Their Gift to Penn: A New Home for the LGBT Center

Penn alumni David Goodhand, C’85 and Vincent Griski, W’85, made history in higher education philanthropy on October 11 as they announced their $2 million contribution to Penn. The announcement took place at a ceremony celebrating the couple’s gift and National Coming Out Day, a project sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign that encourages gays to be open and honest about their sexual orientation.

The gift from retired Microsoft executive David Goodhand and life partner Vincent Griski, a former Wall Street financial analyst, will renovate Carriage House, a historic campus structure; it will house the University’s Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Center—one of the oldest and most active centers of its kind in U.S. higher education. Their gift is the first and largest of its kind to directly benefit an LGBT campus community, and it officially kicks-off a $5 million fundraising campaign to complete the Center’s construction and endow its programs.

President Judith Rodin acknowledged their historic gesture, “On behalf of the University of Pennsylvania community, Provost Barchi and I are deeply grateful for Vincent and David’s gift. It is indeed gratifying to know that Penn provided the environment that enabled these men to live openly as gay individuals and in a loving relationship. Their gift reflects on that experience while they were undergraduates here, and as a result, the LGBT Center at Penn at Carriage House will provide many generations of students with even better programs and facilities designed to help them achieve their personal authenticity.”

“Our gift expresses our warm memories of Penn, where our relationship began, and our belief in the limitless possibilities for lesbian and gay people,” said Mr. Goodhand. “The University provided an open, safe environment that allowed us to grow as individuals and together. It is a rare pleasure for us to be able to give back in such a meaningful way, and we applaud President Rodin’s and Provost Barchi’s commitment to continue a long-standing legacy that welcomes and affirms a diverse campus community.”

David Goodhand  Vincent Griski

“It is most fitting to make this announcement on a day that encourages gays and lesbians to be open and honest about who they are,” said Mr. Griski. “We hope our gift will urge other gay and lesbian alumni at Penn and elsewhere to give back to their alma mater in ways that are important to them. David and I are happy that our gift will provide a welcoming and safe environment for generations of Penn students to come.

Mr. Goodhand and Mr. Griski are both 1985 graduates of Penn; David R. Goodhand, 37, is retired from Microsoft Corporation where he designed Internet products. His life partner Vincent J. Griski, 36, was a vice president and financial analyst on Wall Street prior to joining Microsoft’s treasury department. The couple met in 1983 while undergraduates at Penn. They are actively involved in local and national politics and in philanthropic projects.

The LGBT Center at Penn is among the country’s oldest and most active campus centers. In 2002, the Center will celebrate two decades of its mission to increase the Penn community’s understanding and acceptance of its sexual and gender minority members. The Center features programs for Penn’s LGBT campus community, including outreach and education, special events and public forums, a research and reading room, advocacy, social networking, ongoing communications and individual and organizational support.

The Spruce Street elevation of the new home of the LGBT Center in the historic Carriage House built in 1877, located at 3905 Spruce Street, which will be renovated. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2001, with a grand opening in the spring of 2002.

$17 Million for LRSM

NSF has awarded a five-year, $17 million grant to LRSM, to be matched by approximately $2.1 million in University support. LRSM’s $17 million ranks second among 15 centers nationwide receiving NSF funds this year. Established in 1960 as one of the nation’s first three interdisciplinary materials research centers, LRSM has been supported by the NSF since 1972.

The field of materials science encompasses an array of research aimed at developing ever better materials for industrial, medical and consumer use. Some materials researchers, such as Nobelist Dr. Alan MacDiarmid, devote themselves to creating specialized plastics that can conduct current or emit light. Others are creating materials that mimic bodily tissues and other biological matter for transplantation purposes. Yet others are tackling the need for improved electronic and superconducting materials, improved devices for information storage and ways of inducing chemical reactions on a chip.

“The products of modern materials research impact our economy and our everyday lives,” said Thomas Weber, director of NSF’s Division of Materials Research. “The centers address fundamental science and engineering problems in the creation of new materials. They also provide students a highly interdisciplinary education that is prized by potential employers in industry, academia and government.”

LRSM involves 36 researchers from SAS, SEAS and Medicine who work closely with industry and other economic sectors to create new materials that could potentially revolutionize consumer and industrial products.

LRSM’s four major areas of research include synthetic protein building blocks known as maquettes, which could pave the way for as-yet-unforeseen types of materials and devices; microscale soft materials that could find applications ranging from switches for the communications industry to controlled release sensors for consumer products; materials derived from carbon nanotubes, filaments of pure carbon less than one ten-thousandth the width of a human hair that have exhibited strength and electrical properties; and multifunctional complex oxides, novel materials that are sensitive to stress and external magnetic and electric fields.

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Center for Research in Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy: Complementary and Alternative Medicine Therapies for Cancer

The Center of Research in Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy at Penn’s Medical Center received an $8 million grant from the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine—a component of the National Institutes of Health—for the study of complementary and alternative medicine therapies for cancer.

The five-year grant is one of only two designated in the country at this time. "The Johns Hopkins Center for Cancer Complementary Medicine is the second award recipient. Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy is an emerging specialty of medicine that uses oxygen at greater-than-atmospheric pressures to treat a variety of disorders. Penn's chamber system, according to Dr. Stephen R. Thom, director of the specialized Center, has grown from use as a research center only to a specialty-care patient area for the treatment of a variety of diseases, including cancer. The Center was begun in 1968 to study the physiological changes that occurred when humans penetrated into unusual environments—specifically, deep-sea divers who became victims of what is commonly known as “the bends.” As a result of these studies,” said Dr. Thom, “clinical treatments began with these patients, and, in the 1980s, progressed to including those who suffered from carbon monoxide poisoning. As time goes on, many new uses are being developed for this fascinating form of treatment.”

Four projects at Penn’s Center for Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy will examine methods of action, safety, and clinical efficacy of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for the treatment of head and neck tumors. The first project will evaluate treatment outcomes for patients who have undergone laryngectomy (surgical removal of the voice box). The second will examine the effects of hyperbaric oxygen on the growth of blood vessels and tumors. The third project will describe the effects of hyperbaric oxygen on cell adhesion and on the growth of metastatic tumor cells in the lung. Project four will test the effects of elevated oxygen pressures on cellular levels of nitric oxide.

The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) supports specialized research centers through research grants that fund a full range of research and development projects—from basic to clinical and interventional studies. NCCAM’s other specialized research centers cover complementary and alternative medicine approaches for numerous public health needs such as: drug addictions, aging and women’s health, arthritis, craniofacial disorders, cardiovascular disease, pediatrics, and neurological disorders.

These centers serve as the focal point for initiating and maintaining state-of-the-art multidisciplinary research in complementary and alternative medicine, developing core research resources, training new investigators, and expanding the research base through collaborative research and outreach to scientists and clinicians.
Edwin and Lenore Williams Professor of Romance Languages: Dr. Alonso

Dr. Carlos Alonso has been appointed the Edwin B. and Lenore R. Williams Professor of Romance Languages. Dr. Alonso received his B.A. in Spanish Literature from Cornell University and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Spanish Literature from Yale University. Before coming to Penn this year, he served as Professor and Chair of Spanish at Emory University. He has authored and edited several books and published dozens of articles and reviews. His most recent book, The Burden of Modernity: The Rhetoric of Cultural Discourse in Spanish America, was published by Oxford UP in 1998. In addition to writing prolifically, Dr. Alonso has lectured and delivered papers throughout the world. He is a member of several professional organizations, including the Modern Language Association of America, the Latin American Studies Association, and the Society for Philosophy and Literature. Dr. Alonso also finds time to serve as a senior consulting editor for the Latin American Literary Review, a member of the Radio Committee of the Modern Language Association, a member of the MLA Division Committee on Twentieth-Century Latin American Literature, and an editor of PMLA.

The Edwin B. and Lenore R. Williams Professor Chair in Romance Languages was created through a bequest of Edwin B. and Lenore R. Williams. Dr. Williams, a lexicographer and top Spanish scholar, served as chairman of the Department of Romance Languages, dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and Provost of the University. Dr. Williams’ many accolades include membership in the Hispanic Society of America and three honorary degrees. Penn recognized his contributions to the University by naming the new humanities and language building, Williams Hall, in his honor. Mrs. Williams, a native of Reading, Pennsylvania, was an active member of University life for more than sixty years, beginning with her marriage in 1921 to Dr. Williams. She was a founder of the Faculty Tea Club and was an honorary board member of the Penn Women’s Club until her death in 1984.

James M. Skinner Professor of Science: Dr. Yodh

Dr. Arjun Yodh, professor of physics & astronomy, has been appointed the James M. Skinner Professor of Science. Dr. Yodh received his Ph.D. and M.S. in Physics from Harvard University, and completed his undergraduate education at Cornell University. He came to Penn in 1988 from AT&T Bell Labs, where he had spent two years as a postdoctoral research associate. His interests include aspects of chemical, condensed-matter and optical physics. Most of his experiments are oriented towards lasers and the unique spectroscopies these tools offer. He has been researching the following areas: diffusing light probes of complex fluids and biological tissues; colloids and colloidal assembly; nonlinear optical spectroscopy of solid-liquid interfaces; and femtosecond vibrational spectroscopy of adsorbates on metal surfaces. He has published dozens of articles in many prestigious journals and received numerous honors and awards. Dr. Yodh was an Office of Naval Research Young Investigator (1991-94), an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow (1991-94), and a National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator (1990-95).

The James M. Skinner Chair of Science was established in 1967 by Mrs. Florence Sayre Skinner to recognize a distinguished scholar for his or her contributions to science. She generously created a trust that would support, in perpetuity, one chair in the sciences from her estate. Since her death in 1974, exceptional professors of science from the School of Arts and Sciences have occupied the chair.

Bringing Academic Integrity to the Community

As a result of an unprecedented initiative by the University Honor Council, Mayor John F. Street has proclaimed Oct. 23-27 Philadelphia’s first official Academic Integrity Week. This year, with the support of Penn’s Office of the Provost, Academic Integrity Week will be a focus on Penn’s campus, and on other area colleges and universities as well.

Last May, the University Honor Council, an organization formed by the Provost’s Office to increase awareness about academic integrity on campus, asked Mayor Street to involve Philadelphia officially in their effort to reach out to the surrounding community with their message. With the proclamation in hand, the Council’s chair, Rikki Tanenbaum, anticipates the Council’s efforts will help promote a climate of heightened awareness regarding ethical conduct.

“The Council has had an ambitious agenda this year to promote academic integrity on campus,” said Ms. Tanenbaum. “Encouraging greater community partnerships seemed appropriate at this stage, consistent with the mission and efforts of the Council thus far.”

Academic Integrity Week, with a specific focus on technology and integrity, was kicked-off by an event co-sponsored by the Provost’s Series, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Jeffrey Wigand, best known for exposing the tobacco industry. In conjunction with Career Services, an “Ethics in the Workplace” panel discussion among prominent Philadelphia professionals in the fields of law, bioethics, education, business and journalism is planned and will feature Penn’s own leaders. President Philip M. Landis II. In addition, the Honor Council is hosting a conference that will bring together honor councils from a variety of nearby colleges and universities to discuss issues related to integrity. The Honor Council is working with SPEC to bring a special movie screening of The Insider to campus as well [See Update, page 7].

The week’s events are expected to conclude with an appearance made by Mayor John Street, as he presents the official proclamation to University President Judith Rodin.

For more information about the University Honor Council, Academic Integrity Week and for links to related sites, please visit our web site: http://dolphins.upenn.edu/honor.

University Honor Council

PAACH Director

Dr. Karen Su has been named director of the Pan Asian American Community House (PAACH), located in ARCH, and assistant director of the Asian American Studies Program. Dr. Su’s specific responsibilities include identifying and developing effective and innovative strategies to increase Penn’s efforts to advise students on academic and professional issues; strengthening the Asian American Studies Program; organizing conferences, symposia, and other public events on topics of political, social, and cultural importance for Asian American communities; and providing resource and research materials concerning Asian American political, cultural and community concerns. She is also responsible for helping to recruit and retain Asian American students, expanding alumni relations, and increasing Penn’s local and national linkages with Asian American communities and organizations.

“We are absolutely delighted to welcome a colleague of Dr. Su’s extraordinary disciplinary breadth and administrative depth as the inaugural director of PAACH,” said VPUL’s Dr. Valerie Swain-Cade McCoulum.

Prior to joining Penn this fall, Dr. Su was a visiting assistant professor in the Asian/Pacific American Studies Program at NYU. She also taught English and Ethnic Studies at Mills College in California. She took her B.A. from Mount Holyoke, her M.A. from Stanford and her Ph.D. in English with a concentration on Asian American literature from Berkeley.

“I believe that PAACH will be a vital part of the campus as a resource center not only for Asian American students, but for the whole Penn community to learn more about the essential role that Asian Americans have played in the history and culture of this country. I want to make it a priority for PAACH to develop programs that play critical roles in forming closer ties between Penn and the Asian American communities,” said Dr. Su.

House Dean: Harrison College House

Harrison College House has a new House Dean this fall—Richard Robert Haavisto. Mr. Haavisto has spent the past ten years at Penn in various roles. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology, writing his dissertation on the social geography of Bujumbura, Uganda.

Since 1974, Mr. Haavisto has taught courses on African societies and cultures, ethnography, ethnicity, race and gender, and cultural anthropology at Penn and CCP. He has also taught at Rutgers, Stanford and the Universite Nationale du Rwanda. From 1990-91, he was a research assistant at the University Museum, working on the refurbishment of the African Gallery.

In 1994, he received Fulbright and Wenner-Gren Fellowships to conduct ethnohistorical fieldwork in Uganda. Mr. Haavisto also has extensive experience with the Peace Corps—acting as a consultant in Burundi in 1983 where he presided over a refurbishment of the African Gallery.

For more information about the PSYC 500, please visit our web site: http://dolphins.upenn.edu/honor.

University Honor Council

Karen Su
Celebrating Mural Arts Month in University City: MAP of Murals

(Clockwise, from upper left)
1. Paul Robeson (1898-1976): Citizen of the World, 1999; artist: Peter Pagast; location: 4502 Chestnut Street; sponsors: University City District (UCD) and Sovereign Bank.
3. Practice the Phenomenon of Soaring, 1999; artist: Peter Pagast; location: inside University City High School, 36th & Filbert Streets; sponsor: University of Pennsylvania.
9. A Gateway to University City, 2000; artist: Max Mason; location: 4008 Chestnut Street; sponsors: University City District and GMAC Mortgage Corporation.

For information about MAP mural tours call (215) 568-5245.

Mural arts add artistic diversity and vitality, says Ms. Gorlov, director of MAP. "(MAP) in University City offers art in a place that people might not expect," she says.

Ms. Gorlov notes that the creation of murals per se is just one aspect of Levis Park, Penn Club, and University Center festivities. "The celebration is a festival of the arts," she says.

The next Gateway to University City mural, inspired by Brian Sennett, will be on a wall on 40th Street, currently under renovation. The space was a former parking lot.

Other murals are planned for 39th Street, the Park in University City and the University Center. Paintings of murals will be on display throughout the month.

For more information, see the Almanac for dedication.

*See Almanac for dedication.
Arts Month, now in its third year, is “an opportunity to celebrate awareness to the City’s collection of outdoor paintings, the spirit of Philadelphia’s communities, the extraordinary talent and diversity of local artists and the power of art on the lives of our young Jane Golden who founded Philadelphia’s Mural Arts Program in 1984, as part of the City’s Anti-Graffiti Network. Since 1986 she has been part of the Department of Recreation where the program also instruction throughout the City.

Golden is the artistic director of the program that has facilitated the 2000 murals throughout the City—giving Philadelphia more square mile than anywhere else in the country. Most of these are conceived and made by Philadelphians. The 2000th mural, 1421 Arch Street, is being dedicated October 30 at the closing of Mural Arts Month. It was painted by Peter Pagast, the same who painted a mural inside the UCHS in conjunction with Penn’s Community Partnerships. Mr. Pagast also painted Paul Robeson City last year. That was the first mural co-sponsored by City District, in an effort to “highlight cultural, historical and diversity in University City through public art.”

Second mural co-sponsored by UCD was dedicated last week—a University City, created by Max Mason with the assistance of it—a colorful tableau of an animated University City street Max Mason’s 10-year residence in the neighborhood. The house based on that of Omar Blaik, who lives on 46th Street. The wall painted by property owners Amy Orr and John Woodin, last year, the painting upon which the mural is based was among the exhibited at the Faculty Club’s Burrison Gallery.

Max Mason murals—which include panoramic views of Blanche Franklin Field and Boathouse Row hang in the New York City. They also had their campus debut in the Burrison Gallery, in 1994, a decade after the artist took his MFA at Penn. Max Mason is working on the next UCD and MAP collaboration at 4909 Market mural that will depict the El subway stop.

UCD Boundary Map

[Map of University City District]

Almanac’s website www.upenn.edu/for more photos from the
SAFETY AFTER DARK

Some Tricks for Traveling More Safely

Remember: Fall back, Spring forward! On Sunday, October 29, Daylight Saving Time comes to an end. This means we can all sleep an extra hour Sunday morning and still have breakfast at the usual time. It also means we lose an hour of daylight just around the time most of us are heading home from work or school. And the professional criminals gain an extra hour of prime-time darkness in which to work.

From the Division of Public Safety, here are some safety tips for everyone who uses public transportation.

—Maureen Rush, Chief of Police

—Patricia Brennan, Director of Special Services,
Division of Public Safety

Public Transportation Safety Tips

• Become familiar with the different bus and trolley routes and their schedules. SEPTA schedules and general information are now posted on the Web—the URL is www.septa.com or call (215) 580-7800.
• When traveling at night it is better to use above-ground transportation systems. Buses, the above-ground stretches of subway/surface lines and elevated lines give less cover for criminal activity.
• If you do travel underground, be aware of the emergency call boxes on the platform. These phones contact SEPTA Police. The phones operate much like the University’s Blue Light Phones. To operate the SEPTA Phone, push the button. A SEPTA operator will identify your transit stop and assist you immediately.
• Whenever possible, try to sit near the driver.
• In the subway station stand back from the platform edge.
• Don’t fall asleep! Stay Alert!

LUCY Loop

• Operated by SEPTA, Monday through Friday except major holidays, 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
• LUCY Loop departs 30th Street Station every 10 to 20 minutes and loops through University City.
• For more information call (215) 580-7800.

Emergency Phones at Subway Stops

30th & Market Street—Subway surface SEPTA Emergency Phone located near the middle of the platform on the wall.
33rd & Market Street—SEPTA Emergency Phone on both the east and west platforms on the wall near the middle of the platform.
34th & Market Street—SEPTA Emergency Phone on the (El) platform for east- and west-bound trains.
• Blue Light Emergency Phone located at 34th & Chestnut outside of the lot on the northeast corner; also on the Law School’s southwest corner of 34th & Chestnut.
36th & Sansom Street—SEPTA Emergency Phone on both the east and west platforms on the wall near the middle of the platform.
• Blue Light Emergency Phone located at King’s Court/English House on the northeast wall above the subway entrance.
37th & Spruce Street—SEPTA Emergency Phone near the middle of the west-bound platform on the wall and near the middle of the east-bound platform.
• Blue Light Emergency Phone located across the street at the entrance to the Quad. In Dietrich Gardens near the east-bound entrance to the subway. Also, outside on the wall to the entrance of the Steinberg-Dietrich cafeteria.
40th & Market Street—El subway stop; SEPTA Emergency Phone located on the platform on the wall near the cashier.
33rd & South Street (University Station); SEPTA Emergency Phone located in middle of platform.
• Blue Light Emergency Phone located at north-bound and south-bound stairwells of platform.

Traveling During Non-Peak Times

• If possible use above-ground transportation
• If you use subways, stand near the SEPTA call box.
• If possible use the Market-Frankford El (elevated lines). In case of an emergency there is a cashier’s booth staffed during hours of operation.
• If possible travel with a companion(s).

During Peak Hours:

Watch Out for Pickpockets

Here are eight things pickpockets don’t want you to know:

1. Never display money in a crowd. (Think this through before you leave the safety of your office, so you aren’t fumbling in public with your purse or wallet).
2. Never wear necklaces, chains or other jewelry in plain view.
3. Handbag: Carry tightly under your arm with the clasp toward your body. Never let it dangle by the handle. Keep it with you at all times and always keep it closed. Never place it on a seat beside you.
4. Wallet: Carry in an inside coat pocket or side trouser pocket.
5. Immediately check your wallet or purse when you are jostled in a crowd. (And then be doubly watchful, because the jostling may have been a ploy to get you to reveal where you carry your money).
6. If your pocket is picked, call out immediately to let the operator and your fellow passengers know there is a pickpocket on the vehicle.
7. Beware of loud arguments and commotions aboard vehicles or on station platforms. Many times these incidents are staged to distract your attention while your pocket is picked.
8. If you suspect pickpockets at work on a particular transit route or subway station, call SEPTA Police Hotline, (215) 580-4131/4132. It’s answered 24 hours a day. You do not have to give your name. Trained personnel will take your information and see to it that something gets done. Also, notify Penn Police at 511 on campus, or call (215) 573-3333 from off campus.

Halloween Safety, Too

This is also a good weekend to pass some Halloween Safety Tips to any children you know:
— Trick-or-treat in your neighborhood.
— Only call on people you know.
— Never go out alone. Go with friends. Ask your mom or dad, older sister or brother, or a neighbor to go along.
— Stay in well-lighted areas.
— Wear white or reflective clothing.
— Carry a flashlight, glowstick or reflective bag.
— Watch out for cars.
— Have your parents inspect all treats before you eat them.

In the event of an emergency call:

Philadelphia Police 911
University of Pennsylvania Police (215) 573-3333
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (215) 590-3480
Philadelphia Poison Control Center (215) 386-2100

For additional safety tips, contact the Detective Unit at (215) 898-4481, 4040 Chestnut Street. The department is staffed from 8 a.m. to 3 a.m., Monday through Friday. (Emergency victim support services and sensitive crimes reporting is available 24 hours at (215) 898-6600).

For emergencies contact the Penn Police by using the Blue Light Phones or call 511 on campus, or call (215) 573-3333 from off campus.

To contact the Philadelphia Police Department call 911.
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 9 through October 15, 2000. Also reported were 35 Crimes Against Property: (including 23 thefts, 2 retail thefts, 6 burglaries, 1 fraud, 2 vandalisms, and 1 criminal mischief). Full reports on the Web (www.upenn.edu/almanac/channel/crimes.html). Prior week's report online.

This summary was 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 9 and October 15, 2000. 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 (215) 898-4482.

18th District Report

10 incidents and 4 arrests (5 robberies, 4 aggravated assaults and 1 rape) were reported between October 9 and October 15, 2000 by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street and Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Incident Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/09/00</td>
<td>3:25 PM</td>
<td>4800 Woodland</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11/00</td>
<td>3:30 AM</td>
<td>Farragut</td>
<td>Rape/Arrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11/00</td>
<td>5:00 AM</td>
<td>226 Buckingham</td>
<td>Aggravated Assault/Arrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11/00</td>
<td>6:30 AM</td>
<td>4400 Walnut</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/12/00</td>
<td>12:11 AM</td>
<td>4600 Baltimore</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/12/00</td>
<td>9:50 PM</td>
<td>3400 Civic</td>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/13/00</td>
<td>1:40 PM</td>
<td>4622 Passchal</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/13/00</td>
<td>2:20 PM</td>
<td>227 45th St.</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/14/00</td>
<td>12:01 AM</td>
<td>4900 Chestnut</td>
<td>Aggravated Assault/Arrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/14/00</td>
<td>8:32 AM</td>
<td>236 48th St.</td>
<td>Aggravated Assault/Arrest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Aboard Express Almanac

Want to be apprised of late-breaking news and time-sensitive information that is published only on Almanac’s website? We will inform you as soon as we post such items if you are on board Express Almanac. A free electronic service, Express Almanac is sent whenever we add something significant to our website: Between Issues news, the latest issue or Al Penn calendar.

To register, send an e-mail message with “subscribe” as the Subject to almanac@pobox.upenn.edu and include your name, e-mail address, and mailing address. —Ed.
Federal Relations

Despite many legislators’ wishes to go home and campaign in these crucial last weeks before the election, the Congress has still not adjourned for the year. As of last week, only six of the 13 spending measures for fiscal year 2001 (which technically began on October 1) had been sent to President Clinton. Four other bills are reportedly close to completion.

The appropriations bills for military construction, defense/national security, and the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior have been signed into law. Another measure combining appropriations for the Departments of Energy, Veterans Affairs, and Housing and Urban Development, in addition to other smaller agencies, has been sent to President Clinton. He is expected to sign it.

The following funding information is available for programs of importance to the Pennsylvania community:

- The National Science Foundation is slated to receive $4,426 billion for the upcoming fiscal year. This represents an increase of 13.6 percent over FY2000, the largest increase in the agency’s history.
- NASA will receive $14,285 billion, an increase of 5 percent.
- The National Endowment for the Humanities received an allocation of $120 million, an increase of $5 million over the appropriation for fiscal year 2000.
- Basic research funding from the Department of Defense will receive $1,326 billion, an increase of 14 percent. Applied research will be funded at $3,718 billion, an increase of 9 percent.
- The National Endowment for the Arts, which supports the departments of energy, science and the arts, will be funded at $1,386 billion, an increase of 13 percent.

Other programs important to the University of Pennsylvania community—such as funding for the National Institutes of Health and student financial aid programs—are in bills that have not yet been finalized. Congressional leaders are now saying that they expect to complete work and adjourn on Thursday, October 26.

In other Congressional news, there is still talk of the possibility of an end-of-year tax bill. Although there are no specifics about what will be contained in the bill or how it will be handled, it is expected to include tax incentives to promote growth in economically depressed communities, other tax breaks for business, and an increase in the minimum wage.

Additionally, President Clinton has signed into law a bill that raises the cap on H-1B visas for highly skilled foreign technical workers to 195,000 per year for each of the next three years and exempts from the cap individuals working at higher education institutions. The new law also includes a provision that will allow the backlog of visas created by the cap to be cleared out without being counted against this year’s allocation.

As of last week, the White House was threatening that President Clinton would veto legislation aimed at increasing funding to Medicare health care providers unless Republican leaders reallocated some of the money from health maintenance organizations to hospitals and other providers, and placed certain conditions on increased funding for the HMOs. Because Republican leaders have refused to make public the text of their $28 billion, five-year bill or negotiate its terms with the White House, details about the measure are unclear. However, it appears to provide about $8 billion for hospitals, including a freeze on the Medicare Indirect Medical Education payment, a smaller reduction in Disproportionate Share Hospital payments than in current law, and an increase in hospital per-resident support.

Finally, the University has received a $59,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service to create a rain garden at the site of the new Penn-assisted school.

Commonwealth Relations

Pennsylvania Dormitory Sprinkler Legislation

On October 11 the Pennsylvania House of Representatives approved House Bill 2458, legislation requiring all colleges and universities in the state to provide automatic sprinkler systems in dormitories, fraternities and sororities and other student residences. This bill sets a compliance period of five years from the effective date of the act, except in cases of hardship where a variance can be granted to add an additional two years. This proposal was developed in large part as a response to a series of tragic fires at colleges and universities throughout the country, including Seton Hall University, Bloomsburg University and the University of North Carolina. HB 2458 appropriates $125,000,000 to fund loans with 2% interest that would help colleges and universities meet the costs of compliance. Under the terms of the bill, any building “owned or utilized” by an institution of higher education as a residence by students would be covered by the sprinkler requirement. Also covered is any building owned or utilized by a fraternity or sorority and which is recognized by a college or university.

The bill now goes to the Senate for its consideration. It appears unlikely that it will be approved before the end of the current session and will probably be reintroduced and reconsidered in the new session that begins in January. Various concerns about the current language have been raised by colleges and universities, including the definition of “dormitory,” the compliance period and the appropriation amount.

City and Community Relations

Mayor’s Scholars

According to a report from the Office of Student Financial Services, the Class of 2004 includes 106 residents of the City of Philadelphia who will receive a grand total of $1,678,149 in grants from Penn. Forty-eight matriculating students in the freshman class were offered Mayor’s Scholarships. The Mayor’s Scholarship is a renewable, undergraduate, need-based financial aid grant awarded to incoming first-year students at the University of Pennsylvania who reside in the City of Philadelphia and attend a secondary school in Philadelphia. A committee appointed by the Mayor of Philadelphia determines the Mayor’s scholars.

The recipients of these student scholarships from the University of Pennsylvania, with an average grant amount of $21,749. Thirty-one of these students are graduates of Philadelphia public high schools, eleven are graduates of archdiocesan schools, and five are from private secondary schools. One student was home schooled. They represent neighborhoods throughout the city, such as Frankford, Germantown, Kingsessing, Olney, Roxborough, and West Philadelphia.

Center for Community Partnerships

The Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) of the University of Pennsylvania, coordinated by Penn’s Center for Community Partnerships, was recently awarded a two-year $150,000 grant. The COPC initiatives were developed in close consultation with the Center’s Community Advisory Board, which has been part of COPC since its inception in 1996. COPC will undertake the following activities for its “New Directions” grant awarded by HUD’s Office of University Partnerships.

One: Strategic Neighborhood Planning

The key activity requested by the community is the development of three neighborhood strategic plans for the Mill Creek, West Powelton, and Willowing Areas of Southwest Philadelphia. The project teams will include Penn faculty and students, community members as well as youth linked to the projects through their school work or community-supported after-school programs. Various workshops and studios in City and Regional Planning will be linked to these efforts.

Two: Community Information Network for West/Southwest Philadelphia (CIN)

The Community Information Network (CIN) builds on the work of Penn faculty who are part of the Philadelphia Data Consortium-West Philadelphia Project (PDC). PDC is making Internet-accessible public data sets as well as data developed by faculty from the diverse disciplines represented in the PDC, including City and Regional Planning, Wharton-Real Estate, Social Work, and Arts and Sciences) available to the community. Training for the community on the CIN will be provided.

Three: Community Capacity Building

The activities in this area will help local nonprofits develop internal capacity to better carry out their work related to urban problems. Grants of $1,500 per year will be awarded by the Center’s Community Advisory Board to each of five West/Southwest Philadelphia nonprofits through a request for proposals. Several Penn courses and seminars as well as technical assistance by staff will also support nonprofit capacity building efforts.

These activities were developed in close consultation with the Center’s Community Advisory Board, which has been part of COPC since its inception in 1996.

—Carol R. Scheman, Vice President for Government, Community and Public Affairs
Celebrating Mural Arts Month in University City: MAP of Community Treasures

MAP Murals

(Clockwise, from upper left)

1. Paul Robeson (1898-1976): Citizen of the World, 1999; artist: Peter Pagast; location: 4502 Chestnut Street; sponsors: University City District (UCD) and Sovereign Bank.


3. Practice the Phenomenon of Soaring, 1999; artist: Peter Pagast; location: inside University City High School, 36th & Filbert Streets; sponsor: University of Pennsylvania.


9. A Gateway to University City, 2000; artist: Max Mason; location: 4008 Chestnut Street; sponsors: University City District and GMAC Mortgage Corporation.

For information about MAP mural tours call (215) 568-5245.

Mural Arts Month, now in its third year, is “an opportunity to celebrate and bring awareness to the City’s collection of outdoor paintings, the spirit and vitality of Philadelphia’s communities, the extraordinary talent and artistic diversity of local artists and the power of art on the lives of our young people,” said Jane Golden who founded Philadelphia’s Mural Arts Program (MAP) in 1984, as part of the City’s Anti-Graffiti Network. Since 1986 MAP has been part of the Department of Recreation where the program also offers art instruction throughout the City.

Ms. Golden is the artistic director of the program that has facilitated the creation of 2000 murals throughout the City—giving Philadelphia more murals per square mile than anywhere else in the country. Most of these murals were conceived and made by Philadelphians. The 2000th mural, located at 1421 Arch Street, is being dedicated October 30 at the closing festivities of Mural Arts Month. It was painted by Peter Pagast, the same muralist who painted a mural inside the UCHS in conjunction with Penn’s Center for Community Partnerships. Mr. Pagast also painted Paul Robeson in University City last year. That was the first mural co-sponsored by University City District, in an effort to “highlight cultural, historical and social diversity in University City through public art.”

The second mural co-sponsored by UCD was dedicated last week—A Gateway to University City, created by Max Mason with the assistance of Brian Sørensen—it is a colorful tableau of an animated University City street inspired by Max Mason’s 10-year residence in the neighborhood. The house depicted is based on that of Omar Blaik, who lives on 46th Street. The wall space was donated by property owners Amy Orr and John Woodin. Last November, the painting upon which the mural is based was among the paintings exhibited at the Faculty Club’s Burrison Gallery.

Other Max Mason murals—which include panoramic views of Blanche Levy Park, Franklin Field and Boathouse Row hang in the New York City Penn Club. They also had their campus debut in the Burrison Gallery, in March 1994, a decade after the artist took his MFA at Penn. Max Mason is currently working on the next UCD and MAP collaboration at 4909 Market Street, a mural that will depict the EL subway stop.

See Almanac’s website www.upenn.edu/almanac for more photos from the dedication.

Map of Community Treasures