Being a Drum Major for Justice

We will begin this semester celebrating the life and legacy of one of history’s greatest models of service to humanity, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. His great sermon on “The Drum Major Instinct” draws compelling and bracing links between our health—both personal and societal—and our ability to govern and direct our very human cravings for personal success and recognition toward a higher purpose.

Dr. King deploys the metaphor of the drum major to illuminate a very human drive that we each can easily recognize in ourselves. The impulse to get out in front and lead the parade is high-octane fuel that propels us to strive for greatness and high achievements in this academic environment.

However, Dr. King warned us of the harm that comes when the drum major instinct slips its moral moorings, when we’re so impressed, seduced, or ensnared by the trappings of our success that we grow blind to the needs or anguish of others.

We’re all better off, Dr. King taught us, when each of us goes the extra mile—mentoring an underprivileged youngster, reaching out to an isolated elderly neighbor, volunteering at a food shelter, or just helping a colleague get through a personal crisis.

Dr. King himself said he wanted to be remembered not for his Nobel Peace Prize or all the other accolades that came his way, but rather for his commitment to serve others.

I believe that top honors, rankings, prizes, and championships are important. They are the markers, rewards, and happy outcomes of dedicated pursuits of excellence.

I also believe that these many honors are enriched by Penn’s continuing mission to link all of our enterprises to the broader context and needs of society.

Penn is strong in large part because we truly strive to practice what we teach. We’ve worked with our neighbors to make West Philadelphia a great community in which to live, work, and raise a family. We’ve worked with our community to improve public education, and now we have a new public school whose students reflect the neighborhood’s energy and diversity. We try to do justice to the complexities of issues by facilitating full, free, and open discussions. And our students see community service not as an elective, but rather as a critical path to moral citizenship.

Being a drum major for justice also involves doing justice to one another. We can argue a fine point. We can challenge our success that we grow blind to the needs or anguish of others.

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Being a drum major for justice also involves doing justice to one another. We can argue a fine point. We can challenge one another to improve on one’s performance. But let’s not forget that we are all part of the same community that has the potential to accomplish even greater things for humankind.

If we can make a belated New Year’s resolution, let’s try to follow our individual drum major instincts judiciously, while also honoring our mission to serve others and pursue justice.

That’s a resolution worth keeping. Happy New Year!

Michael J. Masch, vice president for Budget and Management Analysis, was nominated last Friday by Governor-elect Edward G. Rendell to serve as Secretary of the Budget in the Rendell Administration. Mr. Masch will take a leave of absence from Penn to serve the Commonwealth.

This is the second time Mr. Masch has been recruited by Mr. Rendell, ’65, H’00. Before coming to Penn in 1996, Mr. Masch served then Mayor Ed Rendell as the City of Philadelphia’s Budget Director from 1992 to 1996. When the Rendell Administration took office, the City was on the brink of bankruptcy following ten years of persistent deficits. Mr. Masch and the Rendell economic team succeeded in balancing the budget in their first year, and then went on to successfully implement a ground-breaking program of annual tax cuts and budget surpluses.

President Judith Rodin said, “During his six years at Penn, Mike has played a major role in enhancing our University’s financial structure, one of the key goals of our Agenda for Excellence strategic plan. Under Mike’s watch we have developed comprehensive long-term planning processes that integrate policies and budgets for both academic and administrative units. We have also instituted new procedures for financial review and approval of capital projects. In short, Mike has set in motion a program of fiscal management and governance that positions us well for the future.”

President Rodin added, “We are fortunate that we have on board Bonnie Gibson, who will assume the role of Acting Executive Director of Budget and Management Analysis, in addition to her continuing responsibilities as Executive Director of Administrative Affairs for the Office of the Provost. Bonnie has been at Penn since 1987, serving in a variety of increasingly responsible roles and is well positioned to continue our successful fiscal management programs. We greatly appreciate her willingness to take on these additional responsibilities.”

Governor-elect Rendell is optimistic that by working creatively in a bipartisan manner with legislative leaders, the state can come to grips with its looming fiscal crisis, and achieve similar success in the area of economic growth and job creation that Michael Masch helped to usher in Philadelphia during the 1990s.

Governor-elect Rendell noted, “There is no one better than Mike in working with departments to control spending, and finding innovative ways to cut waste while increasing production.”

“Those who criticize this critical post not only because he is one of the best at what he does in America, but because we’ve succeed together in the past and he shares my vision for balancing budgets while improving services,” Governor-elect Rendell added. “Together with legislative leaders on both sides of the aisle, we will give the people of Pennsylvania property tax relief, more equitable funding for our schools, and economic growth for towns and cities across our great state.”

Given the magnitude of the fiscal crisis, Governor-elect Rendell called on his new Budget Secretary—Designee to Chair a bipartisan Budget Crisis Task Force aimed not only at defining the full scope of the problem, but to provide recommendations and guidance that will potentially lead to solutions and solvency.

“So much of what ails Pennsylvania can and will be solved as revenues free-up through economic growth. But even as I work with the legislature to stimulate such growth, the fiscal deficit we are inheriting will require honest, imaginative leadership from all the parties involved.”

This is why I am appointing a group of experts to this Task Force* to examine all the weapons at our disposal to fight and beat this projected deficit that may well reach two billion dollars,” said Governor-elect Rendell.

* (Ed. Note: see Honors & Other Things for other Penn people appointed by the Governor-elect to this Task Force and his Transition Teams.)

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Opposing Unionization

I wish to support President Judith Rodin’s position (Almanac December 10) opposing collective bargaining by a trade union (AFT) for graduate students. At a scholarly research university such as Penn, the governing standards must be those of scholarly inquiry. The conditions generally imposed by trade union wage contracts are not compatible with these scholarly standards so necessary for free inquiry and creativity and would only serve to restrain and restrict the scope of the intellectual activity expected of candidates for advanced degrees. When conflicts arise between academic requirements and contract rules, the union seeks to enforce the latter to the detriment of academic freedom and scholarly pursuit. In fact it is precisely at this point that an advanced degree candidate must be guided by scholarly considerations, because unions have sought access to curricular and academic decision processes despite their lack of appropriate credentials. Many years ago, in the 60s, as President of the Citizens Committee on Public Education, I was forced to vehemently oppose a demand by the AFT for contract regulations regarding the public school curriculum. Unfortunately, this led to violent public attacks by the union and I can only hope that this is not repeated.

The economic interests of faculty are protected by tenure and promoted by appropriate standing committees. The calls for unionization suggests the need for a blue ribbon commission to recommend the best way of protecting graduate students’ rights while maintaining academic standards. This is clearly a very sensitive area which requires a very different cultural approach than is ordinarily employed in wage negotiations and decision making in this area must be limited to academic personnel. Giving external forces power over academic standards whether intended or coincidental could represent serious infringement of academic freedom.

—Robert J. Rutman, Emeritus Professor of Animal Biology/Veterinary Medicine

Speaking Out welcomes reader contributions. Short, timely letters on University issues will be accepted by Thursday at noon for the following Tuesday’s issue, subject to right-of-reply guidelines. Advance notice of intention to submit is appreciated. —Eds.

From the President and Provost

Grad Student Union Won’t Serve the Academic Mission

For the past year, there’s been a lively debate among members of the University community about the issue of unionization by graduate students. That debate has raised important issues that are academic, economic and also legal in nature.

It’s important to know that the United States has a well-developed body of law specifically governing union organizing and labor-management relations. But recent efforts to unionize graduate students at private universities have raised a host of new issues for the federal decision-making agency, the National Labor Relations Board, (NLRB). As a result, some important questions about graduate student unionization campaigns at private universities have only recently been decided by various regional NLRB directors. Others are pending review by the NLRB itself. Those questions include whether graduate students at private universities should be viewed as employees for the purpose of unionizing, and if so, whether graduate students should be included in an appropriate bargaining unit.

However, there is one important question that graduate students will be called on to answer when the union election is held in Penn at February. That is, whether their challenging and uniquely personal academic experiences can be as flexible, dynamic and appropriately shaped to individual needs under a unionized, collective bargaining regime as they are now.

As one-time graduate students ourselves, those of us responsible for leading this University are convinced the answer is “no,” and that a uniform contractual approach to graduate education would not serve the interests of current graduate students, nor the long-term interests of post-graduate scholarship. Like our colleagues at Brown, Cornell and Columbia, we must stand up for the central proposition that a truly great graduate education can only be provided by faculty members with the autonomy to shape programs and projects to suit their students, their departments and their fields of study.

Strip away the legal arguments and political rhetoric and the unionization question really boils down to this: Applying for a doctoral or master’s degree program simply isn’t the same as applying for a job. Graduate students come to Penn not to serve as employees, but to become scholars in training under a world-class faculty.

Undoubtedly, that training requires hard work. It includes many hours inside the lab, library or out in the field doing research. It includes learning how to teach others by doing so yourself. It includes collaborating with faculty and other graduate students to solve complex problems. And it includes creating an individual work of original scholarship that adds new knowledge to your chosen academic field. A unionized learning environment that would impose an additional layer of rules and policies that affects some but not all students, for some but not all periods of their student careers simply does not support those objectives, and would jeopardize the quality of graduate education.

On Thursday November 21, the Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board issued a long and complicated decision about graduate student unionization at Penn. The decision divides and discriminates among different groups of graduate students, depending on their chosen area of scholarship or degree program at Penn. Because of these unreasonable distinctions, we have appealed the Regional Director’s decision to the full National Labor Relations Board in Washington.

A university community—both here at Penn and on other campuses—provides a vital, vibrant forum for discussion among students and faculty, staff and administration. Especially now, in light of the November 21st NLRB decision and the union election on February 26th and 27th, we as a community must weigh how unionization might affect the very goals we’re all here to pursue: teaching and learning, research and scholarship. The University strongly supports free and open discussion of unionization and will continue to encourage lively discussion of the issues and widespread participation by the graduate student voters.

Of course, graduate students, faculty and other members of the Penn community are also rightly concerned with what the imposition of a union might mean to them personally. In the weeks to come we will endeavor to inform students, faculty and other members of the University community about the issues involved. The Penn web site (Graduate Student Unionization at the University of Pennsylvania, www.upenn.edu/grad/unionization) will be a resource for updates on the unionization effort and the administration’s position.

In the union election Penn graduate students will have to apply their critical thinking and research skills to make up their own minds on the issue of whether having a union will enhance their own educational experience and that of future scholars. We hope that they will conclude, as Cornell graduate students did overwhelmingly in late October 2002, that a uniform union contract would not serve their unique, individualized needs for graduate scholarship.

Judith Rodin, President
Robert Barchi, Provost
Dr. Barbara Bates, Nursing

Dr. Barbara Bates, former clinical professor of nursing, who achieved recognition for writing the leading textbook on physical examination and for conceiving and developing the nurse practitioner profession, died December 18, at the age of 74 at her home in Bryn Mawr.

She began teaching here in 1980 as an adjunct professor of nursing, she was a lecturer in nursing and in medicine, 1983-94, and she was a clinical professor of nursing, 1994-96. She was also a clinical professor of medicine at MCP and Hahnemann University, 1994-96.

A native of Auburn, NY, Dr. Bates earned her B.A. at Smith College in 1949, then completed medical studies and residency training at Cornell University Medical College in New York City. She practiced as an internist for four years in Greenwich, CT, before being recruited to help form the faculty and programs of the new University of Kentucky College of Medicine.

This began a long career focused on improving the quality and distribution of health care through patient care, teaching, interdisciplinary innovations, research and writing. After six years there, she moved to the University of Rochester to oversee education of physicians in ambulatory medicine and to participate in the Rochester Regional Medical Care Program in Western New York. She traveled throughout rural counties to make new concepts in medical and health care available to the people of the area.

In the late 1960s she helped conceive and develop the then new role of nurse practitioner, working to improve public access to health care by encouraging greater collaboration between physicians and nurses and expanded practice opportunities for nurses. Her best known book, A Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking, first published in 1974, and continuing under her direction for seven editions, became, and still is, the leading text in its field. Published under her direction for seven editions, became, and still is, the leading text in its field. Published under her direction for seven editions, became, and still is, the leading text in its field. Published under her direction for seven editions, became, and still is, the leading text in its field.

Phil Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi in 1949 and the medical honor society Alpha Omega Alpha in 1952. A 1961 Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, Dr. Bates was made Fellow of the American College of Physicians in 1970. She served as a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia in 1982. Smith College awarded her its Smith College Medal in 1980. In 1984, she received the School of Nursing Award for Outstanding Contributions to Education and, in 1993, the American Association for the History of Nursing awarded her the Lavinia L. Dock Award for Historical Scholarship and Research.

Dr. Bates is survived by her friend, Joan Lynnagan; her brother, Dr. Alfred Bates; three nephews, Kelly Bates, Peter Marshall and John Marshall; and four nieces Eliza Bates, Frances Bates, Hilary Anguita-Bates and Nancy Kohler. A celebration of her life is planned for Sunday, February 2, at 4:30 p.m. at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South 22nd Street.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Center for the Study of the History of Nursing.

To Report A Death:
Almanac appreciates being informed of the deaths of current, former, and emeritus faculty and staff members, students, and other members of the University community.

Please send information via fax at (215) 898-9137, or call (215) 898-5274 or e-mail almanac@pobox.upenn.edu.

However, notices of alumni deaths should be directed to the Alumni Records Office at Room 545, Franklin Building. (215) 898-8136 or record@ben.dev.upenn.edu.

Dr. James Sprague, Anatomy

Dr. James Mather Sprague, the Joseph Leidy Professor Emeritus of Cell and Developmental Biology at the School of Medicine, died from leukemia on December 22, at Penn Memorial Hospital at the age of 86.

He joined the faculty in 1950 and remained at the School of Medicine until his retirement in 1983. He received the Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1966. Dr. Sprague was one of the pioneers in the study of neuromuscular development, particularly the study of the Schwann cell and its role in the development of the peripheral nervous system. He was also a member of the founding council of the Society for Neuroscience in 1970 which today represents Brain Sciences internationally.

Dr. Sprague was born in Kansas City, MO. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in zoology from the University of Kansas, and his doctorate in zoology from Harvard in 1942. He joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and was active in the National Research Council in Washington, DC throughout World War II. He was also involved in training doctors for the military during the war.

His early interests were evolution and comparative anatomy. In 1948, he received a Guggenheim Fellowship to study at Oxford University and at Cambridge.

During his career, he collaborated with, among others, Drs. William Chambers and Eliot Stellar on research involving the functioning of the brain and the spinal cord. Among his many studies he is perhaps best known for his work of the 1960s when he discovered what has since been called the “Sprague Effect,” blindness caused by large cortical lesions that could be reversed, and sight restored, by a subsequent lesion in the midbrain. This and other classic research opened up a whole field of inquiry on the structure and function of specific areas of the brain. In 1974, Dr. Sprague received a faculty award from the Josiah Macy Foundation which enabled him to continue a long-lasting collaboration with the Institute of Anatomy, the University of Pisa, Italy. Over the years he collaborated extensively with Belgian and Italian colleagues, both before and after retirement. His research was rewarded by election to the National Academy of Sciences in 1973.

Dr. James B. Sprague; his wife, Dolores; his son, Dr. James B. Sprague; his brother, Robert; two grandchildren, and a cousin.

A memorial service will be Thursday, January 16, at 4 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Biomedical Research Building II/III, 421 Curie Blvd.
Dr. Anderson: Westfield Award
Dr. Bernard E. Anderson, Whitney Young Term Professor, and Practice Professor of Management, has been awarded the 2002-2003 Samuel Z. Westfield Award from the National Economic Association. The award was presented at the Allied Social Science Association (ASSA) meeting earlier this month. The Westfield Award—named for the distinguished economist and former AAS president, Samuel Z. Westfield, and established in 1973—acknowledges outstanding scholarly achievements and public service by an African American economist.

Dr. Bonnell: Purdy Award
Dr. Dawn Bonnell, the Trustee Professor of Materials Science, and director of the Center for Science and Engineering of Nanoscale Systems, has been awarded the Ross Coffin Purdy Award from the American Ceramic Society. Dr. Bonnell received the award for her pioneering work on scanning impedance microscopy.

Dr. Collins: Fleck Prize
Dr. Randall Collins, professor of sociology, has been awarded the Ludwik Fleck Prize for his book, The Sociology of Philosophies: A Global Theory of Intellectual Change. Awarded annually by the Society for Social Studies of Science, the Fleck Prize was created in 1992 to honor the best book in the area of science and technology studies. Dr. Collins came to Penn in 1997 from the University of California, Riverside. He is the author of 13 books and 100 articles.

Dr. Gleitman: Two Awards
Dr. Lila R. Gleitman, professor of psychology, has recently received two awards. She received the John McGovern Award for the Behavioral and Social Sciences Area for 2003 from the American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS). She also received the American Psychological Association’s (APA) Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award for significant impact on the science of psychology, both in research and in training of graduate students.

Dr. Joshi: Honorary Doctorate
Dr. Arvind K. Joshi, Henry Salvadori Professor of Computer and Cognitive Science, has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Paris 7 for his contributions to computational linguistics and for the development of collaborative projects with the University of Paris 7.

Dr. Barnes: President of ASA
Dr. Sandra Barnes, professor of anthropology, has been elected president of the American Studies Association (ASA). She began a three-year term in December as vice president, will become president in December 2003 and will serve as past president in 2004.

Dr. Joullie: ACS Director
Dr. Madeleine M. Joullie, the Class of 1970 Professor of Chemistry, has been elected to the board of directors as a director of District III for the American Chemical Society. Dr. Joullie, an ACS member since 1948, has served on a wide variety of society committees at the local and national levels for more than 30 years. In addition to her long teaching career, she has won numerous honors, including being named “one of the 76 smartest people in Philadelphia” in 2001 by Philadelphia Magazine.

Dr. Macones: Advisory Committee
Dr. George Macones, associate professor and director of Maternal Fetal Medicine in the department of obstetrics and gynecology, has been appointed to serve on the Advisory Committee for Reproductive Health Drugs of the FDA. The committee is charged with the evaluation of safety, efficacy and other aspects of human drugs for obstetrics, gynecology, and related specialties. Dr. Macones was appointed for his expertise in pharmacopepidemiology and obstetrics. His term ends in 2005.

Two Fulbright Specialists Grants
Dr. Frank Furstenberg, and Dr. Harry Rosenblum have received Fulbright Senior Specialists Grants. Dr. Furstenberg, professor of sociology, participated in a conference and lectured at the Instituto de Economia in Uruguay. Dr. Rozmiarek, professor of laboratory and animal medicine, will conduct research on laboratory animal medicine training, veterinary research and animal welfare assurance at the University of Cambridge, in the United Kingdom.

The Fulbright Senior Specialists Program offers two to six-week grants to U.S. academics and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at institutions in 140 countries around the world.

Dr. Poggi: NEH Fellow
Dr. Christine Poggi, associate professor of the history of art, has received a research fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for her work, Modernity as Trauma: The Cultural Politics of Italian Futurism. She was one of 167 fellows chosen by the NEH.

Three to Governor’s Transition Teams
Three Penn faculty members have been named to Governor-elect Ed Rendell’s transition teams. Dr. Robert P. Inman, the Miller-Sherrerd Professor of Finance at the Wharton School, has been named to the Budget Crisis Task Force. Dr. Allen M. Kelly, Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, has been named to the Agriculture Transition Team. Pedro Ramos, chief of staff to President Rodin, has been named to the Education Transition Team.

Dr. Cohen: Honorary Faculty Member
Dr. D. Walter Cohen, emeritus professor of periodontics in the School of Dental Medicine, was elected an Honorary Faculty Member of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This is the second time in the history of the Faculty of Dental Medicine of Hebrew University that this honor has been bestowed.

Nominations: Boettner Chair
Penn invites applications and nominations for a tenured faculty member to hold the Boettner Chair in Financial Gerontology.

The candidate must have demonstrated significant scholarly achievement in analyzing relationships between the economic well-being of the elderly, and their social, psychological, physical, and/or environmental well-being. It is anticipated that the faculty member would carry out research pertinent to economic security and the quality of life in an aging society. The Chair will reside in the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Social Work, the Wharton School, or another school in the University as appropriate.

Applications are now being accepted and will continue until the position is filled. Please forward a letter of interest and CV to: Attn: Boettner Chair, Office of the Provost, 110 College Hall, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA 19104-6303. The University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

Corrections
An entrance in the recently renovated Quad is now being called the Fisher Hasseenfeld Gate at Memorial Tower in recognition of the multimillion dollar gifts from Anne and Jerome Fisher, and AlanHasseenfeld; the name was incorrectly worded in the article (Almanac December 17, 2002).

In the University’s Three-Year Academic Calendar (Almanac December 17, 2002), there is a change in the dates of Fall Break. Fall Break 2004 will occur on the weekend of October 23-26, 2004 not October 16-19, as was indicated. See www.upenn.edu/almanac/3yearcal.html for the latest Academic Calendar. —Ed.
Since 1956, Penn has celebrated a rite of passage each year, for faculty and staff of all ranks who meet only one common requisite: they have been members of the University community for twenty-five years. Another 99 new members crossed the twenty-five year mark and were inducted at the University of Pennsylvania Twenty-five Year Club celebration that was held in Houston Hall on November 21, 2002.

A tote bag was given to all attendees and a limited number of extra tote bags were ordered for those members of the University of Pennsylvania Twenty-five Year Club who were unable to attend the celebration and who would like to have a memento. If you are eligible and would like a tote bag please contact the Twenty-five Year Club Secretary Duncan W. Van Dusen at (215) 573-5958 or vandusen@pobox.upenn.edu.

New 25-Year Club New Members for 2002

Ms. Janet L. Abraham, Hematology/Oncology/Med
Dr. Jay D. Amsterdam, Psychology/Med
Dr. Regina Austin, Law School
Dr. Marc P. Banner, Radiology/Med
Mr. John J. Bast, Comptroller’s Office
Dr. Harold S. Baumgarten, Periodontics/Dental Medicine
Ms. Arlene P. Bennett, Psychiatry/Med
Detective James B. Blackmore, Public Safety
Mr. Lawrence H. Bloom, Ophthalmology/Med
Ms. Elizabeth J. Bogle, NBC/Vet
Dr. Alexander J. Brucker, Ophthalmology/Med
Ms. Tracylea Byford, Biology/SAS
Dr. William C. Campbell, Pathobiology/Vet
Ms. Carol Carr, Chemistry/SAS
Ms. Andrea L. M. Carroll, Chemistry/SAS
Ms. Kirsten Challen, Computing/SAS
Dr. Alan R. Cohen, Pediatrics/Med
Dr. Flora Campos Cornfield, CAS/ISAS
Ms. Susan R. Croll, Admin./Med
Ms. Christine Davies, Educational Opportunity Center
Ms. Cheryl A. Davis, Biochemistry/Dental
Mr. Edward A. Deglin, Ophthalmology/Med
Ms. Marguerite Diggs-Thew, Dermatology/Med
Dr. David Francis Dinges, Psychology in Psychiatry/Med
Dr. Stephen N. Dunning, Religious Studies/SAS
Dr. Laurence E. Earley, Medicine, Med
Dr. Claire M. Fagin, Nursing
Ms. Ella S. Feldman, Dental Medicine
Ms. Marsha Z. Finkelman, VHUP/Vet
Mr. John Freeman, Operations and Maintenance
Ms. Dora M. Gardner, Business Services
Dr. Peter W. Garitii, Psychiatry/Med
Dr. Henry A. Glick, Hematology/Oncology/Med
Dr. David R. Goldmann, Internal Medicine/Med
Dr. Ellis Eckstein Golub, Biochemistry/Dental Medicine
Dr. A. John Graham, Classical Studies, SAS
Dr. Harvey J. Grill, Psychology/SAS
Ms. Sophie Hamilton, Pathology/Med
Dr. Steven D. Handler, Head & Neck Surgery/Med
Dr. John Hansen-Flaschen, Medicine/Med
Ms. Martha J. Hanson, Office of International Programs
Mr. Roy R. Heinz, Library Center
Dr. Anita V. Hole, Psychology in Psychiatry/Med
Ms. Lovelina Hooker, Student Financial Services
Ms. Joanne B. Howard, Medicine/Med
Mr. Kenneth H. Jackson, Business Services
Dr. Jerry C. Johnson, Geriatric Medicine/Med
Dr. Frederick S. Kaplan, Orthopaedic Molecular Medicine/Med
Mr. Everett T. Keech, Organizational Dynamics/SAS
Dr. Anthony S. Kroch, Linguistics/SAS
Dr. Robert M. Lavker, Dermatology/Med
Mr. Francis C. Lazorik, Dermatology/Med
Ms. Megan Lembeke, Library Center
Dr. Walter Licht, History/SAS
Mr. Craig Lichtman, Psychiatry/Med
Ms. Virginia A. Mace, Program in ISB/Wharton
Dr. Greg Maislin, Pulmonary & Critical Care/Med
Ms. Margarita Maisonet, Insurance Risk Management/Wharton
Dr. Daniel Malamud, Biochemistry/Dental
Mr. William Mason, Microbiology/Med
Dr. Ann E. Mayer, Legal Studies/Wharton
Dr. Paul A. McDermott, Pediatrics/GSE
Dr. Patrick McGovern, University Museum
Dr. Kathryn K. McMahon, Romance Languages/SAS
Ms. Lynn Moller, Student Life
Ms. Victoria A. Mulhern, Faculty Affairs/Med
Ms. Mary E. Mullen, Telecommunication Services
Ms. Guna S. Mundheim, CAS/SAS
Ms. Judy N. Natale, Operations and Maintenance, Facilities
Mr. Anthony R. Natale, Operations and Maintenance
Ms. Judith Newkirk, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism/Med
Ms. Elisabeth O’Connell, Admissions
Dr. James A. Orsini, Surgery, NBC/Vet
Ms. Sharon Pepe, Student Financial Services
Mr. Frank Plantan, Jr., International Relations/SAS
Dr. Ann F. Rhoads, Morris Arboretum
Mr. Ira Rosenwaike, Sociology/SAS
Mr. Louis E. Rossman, Endodontology/Dental Medicine
Dr. Paul Shanam, Statistics/Wharton
Mr. James W. Sherard, Dental Medicine
Dr. David P. Silverman, Asian/Middle East Studies/SAS
Dr. Nathan Sivin, History & Sociology of Science/SAS
Ms. Merle J. Slyhoff, Biddle Law Library
Ms. Drucilla C. Spanner, Engineering/SEAS
Dr. Dwight E. Stambolian, Ophthalmology/Med
Dr. Stuart E. Starr, Pediatrics/Med
Dr. Leslie Sutton, Neurology/Med
Dr. Brian Sutton-Smith, GSE
Mr. John M. Taylor, Microbiology/Med
Ms. Gayle Viale, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine/Med
Mr. Gaston Vilaire, Hematology/Oncology/Med
Dr. Henry R. Wagner, Pediatrics/Med
Dr. Joseph R. Washington, Jr., Religious Studies/SAS
Mr. W. Stuart Watson, Research Services
Dr. Paul M. Weinberg, Pediatrics/Med
Mr. Gregory D. Williams, Dental Medicine
Mr. Ira Winston, CIS, SAS/SEAS/GSFA
Ms. Ana L. Young, Biochemistry/Biophysics/Med
Dr. Donald P. Younkin, Neurology & Pediatrics/Med
Dr. Marc Yudkoff, Pediatrics/Med

The Old Guard welcomes one of Penn’s newest senior administrators. Executive Vice President Clifford L. Stanley, who joined the University last October (center), is flanked by two long-time members of the Twenty-Five-Year Club.

Dr. F. William Sunderman (at left), M.D. °23, Ph.D. °29, professor emeritus of pathology and laboratory medicine, who has been at Penn since 1919 and is now 104 years old; and Dr. Jerome H. Sklaroff, (at right) C °43, who celebrated his 50th year on the Penn Dental Medicine orthodontics faculty in 2002.
Access to Employee Exposure Records

The Office of Environmental Health & Radiation Safety (EHRS) monitors employee exposure to toxic substances and harmful physical agents. EHRS maintains employee exposure records. The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) standard, “Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records” (29CFR1910.1020) permits access to employer-maintained exposure and medical records by employees or their designated representative and by OSHA.

University employees may obtain a copy of their exposure record by calling EHRS at (215) 898-4453 or by e-mail: ehrs@ehrs.upenn.edu.

Hazard Communication Program

The University of Pennsylvania’s Hazard Communication Program consists of information regarding access to Material Safety Data Sheets, proper labeling of hazardous chemicals, and the hazard communication training programs required for all employees who handle hazardous chemicals as part of their work.

Penn’s written Hazard Communication Program is available in the Office of Environmental Health & Radiation Safety, 3160 Chestnut Street Suite 400/6287. A library of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for hazardous chemicals used at the University is on file at EHRS. An MSDS describes the physical and chemical properties of a product, health hazards and routes of exposure, precautions for safe handling and use, emergency procedures, reactivity data, and control measures. Many MSDS are also available on the web (www.ehrs.upenn.edu/resources/msds/default.html). Copies of MSDS for products used in all non-research areas are also maintained at each zone office.

Laboratory workers should refer to Penn’s Chemical Hygiene Plan (www.ehrs.upenn.edu/programs/labsafety/labsafety_manual.html) for additional information concerning the safe handling of chemicals in laboratories.

University employees may obtain an MSDS by calling EHRS at (215) 898-4453 or by e-mail: ehrs@ehrs.upenn.edu.

Thanks for Generous Holiday Donations

Dear Penn Community,

There are no words to adequately describe your generosity during the holiday season. Many benefited from your willingness to give. Here are examples of the various efforts:

Thank you to President Rodin for hosting her Annual Holiday Party where over 300 toys and gifts were donated.

Thank you to the following departments that brought joy to more than 25 families during the holidays by “adopting” them:

- Business Services coordinated by Maria Chaney
- Creative Communications coordinated by Kate Logan
- Department of Anesthesia coordinated by Nicole Parker
- Department of Medical Ethics coordinated by Erin S. Wiedan
- Electronic Acquisition Services coordinated by Jeanne Shuttleworth
- General Counsel coordinated by Helen Logan
- Human Resources coordinated by Bronwyn Guryl
- Law School coordinated by Joanne Venner
- Penn Children’s Center coordinated by Natalie Subeh
- Penn Epilepsy Center coordinated by Delight Roberts
- PennCard Center coordinated by Suzanne Bellan
- School of Dental Medicine coordinated by Dee Stanton-Schillig
- School of Dental Medicine Library coordinated by Joanne Hemingway
- Space Planning and Operations coordinated by Robin Rozen
- Vice President for Government, Community & Public Affairs coordinated by Winnie Smart-Mappe
- Wharton School Dean’s Office coordinated Jennifer O’Keefe
- Wharton School Marketing Department coordinated by Marcia Longworth
- Special thanks to Dr. Michael Perillo from the School of Dental Medicine for adopting a family in the memory of his cousin, Matthew.

Thank you to the entire University community for donating approximately 1,000 gifts and toys.

Thank you to the Dropsite Volunteers who collected all the toys and made it possible for us to respond to requests for donations from our neighbors: Bridges To The Community, Graduate Day Care, Intercultural Family Services, Mantua Children’s Project, One Day At A Time, People’s Emergency Shelter, Philadelphia Beauty Showcase, Potter’s House Mission, and Vare Charter School.

Further, we were able to assist nine additional families. They each experienced a catastrophic event near or during the holidays. There was a death in one of the families and several fires. We were able to lighten their burdens by providing gifts generously given by you.

Thank you to Amy Forsyth for coordinating the Annual Coat Drive and thanks to Kathleen Dreyer for her donation of a Christmas tree with all the trimmings for a very deserving family.

For the current list of special Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service volunteer opportunities and for the complete listing of the University of Pennsylvania’s MLK Commemoration, visit www.upenn.edu/aarc/mlk/Events2003.html.

Computers Needed! Is your department upgrading its computers? Would you like to donate your used computers to a worthy cause? The Digital Divide program and Penn Volunteers In Public Service is working to provide computers to West Philadelphia schools, nonprofit agencies and families.

How would you like to help preserve a University City or a West Philadelphia High School student for the world of work? Provide an internship for students to do general office work and expose them to their areas of interest. We have students interested in computers, medicine, law, teaching and much much more. Students work an average of ten hours per week.

— Isabel Mapp, Associate Director, Faculty, Staff and Alumni Volunteer Services, Director, Penn Volunteers in Public Service, Center for Community Partnerships

Penn’s Way 2003 Extended

The deadline for the Grand Prize Drawing has been extended until January 17, 2003. You still have time to participate in the Campaign and to enter the final drawing for the IBM Think Pad laptop from the Computer Connection.

For information about the Penn’s Way 2003 Campaign call (215) 746-GIVE or e-mail pennsway@pobox.upenn.edu or visit the campaign’s web site on-line at www.upenn.edu/pennsway.

Week 5 Winners

1. Manuel Pena, Business Services: five $10 gift certificates for the Houston Market
2. Helen C. Logan, Office of General Counsel: a book of 10 passes for the Class of 1923 Ice Rink
3. John H. Yates, the School of Arts and Sciences: a book of 10 passes for the Class of 1923 Ice Rink
4. Carla Ricci, the University Museum: 2 sets of two tickets to the Men’s basketball game on 1/31 vs. Dartmouth
5. Brent Kenneth Parker, Division of Finance: 2 sets of two tickets to the Men’s basketball game on 2/15 vs. Brown
6. Janet L. Lind, School of Medicine: 2 sets of two tickets to the Men’s basketball game on 2/14 vs. Yale
7. Anne Mickle, College Houses and Academic Services: four tickets to the Penn Relays

Week 6 Winners

1. William Telfer, Retiree: $100 gift certificate for the Penn Bookstore
2. Erika N. Gross, Risk Management: 2 tickets to the Pennsylvania Ballet
3. Gerhard A. Schad, Pathobiology, Veterinary School: a free month of parking at Lot 30 from Parking Services
4. Alexis Harris, Law School: a framed University collection photograph from Creative Communications
5. Elizabeth Mauldin, Clinical Studies, Veterinary School: a set of ten CDs from WXPN

Week 7 Winners

1. Kenneth S. Stewart, Facilities Management: $50 Gift Certificate for Pod
2. Peter P. Black, Penn Police: Four vouchers for one-hour court time at Levy Tennis Pavilion
3. William S. Mulherin, Biddle Law Library: Five $10 gift certificates for the Houston Market
5. Denise McGarry, Law School: 2 sets of two tickets to Mens basketball game 3/7 vs. Columbia
7. Renee M. Zawacki, School of Medicine, Center for Study of Addictions: 2 sets of two tickets each to the Penn Relays

Get On Board Express Almanac

Sign up to receive e-mail notification when we post breaking news between issues. Send an e-mail message with “subscribe” as the Subject to almanac@pobox.upenn.edu and include your name, and e-mail address and mailing address. — Ed.
Blood Drive: Today at Library

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive today, January 14, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in the Dietrich Reading Room, first floor, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library. There is an urgent need for blood donation right now. Type O—the Red Cross is experiencing a severe shortage.

A reminder for first-time donors: you must weigh at least 110 pounds. Increase your intake of fluids and eat a meal before you donate. If you have received a tattoo within the last year, you are not eligible to donate. You also cannot be taking an antibiotic currently. If you have travelled outside the U.S. recently for more than three months, or have any other questions about donation, you can call (215) 451-4363 or visit www.pleasegivelblood.org.

—Evelyn B. Gelhaus, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library

RESEARCH
Rosacea and acne studies in the Department of Dermatology at the hospital. For more information call 215-662-6722. Compensation available.
Do You Have Arthritis in Your Knees? Would you like to participate in a study designed to find if acupuncture may help you walk better and decrease the pain? The study compares real acupuncture with acupuncture using needles that do not puncture the skin in patients who need physical therapy. Call Pat Williams for more information at 215-898-3038.
Do You Have High Cholesterol? Do you want to lower your cholesterol naturally, without taking medicine? Doctors at the University of Pennsylvania are launching a new study looking at the effects of adding the food flaxseed, to a low-fat diet on lowering cholesterol levels and improving other risk factors for heart disease. The entire study lasts approximately 4 months and includes 7 short outpatient visits at the Hospital of University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. There is no medication involved with this study and participants will be compensated for their time and effort. If you are generally healthy, between the ages of 45 and 75, have high cholesterol, and think you might be interested in this study, please contact Shilpa Balikai at (215) 662-9040 or e-mail her at balikai@sas.upenn.edu.

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To place a classified ad, call (215) 898-5274.

FOR RENT
Furnished Penthouse efficiency, Society Hill, River view. No Pets/Nonsmoking. $1,300 utilities included. (215) 413-3601.

FITNESS
Grand opening of new Yoga Studio in University City. Power Yoga at 3925 Walnut Street next to Kinko’s. We offer beginner and all levels classes daily with over 20 classes weekly. For more information please visit our website at www.poweryogaworks.com or call us at (215) 243-9642.

Almanac is not responsible for contents of classified ad material.

To place a classified ad, call (215) 898-5274.
Impacting Smoking Cessation

Smokers with a specific genetic variant may be more vulnerable to cigarette cravings and relapse when trying to quit smoking, a study by researchers from the Tobacco Use Research Center of Penn’s School of Medicine indicates. This study also shows that the anti-depressant drug bupropion may be less effective for smokers with a genetic variant. By identifying the genetic factors that influence response to bupropion, researchers hope to aid in the development of more effective treatment strategies that are tailored to individual smokers.

Lead author Dr. Caryn Lerman, associate director for Cancer Control and Population Science at the Abramson Cancer Center and professor in the School of Medicine and the Annenberg Public Policy Center, led a research team that examined 426 smokers enrolled in a randomized clinical trial of bupropion for smoking cessation.

The researchers found that participants with a decreased activity variant of the CYP2B6 gene reported greater increases in cravings for cigarettes following the quit date and were about one and a half times more likely to relapse during the treatment phase.

“This study provides an important first step toward utilizing genotype to identify smokers who are more vulnerable to relapse and who may benefit most from more intensive smoking cessation treatment,” said Dr. Lerman.

The research was funded by the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute on Drug Abuse and was conducted by the University of Pennsylvania/Georgetown University Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center.

Averting Parkinson’s Disease in Fruit Flies

Scientists at Penn have averted the onset of neurodegenerative disease in fruit flies by administering medication to flies genetically predisposed to a disorder akin to Parkinson’s disease.

The result suggests a new approach to the treatment of human disorders including Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases. Penn professor of biology and investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Dr. Nancy M. Bonini and graduate student Pavan K. Auluck reported the finding in the November issue of Nature Medicine.

Parkinson’s, the second most common human neurodegenerative disorder, is characterized by tremors, postural rigidity and progressive deterioration of dopaminergic neurons in specific areas of the brain. Despite the evolutionary gulf separating humans and fruit flies, neurotoxicity unfolds in a similar manner in both species. Like humans, Drosophila melanogaster experiences neuronal loss upon expression of alpha-synuclein, a protein implicated in the onset of Parkinson’s disease in both species.

Auluck, led by Dr. Bonini, showed that by knocking down alpha-synuclein in fruit flies, they could avert the onset of the disease. The research was funded by the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute on Drug Abuse and was conducted by the University of Pennsylvania.

The protein that forms the protective capsid surrounding the West Nile virus genetic material may contribute to the deadly inflammation associated with the virus. West Nile virus, which has rapidly spread across the United States, causes neurological symptoms and encephalitis, which can result in paralysis or death. According to researchers at Penn’s School of Medicine, the West Nile virus capsid (WNV-Cp) is a destructive protein that can trigger apoptosis—the automatic self-destructive program within cells—possibly adding to the damage caused by the virus.

Their findings were presented in the December issue of the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Beating Pneumonia by a Nose

According to a team of researchers from the School of Medicine, an electronic nose—a relatively new version of a sensor previously used in the food, wine and perfume industries—can quickly and accurately diagnose pneumonia in critically ill, mechanically ventilated patients. The research was presented at the American Thoracic Society 2002 Annual Meeting in November.

“We wanted to further explore using the e-nose after the exciting results of an initial study we conducted back in 1997 with only 20 patients,” said Dr. C. William Hanson, III, professor of anesthesia, surgery and internal medicine, and lead author of the study. When it comes to lower pulmonary infections, especially in critically ill patients, time is of the essence for disease control.

The e-nose contains an array of sensors consisting of carbon-black/polymer composites. The patient’s exhaled breath gas was passed over these sensors which interact with volatile molecules to produce unique patterns that are displayed in two-dimensional “maps,” or dot patterns on a computer screen. The results were analyzed using pattern recognition algorithms and assessed for a correlation between the actual CPIS scores and the one predicted by the nose. Dr. Hanson and his colleagues found that the e-nose made clear distinctions between the patients who were infected and those who were not.

Challenging the Way Race is Used in Research

Researchers at Penn’s School of Medicine and Stanford University are challenging the way that race is used as a variable in genetic research. The paper, “Toward a New Vocabulary of Human Genetic Variation,” appeared in the November 15 issue of the journal Science, proposes a new framework for analyzing the use of race in research.

According to Dr. Pawela Sankar, assistant professor of bioethics in the department of Medical Ethics and Center for Bioethics, the recent debate over race in genetic research has focused on whether or not race exists. This is misguided, he argues. First, the term race is understood in so many different ways; some assume that “race” refers to historically racist theory of human subspecies, while others assume it refers to genetic differences that are associated with population history, and is simply descriptive.

The second issue is that researchers use race in very different ways. Some use it as a proxy for environmental exposures, and others as a way of selecting subjects that are more or less genetically similar to one another. This highlights the fact that race is used in so many different ways in genetic research is one of the reasons that ethnicity or genetic markers cannot simply replace race, as some have suggested.

The paper comes at a time when new research efforts are unfolding, now that the human genome has been completely sequenced. The paper asks researchers to carefully consider for what purpose they are using race, to define the term and then use it consistently. “The practice,” the authors write, “requires a precise language and oddly, the word ‘race,’ although used frequently in the literature, has escaped the kind of scientific scrutiny that other words have had,” said Dr. Sankar. “In one paper researchers will have used the term three different ways and not defined it.”

Stanford University researcher Dr. Mildred. K. Cho—formerly of Penn’s Center for Bioethics—was also involved in this study.

Fighting the West Nile Virus

The protein that forms the protective capsid surrounding the West Nile virus genetic material may contribute to the deadly inflammation associated with the virus. West Nile virus, which has rapidly spread across the United States, causes neurological symptoms and encephalitis, which can result in paralysis or death. According to researchers at Penn’s School of Medicine, the West Nile virus capsid (WNV-Cp) is a destructive protein that can trigger apoptosis—the automatic self-destructive program within cells—possibly adding to the damage caused by the virus.

Their findings were presented in the December issue of the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases.

The Penn researchers first began studying WNV-Cp when they noticed a striking similarity between the gene that encodes for it and that of an HIV regulatory protein. “We hope to extend the lessons they have learned in trying to develop therapeutics for HIV in fighting West Nile,” said Dr. Werner. “In addition to the possibility of creating a vaccine for West Nile, our results support the idea that a specific portion of the capsid protein—called the 3’ terminal region—is required for the protein’s pathogenicity. If we can find a way to block that region’s function, this might help slow the virus down.”

By itself, the WNV-Cp protein can cause inflammation. Dr. Werner and his colleagues found that WNV-Cp drives apoptosis in cell cultures through what is called the mitochondrial pathway. The protein begins the process of cell suicide by somehow disrupting the membrane potential of the cell’s mitochondria, which then leads to the activation of proteins such as caspase-9 and caspase-3 that start a cascade of reactions to subsequently cause the cell to digest itself.

“Since the protein enters the nucleus of the cell, it is possible that WNV-Cp changes the host cell’s transcriptional machinery, resulting in an over production of certain proteins related to an apoptotic program, which consequently feed back to the mitochondria. Alternatively, as WNV-Cp moves from the cytoplasm to the nucleus, it may inactivate an important part of the cell’s natural control system that keeps apoptosis in check—overpowering the guard as it were—thus inducing the cell suicide. Funding for this work was supported by grants from the NIH.