES); the Psychiatry Department of PennMed; DuBois Collective Research Institute; and the National Center on Fathers and Families (NCOFF).

At the Painted Bride: On October 30, GSE also invites members of the University to the Painted Bride Art Center’s production of “Prism,” a new play by Alex McDonald in which an experienced junior high school teacher shows his younger male colleague “how to teach in anybody’s inner city school.” It is directed by Rome Neal of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe.

The performance begins at 7 p.m., at 230 Vine Street, and there is a post-production discussion. Tickets are $15 for the play. For information on both the lecture and the play, contact Janean D. Williams, co-chair of the Clayton Lecture Committee, at 573-5628 or janeanw@gse.upenn.edu.

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

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Teaching Quantitative Skills: How Some Faculty Have Responded

by Jonathan Baron

The College of Arts and Sciences has instituted a quantitative skills requirement, beginning with this year’s freshmen. The idea is to encourage students to become “numerate.” The modern world requires understanding of how people make inferences from numbers, particularly empirical data. In the last 100 years, statistical and numerical methods have spread to all levels of government, the world of commerce, medicine, and even law. In academia, the natural and social sciences have used these methods all along, and they are spreading to the humanities. The new requirement is not just about statistics or mathematics. It is about the promise and pitfalls of drawing conclusions from numbers, so it is also about scientific thinking, degrees of confidence, alternative explanations, plausibility, error, and also about the advantages of data over unaided intuition.

The nature of our requirement is different from that of any other college we know. It emphasizes hands-on experience with real data, rather than canned exercises (although we recognize that those are sometimes helpful too). Real data are important, because students can raise real questions about them. Was the sample biased with respect to the question? Was the sample big enough? How confidently could we extend the conclusion to other samples? What other ways might we answer this question?

Several courses have now been approved as meeting the requirement, and we have given small grants for the development of other courses. All the approved courses are listed in the quantitative skills web page, www.sas.upenn.edu/college/quantitative_skills/, with links to many syllabi.

Some are statistics courses. We have approved these as meeting the requirement only when they involve analysis of real data. Other courses are more traditional laboratory courses in the natural sciences. We approve these when exercises are open-ended enough so that students can raise real questions about interpretation, when it isn’t just a matter of getting the right answer. Here are some examples of assignments in other kinds of courses, with particular attention to the projects that provide experience with real data.

History 188: Global Issues in Local Perspectives: Markets, Health, and Hunger

Among other things, students search the Web for data sets on poverty and deprivation. They use these data sets and others, provided for them, to carry out analyses using Stata (a statistics package now widely available on campus). They ask such questions as, “What is the relationship between the level of urbanism and national wealth?” and “What is the relationship between family income levels and child poverty?” They compare rates of growth among countries over two separate historical periods, examining graphs as well as descriptive statistics.

Linguistics 102: Introduction to Sociolinguistics

Students engage in four field projects, in which they make individual observations or field experiments on language change and variation in the Philadelphia area. They then upload their data into a class spreadsheet on a server at the Linguistics Lab, following a standard format. Then they are given an assignment for the analysis of the class data as a whole, which involves statistical tests on those relations that appear to them significant between the dependent linguistic variables and the various independent variables: age, neighborhood, gender, social class, etc. The course is taught in a room with computer projection connected to the net.

Political Science 215: Political Institutions and Economic Performance

Students define and carry out a project that involves replicating at least one important analysis dealing with the relationship between political regimes and economic performance, using the original data. The purpose is to help them understand the steps involved in the empirical examination of scientific propositions and, most importantly, to grasp how inferences are made on the basis of the data examined. They are encouraged both to understand the original analysis and to experiment with alternative approaches.

The course has no prerequisite, but students are introduced to multiple regression, the main method used in the studies examined.

Psychology 453

Not all of the courses involve statistical analysis. This course is about decision analysis, particularly the elicitation of judgments of utility (or goodness, or value) of the sort used in cost-effectiveness analysis. Students elicit their own utilities for hypothetical medical conditions. Next, they carry out a decision analysis using several attributes, such as choosing a method for birth control. These methods emphasize that the relative value of attributes (e.g., price, probability of failure, or inconvenience) depends on the ranges in question, and raw judgments of “importance” are typically meaningless. Students also do an exercise on “conjoint analysis,” in which the subject makes holistic ratings of various combinations of attributes, and they do a project in groups. Data are collected on the Web and analyzed using Stystat. Last year, one of the projects, done on the web, used conjoint analysis to compare the values of those who owned (or preferred) sport utility vehicles and those who liked ordinary cars.

Sociology 4: The Family

Students complete a questionnaire concerning their own families. The questionnaire concerns attitudes (“Living together before marriage makes good sense”), experiences (“How many of your friends have had sexual intercourse?”), and background information (“Did your mother work full-time while you were under 6?”). Students then propose hypotheses to test, concerning correlations among various answers, and they discuss and test these hypotheses. They use Stata (a statistics package). Each student writes a 5-7 page paper.

The committee invites other faculty to develop courses along these lines and others. We would be happy to discuss ideas you have for introducing exercises or assignments in your courses specifically designed to teach quantitative skills (especially in Arts and Sciences). We have also made a statistics package, Systat, widely available around campus, for use in such courses.

With this essay, the Talk About Teaching series enters its fifth year as a project of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Lindback Society for Distinguished Teaching.

Dr. Baron is Professor of Psychology and Chair of the College’s Quantitative Skills Committee. The committee’s web page may be found at www.sas.upenn.edu/college/quantitative_skills