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## Dr. Pemantle: Merriam Term Professor of Mathematics



*Robin Pemantle* after completing a B.A. at the University of California at Berkeley.

Dr. Pemantle is a prominent scholar in fields of probability theory and combinatorics. In probability theory, he works on tree-indexed process, discrete potential theory, branching processes, rapidly mixing Markov chains and pathwise properties of Brownian motion, while his specific interests in combinatorics include spanning trees of graphs, asymptotics of multivariable generating functions, optimization and enumerative combinatorics in general. He has held postdoctoral research fellowships at Cornell University, Oregon State University, the

Mathematical Sciences Institute at Cornell, and the University of California at Berkeley.

During his former appointments at both the Ohio State University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Pemantle was at the forefront of nationwide efforts to reform mathematical instruction. To prepare undergraduates for future careers in mathematics teaching, he developed a series of experimental courses that replaced the traditional lecture-style setting with an emphasis on small-group problem solving, communication skills, and firsthand training in fundamental theories and reasoning. This spring, Dr. Pemantle will foster teaching innovation among Penn students by leading an academically-based community service course on *Learning Math by Teaching Math*. This innovative course, offered through the Center for Community Partnerships, will allow undergraduates to develop and teach hands-on activities to students in math classes at University City High School.

An elected fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, he has received prestigious teaching and research awards including a Lilly Teaching Fellowship, Presidential Faculty Fellowship, Romnes Fellowship, and Sloan

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## Dr. Strom: PennMed/UPHS



*Brian Strom*

Dr. Brian L. Strom, George S. Pepper Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, has been appointed Associate Vice Dean and Associate Vice President for Strategic Integration, EVP of UPHS/Dean of the School of Medicine, Dr. Arthur Rubenstein and UPHS

CEO Ralph Muller announced recently.

Dr. Strom will be responsible for integration of the research, clinical and educational activities of the medical school and health system. "Successful planning and implementation of maximal synergy in these endeavors is a challenge that we all face," said Dr. Rubenstein. "Brian's primary charge in these positions is to ensure that we take full advantage of our system-wide resources in mission planning and operation. In conducting this effort he will approach the review of existing activities and the generation of new opportunities from an end-user perspective that cuts across each of the major constituencies: faculty, school and health system administration and staff, and clinical and research trainees," Dr. Rubenstein added.

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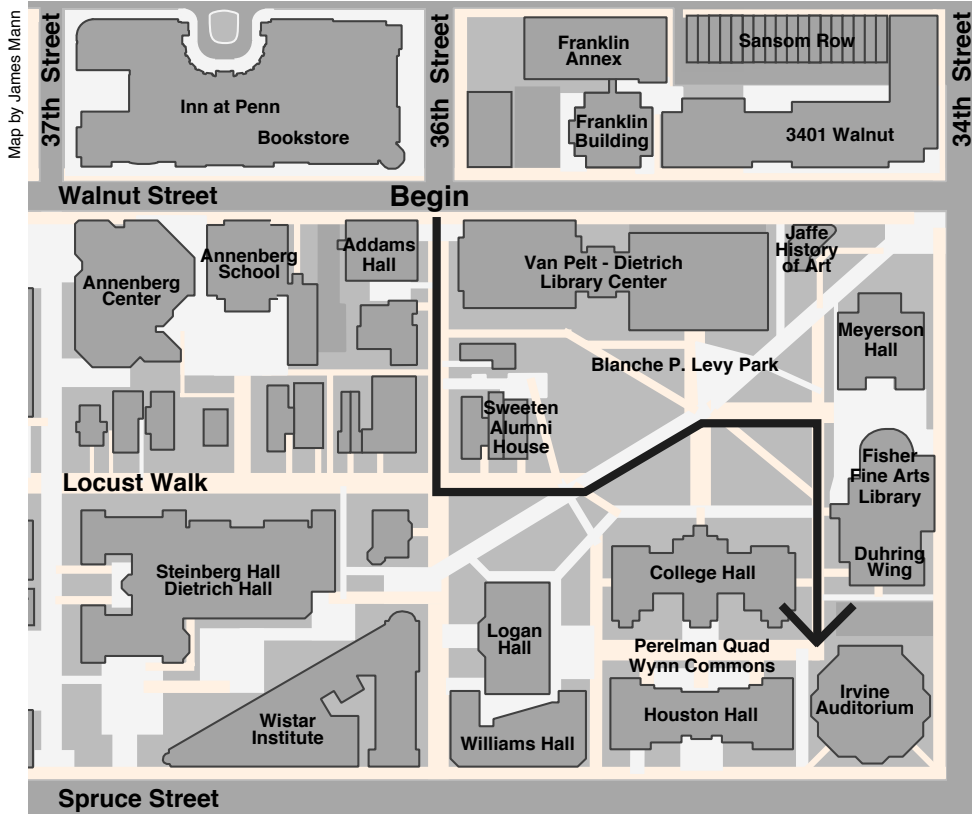
## Presidential Procession

The University community is invited to greet Penn's next President, Dr. Amy Gutmann, this Friday, February 20. At the Trustees' Stated Meeting that morning—which begins at 11:30 a.m., at the Inn at Penn—the Full Board will vote to approve her for the presidency. The nominee needs approval from two-thirds of the Trustees in order to be elected as Penn's eighth President. Dr. Gutmann is scheduled to take office July 1.

After the meeting concludes, the Penn Band will lead the way in a procession commencing at approximately 1 p.m. from the corner of 36th and Walnut Streets and heading south on 36th Street to Locust Walk, where it will go east on Locust Walk, through College Green and past College Hall to Wynn Commons, as shown on the map. The Penn community is encouraged to line the walkways and congratulate the president-elect.

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## Dr. Pemantle

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Foundation Fellowship.

Dr. Pemantle's work has been published in such scholarly mathematics journals as *The Annals of Probability*, *Probability Theory and Related Fields*, *Journal of Theoretical Probability*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. His most recent paper, "Time to Absorption in Discounted Reinforcement Models" with Dr. Brian Skyrms of the University of California at Irving, will be included in an upcoming volume of *Stochastic*

*Processes and their Applications*.

The Merriam Term Chair was created in 2000 through the bequest of John W. Merriam, W '31, who taught economics at Penn in 1934. He began his entrepreneurial career during the Depression when he developed his first apartment complex and went on to become one of the Delaware Valley's leading real estate developers. Mr. Merriam was also very active in the Philadelphia arts community and served on the boards of the Philadelphia College for the Performing Arts and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

## University Research Foundation: Conference Support

The conference support program is designed for scholarly meetings that will be convened on the Penn campus, thereby providing enrichment opportunities to interested faculty, students, and staff, most frequently in the format of a 1-2 day colloquium. The intent is to support meetings that are designed to enhance existing research and scholarly programs, *particularly in disciplines where external funding is difficult to obtain*. Funding will be limited to no more than \$3,000 per event, and should be dedicated to *reimbursing the speakers for travel and accommodations*, but not for meals and entertainment. It is expected that funding from the University Research Foundation will supplement funding from other sources and will not be the sole source of funding for the meeting. Grants will not become "entitlements" and cannot be renewed in successive years.

Applications for the Conference Support Program will be processed in the same cycles that now are used for URF project applications, (March 15 and November 1) and will be reviewed by the same committees. Applications should be brief, usually no more than 3 pages, and should include:

- Name and contact information for the applicant, who must be a faculty member (tenure track, research track, or clinician-educator track)
- A description of the purpose of the meeting
- A proposed program agenda (*appendix*)
- A proposed list of presenters (*appendix*)
- The number of Penn students and faculty expected to attend
- An explanation of the benefit to Penn students and faculty
- An explanation of the benefit to scholarly or research programs at Penn
- Relationship of the meeting to department, institute or center programs
- The names of faculty who are organizing the meeting
- Identity and contact information for the business administrator who would be responsible for administration of the funds
- A budget, itemizing the types of proposed expenditures (*appendix*)
- Evidence of matching funding from institutional or external sources
- Evidence of institutional support in the form of no cost facilities and AV support
- Proposed URF review committee (humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, or biomedical)

Please submit applications in electronic format, MS Word, plus a single hardcopy to Lanese Rogers, [larogers@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:larogers@pobox.upenn.edu), Office of the Vice Provost for Research, 118 College Hall, 19104/6303, (215) 898 7236.

## Grants for Molecular Studies in Digestive and Liver Disease

We are pleased to announce that the Center for Molecular Studies in Digestive and liver Disease is accepting applications to its 2004 Pilot and Feasibility Grant Program. Submissions should be related to the focus of the Center, which encompasses molecular studies of the biology and disease of the alimentary tract, pancreas, and liver. Relevant investigations include those in developmental biology, nutrition, regulation of gene expression, growth, differentiation and carcinogenesis, the biology of stems cells, molecular genetics, gene therapy, and immunology, including growth factors and cytokines. An External Advisory Committee will review the applications and select projects for funding. *Friday, March 12, 2004* is the closing date for submissions.

Contact me at [anil2@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:anil2@mail.med.upenn.edu) if you have any questions about the submission process.

—Dr. Anil K. Rustgi, Director, Center for Molecular Studies in Digestive and Liver Disease

### Pilot and Feasibility Grant Program

#### Purpose and Research Focus

The purpose of the Center is to unite investigators with interests in digestive and liver physiology and disease and to stimulate others in the biomedical community to enter this area of research. One of the most important aspects of this effort is the funding of Pilot/Feasibility Projects.

The Pilot/Feasibility Project should be related to the focus of the Center, which encompasses molecular studies on the biology or disease of the alimentary tract, pancreas, and liver. Relevant investigations include those in developmental biology, nutrition, regulation of gene expression, therapy, and immunology, including growth factors and cytokines.

#### Eligibility

- All faculty members of the University scientific community who meet the eligibility requirements below are invited to submit proposals. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or have permanent visas. New investigators who have never held extramural support (R29, R01, P01).
- Established investigators in other areas of biomedical research who wish to apply their expertise to a problem in digestive and liver disease.
- Established digestive and liver investigators who wish to study an area that represents a significant departure from currently funded work.
- Pilot project awardees are eligible for two years of funding; renewals are evaluated competitively. \*For the application, go to: [www.uphs.upenn.edu/moleculr](http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/moleculr).

## Trustees Open Meetings

Thursday, February 19, and Friday, February 20, Trustee meetings will be held at the Inn at Penn, except where noted below. The following meetings are open to the Penn community.

*Thursday, February 19:*

10:45–11:45 a.m., Facilities & Campus Planning Committee, Woodlands A

2:15–3:45 p.m., Neighborhood Initiatives Committee, Woodlands B

2:15–3:45 p.m., Student Life Committee, Room M-30, Hamilton College House

4–4:45 p.m., Budget & Finance Committee, Regent/St. Marks

4–4:50 p.m., Academic Policy Committee, Thomas Webb Richards Suite, 3rd Floor

4–5:30 p.m., External Affairs Committee, Woodlands CD

*Friday, February 20:*

11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m., Stated Meeting of the Trustees, Woodlands ABCD

1–1:30 p.m., Procession with Dr. Amy Gutmann to Houston Hall (*see map on page 1*).

## Dr. Strom: Two More Hats

(continued from page 1)

"His first specific project task in this new position is to develop an integrated vision for medical/biomedical informatics at Penn Medicine. Brian will be reaching out to all components of this area for participation, from patient registry and care to health services and genomics research and education," said Mr. Muller.

Dr. Strom is also chair and professor of biostatistics & epidemiology, professor of medicine, professor of pharmacology, and director of the Center for Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics, and chair of the Graduate Group in Epidemiology & Biostatistics. He will retain these responsibilities in accepting this new position. "Indeed, the breadth of his current activities: as investigator, mentor, practicing physician, and administrative leader positions him ideally for this new responsibility," added Dr. Rubenstein.

After earning his B.S. in molecular biophysics and biochemistry at Yale, Dr. Strom obtained his M.D. degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, was an intern and resident in Internal Medicine and NIH fellow in clinical pharmacology at the University of California, San Francisco, and earned the M.P.H. degree in epidemiology at UC Berkeley. He has been on the faculty here since 1980. Although Dr. Strom's interests span many areas of clinical epidemiology, his major research interest is in pharmacoepidemiology; here he has authored over 350 manuscripts and held over 175 grants.

He was a member of the Board of Regents of the American College of Physicians, the Board of Directors of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and the Board of Directors for the American College of Epidemiology. He is Editor for the Americas for *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety*, the official journal of the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology and the International Society of Pharmacovigilance.

He serves on the Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee for the U.S. FDA. He is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He chaired the Institute Committee to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of the Anthrax Vaccine, and is currently Chair of the Institute Committee on Smallpox Vaccine Program Implementation. Dr. Strom is one of only a handful of clinical epidemiologists ever elected to the American Society of Clinical Investigation and American Association of Physicians.

## Commonwealth Relations

On February 3, Governor Rendell released his proposed FY 2004-05 budget for the Commonwealth. The Governor is proposing a total of \$43,696,000 for the University, an increase of \$750,000, or 1.7 percent above the amount for the current fiscal year. The Governor's proposal for the Veterinary School increases to \$37,090,000 or 1.6 percent. The Dental Clinics line item was increased to \$1,029,000, or 21.6 percent, bringing the Clinics' funding up to the same level as Temple and Pitt's Dental Clinics. The other three line items were held flat—Medical Instruction \$3,832,000; Cardiovascular Studies \$1,520,000; and University Museum \$225,000.

The proposed increase for Penn is consistent with the increase provided the other state-aided private institutions and the Institutional Assistance Grant recipients (all other private colleges and universities not receiving direct appropriations). Proposed budgets for state-related institutions (Penn State, Pitt, Temple and Lincoln) are increased by 2.2% and the State System of Higher Education is increased by 3.0%.

In addition to the funding recommended for the University in its non-preferred appropriation, the General Fund budget includes a recommendation of \$2,000,000 for the Regional Cancer Institutes, the same level as the current year. Penn's Cancer Center receives \$600,000 from this funding.

In other higher education funding items, the Governor recommends an increase of 2.5% for the PHEAA student grant program. The Governor's budget provides no funding for either the higher education equipment or engineering equipment programs (these programs had been eliminated in last year's final budget). The Governor proposed a reduction from \$3 million to \$500,000 in the amount available to provide low interest loans to colleges and universities to install dormitory sprinklers. The budget also proposes \$3.3 million for the start-up of the Keystone Innovation Zone program.

In the area of health care, the Governor's budget makes no cuts to two Medical Assistance Programs, which had been restored in last year's budget—Outpatient Disproportionate Share (Penn Medicine impact—\$2.6 million/yr) and Medical Education payments (Penn Medicine impact—\$6.4 million/year). However, the Governor's budget provides no funding for the Community Access Fund (CAF), through which Penn's three urban hospitals receive approximately \$4.8 million annually.

The University is scheduled to testify before the House Appropriations Committee on February 25th in support of its Commonwealth appropriations request.

## City Relations

### City Council

- **Budget**—Mayor Street postponed the presentation of his annual budget proposal until March 18, instead of the traditional January address. Anticipating a \$144 million deficit, the Mayor wants to give his Administration sufficient time to develop cost-saving solutions and to consider the Tax Reform Commission's findings. By Charter rule, the Mayor must deliver his budget to City Council 90 days before the end of the fiscal year. City Council has devised an aggressive hearing schedule to begin on March 31.

- **Tax Reform**—During the first full session of the new term, Councilman Michael Nutter introduced a 13-bill package of local tax reform measures designed to implement the recommendations of the Tax Reform Commission. The Commission was established as a result of the electorate's approval of Mr. Nutter's Home Rule Charter amendment in 2002; the body released their comprehensive plan for reform in November 2003. Hearings for the bills have not yet been scheduled. Council members are still struggling internally with conflicts related to member committee assignments and referrals of bills to appropriate committees.

- **Educational Housing District Legislation**—Councilman Darrell Clarke's (D-5) has introduced a measure to expand the Educational Housing District to include a portion of his district in the vicinity of Temple University. Under the current law passed by Councilman Nutter, the Educational Housing District is limited to the geographical boundaries of the Fourth Councilmanic District, and requires colleges and universities within those boundaries to comply with administrative requirements related to parking and leasing with the aim of controlling nuisance behavior among independent students living off-campus. Bill No. 040094 seeks to place the same burden on Temple University by amending only the definition of the geographical area of the Educational Housing District to include a small portion of Clarke's district (the Temple University area).

### City Government

Mayor John F. Street announced on February 12 that Stephanie W. Naidoff, Law '66, is taking over as City Representative and Commerce Director. Ms. Naidoff, a corporate lawyer, is replacing James Cuorato, who held the post throughout Mayor Street's first term. Ms. Naidoff was also founding president of the Kimmel Center.

## Community Relations

### 40th Street Development

The Office of Community Relations, and Facilities and Real Estate Services, through Penn Praxis, has established a broad internal and external consultation process to critically examine and direct the on going development of the 40th Street corridor. The first of a series of public meetings to discuss the future of 40th Street and its role as a commercial corridor in University City will be held February 17, 7-9 p.m. in the first floor rear of The Rotunda, 4014 Walnut Street. Penn's Office of Community Relations is the contact for this process.

This series of public meetings focused on 40th Street is designed to bring together representatives from University City's diverse institutions, businesses, community associations, residents and other stakeholders to collectively develop a core set of principles to help guide the planning of 40th Street. Coordinating this forum is a steering committee of University City community members, both resident and institutional, dedicated to community participation and development. Penn Praxis gives students across the University of Pennsylvania School of Design the opportunity to gain real-world problem-solving experience, while providing professional services and consultation to community and civic groups.

—Carol R. Scheman, Vice President for Government, Community and Public Affairs

### University of Pennsylvania History of Non-preferred Appropriation (in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003 FINAL HB 2495	FY 2004 FINAL HB 1379	FY 2004 FINAL % INC.	FY 2005 GOV. REC.	FY 2005 GOV. REC. % INC.
Instruction	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0	0
Medical Instruction	4,034	4,034	4,034	4,034	3,832	-5.0	3,832	0.0
Dental Clinics	938	938	938	891	846	-5.0	1,029	21.6
Cardiovascular Studies	632 <sup>1</sup>	882	1,632	1,600	1,520	-5.0	1,520	0.0
Veterinary Activities	32,276	34,783	36,626	38,445	36,523	-5.0	37,090	1.6
University Museum	219 <sup>2</sup>	241 <sup>3</sup>	248 <sup>3</sup>	236 <sup>3</sup>	225 <sup>3</sup>	-4.7	225 <sup>3</sup>	0.0
<b>Total University</b>	<b>\$38,099</b>	<b>\$40,878</b>	<b>\$43,478<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>\$45,206<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>\$42,946</b>	<b>-5.0</b>	<b>\$43,696</b>	<b>1.7</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes \$132,000 appropriated through separate non-preferred appropriation.  
<sup>2</sup> Appropriated through separate non-preferred appropriation.  
<sup>3</sup> Appropriated through PA Historic and Museum Commission (not part of submission to PDE).  
<sup>4</sup> Note: Amount authorized by HB 1201. Does not reflect 3% freeze announced 1/18/02.  
<sup>5</sup> Note: Amount authorized by HB 2495. Does not reflect 2% freeze announced 2/13/03.

Dear Members of the Penn Community,

We are pleased to announce the 2004 Models of Excellence award winners. The Models of Excellence program honors, awards, and celebrates outstanding staff member achievements. Introduced in 1999, this program highlights the values of the University and provides models of accomplishment to emulate.

This year's award winners are listed below with a brief description of their achievements. A committee of Penn leaders selected the award winners from among 153 staff members nominated by peers, colleagues, and managers. Selections were based on significant contribution to the University—above and beyond job expectations—that embodied the following standards of excellence for this program:

- Development and implementation of practices, procedures, and policies that creatively support and further the University's mission,
- Application of innovative and proactive leadership in challenging circumstances,
- Extraordinary service to key constituencies,
- Substantial cost-savings, and
- Establishment of relationships within and/or outside of the immediate organization that enable goals to be met that would be impossible otherwise.

On May 6th, an award ceremony and reception will be held in honor of these award winners. The "Models of Excellence" will receive a symbol of appreciation and a \$500 monetary gift. Individuals identified for Honorable Mention will receive a symbol of appreciation and a \$250 monetary gift. If you would like to attend the award ceremony and reception, please contact Marilyn Kraut at [kraut@hr.upenn.edu](mailto:kraut@hr.upenn.edu).

At the time of the event, we will post detailed information about the winners and their achievements on the Models of Excellence website ([www.hr.upenn.edu/quality/models](http://www.hr.upenn.edu/quality/models)). Many of these accomplishments can be replicated and we encourage you to consider applying them in your work area. At the very least, we hope that the creativity, proactive leadership, service, cost-savings and relationship building demonstrated by these staff members will serve as a model for your actions at Penn.

Please join us in congratulating your colleagues.

*Judith Rodin, President*

*Robert Barchi, Provost*

## 2004 Models of Excellence Award Winners

### Models of Excellence

**1. Penn Portal Team**—For coming together, as service providers and end-users, to improve student access to a range of disconnected online services and information and to create, at a modest cost, a new paradigm for online service delivery to students, a process that had confounded other academic institutions for years and now serves as a model in higher education:

*Helen Anderson*, Senior Director, School of Engineering and Applied Science

*Timothy Bouffard*, Programmer, AIT, ISC

*Christopher Bradie*, Technology Director, Business Services

*Deanna Cheung*, Assistant Director, Graduate Student Center, Office of the Deputy Provost

*James Choate*, Information Technology Technical Director, ISC

*Randall Couch*, Manager, Communication Design, ISC

*Jeanne Curtis*, Executive Director of Data Administration, ISC

*Roberto Mansfield*, Senior Program Analyst, School of Arts & Sciences

*Anita Mastroieni*, Director, Graduate Student Center, Office of the Deputy Provost

*Kent Peterman*, Director of Academic Affairs, School of Arts & Sciences

*Susan Quant*, Data Analyst, ISC

*Edwin Read*, Program Analyst, ISC

*Ron Sanders*, University Registrar, Office of the Registrar

*Travis Smale*, Web Developer, Student Financial Services

*Jacqueline Smith*, Senior Director, SFS Operations, Student Financial Services

*Leah Smith*, Director of Communications, VPUL

*Francine Walker*, Director of Student Life, VPUL

*Michael Winkler*, Library Web Manager, Van Pelt-Deitrich Library

**2. Penn's Way**—For conceiving, developing, and producing an innovative system for tracking and reporting faculty and staff participation in the Penn's Way campaign that facilitated the work of the campaign volunteers, saved substantial resource, vastly improved the efficiency of running the campaign raffles, and situated the University as a pioneer in the eyes of the National Alliance for Choice in Giving:

*Anthony Whittington*, Director of Administration and Finance, Division of Public Safety

### Honorable Mention

**3. Academic Programs**—For developing unique and novel enhancements to the operations of the School of Medicine's Academic Programs Office, including a central process through which all course notes, presentation materials, group assignments, and examinations are managed, in order to allow faculty more time to focus on teaching and research:

*Anna T. Delaney*, Director of Curriculum, School of Medicine

**4. Educational Pipeline Initiative Team**—For creating an infrastructure to connect each of VPUL's outreach Academic Support Programs to create an "educational pipeline" through which West Philadelphia and Penn students can move successfully from middle school all the way through terminal graduate degrees:

*Bernadine Abad*, Director, The Tutoring Center, VPUL

*Malcolm Bonner*, Director, McNair Scholars Program, VPUL

*Judith Green*, Project Director, Upward Bound Program, VPUL

*Annette Hampton*, Project Director, Educational Opportunity Center, VPUL

*Delores Hill*, Director, Academic Enrichment Center, VPUL

*John LaVoy*, Director, PENNCAP/Pre-Freshman Program, VPUL



*Kenneth Perry*, Project Director, Talent Search Program, VPUL

*Diane Sandefur*, Project Dir., Veterans Upward Bound Program, VPUL

*Terri White*, Executive Director, Academic Support Programs, VPUL

**5. The Penn Key Team**—For introducing overnight, without interruption to University business, a comprehensive and unified solution for identity verification that responds to a range of security needs across campus, improves protection of personal privacy and University information assets, and reduces local administrative overhead costs for IT security:

*Helen Anderson*, Senior Director, SEAS

*Lisa Campeau*, Data Analyst, ISC

*Meghali Chetia*, Senior Programmer/Analyst, ISC

*Shumon Huque*, Lead Engineer, ISC

*Jim Johnson*, Data Administrator, ISC

*Deke Kassabian*, IT Senior Director, ISC

*Edda Katz*, Dir., Communications Group, ISC

*Mike Lazenka*, Operations Manager, ISC

*Mike Levin*, Senior Programmer/Analyst, ISC

*Janet Lind*, Manager, School of Medicine

*John Lupton*, Info. Security Analyst, ISC

*Denise McCole*, Senior Support Specialist, ISC

*Dave Millar*, Information Security Officer, ISC

*Amy Phillips*, IT Project Leader, ISC

*Ellen Rosenblatt*, Senior Programmer/Analyst, ISC

*Daniel Sheehan*, IT Dir., Database Administration, ISC

*Mark Sirota*, Associate Director, ISC

*John Tong*, Senior Database Administrator, ISC

*Peggy Yetter*, Senior Systems Programmer, ISC

*Vern Yoneyama*, IT Support Specialist, ISC

*Jennifer Yuan*, Electronic Communications Specialist, ISC

### 2004 Selection Committee

*Robert L. Barchi*, Provost

*Christopher Bradie*, Director of Business Services

*Erin Cross*, 2003 Winner, Associate Director, LGBT Center

*Lance Donaldson-Evans*, Chair, Faculty Senate

*Godlove Fonjweng*, 2003 Honorable Mention, Assistant Dean of Advising

*Marjorie K. Jeffcoat*, Dean, School of Dental Medicine

*John J. Heuer*, Vice President, Human Resources

*Janice K. Marini*, Executive Director, Special Events, Office of the President

*H. J. Omar Mitchell*, Audiovisual Service Center Coordinator, School of Medicine

*Barbara Murray*, 2003 Honorable Mention, Manager, Financial Training Department

*David Pope*, Ombudsman

*Afi Heywood*, 2003 Winner, Staff Assistant, AARC

*Rodney V. Robinson*, 2003 Winner, Associate Director Student Life

*Ex-Officio: Marilyn K. Kraut*, Director, Quality of Worklife Programs, Human Resources

For more information on Models of Excellence, see [www.hr.upenn.edu/quality/models/](http://www.hr.upenn.edu/quality/models/).

In the most recent cycle, Fall 2003, of Penn's internally-funded University Research Foundation awards, the Office of the Vice Provost for Research has announced awards to the following members of the faculty for the projects listed below.

The deadline for the spring Research Foundation proposals is March 15, 2004. The Research Foundation guidelines are available from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, 118 College Hall, and on the web at [www.upenn.edu/research/FoundationGuidelines.htm](http://www.upenn.edu/research/FoundationGuidelines.htm) and in this issue (page 6), which is available at [www.upenn.edu/almanac/v50/n22/research\\_guidelines.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/v50/n22/research_guidelines.html).

## University Research Foundation Fall 2003 Awards

Sunday O. Akintoye, School of Dental Medicine, Oral Medicine, *Site-Specific Osteogenic Properties of Human Bone Marrow Stromal Stem Cells and Therapeutic Applications in Osteoradionecrosis*

Faizan Alawi, School of Dental Medicine, Department of Pathology, *Role of Dyskerin in the Pathogenesis of Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma*

Jennifer Amyx, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Political Science, *Political Economy of Energy Cooperation in East Asia*

Benjamin Backus, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychology, *Rate Of Recalibration Of Motion Parallax For Depth Perception*

Haim H. Bau, School of Engineering and Applied Science, MEAM, *Equipment for the Development of and Experiments with Nanotube-Based Pipettes*

Kathleen Boesze-Battaglia, School of Dental Medicine, Department of Biochemistry, *Regulation of Renewal Processes by Membrane Raft Associated Proteins*

Daniel Bogen & Andrea Apter, School of Engineering and Applied Science, Department of Bioengineering, *Diskus Adherence Logger: A New Device for Medical Adherence Research*

Eugene Buckley, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Linguistics, *Digitization of the Jacobs Corpus of Alsea Data*

Karen Buhler-Wilkerson, School of Nursing, Center for the Study of the History of Nursing, *Nursing, History, and Health: A Website*

Christopher G. Burd, School of Medicine, Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, *Regulation of Rab GTPases by YIP3*

Theresa M. Busch, School of Medicine, Department of Radiation Oncology, *Photodynamic Therapy for the Treatment of Brain Tumors*

Brian R. Calvi, School of Medicine, Department of Genetics, *A New Gene Family Required for S Phase*

Brahim Chaqour, School of Dental Medicine, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, *Development of Mouse Over-expressing the Cyr61 Gene in Smooth Muscle-Rich Tissues for Studies of the Effects of Cyr61 on Smooth Muscle Hypertrophy*

Melpo Christofidou-Solomidou, School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, *TGF-beta Receptor Blockers in Radiation Fibrosis*

Edward J. Delikatny, School of Medicine, Department of Radiology, *Noninvasive Detection Of Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis*

Peter Dodson, School of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Animal Biology, *The Impact of Picontinental Seaways on Late Cretaceous Dinosaur Evolution in Southern South America*

Marija Drndic, School of Arts and Sciences,

Department of Physics and Astronomy, *Nanoparticle Manipulation with Microelectromagnets*

Greg H. Enders, School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, *Regulation Of The Repliation Checkpoint Pathway by Cdk2*

Russell Epstein, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychology, *Location and Orientation Codes in The Human Brain*

William Ewald, The Law School, *Edition of Unpublished Papers of David Hilbert*

Neil O. Fishman & Darren Linkin, School of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, *Communication Errors During Antimicrobial Management Calls*

Marybeth Gasman, Graduate School of Education, Division of Higher Education, *Collaboration for the Cause: A History of the United Negro College Fund*

Gautam Ghosh, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Anthropology, *Hindu Chauvinism and the Internet: A Challenge to Liberalism?*

Mark Goulian, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Physics and Astronomy, *Cellular Biophysics of Two-Component Signaling*

David Grazian, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Sociology, *Project on Gender Inequality in Urban Entertainment and the Culture Industries*

Andrea G. Grottoli, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Earth and Environmental Science, *Late Holocene Climate Inferred From Fossil Corals of the Gulf of Aqaba, Red Sea*

Emily Hannum, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Sociology, *Gender, Human Capital and the Employment in Urban China*

Madeleine M. Joulie, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Chemistry, *Synthesis and Investigation of Biologically Interesting Probe Molecules*

Tom Kadesch, School of Medicine, Department of Genetics, *Notch and Schwann Cell Transformation*

Peter A. Kanetsky, School of Medicine, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, *Cervical Neoplasia and Immune Surveillance Genes*

Anna Kashina, School of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Animal Biology, *Physiological Role of Protein Arginylation*

Scott E. Kasner, School of Medicine, Department of Neurology, *Treatment of Acute Stroke after Cardiac Catheterization (TASCC)*

Ellen Kennedy, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Political Science, *The Partisan*

Robert A. Kraft, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Religious Studies, *Imaging the University Museum Papyri Collections*

Reinaldo Laddaga, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Romance Languages, *The*

*Development of New Literary Scenes in South America*

Frank S. Lee, School of Medicine, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, *A Novel Regulator of Oxygen Homeostasis*

Deborah L. Linebarger, Annenberg School for Communication, *Repetitive Television Viewing, Context, and Eye Movement Patterns*

Joel Maslow, School of Medicine, Department of Medicine & Infectious Diseases, *RHO GRPase Regulation of M. Avium Induced TNF*

Eugenio J. Miravete, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Economics, *Estimation of Dynamic Oligopoly Games with Applications to Health Economics*

Hillary C. M. Nelson, School of Medicine, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, *Role of cAMP as Second Messenger for the Heat Shock Response: Preliminary Analysis Using Expression Profiling*

Sean Nicholson; Patricia Danzon; Andrew Metrick, The Wharton School, Department of Health Care Systems, *Incentives to Innovate in the Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Industries*

Volker Nocke & Stephen R. Yeaple, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Economics, *Cross-Border Mergers and Multinational Enterprises*

Harish Poptani, School of Medicine, Department of Radiology, *Perfusion Imaging Of Anti-angiogenesis in Brain Tumors*

Larry A. Rhodes, School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, *Heart Rate Variability Following Neonatal Stage 1 Palliative Cardiac Surgery*

Emer M. Smyth, School of Medicine, Department of Pharmacology/CET, *The Role of the Platelet Prostacyclin Receptor in Vascular Function*

Peter Sterling; Michael Freed; Robert G. Smith, School of Medicine, Department of Neuroscience, *Information Transfer in the Retina Measured with a 2-photon Microscope*

Michael J. Therien, School of Arts and Sciences, Chemistry, *Fabrication of Optoelectronic and Electronic Materials for Optical Communication and Charge-Storage Applications*

Steven A. Thomas, School of Medicine, Pharmacology, *Inducible Inactivation of Specific Neuronal Systems In Vivo Using Mouse Molecular Genetics*

Josef Wegner, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, *An Archaeological Investigation of the Tomb of Pharaoh Senwosret III: Searching for the Conceptual Origins of Egypt's Valley of the Kings*

Shu Yang, School of Engineering and Applied Science, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, *A Multiple Laser System for Micro-fabrication of Functional 2D and 3D Structures*

# University Research Foundation Guidelines

Below are the latest University Research Foundation Guidelines, revised as of October 21, 2003. The Guidelines and additional information may be found on line at [www.upenn.edu/research/FoundationGuidelines.htm](http://www.upenn.edu/research/FoundationGuidelines.htm). For the recipients of the Fall 2003 awards see page 5, or [www.upenn.edu/almanac/v50/n22/research\\_awards.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/v50/n22/research_awards.html).

## Statement of Purpose

The University Research Foundation (URF) is an intramural resource to support faculty research for a variety of purposes, including:

- Helping junior faculty undertake pilot projects that will enable them to successfully apply for extramural sources of funding, and aid in establishing their careers as independent investigators.
- Helping established faculty perform exploratory research, particularly on novel or pioneering ideas, to determine their feasibility and develop preliminary data to support extramural applications.
- Providing support in disciplines where extramural support is difficult to obtain and where significant research can be facilitated with modest funding.
- Providing modest institutional matching funds that are awarded contingent upon a successful external peer-reviewed application that requires an institutional match.
- Under compelling circumstances, established investigators may be funded to support a *well-justified* brief gap extramural support or a *documented unanticipated* short-term need.

## Scope

**Disciplines**—The URF supports research in all disciplines, including inter-national research. For purposes of review, applications are assigned to four broad disciplinary areas: humanities, social and behavioral sciences, natural and engineering sciences, and biomedical sciences.

**Term**—Grants are given for a single year only. Applications for a second year of funding may be submitted but usually receive low priority. Funds must be spent within 12 months of the beginning of the grant, and may not be “banked” for future use. Unexpended funds must be returned to the Foundation.

**Budget**—Applications up to \$50,000 will be entertained, but most grants are for no more than \$25,000. Because the total cost of meritorious requests exceed available funds by several fold, applicants are encouraged to request only absolutely essential resources.

**Eligibility**—Eligibility is limited to University faculty, in any track, at any professorial level. Instructors and Research Associates may apply but need to establish (by letter from the Department chair) that they will receive appointment as assistant professors by the following July 1st.

## Application Process: Deadline March 15

**Dates**—Applications are accepted twice each year, for November 1 and March 15 deadlines. If the date falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is the next working day. Every effort will be made to process applications and notify applicants of the outcome within 10 weeks after the deadlines.

**The Application**—Brevity and clarity will enhance the likelihood of success. All applications should be limited to 10 pages (applications for >\$25,000 can be up to 15 pages) and should include:

1. A Research Foundation Proposal Cover Sheet, which can be downloaded from the Website for the URF.
2. An abstract, no more than 200 words, written for the educated non-specialist. The application should also be classified *under one of the five priorities* listed above.
3. A description of the research proposal, which should be no more than 5 single spaced pages for grants up to \$25,000 and no more than 10 pages for grants >\$25,000. Proposals should provide background, hypothesis or purpose of the research, significance of the research, methods used, work to be undertaken, and outlook for future extension of the research and its potential for external funding (see also criteria for evaluating proposals, below).

**Note:** an application formatted for another sponsoring agency or failing to conform to the guidelines *will not be reviewed*.

4. A single page biographical sketch.
5. A budget, with justification for each item requested. Items that can be requested include research travel expenses, supplies, minor equipment specifically designed for the proposed research. Items that are usually excluded include renovations of the physical facilities, major equipment, and extension of projects that are already well funded. Faculty summer salaries or release time are usually not funded, since priority is given to the actual costs of the research project itself. Because it may not be possible to fully fund meritorious proposals, the budget should *prioritize items in order of their importance to the project*.

6. Other research support, including *current* funding with a list of titles, amounts, sources, and grant periods, expired funding for the prior three years, plus pending applications. Applicants with “start up packages” should provide detailed dated budgets. If applicable, prior grants from the University Research Foundation should be itemized, with dates, title, and amount of funding, plus a statement whether external funding was received as a result of the URF grant.

7. **Assistant Professors** in all tracks (including tenure track, CE track, and research track) are required to include a *letter from their department chair* indicating their career plans within the department, and listing all department funding, including startup packages and the like. In addition, the letter should establish that the applicant will be working as an independent investigator or scholar. **Instructors and Research Associates** are eligible only if it is planned to appoint them as assistant professors by the following July 1st, as certified in a *letter from their department chair*. This letter should also document the department plans for their career, future commitments of independent space and

of department or school resources, and convincing evidence of their independent status as investigators or scholars. Additional documentation can be provided as an *appendix* and will not be included within the page count.

8. **Regulatory issues.** If research involves human subjects, animals, bio-hazards, or other regulatory issues, the application should identify those concerns and provide documentation that they will be addressed. *Please note that IRB approval may be required for human subject research in all disciplines, including the sociobehavioral sciences and humanities as well as in the biomedical disciplines.* If IRB or IACUC or Environmental Safety review and approval is required, it may be obtained after the application has been approved, but before funds are expended or research has been initiated. It should be emphasized that Research Foundation grants must meet the same standards applied to larger extramural applications. Regulatory documentation can be provided as an appendix to the body of the application and will not be included in the page count. For advice please consult the Office of Regulatory Affairs.

9. **Conflict of interest.** The applicant should explicitly make a statement whether or not the application involves any potential conflict of interest, and any such conflicts should be described. For instance, if the research could forward the interests of a company in which the applicant has a pecuniary interest, this should be disclosed. Conflict of interest documentation (if required) can be provided as an appendix to the body of the application and will not be included in the page count.

**Submission**—An original and ten copies of the complete proposal with the cover sheet should be submitted to the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, 118 College Hall/6303.

## Review Process

Applications are reviewed by one of four faculty committees, in the four disciplinary areas mentioned above. Every attempt is made to spread funding equitably across the major disciplines. Each application is reviewed for a variety of attributes, including

- scholarly merit, creativity and innovation
  - feasibility
  - appropriateness for the modest funding provided
  - significance of the research
  - time-limited opportunities that require immediate funding
  - prospects for future extramural funding
  - matching support from other sources
  - availability of alternate funding sources
  - career development of young researchers
  - evidence that junior applicants will be working as independent investigators
  - forwarding of school or institutional objectives, such as interdisciplinary research
- Certain frequently found weaknesses should be avoided, such as
- “Re-inventing the wheel” due to ignorance of prior published work, often in cognate fields
  - A fishing expedition without a focused hypothesis
  - Requests for equipment, such as computers, that could be funded by the School
  - Requests for faculty salary that exceed the scale of URF grants
  - Repeated requests for research projects that are eligible for but have failed to garner external peer reviewed support

Since meritorious requests exceed available funds, reviewers often reduce budgets to extend the number of applications that can be supported. The review committees make their recommendations to the Vice Provost for Research, who makes the final decisions about funding, based on year-to-year availability of resources. Decisions will be made shortly after review committees have met and should be distributed by e-mail within 10 weeks of the date of submission.

Critiques of applications are not provided for successful or failed applications, since this would place an excessive burden on the faculty who volunteer their time as peer reviewers. Applicants are welcome to consult the chair of the review committee for any informal information that may be available.

Questions should be directed to: Lanese Rogers, Office of the Vice Provost for Research, 118 College Hall/6303, (215) 898-7236 [larogers@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:larogers@pobox.upenn.edu).

## Procedures for Approved URF Grants

1. **Transfer of funds.** Within one month following notice of award, recipients are required to arrange a transfer of award funds from the Provost’s Administrative Office to their home department. This transfer should be arranged by the Business Administrator for the home department. The process is initiated by submitting the financial form, which accompanies the award letter to: Stacy Fletcher, Office of the Vice Provost for Research, 118 College Hall/6303, FAX (215) 573 2108 [stacynf@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:stacynf@pobox.upenn.edu).

**Regulatory approvals**—If regulatory approvals (IRB, IACUC, and the like) are required and have not been obtained at the time of the award, they must be obtained prior to the utilization of funds or initiation of the research. Failure to comply would be considered a serious transgression of the policies of the University of Pennsylvania.

2. **Report.** A brief (1-2 pages) report is required to be submitted to the Office of the Vice Provost for Research one year after the date of the award. This should describe the work accomplished, the planned date of completion, and whether there are residual unused funds in the budget. In general, it is expected that the scope of research would be completed within one year of the date of award. Also, if alternative funding has been obtained, recipients are expected to return unexpended funds.

### EXHIBIT

*Diary of FOB*; photographic work by senior Owusu Akoto; explores the essence of being "Fresh-Off-the-Boat" and captures moments of cultural dissonance and dualism & paradoxes in metaphor as experienced by Owusu in the three continents where he has lived; Fox Gallery, Logan Hall (SPEC). *Through February 19.*

### FILM

**18** *Against the Ropes*; followed by Q&A with producer Robert Cort; 7 p.m.; The Bridge Cinema de Lux; tickets required-free: Penn ID required, e-mail [events@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:events@sas.upenn.edu) (Penn Cinema Studies).

### MUSIC

**19** *Live Performance by Chris Mann*; in conjunction with the exhibit *The Plato Songs*; 6:30 p.m.; Slough Foundation (Slough).

### READING/SIGNING

**25** *Henry Skammell, Giantkillers: The Team and the Law That Help Whistle-blowers Recover America's Stolen Billions*; 12:30 p.m.; Penn Bookstore (Bookstore).

### TALKS

**17** *Title TBA*; Orly Castle Bloom, author; 3 p.m.; Class of 1949 Auditorium, Houston Hall (Middle East Center; Jewish Studies; Women's Studies).

**18** *Dynamic Role of the Microenvironment in Regulating Disease Pathogenesis*; Lisa Coussens, University of California, San Francisco; 10 a.m.; Grossman Auditorium, Wistar Institute (Wistar).

**19** *Enlarging Korea: Democracy, Division and Diaspora*; Jacqueline Pak, history; 2 p.m.; rm. B6, Vance Hall (Center for East Asian Studies).

*Without Passion or Partisanship: Florentine History in the Age of Cosimo I*; Ann Moyer, history; 4:30 p.m.; rm. 209, College Hall (History).

**25** *When Civil Rights Were Only A Dream: A Roundtable Discussion of Robert Penn Warren's Interviews for Who Speaks for the Negro?*; Kristi-

### RESEARCH

**Overweight** volunteers wanted for a study using the dietary supplement **chromium picolinate**, looking at its effects on improving risk factors for diabetes and heart disease such as cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugar. The Preventative Cardiology Program at the University of Pennsylvania seeks volunteers between the ages of 18 and 75 who are overweight or have high triglycerides, cholesterol, blood pressure, or high blood sugar, but no diabetes. Participants will receive free health assessments, study pills, and dietary counseling as well as compensation for time and travel. Contact Sheri Volger at (215) 898-8672 or [sheriv@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:sheriv@mail.med.upenn.edu).

**Participants with Hypertension** Needed for research study using herbal remedies. If you are diagnosed with mild hypertension, are 21 years or older, and are able to visit in the mornings every other week, please consider participation in this very interesting research project. Participants will receive free physical exam, lab work, EKG, 24 hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, and all medications. Compensation at completion \$1,400. Please call Virginia Ford, CRNP for more information, (215) 662-2410.

**Want To Lose Weight?** The UPenn Weight and Eating Disorders Program is offering a 2-year weight loss program beginning this February and March. Women aged 21-50 who are 50 or more pounds overweight (BMI 30-40) may be eligible. Please call Lauren at (215) 898-3184 to see if you qualify.

**Do you have colon cancer?** Do you have a living brother or sister who also has colon cancer? If so, you may be eligible to participate in a genetics study at The University of Pennsylvania. You may receive free and confidential genetic testing. To find out more about this study, call the University of Pennsylvania at (215) 349-5317 or toll free at 1-888-666-6002.

*Almanac* is not responsible for contents of classified ad material.

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

**Do you have High Cholesterol?** If so, are you worried about your risk of heart disease? Doctors at the University of Pennsylvania are studying the ability of an extract from the spice Turmeric (found in Curry Powder) to protect the heart. If you are between 18-75 years old and have high cholesterol you may be eligible to participate in our research study. Qualified participants will receive: Free medical exams, blood and urine tests, and study medication containing the extract. Compensation for your time and travel will be provided. Call (215) 662-9040 for more information.

**Women taking estrogen.** The University of Pennsylvania Health System seeks volunteers for a bone density medical research study. If you meet the following description, you may be eligible: Female, Ages 45-55, Taking estrogen or would like to take estrogen for menopausal symptoms. Contact: Helen Peachey at: (215) 898-5664 or [peacheyh@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:peacheyh@mail.med.upenn.edu). Volunteers are compensated.

Volunteers Needed for **Osteoporosis Study** The University of Pennsylvania Health System/ Department of Radiology seeks women 60 years or older. Eligible volunteers would receive a magnetic resonance (MRI) and a dual energy X-ray exam (DEXA) to measure bone density. Participants will be compensated. Please contact Louise Loh or Helen Peachey at (215) 898-5664 for more information.

**Healthy Newborn Participants Needed** for a research study comparing the feeding patterns and energy balance of infants with complex heart defects with those of healthy infants. A multidisciplinary team in the University of Pennsylvania and CHOP is looking for healthy newborns to participate in feeding studies at 2 weeks, 3, 9, and 12 months of age. Participants will receive free consultations and examinations of their baby's diet and energy balance and are compensated for travel. Call (215) 746-2741 for more information.

## CLASSIFIEDS—PERSONAL

### FOR RENT

**Beachblock-Ocean City, NJ** (Gardens): Weekly rentals, reasonable, Penn discount, sleeps six, all conveniences, parking, A/C, cable, call Steve (610) 565-1312.



*Almanac*

Suite 211 Nichols House  
3600 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106  
Phone: (215) 898-5274 or 5275 FAX: (215) 898-9137  
E-Mail: [almanac@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:almanac@pobox.upenn.edu)  
URL: [www.upenn.edu/almanac](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac)

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

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## 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 **February 2-8, 2004**. Also reported were 10 Crimes Against Property (including 9 thefts, and 1 act of vandalism). Full reports are on the web ([www.upenn.edu/almanac/v50/n22/crimes.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/v50/n22/crimes.html)). Prior weeks' reports are also online. —Ed.

This summary is prepared by the Division of Public Safety and includes all criminal incidents reported and made known to the University Police Department between the dates of **February 2-8, 2004**. The University Police actively patrol 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.

02/03/04	9:58 AM	3901 Locust Walk	Threatening email received
02/04/04	10:11 AM	3600 Chestnut St	Credit cards taken and unauthorized charges made
02/04/04	8:26 PM	3601 Walnut St	Male acting disorderly/Arrest
02/05/04	12:08 PM	3300 Walnut St	Complainant grabbed by unknown male
02/05/04	4:16 PM	4237 Walnut St	Store robbed at gunpoint
02/07/04	4:06 PM	3820 Locust Walk	Unauthorized withdraws from account

### 18th District Report

10 incidents and 2 arrests (including 4 robberies, 4 aggravated assaults, 1 homicide and 1 rape) were reported between **February 2-8, 2004** by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th St. & Market St. to Woodland Ave.

02/03/04	10:40 PM	5045 Walton Ave	Homicide
02/04/04	12:58 AM	301 52nd St	Aggravated Assault/Arrest
02/04/04	11:34 PM	125 44th St	Robbery
02/04/04	1:08 PM	4237 Walnut St	Robbery/Arrest
02/05/04	7:15 PM	1319 47th St	Aggravated Assault
02/07/04	12:50 AM	5735 Osage Ave	Aggravated Assault
02/07/04	12:50 AM	4805 Sansom St	Rape
02/07/04	12:50 AM	4632 Woodland Ave	Robbery
02/08/04	11:00 PM	900 49th St	Aggravated Assault
02/08/04	11:45 PM	5000 Pine St	Robbery

*In the two accounts that follow, Dr. Christina Frei and Dr. David Rousseau illustrate two ways instructional technologies can be used to solve a common teaching problem: how to facilitate active learning by students. The respective strategies employed by Dr. Frei and Dr. Rousseau are notable examples of how technologies like Blackboard, Wimba, and intercontinental video-conferencing can enhance the classroom experience of Penn students. In both cases, the instructional technology helped improve the face-to-face interaction between students and faculty that remains the lifeblood of a liberal arts education. Frei and Rousseau received funding from the School of Arts & Sciences to support the development of the technological applications described below. Funding for course related technological innovations is available from the SAS Instructional Technology Grants. More information can be found at [www.sas.upenn.edu/computing/instructional/grants/](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/computing/instructional/grants/).*

## Using Instructional Technology to Facilitate Active Learning

David Rousseau and Christina Frei, with John Noakes

### A More Active Engagement in International Relations

As each semester winds to a close, I construct a list entitled “changes for next time,” including ideas for new readings, assignments, and classroom exercises. Over the years, the list for my 200-student introductory international relations course routinely contained two items: increase emphasis on active learning and expand the breadth of viewpoints. No solution proved satisfactory, however, until I combined the power of technology with changes in course format. Technology is not a panacea for pedagogical problems, but it proved ideal for reducing two important barriers to learning in my course.

The introductory course, which is required for all international relations majors, meets for two hours of lecture and one hour of recitation each week. In addition to a midterm and final exam, students write five persuasive essays on topics such as “Should the U.S. Deploy a Ballistic Missile Defense?”

Although students occasionally asked substantive and clarification questions during lectures, the format encouraged “passive” learning. To begin changing this, I substituted student debates for three of the twenty-five lectures. During one term, a total of 56 students, working in teams of three to six, debated topics similar to those used for the written essays. To prepare for the debates they attended a general debate training session and participated in at least one practice debate under the supervision of the *Communication Within the Curriculum* (CWIC) program. Student evaluations of the course indicated that members of the audience and the debate participants viewed this format positively.

Given that I still wanted to expose students to the material presented in the traditional lectures, my research assistant and I created “web modules” which included 1) the text of the original lecture, 2) a web-based video of an interview with an academic on the subject; 3) a survey probing class opinion on the topic, 4) a web-based multiple choice quiz; 5) optional essay questions, and 6) case studies designed to bring the theoretical topics to life. The survey and case studies were explicitly designed to foster discussion in the recitation.

To tackle the perennial problem of limited points of view, I exploited two recent technological advances. I have long assigned readings by authors with competing perspectives, but students often failed to work through the implications of these alternative viewpoints. My solution to this problem was to link my students to students in a foreign university. Students from Penn and Sophia University in Japan read common readings posted on a Blackboard site during two different weeks in the Spring of 2001. The students then wrote persuasive essays (in English) on a common topic and exchanged them with their foreign partners. In the following week, the students were required to comment on the essay produced by their partner. At the end of the semester, using the SAS Innovative Learning Space Classroom in 319 Towne, subsets of the Penn and Sophia students participated in a video-conference discussion of a third topic.

By using Blackboard and video-conferencing technology to help achieve my teaching goals, I was able to create a more active learning environment and expand the breadth of viewpoints to which my students were exposed.

—David Rousseau

### Practicing Constructionism: The Homo.Cyber Project

*“In constructionist learning, forming new relationships with knowledge is as important as forming new representations of knowledge. Constructionism also emphasizes diversity: It recognizes that learners can make connections with knowledge in many different ways. Constructionist learning environments encourage multiple learning styles and multiple representations of knowledge.”<sup>1</sup>*

How can we use instructional technology to encourage students to take active responsibility for their learning and the learning of others? Network-based language teaching, i.e. course management sites such as Blackboard, computer mediated communication in asynchronous (threaded discussion, e-mail, group pages, etc.) and synchronous (chat and Wimba voice board chats) modes encourage the incorporation of student-centered computer-assisted language learning and teaching into the classroom.

In my German courses, computer-assisted language learning allows students to practice language competencies with authentic cultural materials and, in some cases, to publish their compositions on specific web sites. For instance my students in a fifth-semester conversation and composition course (GRMN 215) use Blackboard to create a common course web site in connection with their readings of an authentic literary text (among others: Max Frisch’s *Homo Faber*).

Working collaboratively, students create biographies and reviews of historical background and geography, analyze text, and construct exercises emphasizing integrated language competencies. Students then post their written work and images under Blackboard’s group page function and communicate with each other about their assignment in the threaded discussion environment. In addition, they create listening and reading exercises, compile essay and discussion questions, and generate vocabulary exercises using the free-ware *Hot Potatoes* (<http://web.uvic.ca/hrd/halfbaked/>). Finally, the web site is incorporated in the fourth-semester syllabus, where students use the peer generated information and exercises to help interpret an abridged version of the authentic literary text and as the basis of their in-class presentations.

Students take an active responsibility for their learning and the learning of others when given the opportunity to create meaningful materials for themselves and their peers. In the spirit of constructionist approaches to learning, these strategies make “multiple representations of knowledge” possible and position the learner as creator rather than as consumer of knowledge. When my students took authorship and ownership of their constructed knowledge (indeed, the students have the copyright of the web site they create) their motivation was deepened and they became more conscientious language creators and speakers. What is most rewarding to me as a teacher is the level of sophistication, interest and enthusiasm with which students create their material. In particular, *Hot Potatoes* exercises show how students enjoy creating diverse formats such as crossword puzzles, multiple choice, true and false, and fill in the blank questions—infusing these “usual suspects” of pedagogical tricks with their own readings, humor, and interpretation of the authentic text.

Should you have a moment, please visit the students’ website at <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/german/215/>. You are in for a treat!

—Christina Frei

<sup>1</sup> *Constructionism in Practice: Designing, Thinking, and Learning In a Digital World*. Ed. Yasmin Kafai and Michael Resnick. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates: Mahwah, 1996.

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*Dr. Christina Frei is the Language Program Coordinator and Lecturer in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.*

*Dr. David Rousseau is an Assistant Professor of Political Science.*

*Dr. John Noakes is Associate Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning and a Visiting Instructor in Sociology.*

*This essay resumes the series that began in the fall of 1994 as the joint creation of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Lindback Society for Distinguished Teaching.*

*See [www.upenn.edu/almanac/teach/teachall.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/teach/teachall.html) for the previous essays.*