PreK-8 Planning: Committees at Work

Four committees have begun meeting to plan toward the University-assisted public school to be built on the former Divinity School site in the 4200 block of Locust and Spruce Streets, President Judith Rodin has announced.

The target opening date is 2001 for a GSE-related demonstration school for 700 students, pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. The project calls for construction of a $14 million building, at School District expense, on a site provided by Penn and with Penn subsidizing each pupil at $1000 per capita.

As a demonstration school it is also expected to impact other schools in West Philadelphia and citywide, according to Dean Susan Fuhrman. In a presentation to Council (pp. 4-5), Dr. Fuhrman said, “Unlike the University of Chicago, which has a lab school, or UCLA, which has a private school, or USC, which is starting its own charter school, this is a school that’s located in a system of public schools.... it’s not removed from the urban public school effort but it’s part of, and leading, that effort of improvement.”

The structure and membership of the four committees, which began meeting October 15, are given on page 5, adapted from the new website that Dr. Rodin announced at the University Council in September, www.upenn.edu/president/westphilly.

One of the committees is a small Coordinating Committee of four members—Dean Susan Fuhrman of GSE, Vice President Stephen D. Schutt, who is the President’s Chief of Staff; Germaine Ingram of the Philadelphia School District; and Jerry T. Jordan of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers.

The other three have, among them, 53 current members with the possibility to name more, and with the option to form work teams involving still other volunteers. They are the School Planning Committee, chaired by GSE Associate Dean Nancy W. Streim; the Facility/Site Committee, co-chaired by Ted Skierski of the School District and Tom Lussenhop of Penn Real Estate; and the Community Programming Committee led by Larry Bell of the West Philadelphia Partnership and Kate Ward-Gaus of Student Health.

From the Lynch Foundation: $2.5 Million for a New Biology Building

University Trustee Carolyn Hoff Lynch, PT ’68, and her husband Peter S. Lynch, WG ’68, have provided through the Lynch Foundation, a gift of $2.5 million for the construction of a new biology building, the School of Arts and Sciences has announced. Mr. and Mrs. Lynch also made a generous pledge to establish Lynch Scholarships for undergraduate biology majors, the announcement said.

Mrs. Lynch, an SAS Overseer and Chair of the Biology Advisory Board, has led the planning effort for a building that will provide faculty with state-of-the-art laboratories for plant and animal research and biology students with a much needed lecture hall and undergraduate lounge.

“Carolyn and Peter’s generosity emphasizes the importance of not only funding new facilities, but providing funds to support the students who are going to use those facilities,” said President Judith Rodin.

“Carolyn’s encouragement and support for our efforts in biological research and education have been invaluable to all of us in the School,” SAS Dean Samuel Preston added. “The generous commitment that she and Peter have now made will help us to construct a building where these efforts can continue to flourish.”

The Lynches’ gift launches the drive to raise $15 million for the new building, which will be constructed alongside the Mudd Plant Sciences Institute, near Leidy Labs and the Biology Pond and greenhouses south of Hamilton Walk. The new facility for the biology department is one of the strategic priorities included in the Life Science, Technology and Policy section of the University’s Agenda for Excellence.

Carolyn Hoff Lynch is president of the Lynch Foundation, located in Marblehead, Massachusetts. Mr. Lynch is vice-chairman of Fidelity Management and Research in Boston.

New JA: Dr. Jill Beech of Vet School

Dr. Jill Beech, professor of medicine in the School of Veterinary Medicine and chief of the section of Large Animal Medicine and Reproduction at the New Bolton Center, has been named University Judicial Administrator.

Dr. Barbara Lowery, associate provost announced Dr. Beech’s appointment as successor to Dr. Daniel Perlmutter, professor of chemical engineering, who had been JA since 1996.

The Judicial Administrator presides over all student disciplinary/academic integrity hearings.

Dr. Beech is a 1972 graduate of the Vet School who joined the faculty in 1977 as an assistant professor and was promoted to full professor in 1993. She has served on numerous University-wide committees, including the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility, and chaired an ad hoc committee to review the grievance procedure. She was on the Search Committee for the Dean of the of Veterinary Medicine, the Provost’s Task Force on the School, and the Consultative Review Committee for the Dean of Veterinary Medicine. She also chaired the Committee to Review the Admissions Committee and served on many other school committees including the Strategic Planning Committee and Committee on Appointments and Promotions.
News in Brief

Trustees’ Council Grants

Last spring, The Trustees’ Council of Penn Women invited members of the University community to apply for its 1998 grant program. Awards ranging from $1,000 to $5,000 were offered for work on women’s issues including the quality of undergraduate and graduate life for women, their institutional advancement and their physical, emotional and psychological well-being.

The winners for 1998 are:

- The Women in Leadership Series (WILS);
- The Office of Student Health Education;
- The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Center; and

PennQuest, a new student orientation program of the VPUL’s Academic Support Programs.

Deadline information on the 1999 grants will be published in a future Almanac. For more information, please call Allison Cannady-Smith, administrative director, Trustees’ Council of Penn Women, at 898-7811.

Penn Faculty/Staff Family Day

Some 2,300 Penn faculty and staff celebrated this year’s Penn Family Day on Saturday, October 17. The picnic for family and friends at Hill Field was followed by a victorious football game as Penn defeated Columbia 20-0. Complimentary lunch was provided by Dining Services and entertainment by the Glee Club, Penn Marching Band and Penn Cheerleaders—with children’s events including face painting, balloon art, a giant slide and the Moon Bounce. Penn Family Day is sponsored by Human Resources and supported by the Athletics Department as an annual event for faculty, staff and their families.

Second Sentencing in Sled Case

Yvette Stewart, one of three people convicted on various counts in the 1996 murder of University post-doctoral biochemist Dr. Vladimir Sled, has been sentenced to 15 to 20 years in prison.

Ms. Stewart was convicted of third-degree murder, two counts of robbery—that of Dr. Sled’s fiancee, and of a Philadelphia Daily News driver several hours earlier—and several related charges. Her involvement with the murder included remaining in a getaway car and firing a gun into the air while Dr. Sled was stabbed by Bridgette Black, who was recently sentenced to 12-15 years, Eugene Harrison, who reportedly planned the street robbery of Halloween night, 1997, awaits sentencing.

Penn Tower Assault Trial

An assault trial has begun in Philadelphia Common Pleas Court for Larry Ray, the North Philadelphia man charged in the assault on University Health System employee Toby Laiken last January. Mr. Ray is charged with aggravated assault, robbery and burglary, and with attacking Ms. Laiken as she stumbled onto the burglary-in-progress at the Penn Cancer Center at Penn Tower.

The trial is expected to have concluded by press time or shortly thereafter. Any available updates will be posted to Almanac Between Issues at www.upenn.edu/almanac.

To the University Community

We would like to welcome and introduce to you the new members of the Executive Board for the A-3 Assembly:

- Valerie Grant, Office of the Vice President/General Counsel
- Louise Alexander, Graduate School of Education
- Cathy Curtin, Department of Bioengineering, SEAS
- Mike Werniewski, Van Pelt Library
- Jean Marie Vance, Office of the Vice Dean for Administration, Medical School
- Pamela Carr, Transportation & Parking

Thanks to everyone who came out and voted. We appreciate your support.

Note to A-3 Staff:

Please save the date Thursday, November 5. We are planning an open forum meeting for the A-3 Assembly, noon-2 p.m. Details will announced in Almanac next week, published over the listserv and sent via intramural mail to all staff.

Returning Members of the A-3 Assembly Executive Board

- Donna M. Arthur, CP&P, Law School, Chair
- Debra Smiley-Koita, Career Services, Vice-Chair
- Keith A. Martin, CGS, Treasurer
- Loretta Miller, Student Info & Systems
- Delia Robinson, Career Services
- John Hogan, Biddle Law Library
- Stephanie Knox, Office of the President

Writers House Fellow: Gay Talese

Gay Talese, a best-selling author whose work helped establish a new category known as The New Journalism, has been named as the first Kelly Writers House Fellow. He will teach in the spring term but will be on campus this fall for a lunche time talk November 11 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Writer’s House.

Under a grant from alumnus Paul Kelly, Mr. Talese will teach an undergraduate seminar on “Literary Non-fiction” (English 285), in spring 1999, meeting with students outside class hours to critique their work. Among other readings, some course material will likely be drawn from Mr. Talese’s 1996 anthology, The Literature of Reality (Harper Collins). [More on the course is at www.english.upenn.edu/~wh/events/talese.]


Groundbreaking: A Home for the UCD on Chestnut Street

The University City District (UCD) created last year to “promote positive change” in the area, will soon have a centralized location for its work with over 100 institutions, businesses and community representatives: in a onetime Horn & Hardart at 3940-42 Chestnut Street, where ground was broken on October 21. Paul Sleege and Associates are architects for the combined renovation and new construction of the 10,000 square-foot facility scheduled for completion in May 1999. UCD Executive Director said it will provide locker room and roll call space for UCD’s 40 Safety Ambassadors as well as for 25 officers from the Philadelphia Police Department, and a lieutenant and two sergeants. The properties are being donated to the UCD by Penn, with financing provided by Penn for the $1.7 million project. The challenge now, said Penn EVP John Fry, is to raise funds from corporations, foundations and others “to improve public safety and quality of life in University City.”
Criteria and Guidelines

1. The Lindback Awards are given in recognition of distinguished teaching. “Distinguished” teaching is teaching that is intellectually demanding, unusually coherent, and permanent in its effect. The distinguished teacher has the capacity of changing the way in which students view the subject they are studying. The distinguished teacher provides the basis for students to look with critical and informed perception at the fundamentals of a discipline, and he/she relates that discipline to other disciplines and to the worldview of the student. The distinguished teacher is accessible to students and open to new ideas, but also expresses his/her own views with articulate informed understanding of an academic field. The distinguished teacher is fair, free from prejudice, and single-minded in the pursuit of truth.

2. Distinguished teaching means different things in different fields. While the distinguished teacher should be versatile, as much at home in large groups as in small, and in beginning classes as in the senior ones or she may have skills of special importance in his/her area of specialization: skillful direction of dissertation students, effective supervision of student researchers, ability to organize a large course of many sections, skill in leading seminars, special talent with large classes, ability to handle discussions or to structure lectures—these are all relevant attributes, although it is unlikely that anyone will excel in all of them.

3. Distinguished teaching is recognized and recorded in many ways; evaluation must also take several forms. It is not enough to look solely at letters of recommendation from students. It is not enough to consider “objective” evaluations of particular classes in tabulated form. A faculty member’s influence extends beyond the classroom and beyond individual classes. Nor is it enough to look only at a candidate’s most recent semester or at opinions expressed immediately after a course is over; the influence of the best teachers lasts while that of others may be great at first but lessen over time. It is not enough merely to gauge student adulation, for its basis is superficial; but neither should such feelings be discounted as unworthy of investigation. Rather, all of these factors and more should enter into the identification and assessment of distinguished teaching.

4. The Lindback Awards have a symbolic importance that transcends the recognition of individual merit. They should be used to advance effective teaching by serving as reminders to as wide a spectrum of the University community as possible of the expectations of the University for the quality of its mission.

5. Distinguished teaching occurs in all parts of the University and therefore faculty members from all schools are eligible for consideration. An excellent teacher who does not receive an award in a given year may be re-nominated in some future year and receive the award then.

6. The Lindback Awards may be awarded to faculty members who have many years of service remaining, or they may recognize many years of distinguished service already expended. No faculty member may be considered for the Lindback Award in a year in which the member is considered for tenure or is in his or her terminal year. All nominees should be members of the standing faculty. The teaching activities for which the awards are granted must be components of the degree programs of the University of Pennsylvania.

7. The awards should recognize excellence in either undergraduate or graduate teaching, or both.

8. The recipient of a Lindback Award should be a teacher/scholar. The recognition is not necessarily the mark of a fine mind, or the lack of one a sign of mediocrity, it is legitimate to look for an active relationship between a candidate’s teaching and the current state of scholarship in his/her field.

Who has a Lindback?
For a roster of Penn faculty who have won Lindback Awards since the program’s inception in 1961, see the University Archives website, www.upenn.edu/AR/men/awards/index.html which includes recipients through 1996.

Lindback Nominations: December 1

Nominations for Lindback Awards for members of the standing faculty, and for Provost’s Awards for full- and part-time associated faculty and academic support staff are now being accepted by the Office of the VPUL; send to Terri Conn at 3611 Locust Walk/6222 or conn@pobox.upenn.edu.

Leaving

Debra Fickler, General Counsel’s Office
Debra F. Fickler, Associate General Counsel of the University, will become Deputy General Counsel at Villanova University starting November 16.

“It has been my delight and privilege to work with Debbie for almost fifteen years,” said University General Counsel Shelley Green. “Villanova is fortunate to gain not only a skilled and experienced attorney but one of exceptional sensitivity, humanity and dedication.”

At Penn Ms. Fickler has provided legal advice to trustees, administrators, faculty and staff in all of the schools and centers on a range of issues including employment law, student issues, investment, endowment, charitable giving, estates and trusts, copyright, taxes, immigration, statutory and regulatory compliance, corporate governance, and contracts.

Ms. Fickler is 1973 Temple alumna, summa cum laude, who was an actuarial associate with Tower, Perrin Forster & Crosby from 1974-79. After taking her M.B.A. from Temple in 1979 she came to Penn for her J.D., which she received magna cum laude in 1982.

A law clerk in the University General Counsel’s Office in the summer of 1980 and in May 1981, she was with Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll as an associate attorney in 1982-84, and returned to Penn as Assistant General Counsel. She was promoted to Associate General Counsel in 1987.

She was chosen by the University to attend the HERS Program at Bryn Mawr (Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration) in 1992. In 1994-95, she was an adjunct professor of law at Temple’s Integrated Transactional Program.

Chris Dennis, College House System

Dr. Christopher Dennis, who has been active in College House development for 14 years and in the Penn Reading Project since its inception in 1990, announced last week that he will step down November 15 from his post as Executive Director of College Houses.

In a written statement to colleagues, he said,

“The completion of the comprehensive College House program represents the culmination of a long-held vision to marry the residential and academic program, a vision that it has been my privilege to work on since 1984, when the Provost’s Office asked me to begin work on an expanded College House system at Penn. It is clear to me that our new system of distributed academic support, as it evolves and develops in a rich climate of living and learning, will bridge the artificial division between the formal academic program and residence life. This is an important development for Penn’s students, faculty and staff and for our aspirations for the Penn experience and the Penn student. It is an important model for higher education generally. I take deep satisfaction in the role I have played, both conceptually and actually, in developing Penn’s College House system over the years.

“But there is a natural cycle to such major undertakings and this phase, so truly and well begun, is at an end. With the model securely in place and so many objectives accomplished, I feel it is the right time for me to move on to consider new projects and opportunities.”

“Chris Dennis was the sustainer of the College Houses when they were few, and one of the chief planners of the new system in which they have increased to twelve,” said Dr. David Brownlee, Director of the College Houses and Academic Services.

“I am pleased that we can celebrate the fulfillment of this plan now, as Chris looks for other challenges. I am planning to modestly restructure the Office of College Houses and Academic Services. Rather than replace the executive director, I will appoint an Associate Director for Administration to assist with day-to-day operations.”

Dr. Dennis is an alumna of UMass with a master’s degree from Oxford’s Pembroke College who took his Ph.D. in English from Princeton and taught there, at Michigan and at the University of London before joining Penn’s English department in 1979. While teaching Medieval and Renaissance literature he also served as assistant chair for overseas program, inaugurating the Penn/Kings College program with the University of London. His wife, Dr. Vicki Mahaffey, was also a Faculty Fellow in Hill House.

As a full-time academic administrator since 1984 he has held posts that grew from coordinator to executive director of College House Programs, serving also as acting director of residential living for a time. He also took part in the Provost’s 21st Century Project, and in working groups on ResNet and the creation of computer labs in the Houses; the Wheel Project; Penn’s first service-learning program in residence (at the Castle); and other projects.
At the University Council on October 14, President Judith Rodin’s State of the University message contained a presentation on the agreement announced in July to build a demonstration school in University City and bring an existing science magnet high school to West Philadelphia. The report below is edited from a transcription of the presentation by Dean Susan Fuhrman of the Graduate School of Education and Stephen Schutt, Vice President and Chief of Staff in the Office of the President. It is followed on page 3 by the organizational chart and membership of the planning process, which involves over 50 members of the University, the neighborhood, the School District and the Federation of Teachers, with more to be named to work teams.—Ed.

Planning a PreK–8 School for the Year 2001

Vice President Stephen Schutt: As Dr. Rodin went through the initiatives on West Philadelphia [see Supplement to this issue], there is none more important to the residents of University City, and ultimately to the future of the area, than the public schools. We’ve heard that over time from a number of people who live in the area: when asked what they care about most or what they think about as they look at the future, when we’ve talked to faculty and staff of the University who are considering moving to University City, one of the predominant concerns is the present quality and the future of the school options in the community.

As a result of that concern, many of you in the room today and others at Penn have been involved for many years in wonderful efforts in the public schools in West Philadelphia—through the Graduate School of Education, through our Center for Community Partnerships, and in other ways.

But a year or 18 months ago, Dr. Rodin asked several of us whether, with all of that said, we might not still do more. Susan Fuhrman, I and others took that question very seriously, and that led us to a series of meetings and conversations with the School District of Philadelphia and with the Federation of Teachers, the local teachers’ union, about whether we might not work collaboratively—these three institutions and the community itself—on the establishment of a new, University-assisted, very different kind of PreK-through-8 school in our community, on a site that Penn was willing to make available for this. We hope and expect that the new school will reflect the best research and practice in the Graduate School of Education, and in other schools around the University.

To move more forward, we reached an agreement on a plan to have such a school, with its doors open to enroll students from the community by the fall of 2001—three years from now. What I’d like to do is just highlight a few characteristics of the school as we envision it, and then ask Dean Fuhrman to talk about its academic importance.

This school is going to be different from schools that exist in the city today, and in many other places, in a number of important ways.

First of all, it will be locally governed. There will be a governing board, a legal entity set up for this school—comprised of the School’s principal, who will be jointly selected by the School District and Penn; community representatives (that is, parents of kids who are in the school); teachers in the school; and Penn representatives—who will come together to make all the central decisions that are important to the school: decisions about its curriculum, decisions about who will teach, selection of teachers on an annual basis, decisions about scheduling, rostering, many others of those kinds.

It will be a neighborhood school, as opposed to a magnet school; it will be a school for children who live in the neighborhood in University City.

It will be a school that will be built with capital provided by the School District. Present estimation of that capital is a minimum of $14 million for the construction of this PreK-8 school.

It will be an excellent public school that will meet or exceed the academic standards in place in the School District today; and Susan Fuhrman will speak more to that point.

It will be notably a demonstration school with a particular focus on professional development for teachers, not only in the school itself but in other schools in West Philadelphia, and ultimately we believe even across the city. It will, through that and in many other ways, provide important value and service to schools that already exist in West Philadelphia, and will work cooperatively and collaboratively with them.

The University as part of this agreement will provide an operating subsidy to this school, when it is built, of $1000 per student per year. The significance of that money is this: In the City of Philadelphia, per-pupil spending is about $7800 per student. That compares to something like $9000, or maybe better than $2000, in the suburban county area around Philadelphia. The operating subsidy that Penn will provide will, then, take that per-pupil spending in this school to about $7800—still not at the level of suburban schools but something closer to it. And I think predominant use of that money will be to ensure that class sizes will be smaller in the new school, something that is critically important for its academic success.

Dean Susan Fuhrman: Thank you for this opportunity to talk about the school—and the school as part of the system of schools in West Philadelphia—and part of the overall improvement plan that we are anticipating. Clearly the improvement of provision of services and quality of life in urban areas is squarely within the University’s strategic mission. It reflects the urban agenda goal as part of the Agenda for Excellence, and it’s also a key aspect of our School’s strategic mission.

We see this school as the hub of a system of improvement of West Philadelphia Schools more generally, through extensive professional development, through joint curricular planning, through interaction of teachers across the schools, and through enhancement of services to the other schools in West Philadelphia.

We hope and expect that the new school will reflect the best research about instruction and organization, and that it will be a continuing site for research. We certainly see the PreK-8 school as a field site for teacher education, and the new high school as well.

You may have been reading about changes in teacher education, such as state certification emphasizing induction periods. This school will be a place where we can develop new models of induction in those first few years when teachers need to be mentored and supported. We look forward to doing that. It is a locus for professional development, for all West Philadelphia schools, and more broadly for the city as a whole—state-of-the-art professional development, utilizing technology to the best extent possible. We see this school as an opportunity to improve our own instructional activities at GSE because we look forward to increasing the interaction between public school faculty and University faculty as they together work to develop professionals and talk about the interaction between research and practice.

Fortunately, we have found receptivity on the part of foundations to this effort, so for us this is a way to support practice professors on our faculty—excellent practitioners, for whom we are now searching, who will come and spend some leave time with us, come and help us develop this school, and in the future eventually work in this and other West Philadelphia
Planning Structure for University-Assisted PreK-8 Public School

Coordinating Committee
See Membership Below

School Planning Committee
See Membership Below

Facility/Site Committee
See Membership Below

Community Programming Committee
See Membership Below

Structuring for Collaboration

Broad and deep community involvement will be vital to a successful planning process for the new PreK-8 University-assisted public school. Penn, the School District and the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers will work with parents, teachers and residents of University City to establish an outstanding school that will be the pride of the community and a part of its heart. The school planning structure has been designed to ensure wide, complete and continuing community involvement, including representation by the University of Pennsylvania, the University City Community Council, the West Philadelphia Partnership, the University City New School, the Parent Infant Center, neighborhood public schools and community organizations. The committees, which began to meet on October 15, are still evolving as to membership. They will have much important work to do in the months to come, and we look forward to an active, stimulating planning process.

— Judith Rodin, President, University of Pennsylvania

Coordinating Committee
The Coordinating Committee will meet on a monthly basis with the chairs of the School Planning Committee, Facility/Site Committee and Community Programming Committee to facilitate their work, provide advice and counsel and ensure continuing progress. It is made up of:

Susan H. Fuhrman, George and Diane Weiss Professor of Education and Dean of the Graduate School of Education;
Stephen D. Schutt, Vice President/Chief of Staff, Office of the President;
Germaine Ingram, Esq., Chief of Staff, School of Philadelphia;
Jerry T. Jordan, Director of Staff, Philadelphia Federation of Teachers;

School Planning Committee
(as of 10/26/98)

Nancy W. Streim, Associate Dean of GSE (Chair);
Geraldine Allen, parent and a local resident;
Jennifer Andrews, University City Community Council Educational Task Force;
Mark Bannage, parent and a local resident;
Jennifer Boyd, teacher at Sayre Middle School;
Janis Butler, who heads the West Philadelphia Cluster;
Tom Corcoran, a member of the faculty at GSE;
Andrew Fridkoff, parent and member of Spruce Hill Renewal Committee;
Roy Graham, parent and member of Wilson Elementary School Council;
Caroline Gray, teacher at Masterman High School;
Amy Johnson, parent and local resident;
Susan Lytle, member of the faculty of GSE;
Majorie Neff, Principal of Powel Elementary School;
Betty Ratay, head of the University City New School;
Janine Remillard, member of the faculty of GSE;
Lola M. Rooney, Director of the YMCA Family Child Care Network;
Janet Samuels, who heads the University City Cluster;
Penny Silver, teacher at Drew Elementary School;
Pat Spadey, teacher at Wilson Elementary School; and
Mary Yee, parent and resident.

Faculty/Site Committee
(as of 10/26/98)

Ted Skierski, School District of Philadelphia (Co-Chair);
Tom Lussenhop, Managing Director of Real Estate at Penn (Co-Chair);
Geoff Anderson, local resident, parent and architect;
Cyrus Dezfuli-Arjomandi, local resident and architect;
Dan DeRitis, local resident and member of the UCS board;
Barry Grossbach, local resident and member of Spruce Hill Zoning Committee and University City Historical Society;
Lindsay Johnston, local resident;
Lauren Leatherbarrow, local resident, parent and architect;
Walter Licht, local resident and Associate Dean of SAS;
Howard Neukrug, local resident and parent;
Hazami Sayed, local resident, parent and architect;
Tom Schweiker, School District of Philadelphia;
Ken Tobin, member of the faculty of GSE; and
Dick Winston, architect associated with the Parent Infant Center.

Community Programming Committee
(as of 10/26/98)

Larry Bell, who heads the West Philadelphia Partnership (Co-Chair);
Kate Ward-Gaus, local resident, parent and health-educator at Penn (Co-Chair);
Howard Arnold, a member of the faculty at the School of Social Work;
Fran Aulston, Director of the ArtsWest WPCA;
Prentice Cole, local resident and parent;
The Rev. Will Gipson, University Chaplain;
James Gist, Director of Technical Training at ISC at Penn;
Robin Gresham-Chin, local resident, artist and teacher;
Karen Hamilton, Assistant Dean of the School of Medicine;
Kathryn Hiester, local resident;
Nikita Jackson, Associate Director of the West Philadelphia Partnership;
Loretta Sweet Jemmott, member of the faculty of the School of Nursing;
Betsy McCoubrey, psychologist and counselor;
Virginia Peckham, Executive Director, Family Support Services;
Herman Segal, Associate Dean of the School of Dental Medicine;
Diana Slaughter-Defoe, member of the faculty of GSE;
Marni Sweet, Director of the Parent-Infant Center; and
Joann Weeks, Center for Community Partnerships.

Work Teams: The School Planning Committee, the Facility/Site Committee and the Community Programming Committee will create as many work teams as needed. The teams will be headed by individuals with appropriate expertise. To illustrate the kinds of work the teams will do, those created by the School Planning Group should focus on vital topics such as the school’s structure and organization, educational programming, professional development, application of technology, etc.—J.R.
Sited on the Web

Quality of Worklife

A new section has been added to the new Human Resource web page at www.hr.upenn.edu—a reference point for the new Quality of Worklife initiative that provides “programs and services to help make the work experience at Penn positive, constructive and productive.” Clicking on the Quality of Worklife button on the HR home page will lead to information on: Work Life Balance (Flexible Work Options, Dependent Care Support Services); Staff Recognition and Appreciation (Penn Family Day, Spring Appreciation, Length of Service Awards, President’s Reception for 25 Years of Service); and Promotion and Wellness (Employee Assistance Program, GlobalFit, Wellness & Fitness, UPHS Corporate Wellness Program).

“Quality of Worklife programs are important in the workplace,” said John Heuer, Vice President for Human Resources. “The University is dedicated to supporting employees’ efforts to balance work and personal responsibilities, as well as to support professional development, community service and personal health and wellness goals. We hope you will find these programs of assistance to you in managing your work and family life.”

Moved Again: Student Employment

The Student Employment Office has moved again and is now located at Suite 215 of Sansom Place West (formerly Grad Tower B). Telephone and fax numbers remain the same.

Twenty-Five Year Club

The Twenty-Five Year brunch celebration on October 17 was well-attended and enthusiastically received.

Reminder: The Twenty-Five Year reception and dinner is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Monday, November 16. If you are a member of the Twenty-Five Year Club and have not yet responded please respond promptly. For further information call Kathy Nace in the Controller’s Office, Ext. 8-7274.

— Duncan Van Dusen
Secretary, Twenty-Five Year Club

Retirement Planning Seminars, Fall, 1998

Twice a year our retirement plan vendors are on campus to discuss issues related to your retirement plans. TIAA-CREF and Vanguard will be here for the fall session on November 3, 4 and 5. Human Resources encourages faculty and staff to further their education by attending one or more of the seminars listed below. As space is limited, registration is required.

To register: Call 898-0954 or e-mail rhodaj@pobox.

Note: For sessions held at Hill House, you will need your PENNCARD for entry.

TIAA-CREF “Just Starting Out”, Primer for the Newer Participant (for new faculty and staff currently in the plan)
Tuesday, November 3, 9:30-11 a.m., Faculty Club, Club Room.
— An overview of the primary retirement programs for faculty and staff.
— Discuss the importance of early participation, the power of compounding, and the tax advantages.
— Discuss basic concepts for choosing your investments and the options available.

TIAA-CREF “Understanding Investments and Diversification” (forearly to mid-career faculty and staff)
Tuesday, November 3, 2-3:30 p.m., Faculty Club, Club Room.
— An overview of the primary retirement programs for faculty and staff.
— Discuss the importance of early participation, the power of compounding, and the tax advantages.
— Investments and strategies for making your savings work harder.
— Preview of TIAA-CREF Software Allocation.

Vanguard, “The Choice is Yours” (for new faculty and staff, and those who are eligible but not participating in the Tax-Deferred Annuity Plan)
Wednesday, November 4, 9:30-11 a.m., The Gallery/Hill House
— Focuses on topics of interest to individuals who are eligible but not enrolled in the Plan, or those who are considering transferring diversifying their new or existing Plan assets.
— The benefits of Plan participation.
— The basics of mutual funds.

Vanguard, “Planning for Your Retirement” (for early to mid-career faculty and staff)
Wednesday, November 4, 2-3:30 p.m.; The Gallery/Hill House, 3333 Walnut St.
— Compared with other rich nations, the savings rate in the United States is alarmingly low. While experts recommend that you save approximately 10% of your gross income, the average American saves less than 5%.
— Explore how you can use planning tools to determine how much to save to live comfortably in retirement.
— Discuss effective long-term asset allocation strategies.

TIAA-CREF, “Looking Ahead to Retirement,” Customizing Retirement Income (for faculty and staff age 50+ who are considering retirement)
Thursday, November 5, 9:30-11 a.m., The Gallery/Hill House, 3333 Walnut St.
— Directed toward participants who are approaching retirement or who are about to retire.
— Sources of retirement income, replacement ratio, and the effect of early and late retirement.
— In depth description of distribution options including cash withdrawals, annuities and more.
— Discussion of taxes applicable to retirement benefits and high-accumulator issues.
— Is the Roth IRA an option for you?

— Division of 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 officers for 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.
The Third 3rd Thursday—November 19

Once again, as there had been for the first two of these monthly celebrations, there will be free on-street parking after 6 p.m. from 30th to 50th Streets between Spring & Woodland Avenue. Discounted $5 parking at Penn garages at 34th & Chestnut and 38th and Walnut. UCD Safety Ambassadors will help direct participants to restaurants and to the arts & cultural happenings such as those listed below. For website info: www.gowest.org.

On Campus ‘Go West!’ Events

Museums and galleries

The University Museum is sponsoring a Toast to Ancient Rome. There will be music, food, and fun highlighting the Museum’s sparkling exhibition, Roman Glass: Reflections on Cultural Change from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the Roman floor galleries, 33rd and Spruce Streets. Call 898-4000 for more info, or visit www.upenn.edu/museum. Special half price (2 of 1) admission; donation of $2.50 for adults, $1.25 for students and senior citizens, free for PENNCard holders and children under 6.

‘Go West!’ Events in the Neighborhood

A unique 3rd Thursday Event sponsored by Great American Tours is Murals, Murals on the Wall Tour. This is a candlelight tour of murals in West Philadelphia. For more information call (215) 895-4054.

The New Edge Performing Arts present Hats on the Vine, a dramatic gospel musical by Joseph P. Blake at 52nd & Chestnut Streets, 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are $21-$28. Call 895-4054 for information.

The University City Arts League is sponsoring a Craft Show of handmade arts and crafts by Arts League faculty, students and members. There is a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. at 4226 Spruce Street.

Phildanco offers half-price Adult Dance Classes; Ballet II from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Jazz II from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., at 40th North Preston Street, Philadelphia Way. For more info: 387-102. The New Edge Performing Arts Series presents The Claude Lawrence Trio in Jazz: Up & Down and Around at the Community Education Center, 3500 Lancaster Ave., 7:30 p.m. General Admission is $10.00, members $8.00, family rate $20.00 (3 or more). Call 387-1911 for more info.

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 12 through October 18, 1998. Also reported were Crimes Against Property: 25 total thefts & attempts (including 1 theft of auto, 3 thefts from autos, 5 thefts of bicycles & parts), 3 incidents of criminal mischief & vandalism, and 5 incidents of forgery & fraud. Full reports on the Web (www.upenn.edu/almanac/4599/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 12 and October 18, 1998. The University Police actively patrols from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from the Schuylkill River to 43rd Street 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 898-4482.

Crimes Against Persons

34th to 38th/Market to Civic Center; Sexual assaults—3; Simple assaults—1; Threats & harassment—2
10/12/98 10:18 AM 37th St Subway Complainant reported unknown grabbed her
10/14/98 12:13 PM Franklin Blvd Complainant shoved by unknown
10/14/98 1:59 PM Johnson Pavilion Complainant reports being followed by unknown male
10/15/98 7:35 PM 37th St Subway Complainant grabbed by unknown person
10/15/98 7:35 PM 37th St subway Complainant grabbed by unknown person
10/16/98 10:55 AM Steimler Hall Letters and pictures received by unknown
38th to 41st/Market to Baltimore; Simple assaults—1; Threats & harassment—1
10/14/98 6:30 PM 40th & Locust Woman and dog threatened
10/14/98 7:02 PM Harnew Hall Complainant struck in face and stomach
Outside 30th to 43rd/Market to Baltimore; Robberies (& attempts)—1
10/14/98 12:09 AM 42/Chester Ave Complainant robbed of auto by unknown suspect

Crimes Against Society

34th to 38th/Market to Civic Center; Disorderly conduct—1
10/16/98 7:28 PM 38th & Spruce Male refused to leave area/arrest

18th District Crimes Against Persons

10 Incidents and 4 Arrests (including 1 aggravated assault, and 9 robberies) were reported between October 12, 1998 and October 18, 1998. By the 18th District, covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street and Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

10/12/98 1:20 AM 2970 Market Robbery/arrêt
10/13/98 3:05 AM 200 6th Farragut Robbery/arrêt
10/14/98 12:30 PM 5100 Spruce Robbery
10/14/98 12:44 PM 4500 Sansom Robbery
10/14/98 12:11 PM 4213 Chester Robbery/arrêt
10/15/98 12:10 PM 5100 Spruce Robbery
10/16/98 5:55 PM 5100 Sansom Robbery/arrêt
10/17/98 9:00 PM 4536 Spruce Agg Assault
11/17/98 11:00 PM 5000 Pine Robbery
10/17/98 7:40 PM 3800 Market Robbery

ALMANAC October 27, 1998

Update

OCTOBER AT PENN

MEETINGS

29 Cinq a Sept; vin, pate, et bonne compagnie; 5-7 p.m.; Terrace Room, Logan Hall (SAS, French Institute).

ON STAGE

31 Penn Six-5000; 8 p.m.; Zellerbach Theatre, Annenberg Center.

TALKS

29 You Can See Forever: Making Paradise in 11th Century (A.D.) Al-Andalus; Cynthia Robinson, History of Art and Center for Advanced Study; noon, 3732 Locust Walk (Middle East Studies).
30 Mice: Biology, Care, Handling, Identification and Nomenclature; Robert J. Russell, Harlan; 10 a.m.-noon, Medical Alumni Hall, HUP (Laboratory Animal Medicine).

Managing a Federally-Owned Corporation; John Conlow and William Craig, Amtrak Northeast Corridor; 3-5 p.m., Fels Center, 3814 Walnut (Fels Center of Government).

Surviving Images: Holocaust Photographs and the Work of Post Memory; Marianne Hirsch, Dartmouth; 4:30-6 p.m.; Cherpack Lounge, Williams Hall (SAS, French Institute). The War of the Worlds; 7-9 p.m.; Flower and Cook Observatory, Malvern. If the weather is clear, talk will be followed by tours and telescope viewing (Physics and Astronomy).

Deadlines: Deadlines for Update are a week before the date of the issue. For monthly calendars: December at Penn’s deadline is November 10 and January at Penn’s is December 1 (to appear December 15).

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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ASSOCIATE EDITOR Marguerite F. Miller
ASSISTANT EDITOR Tina Bejian
WORK-STUDY STUDENTS Rita Garber, Lateef Jones, Gregory Kyrykewycz, Meghan M. Sinnott

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The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or status as a manufactured housing veteran, sexual orientation, religion, gender expression or identity, or as a member of any other status protected under applicable law. This policy and other policies and programs involving discrimination are administered by the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity Programs, and employees. Questions or complaints regarding this policy are directed to the Title IX Coordinator, Associate Director, Director of Affirmative Action, 3600 Chestnut Street, 2nd floor. Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106 (215) 898-6993 (Voice) or (215) 898-7803 (TDD).
More of Penn on CD
The Penn Bookstore’s Music Department, on the upper level of the new building at 36th and Walnut, also has tapes and CDs by contemporary Penn musical groups including Quaker Notes, the Glee Club, and Countersparts, as well as WXPN’s World Cafe. Mike Ferguson, the department’s music manager, said he is amenable to carrying other Penn groups’ CDs or tapes. He can be reached at 898-7595.

Echoes of Time
At left is the cover of the newly released CD, Marian Anderson, Rare and Unpublished Recordings, 1936-52, from the Penn Library’s music collection. Along with five other Marian Anderson CDs already on the market, it is now at the Penn Bookstore. An audio sample of one of Miss Anderson’s previously unreleased songs is on the Almanac website, www.upenn.edu/almanac, in an excerpt made available through the courtesy of VAI Audio Inc.

Marian Anderson: A Singers Journey
By Allan Keiler
Marian Anderson, Rare and Unpublished Recordings, 1936-52, a collection of previously issued material with unpublished interpretations ech- oes the variety of her live performances.

For the first time, listeners will hear Anderson’s recording of the complete song cycle of Brahms, Four Serious Songs. When Max Friedlander, musicologist and friend of Brahms, heard her perform this song cycle in a 1931 recital, he called it one of the “very greatest miracles which I ever heard in the long years of my life.”

Miss Anderson became a symbolic figure in the 20th century struggle for civil rights when, in 1939, after being denied access to Washingtons Constitution Hall for being “a singer of color,” she performed on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The audience that assembled included such noted figures as First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and was, at the time, the largest group that had ever assembled at the Memorial. Fifteen years later, in 1954, Ms. Anderson was the first African American to be engaged by the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

The Penn Library’s partnership with VAI is a first effort at unlocking the treasures of the Anderson Archive. Before her death in 1993, Ms. Anderson placed her personal papers including letters, music, scores, programs, photographs and sound recordings with the Penn Library. In 1996 the National Endowment for the Humanities provided the Library with outright and matching grants to preserve, catalog and make these materials available to the public. The collection is rich in tapes and other recording media that capture not only Marian Anderson’s artistic range, but also her efforts to gain technical mastery of her voice and material.

The publication of this CD demonstrates the vital part libraries and researchers play as collaborators in the preservation and advancement of culture, said Paul Mosher, Penn’s Vice Provost and Director of Libraries. The collaboration includes VAI, BMG Classics and EMJ Recordings, and scholar-librarians at Penn. The digital remastering was done by Ward Marston, a Philadelphian who is known nationally for his CD transfers of vocal music. The 16-page booklet that accompanies the CD contains photographs held by the Marian Anderson Archive and features an essay by Brandeis University musicologist Allan Keiler, author of the forthcoming biography, Marian Anderson: A Singer’s Journey, due from Scribners in 1999.

Miss Anderson’s nephew, Maestro James DePreist, a Penn graduate, recently led an effort to raise $300,000 to establish the Marian Anderson Music Study Center at Penn Libraries. Maestro DePreist personally reviewed and approved the release of all the material contained in this recording.

Marian Anderson, Rare and Unpublished Recordings, is available at the new Penn Bookstore and all standard classical music outlets as well as through the University of Pennsylvania Libraries in 1993, Ms. Anderson placed her personal papers including letters, music, scores, programs, photographs and sound recordings with the Penn Library. In 1996 the National Endowment for the Humanities provided the Library with outright and matching grants to preserve, catalog and make these materials available to the public. The collection is rich in tapes and other recording media that capture not only Marian Anderson’s artistic range, but also her efforts to gain technical mastery of her voice and material.

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Marian Anderson, Rare and Unpublished Recordings, is available at the new Penn Bookstore and all standard classical music outlets as well as through the University of Pennsylvania Libraries as a benefit of membership in the Friends of the Library. For information on joining the Friends of the Library, call (800) 390-1829, or e-mail friends@pobox.upenn.edu. A portion of the proceeds will go to support the Anderson Archive at the Penn Library.

A Web site devoted to Marian Anderson, with visual and recorded material from the Anderson Archive, is online at www.library.upenn.edu/special/gallery/anderson/.
It is my great pleasure at this time of year to report to you on several areas of the State of the University. With only a limited amount of time, and an enormous amount of accomplishment in the past academic year, I’ve elected to focus on two particular areas: One is the academic mission of the University—especially the part of that academic mission that’s expressed in the Agenda for Excellence, the strategic plan—and the other a review of Penn’s initiatives in University City and West Philadelphia.

These initiatives are vitally important to the mission of the University, and have been much discussed at University Council and in other arenas of the University. I announced at the last meeting a website on West Philadelphia, so some of you have already been exposed to a great deal of information but I’d like to highlight it here. There was a particular interest expressed to Steering that we spend some time on the progress made on the PreK through 8 school, our collaboration with the School District of Philadelphia and the Teachers’ Union, so I’ve asked Susan Fuhrman and Stephen Schutt to join me in that part of the conversation.

Academic Accomplishments in 1997-98

Recall that the first goal of the Strategic Plan is that we attain comprehensive excellence, that we secure Penn’s position as one of the world’s premier research and teaching universities, and that our undergraduate program be considered in the very top group.

Last year our data showed that the undergraduate program was indeed one of the most selective in the nation. Just 29% of applicants were admitted for the Class of 2002. Academic qualifications continued to rise, with the average combined SAT of 1401, up from 1383 a year ago. That’s important in two ways—one, that it increased, and the second to note that Penn could have an even higher number than 1401 if we chose to fill our class with students who had perfect SAT scores. But there is a variety of determinants of admission to the undergraduate pool, and while SAT scores are important, they’re certainly not the only criterion.

Penn’s undergraduate program ranking, of course, has increased—to 6th in the U.S. News rankings—and Wharton’s undergraduate program is number one in the nation for the second year in the row.

Diversity increased last year. In the Class of 2002, students hail from 48 states; 9.6% of them are international, and 36.1% are minority students. And because I know there is considerable interest in the number of underrepresented minorities, I’ve given you the actual numbers: 143 African Americans and 117 Hispanic and Latino students in the entering class.

One of the major initiatives expressed in the Agenda for Excellence was to develop a number of multidisciplinary curricular innovations. Citing only those developed last year:

- A new program in molecular life sciences across biology and chemistry for undergraduates.
- A new curriculum in technological liberal arts within the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences that draws heavily on SAS faculty and programs.
- A six-year joint degree program between the College and Law, and Engineering and Law, joining a program rolled out the year before between Wharton and the Law School.
- A new program in digital media design, which is a collaboration among the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Engineering, and Annenberg, which has enrolled undergraduates this year and is very exciting.
- The Undergraduate Research Center, about which we are very proud (and one example of the incremental success of that program: I visited the poster session two years ago and it was held in a small room in the Faculty Club, although one of the larger rooms that the Faculty Club had; and the poster session last year took all of the ballroom space in Penn Tower). So even within only a year, we see just an enormous increase in the number of undergraduates doing substantive and significant research in their disciplines.
- A reanimation of the Speaking Across the University curriculum and a pilot project on Foreign Language Across the Curriculum, both exciting initiatives that are going to need some effort and tweaking as we continue to get them right, but are certainly under way as pilot initiatives.
- A joint degree between Nursing and Wharton in health care management, which has drawn some extraordinarily outstanding undergraduate applicants. And,
- The continuing evolution of the student-led preceptorials, which has become a really rousing success among the undergraduates and those of us on the faculty who teach them.

New residential and recreational initiatives were very much in the forefront of last year. The launching of the full-scale College House System was an achievement of a large number of people working together to present and to create a wonderful and innovative set of college houses and college house programs. And though it is not a curricular matter, the opening of the Katz Fitness facility obviously was a first step in an ongoing effort to improve recreational athletic facilities for our students.

Strengthening the Schools and Disciplines

The goal of all of our academic departments is that they be at the top tier, and our graduate and professional programs must draw the most able students in the nation and in the world. In giving you some highlights, I will at least talk about each of the schools a few times, but under each of the headings you won’t get something about every school or we would be here long into the night.

- Medicine has now implemented its Curriculum 2000, which is very exciting, and was the recipient of a number of quality awards last year, including a Quality of Health Care Award.
- Engineering had its highest Ph.D. class ever in terms of qualifications and number of applications.
- Law had higher quality than ever before, and in the face of a national decline in law school applications we think that that’s especially important to note.
- The Graduate School of Education had as one of its goals to make the Ph.D. cohort smaller and better funded, and that is moving apace; and the qualifications are demonstrably higher.
- Wharton had the highest number of applicants in the MBA program last year that it ever had, and again the quality of the class the highest ever.
One of the most important things for Penn as a world class institution is that we have a world class faculty. We continue to work with the Deans and the Provost aggressively on faculty recruitment and retention, and had quite significant success last year. It was wonderful to see the extraordinary level of new appointments made last year—very distinguished colleagues at the senior level, many of whom are named here, and also a very significant number of outstanding junior faculty. These are just a few examples:

SAS was able to attract Randall Collins in sociology and Susan Stewart in English, who are wonderful colleagues and many of you know them already.

In SEAS, Keith Gooch, bioengineering, and Eric Boder, chemical engineering joined us.

In Grad Ed, after a long search, Diana Slaughter-Defoe was selected to fill the Constance Clayton chair in urban education, something that is significant not only for the School’s aspirations but the University’s with regard to the Urban Agenda initiative.

Annenberg appointed a new public opinion scholar, Vincent Price of Michigan.

Law named Anita Allen in human rights law and David Skeel in business law.

Medicine chose three very important department chairs—Steven Altshuler in Pediatrics, Richard Salcido in Rehabilitation Medicine and Mark Tykocinski in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine—and also filled a number of endowed professorships.

Richard James Gelles’s joint appointment in sociology and social work brings the nation’s leading expert in family violence to Penn.

The School of Veterinary Medicine made nine very significant appointments, seven of them in clinical studies, and two in basic science departments, Animal Biology and Pathobiology.

After a lengthy search, the Graduate School of Fine Arts found the noted city planner Eugenie Birch to chair the city and regional planning department.

Nursing brought Nancy Tkacs to the Division of Science and Role Development.

Dental Medicine brought Scott DeRossi and Margaret Grisius in Oral Medicine and Amer Abu-Hanna in Restorative Dentistry.

And Wharton had another strong recruiting year, with a net increase in standing faculty that is one year ahead of schedule in Wharton’s strategic plan.

It was a terrific year at the level of entitlements as well, which is another important indicator—though sometimes not as widely known—of our ability to continue to be the institution of choice for so distinguished a faculty.

We completed last year the search for a new SAS Dean, Samuel Preston; the Dean of the College, Rick Beeman, was also appointed; and we’re very enthusiastic about their leadership.

Last week, as you know, we announced that the Provost and I have taken some unrestricted bequest funds received by the University and provided them for the School of Arts and Sciences to continue their efforts as their distributed learning initiatives.

Most recently, as outlined in the Agenda for Excellence, our process of rigorous, normative external review of two schools each year, we completed Dental Medicine and the Graduate School of Education last year, and Law and Engineering are scheduled for this year.

The Provost Search Committee is moving ahead and we look forward to the progress that the committee makes and to its outcome; and we are, as we speak, selecting the school search committees for the deans searches for Engineering, the Law School and Wharton.

Research Support and Other Funding
To secure greater research funding and new sources of support is always an issue as we continue to have an appetite that far exceeds our resources, so we continue to look for new and creative ways to fund the extraordinary number of programs we have at the University. This was an unbelievable year for Penn, and that is attributable to the extraordinary faculty that we have—because much of this funding comes through merit-based peer review by the federal government. It is significant that so many opportunities for new sources of support were demonstrated in a year when there was not a large increase in the overall federal budget for basic research or clinical research. The federal data actually lag by two years, but in as recent a report as we are able to get, Penn moved from 13th in 1995 to tenth in 1996, in overall research and development expenditures.

That number will dramatically rise as we get the 1997 and 1998 data, and one of the reasons that we know that with confidence is that we had set a 2 percent increase as our FY98 goal for incremental research awards. Penn was up instead 14 percent last year—$415 million for FY98, surpassing, I think, all of our Ivy peers in funding for FY98 from the federal government.

The School of Medicine’s NIH ranking in research dollars has grown from fifth in 1996 to third in 1997, and again the 1998 data may push that even higher.

The Graduate School of Education, receiving $14.4 million, has the highest per capita faculty research dollar number in the University, and we’re delighted to see that.

The School of Nursing’s awards went up significantly, and our School of Nursing is now ranked number one in federal research funding for schools of nursing.

The School of Arts and Sciences’ considered growth—almost five percent annual growth over the past five years, continued against a background of stable NIH funding and decreases for NSF.

The School of Engineering and Applied Sciences went up 17 percent in this past year and continued its very accelerated growth in per capita faculty grant revenues.

The School of Veterinary Medicine continued to increase as did Dental Medicine; and Social Work, though it has a smaller pool, received some very competitive National Institute of Mental Health grant funding for center projects.

Annenberg received a very significant grant to increase the quality of campaign discourse; the Wharton School’s grants went up relative to the prior year; and Law and the Graduate School of Fine Arts, where historically the funding sources at the federal level are really quite limited, are continuing to look for new opportunities to find federal funding for their research initiatives.

Federal research grants are not the only mechanism through which the University increases its resources, and we are hard at work on our development activities. These data present to you those funds that are raised explicitly for initiatives that are in the Strategic plan, in the Agenda for Excellence. Since the plan was developed, $382 million has been raised; and for the strategic plan. Last year $190 million was raised for the plan (the overall annual increase last year was about $308 or $310 million—there’s a lot of unrestricted usage and obviously programmatic usage that’s not related explicitly to the Agenda for Excellence). Last year $25 million were raised for undergraduate financial aid in particular, which is a very significant initiative for the trustees and the administration, raising the number to $49 million with a goal for this year of $40 million more. So we will be approaching $100 million, we hope, by the end of this year, in new endowment raised specifically for undergraduate financial aid. And since the start of the Agenda for Excellence, there have been 18 newly endowed chairs, so we’re moving very aggressively in that area as well.

New Programs
Another part of the academic initiative was to invest in strategic masters and continuing education programs, again this is just in FY98. There was a lot of activity in thinking through and then enrolling students in a number of innovative programs.

In the School of Arts and Sciences, four new programs were developed: A master’s of bioethics, with Medicine; a master’s of biotechnology, with Engineering; a master’s of environmental studies; and an M. Phil degree—and a master’s in medical physics is largely approved and will be under way.

You’ve heard the Provost talk a lot about the distributed learning initiatives. Last year was the year in which there was considerable closure, both on the part of the Provost’s committee that reported on
distributed learning and in the initiatives that were undertaken. Several of these are pilot and experimental; we’ll have a chance to understand the success of the Wharton Executive Ed program with Caliber Learning Network. Nursing and the School of Arts and Sciences are exploring distributed learning opportunities; the School of Arts and Sciences in alliance with several of our peer institutions may be offering through distance learning some precollegiate courses for outstanding high school seniors, and we think that this is a very interesting opportunity for us. And, with the leadership of Jim O’Donnell and Al Filreis, 32 students who were accepted by early decision to Penn last year participated in a cyberseminar and got to know Penn and one another for about six or eight months. I had the great pleasure of meeting with them on campus and hearing about how that experience framed their sense of Penn and their entry to the Penn community. It was extremely exciting to do that and we’ll look forward to more of those opportunities.

The Six Priorities

You’re very familiar with the six strategic academic priorities that were articulated in the Strategic Plan that go across disciplines and often schools. Just to refresh your memories, I’ll report on those that are under way.

American and Comparative Democratic and Legal Institutions, and the recruitment of leading political scientists, is continuing apace; and we solidified and worked further on our academic partnership with the National Constitution Center. As part of that the Law School has developed a website for the Constitution Center, and Kim Shepley, a faculty member in law and political science, is the visiting senior scholar this year (Rick Beeman was the first). A Journal of Constitutional Law has made a lot of progress in the Law School. The Annenberg School is doing a pilot for a new radio series on the Constitution, called “The Constitution Speaks, But What Does It Say?” which we have very interesting early reviews on.

The Urban Agenda: Dean Susan Fuhrman chaired a multidisciplinary faculty planning committee, looking at the following question under the urban agenda: What, as we approach the 21st Century, are the really powerful and salient questions about urbanism as an intellectual discipline, as an area of inquiry? They have identified five or six exciting areas that they believe will define urbanism in the 21st century. They’ve identified capacity within the Penn faculty to address those issues, and, importantly, they have also identified in their report where strategic hires will be needed. They have also recommended the development of an institute for urban innovations at Penn that is quite exciting.

Information Science, Technology and Society also reported last year, via a committee of faculty and continuing ed programs, in Engineering along with a masters of biotechnology there is also a masters in telecommunications, and I’ve already talked about the digital media design. Wharton is doing a masters in the management of technology, building on the successful M&T (management and technology) undergraduate program.

The Six Priorities

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The Life Science, Technology and Policy area was launched with the appointment of a committee chaired by Bob Barchi, the chair of neurology and neuroscience. Cognitive neuroscience is a very exciting new discipline that joins the disciplines of biology and psychology and neurology, among others, and is very promising as an emerging field of study. Trying to understand mind/brain connections and how the mind and the brain work at the most biological level, all the way through to cognitive science and linguistics, is exciting work.

The only initiative not yet under way is in Management Leadership and Organization. There have been many conversations and we are certain that this year that initiative will begin as well.

The Urban Agenda and the Community

As I see what Penn does in the community, the component that I’m going to report on is clearly just one part of an overall agenda for the University. Penn’s community work is expressed wonderfully in volunteer work that goes on in so many forms, by faculty and staff and students. We find the extraordinary array of volunteer activities to be the base through which we connect most successfully with the community; and so we continue to be grateful to all of you who contribute to the community through your volunteer efforts. Similarly, Penn is among the national leaders in its community service-learning programs, one of its academic initiatives, with about 70 undergraduate courses in service-learning now. As they have evolved, they are not only wonderful and fertile grounds for the instruction of our undergraduates, as we integrate—true to our mission—theory and practice, but through them we also connect with the community and serve that community in remarkable ways.

Since time is brief, what I’ll talk about today, though, is Penn’s institutional face to the community apart from the work of the students, faculty and staff as volunteers. The goals we’ve together developed for our role in the community are:

• ensure that our community is clean and safe; that it
• provides high quality, diverse housing; and that we
• enhance and improve public school options for neighborhood children;
• revive commercial activity, particularly in University City; and
• accelerate economic development.

There has been much progress over the last year in each of these five areas.

Clean and safe: The creation of a Special Services District was a highlight two years ago, but I count it in last year’s accomplishments as well because it has continued to grow, to provide incremental services, and to redefine itself over and over again: “Go West!” and many other programs and initiatives make it clear to us that this is a very significant contributor to our community, and something that has changed our lives in very significant ways.

We’re continuing to work on how to develop local capacity for delivery of services, and to develop ways to improve community infrastructure. UC BRITE completed its efforts last year—thirty square blocks were lit up in University City as a result. And this year we have kicked off the UC Green program, with many people—faculty in the department of landscape architecture, many student groups—involved in creating excellent and invigorated green space throughout the University City area.

Last year was a tremendous year for the goal of working on high-quality diverse housing. We began the acquisition, rehab and resale of single-family houses, and some of you heard last year from D-L Wormley about that. We acquired twelve properties, we rehabbed them, we have already sold back two. Two are under agreement of sale, four under construction, and four in the design stage. The University is not in this to make money; we are in this to help our faculty and staff locate in University City if they so desire in attractive and affordable housing.

To further our aspiration to provide affordable housing, we enhanced last year the University Guaranteed Mortgage Program, providing $15,000 up-front incentives or $21,000 over a seven-year...
The President’s Report on the State of the University

period to an already generous guaranteed mortgage program, with the target area being University City. I’m proud to indicate that the local realtors have had 57 sales in five months (under this program); 60% have been staff, 27% faculty and 13% Health System employees. Our goal is to bring more of our faculty and staff back into the community, so that ultimately we have a very robust community that includes Penn-related and non-Penn-related people in about equal numbers—what, in a sense, University City used to be twenty-five and thirty years ago and has not been for quite some time.

We have worked hard to enhance and improve public school options for neighborhood children, and I will turn that over in a moment for Susan and Steve to discuss that with you in detail.

But it’s very important to know Penn’s role in a holistic way in relation to the overall initiative of the School District. The City of Philadelphia has been divided into “clusters” and there are cluster chairs—administrators who are hired by the School District—to work with those clusters. But last year the School District asked several corporate leaders to take responsibility for various clusters. Penn took responsibility for the two obviously most related to us, University City and West Philadelphia, with Susan Fuhrman chairing one and Ira Harkavy chairing the other. And we’re very enthusiastic about the amount of energy and effort and coordination that has gone into that. This will serve all of the schools, from PreK through 12, in University City and West Philadelphia.

I’ve mentioned before our Center for Community Partnerships, which continues to engage faculty and students and staff, and increasingly alumni—last year we began a program for alumni in their local communities; and so several of our alumni clubs around the United States began community service projects in their local communities under the Penn banner. So this is something we think we can extend out, and really demonstrates again the continuing commitment of Penn people wherever they are, to their local communities.

Commercial activity is a driver for the economic success of any area, so we’ve continued to pay attention to neighborhood amenities—which not only serves the community and is an attraction for those of us who live there, but also spurs economic development. We have tried to provide better retail choices through Sansom Common—a broader array, while accommodating those stores and services that for so long have served the University City community. You’ve heard much about the 40th and Walnut Street Projects; a great deal of effort and thinking going into the development of those last year. And I want you to understand how much we are committed, not only trying to think of what we can do but how we can leverage our investments, our resources, our ability to bring people to the table, to bring other major sources of investment to West Philadelphia. That is something we were able to do with great success last year, bringing Fannie Mae to Penn as a strategic partner for the purchase and rehab of both single family homes and other buildings in the area, and getting others to come and invest in this area because they see Penn’s commitment is deep and broad and they are willing to be strategic partners and bring money and resources of all sorts to the community.

Accelerate economic development: Again, we want to leverage the capacity of the region. Penn has ways to do it but we also have strategic partners. We’ve expanded our “Buy West Philadelphia” program, which was $16 million when I became president, and last year was $42 million in local purchases. We’ve made active efforts to enhance business recruitment. We have a director of economic development that’s working with officials at multiple levels to tap resources for business recruitment to the area, and skills training. Something about which I am particularly proud because it represents such a positive change is that we have made very active and substantial efforts to recruit local minority- and women-owned businesses to the building projects that we have undertaken over the past couple of years. We began this as an experiment in BRB 2, where 24% of the workers on the project were either minorities or local area residents, and on the Sansom Common project, 40% of the workforce were minorities or local area residents. The reason that’s so important is that we’ve helped to provide access to trade unions that before were not as readily available to minorities and women, and so these are people who not only are working on a particular project, but gaining access to opportunities that will extend well past our own building initiatives at the University.

Equally important, we created last year a Skills Development Center at University City High School, to provide comprehensive job training both for our University employees who want certain kinds of skills that we may not offer at the University, and for area residents seeking skills that would have direct and immediate applicability in the new kinds of commercial ventures being cultivated in the area.

When I look ahead and say what I hope the five-year impact of all this will be, it is that we will have a safe and attractive and secure community (and that’s a responsibility of all of us); that we will have enhanced educational possibilities for neighborhood families; and, importantly, that we will have more Penn families in our neighborhood to take advantage of it. It is that we will have eliminated distressed residential properties in our neighborhood, and will have developed a very vibrant commercial corridor that we can all enjoy on 40th Street; that there will be dramatically increased private sector investment, non-Penn investment, in West Philadelphia and University City; and that we will work with our strategic partners as we have in strengthening and enhancing the Market Street corridor. This is an important initiative, not one in which we play a leadership role but in which we have a partnership role.

One of the most difficult issues—and I just heard it again in the report of the chair of the community relations committee—is the question of “who the community is.” I would like to say that when it comes to consulting, those of us who have been most directly involved with this goal have indeed consulted broadly and deeply, with a very diverse number of constituencies—with elected bodies and with PFSNI, with Spruce Hill Association and many others, with a variety of other groups within the community. But I think we all know well that, as is true of all Philadelphia areas, West Philadelphia is not a single community, it’s not a single neighborhood. It’s literally hundreds of different community groups and organizations, each made up of people who legitimately consider themselves stakeholders in what goes on. It would be impossible to consult with absolutely everyone; but because we welcome the broadest array of input we have created the website that I indicated, and we will continue, as I have today, to report on progress. We welcome input in formal or informal ways as these goals move forward.

There’s no corner on wisdom here, but we think that we are making dramatic progress. It is turning heads in Philadelphia, and I hope you’re as pleased as I am.

Dr. Rodin turned the program over to Vice President Stephen Schutt and Dean Susan Fuhrman of the Graduate School of Education, whose joint presentation is on pages 4-5 of this issue. They were followed in turn by Interim Provost Michael Wachter’s report with College House System Director David Brownlee, scheduled for coverage in a later issue.
November at Penn

MEETINGS

University Council, 4-6 p.m.; 21st Floor, Penn Pavilion; reservations required. Must register in advance.

16 Penn Executive Board; contact Term, White, 898-0690, for time and location.

17 Penn Faculty Senate: 12:30-2:30 p.m. for prayerful mediation and Holy Communion; noon, Mondays, Chapel, University Pavilion; Unitarian Worship; 7 p.m., Tuesdays, Penn Episcopal Church, 1 Early Morning Prayers; with Rev. Beverly Dugan, St. Paul's Church, 19th and Market Sts., Conshohocken, Quaker Worship; noon, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

1 Dedication in memory of Alice Cooper, 90. She was a Scholarship Fund donor to the Kelly Women's House to support the development of the Planned Parenthood Family Planning Center.

2 Stars: An Evening in Space, Fri., December 4, 6-10 p.m.; Penn Museum; $5, 3000 to 586 BC; University Museum; $5, 33 black and white photographs concerning how children learn to work in washing machine photographer, Minister and Thomas Patrick of Morris Arboretum.

3 University Museum; $14, $5 for members; 12:30 p.m.; University Museum; $5, semester students learn about birds and build a feedbin to attract to their home. 1-3 p.m.; $5 family fee; $14.50 members. Flyer printed by the Center for the Interactions of Animals and Society, PA, SRC.

4 University Museum; $5, $2 Students and seniors w/ID, free, members, with PENNCard, children under 6.; Tues., Sat. 10 a.m. 4 p.m. Sunday, 1-3 p.m.

5 On Stage: 7:30 p.m.; Iron Gate Theatre. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.; Tom O'Hagen, 12:15 p.m.; International House; info: 895-4878; Creation, Unitarian Worship; info: 898-2312.

6 Adoption admission and exhibits, 10 a.m. 3 p.m.; Saturday, November 14, 4th Floor, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, First Floor, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center.

7 University Museum; $4, $3 for members; 4 p.m.; University Museum; University Museum; $3, 3600 Market: $5, 3600 Market; Faculty Club: free, charcoal, white elephant sale and tea tasting; proceeds benefit The Green House; (Writers House).

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