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An Inaugural Procession, Ceremony, Luncheon, and Symposium

Dr. Amy Gutmann will be inaugurated as Penn's president on Friday, October 15. She is a world-renowned scholar committed to the core values of democratic societies—life, liberty, opportunity and mutual respect—and has a passion for improving access to higher education.

"While the Inauguration formally marks my investiture as Penn's eighth president," Dr. Gutmann said, "it is also a chance for all of us to celebrate and reflect upon Penn's achievements, identity and future."

The October 15 ceremonies will be preceded by a 10 a.m. procession—of Penn trustees, overseers, deans, standing faculty, senior officers, Inauguration program participants, alumni flag bearers, and 120 delegates representing academic institutions and learned societies—along Locust Walk to Irvine Auditorium (see map below), where the installation will get under way at 10:30 a.m. (Seating is limited to ticket holders.) However, the ceremony will be webcast and remote viewing sites will be located in Heilmeier Hall in the Towne Building, and in the 1st floor Auditorium in Jon M. Huntsman Hall. The webcast will be available at www.upenn.edu/inauguration/webcast.html.

A luncheon will follow at 12:30 p.m. at Blanche P. Levy Park, on College Green for the Penn community, alumni, Inauguration participants and guests. (Rain location: Houston Hall)

The Inaugural Symposium, *Rising to the Challenges of a Diverse Democracy*, will begin at 1:30 p.m. To register to attend a session visit www.upenn.edu/inauguration.

Mark Dorsey: Chief of Police

The University of Pennsylvania Police Department, after an extensive national search, is pleased to announce the appointment of former Philadelphia Police Inspector Mark J. Dorsey to the position of Chief of Police, effective November 1.



Mark Dorsey

Mr. Dorsey brings 27 years of municipal police experience to Penn, including supervision of the Narcotics Unit, the Dignitary Protection and Background Investigations Units. As the former Captain of the 15th Police District, Mr. Dorsey supervised over 300 sworn and civilian personnel. Mr. Dorsey also served as the Inspector of the Philadelphia Police City-wide Narcotics Strike Force, where he managed the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA); a multi-faceted program to reduce the cultivation, production, trafficking, distribution, and use of illegal drugs.

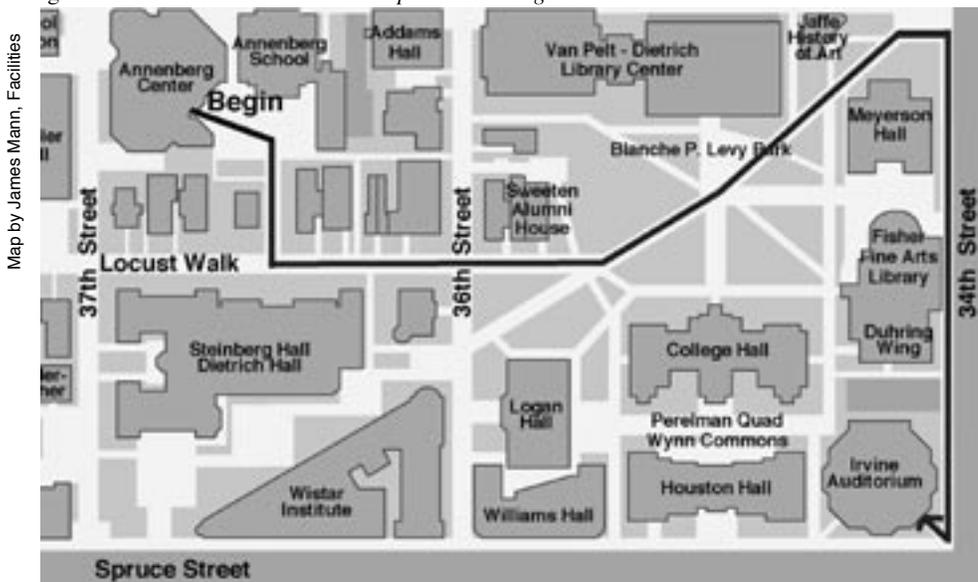
Most recently, Mr. Dorsey was the Public Safety Director for the Lakewood, New Jersey Police Department, and has served as the Director of Safety and Security at LaSalle University.

"I am extremely grateful to the Division of Public Safety Advisory Board, the University Safety and Security Committee, DPS Leadership Team, the United Minority Coalition, the Undergraduate Assembly, Graduate and Professional Student Associations and other faculty and staff members from across the University for their assistance in this process," said Maureen S. Rush, Vice President for Public Safety. "I have complete confidence in Mark's leadership abilities. He brings experience and a personal approach to community policing that will be a wonderful fit for the University Police Department."

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Pilot Fund Awards; Josephson Award; Guarding Against Online Identity Theft Scams; Speaking Out: Penn Talks Politics; Corrections
- 3 Honors & Other Things; Penn's Way 2005
- 4 Faculty Appointments and Promotions
- 5 Research Roundup
- 6 Trolley Day; Homecoming Weekend; Classifieds
- 7 Update; EHRs Training; CrimeStats; Classifieds
- 8 Talk About Teaching and Learning; Blackboard

Pullout: FOR COMMENT—Patent and Tangible Research Property Policies and Procedures



Liliane Weissberg: Christopher Browne Professor in Arts & Sciences

Dr. Liliane Weissberg, professor of Germanic languages and literatures, has been appointed the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in the Arts and Sciences, Dean Samuel H. Preston announced.

Dr. Weissberg is an extensively published scholar and frequent lecturer both in the U.S. and abroad. After completing her M.A. at the Freie Universität Berlin, she earned her A.M. and Ph.D. in comparative literature from Harvard. She came to Penn from Johns Hopkins in 1989 and was named the Joseph B. Glossberg Term Professor in the Humanities (*Almanac* October 21, 2003). She has had visiting appointments at universities throughout Germany.

Before her current term as graduate chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Dr. Weissberg served for seven years as chair of the Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory. She teaches a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses and is a member of the Center for Folklore and Ethnography, the graduate group in art history, the Jewish Studies Program, and the Women's Studies Program. Her commitment to teaching was recognized in 2003 with a Lindback Award.



Liliane Weissberg

This chair is one of five Browne Distinguished Professorships created by a \$10 million gift from Christopher Browne, C '69, to recognize faculty members who have achieved an extraordinary reputation for scholarly contributions and who have demonstrated great distinction in teaching and intellectual integrity. Mr. Browne has been a member of the SAS Board of Overseers since 1982 and became chairman in 1999. He has also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University since 1991 and is on several Trustee committees including the academic policy committee.

Association of International Education Administrators The Harold Josephson Award for Professional Promise in International Education

Penn faculty members are invited to submit nominations for The Harold Josephson Award for Professional Promise in International Education. The award recognizes emerging leadership in international education through the student's graduate study and research, especially research in the field of international education. Send nominations to Geoffrey Gee (ggee@pobox.upenn.edu), Office of International Programs, Suite 1W, 3701 Chestnut Street /3199. Mr. Gee is Penn's institutional representative to the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA).

The internal deadline at Penn for nominations is *November 1, 2004*. (Since Penn may nominate only one graduate student, Mr. Gee will convene a faculty advisory committee to select Penn's nominee.) Criteria for selection will include: demonstrated interest in the field of international education; research or completed graduate courses that demonstrate research skills and insights; other tangible recognition from the home institution (outstanding graduate teaching award, leadership in graduate governance on the campus, campus nomination for Fulbright, NSEP, or other nationally competitive awards).

Please note that the award consists of a \$1,000 travel grant to attend the annual conference of AIEA and complimentary conference registration. The award does not provide funds for research projects.

For more information on AIEA, see www.aieaworld.org. AIEA's annual conference will be held February 16-19 2005, in Washington, D.C.

Nomination forms are available at www.upenn.edu/oip/scholarships/graduate/index.html.

—Office of International Programs

RFP/Call for Proposals for Pilot Fund Awards

The Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Program at the University of Pennsylvania (RWJ H&SSP at Penn) is pleased to announce a Call for Proposals to promote interdisciplinary research and education in population health at Penn. We expect that most of these funds will be used by Penn faculty to develop pilot projects which will attract external support for larger-scale studies, or to develop enduring educational materials that will advance teaching and training in population health concepts or methods within the University. Approximately \$150,000 will be awarded under the current solicitation. We expect that most grants will be in the range of \$2,000 to \$20,000. The deadline for submitting applications is *November 15, 2004*. Awards will be announced December 15, 2004. See www.upenn.edu/rwjhssp for more information.

—Melissa A. Kulynych, Program Coordinator, RWJ Health & Society Scholars Program

The following Crime Alert was recently posted on the Division of Public Safety's web site; to see the other crime alerts visit, www.publicsafety.upenn.edu/Crime%20Alerts.asp?type=Crime.

Guarding Against Online Identity Theft Scams

Identity theft is now the # 1 consumer complaint in the United States. One in every 50 consumers has been a victim of identity theft. The fact is that most people are now being victimized by scammers and spammers through the internet by a process called phishing.

The term applies to scammers who are "phishing" for your private information such as your bank account, credit card information or worse, your identity. One of the most popular identity theft scams is to send spam to potential victims advising them that they need to visit a financial service's web site to update or confirm their personal information.

The URL in the scam e-mail sends the victim to a phony web site, and when the victim has divulged his or her personal and credit card information, the scammer then has the victim's identity or credit card information.

Some of the phony web sites were set up using the names of Citibank, First Union, Bank of America and lately, First Citizens Bank. Best Buys and E-Bay are also included in this scam.

Here is a sample of an e-mail: note the misspellings.

Subject: YOUR ONLINE BANKING ACCOUNT
Dear Online Banking Consumer,

This e-mail was sent by your Online Banking center to verify your e-mail address. You must complete this process by entering required information like your Online Banking login and password. This is done for your protection --- because some of our members no longer have access to their email addresses and we must verify it. Please, complete the following information:

Bank Routing/ABA Number (9 digits):

First 6 digits of your Banking Card:

Online Banking Login ID (CIN or CAN):

Your Online Banking Password (or PIN):

What do you do if you get an e-mail like this? Nothing. Delete the e-mail! It's a scam.

Legitimate banks and organizations may send you offers and coupons via e-mail, but they do NOT ask for your personal and banking information via e-mail.

If you have any question about the legitimacy of an e-mail, go to the official web site directly, or call or e-mail the company. Never click on the link in the e-mail.

ACTION: Never, ever, ever respond to e-mails that ask for personal info.

If you have any additional questions contact the Division of Public Safety at (215) 573-3333.

Speaking Out

Penn Talks Politics

Over the course of the next few weeks leading up to the election on November 2, Penn students will continually be encouraged to vote, and often asked to vote for a particular candidate. Students may attend voter education events or panels. On October 28, United Leaders—an organization dedicated to bringing idealism back to politics through young people—is encouraging all Penn students to take a break from listening to expert panels and party representatives and start talking politics. They are sponsoring an election discussion day to give students the opportunity to deliberate among themselves and with their professors.

One of the components of this election discussion day is faculty/student lunches and dinners. The idea is that students discuss the election with the professors and students that they interact with during a typical day. They are asking that faculty from all disciplines, not just political science or a related field, hold small group discussions with students in their courses. These discussions would ideally take place over a meal, lunch or dinner, but could occur at any time throughout the day. While professors certainly do not have to share their own personal politics if they do not so choose, we are encouraging professors to facilitate the conversation and to make a link to the topic of their course or research (if possible).

United Leaders will help facilitate these conversations by providing discussion points, if indicated. These are meant to be informal discussions among students and their professors, so United Leaders will not be directly involved in each individual discussion. However, we would appreciate it if we knew of plans to hold a discussion with students.

Please e-mail me at jbunn@wharton.upenn.edu with any questions and to let me know of your plans to participate.

—Jennifer Bunn, W '06
President, United Leaders

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.

Corrections

In the list of Penn's Previous Chief Executives, published in last week's issue, the middle name of Penn's third president was incorrect; he was Harold *Edward* Stassen. *Almanac* thanks his namesake, William Harold Stassen, Esq., for the information.

There were several faculty members who were inadvertently left off the list of Faculty Promotions which were published last week. See page 4 of this issue for those promoted, along with a list of Faculty Appointments.

—Eds.

Honors & Other Things

Friendship Award: Dr. MacDiarmid

Dr. Alan G. MacDiarmid, the Blanchard Professor of Chemistry and 2000 Nobel Laureate in chemistry, has received the Friendship Award from Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu. The annual Friendship Award was conferred on 84 foreign experts for their outstanding contributions to China's economic and social development. Dr. MacDiarmid was honored for his work as chairman of the Alan G. MacDiarmid Institute at Jilin University in Changchun, China, and as professor in Jilin University's Chemistry Department.

Gold Medal: Dr. Glatstein

Dr. Eli J. Glatstein, professor and vice chair of radiation oncology at the School of Medicine, has been named the 2004 Gold Medal recipient by the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO). Dr. Glatstein, who also serves as a member of the Abramson Cancer Center, is being honored for his more than 35 years of dedicated service in the field of radiation oncology. "Dr. Glatstein's career has been marked by several milestones," said Dr. John H. Glick, director of the Abramson Cancer Center. "It is through his pioneering efforts and dedication that physicians have been able to successfully diagnose and treat many cancers, such as Hodgkin's disease, with such precision. Dr. Glatstein represents the high caliber of physician-scientists working every day in service to others at the Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania."

Design Award: Penn Alexander

The Penn Alexander School has been recognized by the KnowledgeWorks Foundation as one of 14 schools in the nation that best exemplifies a growing national trend to build schools as centers of community. It was selected for the Honor Society and will become part of a new design "gallery" hosted by the foundation at www.nationalschoolsearch.org. "The Schools that have been selected for the Honor Society are all models of excellence when it comes to reaching out to the community," said Chad Wick, the foundation's president and CEO. "The building was designed to encourage shared use

by school and community. Equally important, the curriculum integrates the many cultural and historical assets in West Philadelphia," said Dr. Nancy Streim, associate dean at GSE. The Penn Alexander School—a model PreK-8 neighborhood public school—is the result of a unique partnership among Penn, the School District of Philadelphia and the Federation of Teachers to build an exemplary public school for West Philadelphia children.

Chair of HICPAC: Dr. Brennan

Dr. Patrick J. Brennan, professor of medicine at the School of Medicine and Chief of Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety at UPHS, has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Health and Human Services' Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) by Tommy Thompson, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. In his role as Chief of Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety, Dr. Brennan has introduced numerous system-wide patient safety initiatives. He is using this experience to help HICPAC in its quest to formulate ways to improve patient safety throughout the nation.

Research Fellowship: Mr. Marot

Mr. Sébastien Marot, a lecturer in the Department of landscape architecture, has been awarded a Canadian Centre for Architecture Study Centre Research Fellowship for 2004-2005 to investigate "Les Paysages du Temps: Art de la Mémoire et art d'espérer dans le Sub-urbanisme Contemporain."

Penn's Way Kick-Off

Who benefits from *Creating Our Community* together? The answer is simple: we all do! Penn's Way 2005 has just kicked off, and this year, we're asking you to help make *Creating Community Together* our biggest success ever! Logging on to www.upenn.edu/pennsway makes it easy to use Penn's Way as the vehicle to make a real difference in the lives of those individuals and families less fortunate. Your generosity provides much needed hope to so many in our community.

This year, participating in Penn's Way will be easy, efficient and most of all secure. Thanks again to the collaborative efforts of the Comptroller's Office, Human Resources, ISC, the Penn's Way campaign administration and our charitable partners, Penn's Way Online is back and here to stay! We urge you to utilize this great innovation. Full details and instructions, including a searchable database of much-deserving organizations that you can choose to support, are available online at www.upenn.edu/pennsway.

As in previous years, the Penn's Way 2005 campaign allows you to contribute to your choice of thousands of local charities, and it includes weekly raffles with an excellent variety of prizes. The drawing will be held weekly to thank the Penn's Way participants and Week One's raffle will include vouchers for two round-trip tickets for domestic air travel among other prizes. This year's campaign will run through December 10, so log on to www.upenn.edu/pennsway with your pledge early and don't miss out on the first week's drawings.

Thank you again for your generosity. Remember, no pledge is too small!

—Maureen S. Rush

—Neville Strumpf

Penn's Way 2005 Campaign Co-Chairs

Chair of UCD Board: Mr. Blaik

University City District (UCD) Board of Directors elected *Omar Blaik*, senior vice president for Facilities and Real Estate Services, to its Chairmanship last month. Mr. Blaik has led the effort to enhance the quality of life on campus and in the neighborhood. Under his leadership, Penn has received many prestigious awards. He commented on his new position and UCD's community commitment. "I am honored to assume the role of chair of UCD, an organization that everyday enhances the quality of life in University City with programs in cleaning and marketing. I am particularly proud of the partnership between Penn's public safety and UCD's safety programs. This gives us the foundation to meet new challenges and set new goals for making University City thrive."

Consumer Choice Award: HUP

HUP has been named a 2004-2005 Consumer Choice Award winner by the National Research Corporation. This award identifies HUP as one of 187 top hospitals in the nation that have been recognized by consumers for providing quality healthcare services. The Consumer Choice Award reflects the growing role of consumer choice in the healthcare field. Winners are determined by consumer perceptions on quality and image ratings collected in National Research Corporation's Annual Healthcare Market Guide study. Garry Scheib, executive director of HUP and chief operating officer of UPHS, said "HUP's recognition—by the people it serves—as one of the nation's top hospitals is truly a tribute to the dedication and commitment of its physicians, nurses, and staff in providing quality patient care."

Penn's Way 2005

To be eligible for the prizes during Week One (October 9-15), you must participate online at www.upenn.edu/pennsway or turn in your completed pledge form sealed in a confidential Penn's Way envelope to the Payroll office by 5 p.m. on Friday, *October 15*. See last week's issue for a list of Week One prizes.

Prizes for Week Two: October 16-22

Pledge forms are due *October 22* and will be drawn on *October 25*.

Prizes are donated by the business or organization at which they are valid, unless otherwise noted.

- Business Services—One book of 10 passes for the Class of 1923 Ice Rink
- World Café Live—two tickets to Sandra Bernhard's November 5 show
- Department of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics—four certificates for one-hour court sessions at Levy Tennis Pavillion
- Picnic—Vintage picnic basket with lunch for two
- Business Services—Family membership to the Morris Arboretum
- Penn Museum—Family Membership
- Business Services—Gift certificate for two for dinner at Penne

—Robert Eich,

Penn's Way 2005 Campaign Coordinator



Trustees' Fall Meetings: October 14

Meetings will be held at the Inn at Penn. The following meetings are open to the Penn community.

8:45 to 9:45 a.m.

Facilities & Campus Planning Committee, Woodlands AB

10 to 11 a.m.

Student Life Committee, Thomas Webb Richards Suite

Neighborhood Initiatives Committee, Woodlands CD

11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Budget & Finance Committee, Woodlands AB

Academic Policy Committee, Thomas Webb Richards Suite

External Affairs Committee, Woodlands CD

2:15 to 3 p.m.

Stated Meeting, Woodlands AB

From the list of Provost Staff Conference Meetings are gleaned those actions reflecting movement into or within the Standing Faculty including appointments in all schools. In the health schools, where reappointments sometimes include movement from the associated faculty (not in the standing faculty) to the clinician-educator (C-E) track (standing faculty, but not tenure-accruing), those actions are published. Note that C-E titles are recognizable by the form of title, "Professor of _____ at (affiliated institution)."

All appointments are effective July 1, 2004 unless otherwise noted.

Actions marked (*) involve additions to tenured ranks through appointment, promotion, or conversion.

Faculty Appointments

January 1, 2004 through October 1, 2004

In the Non-Health Schools

School of Arts & Sciences

Dr. Karen Beckman as Assistant Professor of History of Art
Dr. Cristina Bicchieri as Professor of Philosophy*
Dr. Thadious M. Davis as Professor of English*
Dr. Peter Decherney as Assistant Professor of English
Dr. Douglas J. Durian as Professor of Physics and Astronomy*
Dr. Tulia G. Falleti as Assistant Professor of Political Science
Dr. Si-Yen Fei as Assistant Professor of History
Dr. Antonio Feros as Associate Professor of History*
Dr. Angela Gibney as Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Amy Gutmann as Professor of Political Science*
Dr. Kristen Harknett as Assistant Professor of Sociology
Dr. Michael Hippler as Assistant Professor of Biology
Dr. Benjamin P. Horton as Assistant Professor of Earth & Environmental Science
Dr. Bryan D. Jones as Professor of Political Science*
Dr. Michael J. Kahana as Professor of Psychology*
Dr. Donald F. Kettl as Professor of Political Science*
Dr. James Ker as Assistant Professor of Classical Studies
Dr. Richard Mishel Leventhal as Professor of Anthropology*
Dr. Andrea J. Liu as Professor of Physics and Astronomy*
Dr. Laura Felicia Matusevich as Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Richard F. Murray as Assistant Professor of Psychology
Dr. Adolph L. Reed, Jr. as Professor of Political Science*
Dr. Gabriella Safran as Associate Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures*
Dr. Heiner Schulz as Assistant Professor of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Dr. Tatyana M. Svitkina as Assistant Professor of Biology
Dr. Evelyn Jean Thomson as Assistant Professor of Physics & Astronomy

Graduate School of Education

Dr. William H. Schmidt as Professor of Psychology in Education

School of Design

Dr. Laura Briggs as Assistant Professor of Architecture
Dr. Randall Mason as Associate Professor of City & Regional Planning
Dr. Lynne B. Sagalyn as Professor of City and Regional Planning*
Dr. Rachel R. Weinberger as Assistant Professor of City & Regional Planning

School of Engineering and Applied Science

Dr. Christopher S. Chen as Associate Professor of Bioengineering*
Dr. Hang Lu as Assistant Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Dr. Milo M. K. Martin as Assistant Professor of Computer and Information Science
Dr. Ravi Radhakrishnan as Assistant Professor of Bioengineering
Dr. Andrew Tsourkas as Assistant Professor of Bioengineering
Dr. Shu Yang as Assistant Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
Dr. Mark Yim as Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics*

Law School

Dr. Theodore W. Ruger as Assistant Professor of Law

School of Social Work

Dr. Joan K. Davitt as Assistant Professor of Social Work
Dr. Laura Ann McCloskey as Associate Professor of Social Work

Wharton

Dr. Benjamin A. Campbell as Assistant Professor of Management
Dr. Saikat Chaudhuri as Assistant Professor of Management
Dr. Gerson (Gary) Dushnitsky as Assistant Professor of Management
Dr. Itay Goldstein as Assistant Professor of Finance
Dr. Scott Harrington as Professor of Health Care Systems*
Dr. Thomas N. Hubbard as As-

sociate Professor of Business and Public Policy*

Dr. Dawn Iacobucci as Professor of Marketing*

Dr. Katherine J. Klein as Professor of Management*

Dr. Betsey Stevenson as Assistant Professor of Business & Public Policy

Dr. Kevin Werbach as Assistant Professor of Legal Studies

Dr. Justin Wolfers as Assistant Professor of Business & Public Policy

In the Health Schools

School of Medicine

Dr. Geoffrey K. Aguirre as Assistant Professor of Neurology
Dr. Ian M. Bennett as Assistant Professor of Family Practice & Community Medicine
Dr. Marcia S. Brose as Assistant Professor of Otorhinolaryngology: Head & Neck Surgery
Dr. Jason A. Campagna as Assistant Professor of Anesthesia
Dr. Noam A. Cohen as Assistant Professor of Otorhinolaryngology
Dr. Jeffrey A. Drebin as Professor of Surgery 08-03*
Dr. Keith T. Flaherty as Assistant Professor of Medicine
Dr. Lee A. Fleisher as Professor of Anesthesia*
Dr. Mark S. Forman as Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Dr. Christian I. Fras as Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Dr. Joshua R. Friedman as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Dr. Benoit I. Giasson as Assistant Professor of Pharmacology
Dr. Max B. Kelz as Assistant Professor of Anesthesia
Dr. Jake A. Kushner as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Dr. Kenneth W. Liechty as Assistant Professor of Surgery
Dr. Scott A. Lorch as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Dr. Steven O. Marx as Assistant Professor of Medicine
Dr. Mahlet G. Tadesse as Associate Professor of Biostatistics and Epidemiology
Dr. J. Paul Taylor as Assistant Professor of Neurology

School of Nursing

Dr. Karen O. Badellino as Assistant Professor of Nursing
Dr. Christopher Lance Coleman as Assistant Professor of Nursing
Dr. Nancy Prudence Hanrahan as Assistant Professor of Nursing
Dr. Linda A. McCauley as Professor of Nursing*
Dr. Stella Lucia Volpe as Associate Professor of Nursing

School of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Anna S. Kashina as Assistant Professor of Biochemistry
Dr. Andras Komaromy as Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology-Clinical Studies-Philadelphia
Dr. Charles H. Vite as Assistant Professor of Neurology-Clinical Studies-Philadelphia

Faculty Promotions

In the Non-Health Schools

School of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Frank Schorfheide to Associate Professor of Economics*

School of Engineering and Applied Science

Dr. Susan S. Margulies to Professor of Bioengineering

Wharton School

Dr. Nicolaj Siggelkow to Associate Professor of Management*

Dr. Christian Terwiesch to Associate Professor of Operations and Information Management*

Dr. Yu-Sheng Zheng to Professor of Operations and Information Management

In the Health Schools

School of Medicine

Dr. Daniel A. Albert to Professor of Medicine C.-E., HUP, CHOP (7/01/03)

Dr. Jean Bennett to Professor of Ophthalmology

Dr. Louis P. Bucky to Associate Professor of Surgery, C.-E., Pennsylvania Hospital, HUP, CHOP

Dr. Robert J. Goldman to Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation C.-E., HUP, Presbyterian, Pennsylvania Hospital

Dr. Abbas F. Jawad to Associate Professor of Biostatistics in Pediatrics C.-E., CHOP

Dr. Joel E. Streim to Professor of Psychiatry C.-E., HUP

Big Cities and Small Towns: Similar Risks of Gun Death

Americans in small towns are as likely to die from gunfire as people in major cities, according to a new study from Penn's School of Medicine—with one key distinction. "The difference is who does the shooting," says lead author Dr. Charles C. Branas, assistant professor of epidemiology. Dr. Branas and his colleagues found that when looking at all deaths by firearms, the risk of being murdered with a gun in large cities and the risk of committing suicide with a gun in rural areas were almost identical.

After adjusting for income, education, employment rates, and other factors, the most rural counties had over 1.5 times the rate of gun suicides compared to the most urban counties. At the same time, urban areas experienced almost twice the gun homicide rate of the most rural counties.

The investigators analyzed urban-rural differences in deaths—homicides and suicides—using over 580,000 death certificates from 1989 to 1999 in all counties in the United States. Their findings are reported in the October issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*.

In the 1990s, a great deal of legislation was aimed at reducing gun homicide, which decreased in the U.S. by about 5 percent per year. Much of this decrease was in big cities. But almost no attention has been paid to gun suicide, which increased by about 1 to 2 percent per year, most starkly in rural areas, over the same period.

The study also found that the same trend for gun death did not hold true for urban-versus-rural differences in non-gun methods of suicide or homicide. Thus, guns clearly functioned differently from other methods. But why the urban-rural difference? "We didn't directly account for differences in availability of guns by location, but we can speculate how that might have affected our results," says Dr. Branas, referring to the larger percentage of gun owners in rural areas versus cities. "A major take-home message from these findings is that although prevention efforts must be continued in big cities, dispelling the urban myth that gun death does not touch areas outside of big cities should be a high priority."

T Cell's Memory: Immunity to Leishmaniasis

Researchers at Penn have discovered a "central memory" form of "helper" T cells that can offer immunity to leishmaniasis, a disease that causes a significant number of deaths and disfigurement across the globe and has been found in U.S. military personnel returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

In the October issue of *Nature Medicine*, the researchers describe how the discovery can offer immunity to leishmaniasis, even without the persistent presence of the parasite that caused the disease. Their findings encourage a new approach to creating a vaccine against leishmaniasis and other immune cell mediated diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Attempts to create a vaccine for leishmaniasis have long been stymied by the fact that helper T cells, which coordinate the immune response against a pathogen, need constant stimulation from the pathogen in order to remain effective against the disease.

Most common in North Africa, the Middle East and Asia, leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease spread by the bite of sand flies infected with the protozoan *Leishmania*. The Centers for Disease Control report that each year the world sees 1.5 million new cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis, which infects the skin, causing scarring boils, and 500,000 new cases of visceral leishmaniasis, which infects internal organs, causing death if left untreated.

While people who recover from leishmaniasis generally develop life-long immunity to reinfection, this has been thought to depend upon the continued presence of the *Leishmania* parasite. Indeed, it has been shown in mice that if the parasite is entirely removed, the host can become reinfected. Dr. Phillip Scott of pathobiology at the School of Veterinary Medicine and his colleagues wondered if, despite the apparent loss of immunity when the parasites disappeared, there were any T cells that still retained memory of *Leishmania*. Recent studies have shown that memory T cells may be of more than one type, including a "central memory" T cell variation found in lymph nodes. Since little is known about CD4+ T cell memory during chronic disease, the Penn researchers set out to find if such central memory cells exist in *Leishmaniasis*. The hunt for the theoretical CD4+ central memory T cells began by transferring T cells from mice infected with *Leishmaniasis* to mice who had never faced the disease. Tests revealed that some of the transferred T cells went to the lymph nodes, and had the characteristics of central memory cells.

"We see that these central memory T cells—but not the effector T cells—persist in the absence of obvious parasites for as long as five months," Dr. Scott said. "Since we still do not know much about these new T cells, our next step is to find out how we can encourage the proliferation of central memory cells and stimulate them to fight disease."

Common Butterfly: Actually 10 Different Species

A common butterfly, found in a variety of habitats from the southern U.S. to northern Argentina, is actually comprised of at least 10 separate species, according to researchers from Penn.

Astraptes fulgerator, a medium-large skipper butterfly, is a routine visitor to urban gardens and tropical rainforests. While the "species" has been known to science since 1775, only now has examination of a small and standardized signature piece of the genome—a technique called DNA barcoding—shown that this "species" is really an amalgam of a number of genetically distinct lineages, each with different caterpillars and preferences in food plant and ecosystem.

Dr. Daniel Janzen, the Thomas G. and Louise E. DiMaura Endowed Term Professor of Conservation Biology, and co-author of the study, and his colleagues reported their findings in the September 29 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Their research began during a 25-year-long inventory of the wildlife in the Area de Conservación Guanacaste, a large conservation zone of dry, rain and cloud forests in northwestern Costa Rica. They noticed that, amid the more than 2,500 wild-caught caterpillars of *A. fulgerator*, many could be separated by slight variations in color, which then could be linked to the particular plants the caterpillars ate.

It soon became obvious that *A. fulgerator* was, indeed, a complex of a number of separate species whose adult forms looked remarkably similar. When the centuries-old method of telling insects apart—the examination of their genitalia by John Burns at the Smithsonian Institution—proved inconclusive, the team turned to a recently emerging method for discriminating species: DNA "barcoding."

Dr. Paul Hebert, of the University of Guelph, and Erin Penton, a student at the University of Guelph, were able to extract the necessary DNA from 484 adult butterflies—all raised from the much larger pool of caterpillars caught in Costa Rica by Dr. Janzen, Winnie Hallwachs and a team of 17 Costa Rican parataxonomists—despite the fact that these butterflies have been dried museum specimens for as long as 23 years. Where possible, they included at least 20 individuals from each group of food plant, color variation and preferred habitat. As a result, they found 10 distinct species within the group known as *A. fulgerator* in an area the size of the greater Philadelphia area and as many as six species in a place no larger than the 262-acre Penn campus.

Artistic Expression: Need Not End After Brain Damage

What happens to visual artists that experience brain damage? And what can it tell us about how humans represent the world? According to Dr. Anjan Chatterjee, associate professor in the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience at the School of Medicine, brain damage does not necessarily end the ability to produce compelling works of art; additionally, artists with brain damage can provide useful information on the nature of artistic expression. In a review article published in *Neuropsychologia* (Volume 42, Issue 11), Dr. Chatterjee draws on nearly 50 research articles and books, and finds that, "Artists with neuropsychological deficits do not necessarily produce art of lesser quality. Rather, their art may change in content or in style, sometimes in surprising and aesthetically pleasing ways." Not only does this collection illustrate various forms and changes in perception, but it also suggests that continuing research in the field could bring about new therapies that could help patients with brain damage.

Dr. Chatterjee finds that artists are still susceptible to visuo-spatial deficits caused by brain damage but, because of their skill, they are "often quite eloquent in expressing these deficits."

For instance, those that suffer from aphasia have difficulties communicating verbally. However, rather than having a uniform effect, the impact of aphasia on communicating through art can be quite variable. Dr. Chatterjee cites a description of a French painter that did not experience any changes in his artistic skills or style; critics did believe that he had found a "more intense and acute expression." The painter explained: "When I am painting I am outside my life; my way of seeing things is even sharper than before; I find everything again; I am a whole man. ..."

Dr. Chatterjee asks if artists who suffer from diffuse cognitive impairment, such as from Alzheimer's and autism, experience a drastic impairment of their artistic production. Surprisingly, this is not the case. As seen with artists who suffer from selective neuropsychological deficits, artistic skills are relatively preserved and sometimes even enhanced.

By bringing all of these scattered accounts into one body of literature, Dr. Chatterjee raises intriguing themes relevant to the nature of artistic expression and proposes that art is worth considering as a neuropsychological probe. Continuing research that focuses on these themes could bring exciting developments in various therapies for brain damage—including, of course, art therapy—and unlock perceptual mysteries of the mind.

Trolley Day: Where 1938 Meets Today on the Tracks



University City District invites everyone to participate in UC Trolley Day, “where 1938 meets today on the tracks.” On Saturday, October 16, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., SEPTA, the University City Historical Society, University of Pennsylvania, and University City District will be encouraging everybody to taste, hear, and see the modern and historic charms of University City. Free rides will be available all day on three newly renovated 1930s era Philadelphia trolley cars. These cars will operate in a continuous loop, connecting riders to concerts, historic home and garden tours, restaurants, bakeries, shops, farmers’ markets, museum displays, book sales, and tree plantings.

UC Trolley Day will be the passenger debut for SEPTA’s restored PCC cars. These cars originally ran in Philadelphia from the late 1930s to the early 1990s. Light, agile, and now air-conditioned, the 18-car fleet was rebuilt to operate on the route #15 Girard Avenue trolley line, reintroducing lost connections between West Philadelphia, Fairmount, and Northern Liberties.

The construction of horsecar lines in the late 1850s and their electrification in the mid-1890s enabled the conversion of the neighborhood from a collection of estates and farms into a thriving residential area. Federally designated as a “historic trolley car suburb,” much of University City retains the streets, trains, housing, institutions, and parks that were constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The neighborhood also enjoys recent developments such as new retail and restaurants, park renovation, and an influx of new families choosing to call the neighborhood home.

“UC Trolley Day showcases University City’s brilliant present by riding on a shining piece of the past,” says Mike Hardy, one of Trolley Day organizers and member of the University City Historical Society. “We invite you to pick up free tickets at many locations throughout University City including UCD’s office at 3940 Chestnut Street.” The trolleys will loop south through the Penn campus along 40th Streets, West on Spruce and 42nd Street to Baltimore Avenue, South on 49th Street, and East on Chester Avenue.

Riders will be able to board and disembark at more than 15 locations throughout the neighborhood approximately every 20 minutes. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., trolley riders will be free to enjoy the following attractions during their tour:

- Tour historic houses and gardens (on the 4500 block of Chester Avenue) including visits to the Gables, a Victorian bed and breakfast, and private homes and gardens on this intact block designed by Willis G. Hale in 1888.
- Attend book signings of Joel Spivack’s *Philadelphia Trolleys* and Robert Skaler’s *West Philadelphia, University City to 52nd Street*, purchase *UC Architectural Treasures* posters highlighting images of the area’s famed peri-

od architecture, and experience *University City Then and Now*, a beautiful and informative slide presentation at the UCHS office at Calvary Center, 48th and Baltimore Avenue.

- Visit The Rotunda at 4014 Walnut Street to experience a variety of crafts from oil paintings, prints and sculptures to clothing, handbags, mirrors, and footstools, with posters, zines, and more. All the items for sale are handcrafted by Philadelphia artists. Plus, noon-2 p.m.: Russell Kutcher & Eric Coyne perform Classical duets for cello and violin with members of the Muhlenberg Piano Quartet and the Haddonfield Symphony Orchestra.

- Tour the Lower Mill Creek Garden (a joint project of the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, UC Green, Baltimore Avenue in Bloom and the Philadelphia Water Department) at 43rd and Chester.

- Meet at SE corner of 43rd and Chester for registration and demonstration tree planting. Break into teams to plant 50 “underwire” trees appropriately sized for planting under PECO’s high-voltage wires at various locations in University City. Join University City Tree Tenders, neighbors, and USP students in this greening event.

- See a photography exhibition at the University City Arts League at 42nd and Spruce Sts.

- Visit the pharmacy museum at the Marvin Sansom Center for the History of Pharmacy at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Main Floor, Griffith Hall, 600 S. 43rd Street.

- Enjoy international cuisine along Baltimore Avenue from Italy, Laos, Thailand, Africa, India, and Eclectic American including the newly reopened Marigold Kitchen at 45th and Larchwood.

- Shop for fresh and organic groceries at the Firehouse Market, 50th and Baltimore; Fresh Grocer, 40th and Walnut; and the Clark Park Farmers Market, 43rd and Baltimore.

- Purchase baked goods: at Sugar Hill Bakery, 49th and Baltimore; Metropolitan Bakery, 40th and Walnut; Genuine Bread and Specialty Shoppe at 45th and Springfield Avenue.

- Experience Philadelphia’s largest Tiffany windows at the Calvary Center, 48th and Baltimore, as part of the historic Calvary Church of 1895.

- Enjoy coffee or water ice at the Green Line, 43rd and Baltimore; the Paris Café, 41st and Walnut; the Bucks County Coffee House, 40th and Locust; La Naz Café, 47th and Baltimore and Café d’Afrique, 45th and Baltimore Ave.

- See a movie at The Bridge Cinema de Lux, 40th and Walnut.

- Have a drink at the new Mar Bar, 40th and Walnut; Copa, 40th and Spruce; Mill Creek Tavern, 41st and Chester; Gojjo’s, 45th and Baltimore; Dahlak’s, 47th and Baltimore; The Library at the Inn at Penn, 37th and Walnut.

- Get your membership card and borrow a book from the newly restored Walnut West Library, 40th and Walnut.

- Visit Clark Park, University City’s largest public space, at 43rd and Chester avenues and see the only statue of Charles Dickens in existence.

- Experience West Philadelphia Streetcar Suburb Historic District in style (as you travel through portions of the Cedar Park and Spruce Hill neighborhoods still laced with functioning trolley tracks, a prime factor for their original development and one of the special amenities and opportunities for their future desirability for living in the 21st century).

Homecoming Weekend

Homecoming Weekend, October 15-17, not only has events for alumni, there are also events open to the entire Penn community. See www.alumni.upenn.edu/homecoming2004/.

70th Alumni Award of Merit Gala, October 15: outstanding alumni will be honored, including two young alumni with the first Young Alumni Award; performance by Gabriel Mann, C ’95. *Dinner Reception*, 6 p.m., Left Bank; *Awards Presentation*, 7:30 p.m., World Café Live. Tickets: \$75 and \$65. Register on-line at www.alumni.upenn.edu/homecoming2004/ or call (215) 898-7811.

Tailgate on the Green, October 16: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Locust Walk, 34th-36th Sts. Entertainment by the Penn Band and student performing arts groups, crafts and games for the kids.

Football Game: Penn vs. Columbia, October 16: 1 p.m., Franklin Field; tickets: \$25, \$20, \$10. For tickets call the Ticket Office at (215) 898-6151 or visit www.pennathletics.com to purchase tickets online.

Film Screening and Book Signing with the Author, October 16: The Bridge: Cinema De Lux. *Friday Night Lights*, based on the book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Buzz Bissinger, C ’76, 7 p.m., book signing at 6 p.m. Penn price: \$7.50, includes popcorn and a beverage. Call (215) 898-7814 to purchase tickets in advance.

CLASSIFIEDS—UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH

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.

Researchers at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia are seeking **families/individuals with high myopia** (nearsightedness) to identify causal genes. High myopia may lead to blinding disorders such as retinal detachments, glaucoma, macular degeneration and premature cataracts. Participants must have onset of myopia before 12 years of age, and refractive prescription of 5.00 diopters or more. A free eye examination for glasses may be provided if needed. Contact Valerie Savage at savagev@email.chop.edu or (267) 426-5380.

The University of Pennsylvania is providing a FREE screening for risk of **heart disease and diabetes**. This no-obligation, free 30 minute screening including cholesterol and blood sugar testing may qualify you to participate in a wide range of research studies. These studies include alternative and traditional therapies to prevent heart disease and diabetes. To learn more about these studies, or to schedule your free screening, call (215) 662-9036.

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. The Preventative Cardiology Program seeks volunteers 18 to 75 years old who are overweight AND have high either high triglycerides, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, or high blood sugar, but no diabetes. Participants will be compensated for time and travel. Contact Sheri Volger at 215-898-8672 or sheriv@mail.med.upenn.edu.

Paid research study: Healthy, non-smoking, normal weight white men & women 35-58 years-old needed for study looking at the **effect of sugar and protein on hormones**. Involves blood sampling and one overnight stay in the hospital. Pays \$150. Please contact Rebecca Mueller at (215) 615-0523.

Do you have Arthritis in Your Knees? Would you like to participate in a study designed to find out if acupuncture may help you walk better and decrease the pain? The study compares real acupuncture using needles that do not puncture the skin in patients who need physical therapy. Call Pat Williams for information at (215) 898-3038.

Update

October AT PENN

CHANGES

The time has changed for the October 13 talk *Latinity of Loss*. The reception is at 5:30 p.m. followed by the talk at 6 p.m. in Cherpac Lounge, rm. 543, Williams Hall.

The African-American Resource Center's welcome reception for Penn's new Vice President and Chief of Staff, Joann Mitchell has been rescheduled for *November 11* at 4 p.m. Call (215) 898-0101 for the location.

The workshop *Do Employees Have Rights at Penn?* has been rescheduled for *October 14* at noon in the Fireside Lounge, ARCH Building.

EXHIBITS

Now *That Which is Known and Unknown*; a subharmonic sound installation featuring a range of mild to intense vibrations; Slough Foundation. *Through November 6*.

16 *Mimesis*; paintings and drawings by local artist Corliss Cavalieri; reception: *October 22*, 5:30 p.m., Burrison Gallery. *Through November 28*.

FILMS

13 *Good Bye, Lenin!*; German w/English subtitles; 8 p.m.; Lounge, Gregory College House (Modern Languages Program).

16 *Friday Night Lights*; book signing with author Buzz Bissinger, C '76, 6 p.m.; screening, 7 p.m.; The Bridge: Cinema De Lux, 40th and Walnut; \$7.50 advanced tickets: (215) 898-7814 (Cinema Studies).

18 *The Manchurian Candidate*; 8:30 p.m.; Film Lounge, Van Pelt Manor (Gregory College House).

20 *A Trial in Prague*; 6:30 p.m.; rm. 110, Annenberg School (Slavic Languages & Literatures).

Get On Board Express Almanac: Sign up to receive e-mail notification when we post breaking news between issues. Send an e-mail to listserv@lists.upenn.edu with "subscribe e-almanac <your full name>" in the body of the message. —Ed.

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 **September 27-October 3, 2004**. Also reported were 16 Crimes Against Property (including **15 thefts and 1 act of vandalism**). Full reports are on the web (www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v51/n06/creport.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 **September 27-October 3, 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.

09/27/04	2:12 AM	40th & Spruce	Male relieving himself on highway/Cited
09/27/04	8:47 AM	4111 Walnut St	Unwanted calls received
09/27/04	11:56 AM	4201 Walnut St	Male refused to leave area/Arrest
09/27/04	7:33 PM	4001 Walnut St	Male wanted on warrant/Arrest
09/30/04	6:13 AM	51 N 39th St	Male wanted on warrant/Arrest
09/30/04	10:25 AM	3744 Spruce St	Male obstructing highway/Cited
10/01/04	1:26 PM	40th & Market	Male acting disorderly/Cited
10/02/04	10:17 AM	40th & Walnut	Male wanted on warrant/Arrest
10/03/04	2:16 AM	40th & Walnut	Female driving intoxicated/Arrest

18th District Report

10 incidents and 2 arrests (including 2 aggravated assaults and 8 robberies) were reported between **September 27-October 3, 2004** by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th St. & Market St. to Woodland Ave.

09/27/04	7:00 PM	4944 Walnut St	Robbery
09/28/04	1:52 AM	6 Farragut St	Robbery/Arrest
09/28/04	11:43 AM	3980 Market St	Aggravated Assault
09/28/04	8:10 PM	4700 Cedar Ave	Robbery
09/29/04	5:20 PM	4600 Cedar Ave	Robbery
09/30/04	4:50 AM	4901 Baltimore Ave	Robbery/Arrest
09/30/04	8:30 PM	5100 Hazel Ave	Robbery
10/02/04	10:30 PM	5100 Ludlow St	Aggravated Assault
10/03/04	1:26 AM	5000 Catherine St	Robbery
10/03/04	8:20 AM	4725 Chester Ave	Robbery

FITNESS/LEARNING

19 *Vin, Fromage et Bonne Compagnie*; a get-together for the French community at Penn; 5 p.m.; rm. 541, Williams Hall (French Institute).

Office of Community Housing
Workshops at noon and 1 p.m.
Register: laedonal@pobox.upenn.edu.

13 *Components of An Agreement of Sale*; 4046 Walnut St.

14 *Community Housing 101*; ste. 440, 3401A Walnut St.

20 *Tips for the First Time Homebuyer*; ste. 440, 3401A Walnut St.

21 *Maximizing the Value of Your Home*; ste. 440, 3401A Walnut St.

TALKS

12 *America's Recent Economic Performance: Lessons for the Future*; Joseph Stiglitz, Columbia; noon; rm. 351, Steinberg Hall-Dietrich Hall (Wharton).

14 *Can Islam and Democracy Coexist?*; Azizah Al-Hibri, University of Richmond; 7:15 p.m.; Terrace Room, Logan Hall (SPEC; Chaplain's Office; GAPSA; GIC; Hamilton House; Tangible Change).

15 *The Conquest of Algeria and the Cultural Politics of Colonial Commemoration, in Post-Revolutionary France*; Jennifer Sessions, history; 4:30 p.m.; rm. 541, Williams Hall; for readings e-mail edmccart@sas.upenn.edu (French Institute).

18 *Economic Integration of Reunified Korea*; Byoung Se Cho, former Senior Secretary to the Prime Minister and Vice Minister in the Korean Government; 4:30 p.m.; rm. B11, Vance Hall (Center for East Asian Studies).

Science-Religion Perspectives: Traditional, Modern, and Post-modern; Varadaraja Raman, Rochester Institute of Technology; 5 p.m.; Auditorium, Hillel Center (Metanexus Institute).

Deadlines: The deadline for the November AT PENN calendar is today, *October 12*. For more information see www.upenn.edu/almanac/calendar/caldead-real.html.

EHRIS Training

The next live training program is: *Introduction to Laboratory and Biological Safety at Penn*: October 18, 1:15–4 p.m., Class of '62, John Morgan Building.

Please arrive early. Sign-in, 1–1:15 p.m.; no admittance to the course after 1:15 p.m. Penn ID is required. A Certificate of Completion will be granted at the end of the training session.

This combined training program provides a comprehensive overview of safe work practices in the biomedical laboratory and meets the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements for employees who work with hazardous substances including chemicals, human blood, blood products, fluids and human tissue specimens. All faculty, staff and students at the University who work in a laboratory and have not previously attended a live training presentation must attend this training.

The Office of Environmental Health & Radiation Safety (EHRS) develops and presents a variety of required training programs in live presentations or online formats. To determine which training programs you are required to take, review the section "Training Requirements." on the EHRS web site www.ehrs.upenn.edu/training/index.html.

CLASSIFIEDS—PERSONAL

FOR RENT

Furnished Mt. Airy house for rent Jan.-July 2005, 1 block from train, details negotiable. Perfect for Spring semester sabbatical. Call (215) 848-6246.

Psychotherapy and Consultation

Help with personal and family difficulties. Sarah Evans, M.S.W., ACSW, formerly with University of Pennsylvania faculty and staff counseling service. Insurances accepted. No charge for first appointment. (610) 690-0267.

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Some Preliminary Findings from the Blackboard Study

by John Noakes, John MacDermott, Elizabeth Scheyder and Jay Treat

Blackboard sites are becoming an increasingly prevalent component of courses in the School of Arts & Sciences. From 2000 to 2003, the number of courses at Penn with Blackboard sites has tripled, rising from 280 to 901, with about 77% of these courses offered in SAS. During an academic year, Penn students download over 2 million files from Blackboard sites. Most of these downloads, it seems, occur between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m.

It is easy to collect this kind of data about Blackboard use. The courseware system records dates and times and categorizes every hit on every site. Faculty members interested in how their course sites are being used by students will find a wealth of information by clicking on the "Course Statistics" link on their site's control board. But knowing how often or when a site is used is not enough. To evaluate Blackboard, we need to know how it affects teaching and learning at Penn. Those of us who discuss instructional technology with faculty members know that many use Blackboard in innovative ways. We also know faculty members who have yet to figure out how best to use it to aid the teaching and learning of their discipline.

With these concerns in mind, earlier this year the authors began an in-depth study of Blackboard use of a sample of 60 course sites from the fall 2003 semester. A brief description of how we determined our sample and established the boundaries of our usage categories can be found in the Appendix. After generating the list of courses randomly and obtaining the permission of the relevant faculty, we reviewed these sites in depth in an effort to develop a richer understanding of how faculty members use this technology in their courses.

Here we present a few early findings from our study. Central to several of our analyses is the variable "Blackboard usage," which we calculated by dividing the number of hits on a course site by the number of students enrolled in the course. Determined in this way, "Blackboard usage" gives us a measure of how integral a site is to a course.

Who uses Blackboard? One way to answer this is to examine the relationship between faculty rank (which we use as a rough proxy of academic generation) and Blackboard usage. There are two competing arguments one often hears about the relationship between instructional technology and faculty. One is that instructional technology is the domain of younger generations of professors who have grown up in a digital world. The other is that only tenured faculty have the time to invest in integrating instructional technology into their teaching. The results from our study do not lend support to either argument. Faculty members at all levels are spread roughly equally across usage categories. One statistic that jumps off this table is the number of faculty listed as "other." Most of those included in this category are instructors. This number may be unusually high because of the high number of foreign language courses with Blackboard sites. The Department of Romance Languages has the second highest total of Blackboard sites of any department in SAS trailing only the Department of Economics. Fourteen of the 60 courses in our sample are foreign language courses.

TABLE 1: Blackboard Use by Faculty Rank

	Full Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Others
Very High (12)	2	3	2	5
High (12)	4	1	2	5
Average (12)	3	2	2	5
Below Average (12)	6	2	0	4
Low (12)	0	1	4	7
Total	15	9	10	26

What are the most popular uses of Blackboard sites? To answer this question, we examined the content of the "Course Documents" folder in the 60 sites in our sample (see Table 2). No single use of Blackboard dominates. The most popular use is for e-reserve readings, but the 26 sites that included e-reserve readings represent a plurality, not a majority. Other popular uses include the posting of information on assignments and exams, and lecture notes.

TABLE 2: Contents of Course Documents Folder

	Number of Sites	Percent of Sites
E-reserve readings	26	43.33%
Assignments/exam info	18	30.00%
lectures/lecture notes	16	26.67%
syllabus	12	20.00%
reference material	11	18.33%
link to external material	7	11.67%
video	6	10.00%
audio	5	8.33%

How does Blackboard usage affect student evaluations of a course?

Students in courses in which the Blackboard course site is integral rate these courses higher than courses in which it is less integral (see Table 3). SCUE evaluation scores are higher for courses in the "very high" and "high" usage categories for each of the three SCUE questions we included in our study than they are for courses with "average" or "below average" Blackboard usage. Curiously, this pattern is broken for courses with "low" Blackboard usage. One possible explanation of this last outcome is that "low" Blackboard usage courses are those in which students averaged less than 57 hits for the semester (see Table 4), suggesting that the course web site played little role in the student's experience of the class.

TABLE 3: Blackboard Usage by Student Evaluations

	Quality of Instructor	Quality of Course	Ability to Stimulate Interest in Subject
Very High (12)	3.45	3.04	3.29
High (12)	3.50	3.14	3.22
Average (12)	3.26	2.97	2.86
Below Average (12)	3.07	2.81	2.74
Low (12)	3.34	2.99	3.00
Sample Averages	3.32	3.00	3.00

We welcome discussion of these findings. There is still a great deal of research to be done. Most importantly, we are hoping to be able to move beyond numbers and begin conversations with faculty and students about how they use Blackboard and how it affects teaching and learning at Penn.

Appendix

Our first step was to calculate the number of hits per student for each SAS course with a Blackboard site in fall 2003. Boundaries for our five usage categories were established by calculating one and two standard deviations from the mean number of hits per student. Those courses with average hits per student beyond two standard deviations from the mean were categorized as "very high" and "low" usage, depending on whether they were above or below the mean; those between one and two standard deviations from the mean were categorized as "high" and "below average"; those course whose average hits per students were within one standard deviation from the mean were categorized as average. The lower boundaries of the categories and the resulting number of hits per student in each category are listed in Table 4, below. The upper boundary of the "Very High" category is 2656.9, with four courses recording over 2000 hits per student.

Once we established the categories we took a stratified sample of 60 courses, randomly selecting twelve courses from each category. We then obtained permission from the faculty member who had established the site to include it in the study. On the rare occasion that we could not obtain permission, we added the next course on the list from that category to our study.

TABLE 4: Boundaries of Categories in Blackboard Study

Category	Lower Boundary Hits Per Student	Number of Fall 2003 Course In Category
Very High	295.6	69 (10.7%)
High	216.2	50 (7.9%)
Average	136.7	86 (13.4%)
Below Average	57.2	193 (30.1%)
Low	0	244 (38.0%)

John Noakes is Associate Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning. John MacDermott, Elizabeth Scheyder and Jay Treat are with SAS Computing.

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 for the previous essays.

If you would like to submit an article for this series, contact Larry Robbins, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, robbinsl@sas.upenn.edu.