$3.2 Million from NIH for Musculoskeletal Disorders

Researchers from Penn’s School of Medicine have been awarded a five-year, $3.2 million grant from the NIH to create the Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders, one of five such Centers nationally. The Center aims to enhance and advance the research productivity of investigators in the broad topic of musculoskeletal tissue injury and repair. Based in the department of orthopaedic surgery, the Center will support three critical, innovative research Cores to enhance musculoskeletal research. Additionally, the Center will provide a pilot and feasibility internal grant program, seminars, and other educational programs for researchers.

Previously there had been no central infrastructure for musculoskeletal researchers, despite the fact that musculoskeletal disorders have a devastating effect on quality-of-life for both old and young individuals, with 28 million Americans reporting musculoskeletal injuries each year. “Musculoskeletal disorders affect everyone on some level,” says Dr. Louis J. Soslowsky, professor and Vice Chair for Research for the department of orthopaedic surgery and the director of the new Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders. “Carpal tunnel syndrome, rotator cuff injuries, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, and low back pain are just a few of the injuries and disorders that affect a large portion of the population. Musculoskeletal disorders dictate whether and how long a person can continue working at their job and/or when it is necessary to begin home healthcare or nursing home care when these disorders prevent an individual from taking care of themselves in their own homes. Additionally, these problems significantly impair the ability to play sports, either recreationally or competitively. The Center will bring together the best and brightest at Penn to further our research and understanding of these debilitating afflictions.”

Creation of the Center will provide funds for three cores for musculoskeletal researchers:

1) The Microarray Core, which will build on the School of Medicine’s Core and allow investigation of musculoskeletal disorders on the genetic level through RNA transcript profiling. This will assist in identifying early markers for injury and treatments.

2) The Structure-Function Biomechanics Core, which will develop and utilize a wide range of functional, mechanical, and structural assays of musculoskeletal tissue injury and repair.

3) The Small Animal Imaging Core, which will develop and use extensive imaging techniques (continued on page 3)

Lindback Awards 2006

In the Non-Health Schools

Daniel Lee
Gary Molander
Nicholas Souleles
Sharon Thompson-Schill

In the Health Schools

David Asch
Emma Elizabeth Furth
Catherine Manno
Thomas Sollecito

Lindback Reception: Thursday, April 20

The Lindback Society cordially invites all members of the University community to a reception honoring the recipients of the Provost’s and Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Awards for Distinguished Teaching 2005–2006

Thursday, April 20
4–6 p.m.
Bodek Lounge
Houston Hall

For biographical sketches of the 2006 Provost’s Award and Lindback Award winners see pages 4-5.

IN THIS ISSUE

2  SENATE: Notice of Special Meeting; Deaths
3  Biomedical Graduate Students Grant;
Wind Energy; Earth Day; Regalia Reminder
4  Lindback Award and Provost’s Award Winners’ Biographical Sketches
6  HR: Open Enrollment; One Step Ahead;
April Volunteer Opportunities; Blood Drive
7  Burrison Gallery Call for Artists;
Update; CrimeStats; Classifieds
8  Benchmarks: Penn Museum International Research Conference Program
Pullout: Update on Diversity Initiatives
Under Section 15 of the Rules of the Faculty Senate, notification or distribution to members of the Faculty Senate may be accomplished by publication in Almanac. The following is published pursuant to that rule.

To: Members of the Faculty Senate
From: Neville Strumpf, Chair
Subject: Notice of Special Meeting of Faculty Senate to Consider Changes to Rules of the Faculty Senate

1. Notice of Meeting. A special meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. in the University Club, The Inn at Penn, 3600 Walnut St. Adjournment will be no later than 3 p.m.

2. Agenda. The agenda for the special meeting follows:
   a. Call to order.
   b. Proposal pursuant to Section 17 of the Rules of the Faculty Senate to amend those Rules as follows:
      (i) To amend Rule 9(a) to (a) permit the Senate Chair to call meetings of the Executive Committee and to make distributions to the Executive Committee by email transmission, (b) to permit the Senate Chair to call special meetings of the Executive Committee during the University’s winter or summer breaks under limited circumstances, with notice by publication online in Almanac Between Issues and email notification or if necessary by email notification alone, and (c) to permit motions and voting by the Executive Committee by email transmission in certain circumstances.
      (ii) To amend Rule 9(c) to change the time for constituency representatives of the Executive Committee to submit nominations for the Nominating Committee from October 1 to “early during the spring semester.”
      (iii) To amend Rule 9(f) to (a) eliminate the requirement that nominations by the Committee on Committees be considered at two separate meetings of the Executive Committee, unless at least five members present request a second meeting and (b) to permit the Senate Chair, Chair-elect, and Past Chair to submit nominations to the Executive Committee after May 15 if the Committee on Committees has not, by that date, nominated a sufficient number of committee members who have agreed to serve.
      (iv) To amend Rule 9(h) to (a) change the name of the Committee on the Faculty to Committee on Faculty and the Academic Mission and to provide general charges for that committee, (b) to provide general charges for the Committee on Students and Educational Policy, (c) to change the name of the Committee on Administration to the Committee on Faculty and the Administration and to provide general charges for that committee, (d) to provide general charges for the Committee on Publication Policy for Almanac, and (e) to provide general charges for the Committee on Faculty Development, Diversity, and Equity.
      (v) To add a new Rule 9(k) to (a) permit chairs of Senate committees to call meetings and to make distributions by email transmission, and (b) to permit motions and voting by the committee members by email transmission in certain circumstances.
      (vi) To amend Rule 11(a) to permit the Senate Chair to call special meetings of the Senate during the University’s winter or summer breaks under limited circumstances, with notice by publication online in Almanac Between Issues and email notification or if necessary by email notification alone.
   c. The amended Rules as they would read as amended may be found at: www.upenn.edu/almanacvolumes/s/52n29/sec-rule-amend.html.
   d. Adjournment (3 p.m.).

3. Background. During the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 academic years the Senate Committee on the Faculty and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (SEC) discussed the need to provide explicit approval in the Senate rules for the use of electronic communications in conducting business of the Senate and SEC. The discussions also addressed the need to address certain inefficiencies in the process of nominating and electing members of committees. Finally, the discussions addressed the need to provide standing general charges for the standing senate committees mentioned above. SEC approved in principle the material revisions proposed above and the proposed general charges.

Deaths

Dr. Lisker, Linguistics

Dr. Leigh Lisker, emeritus professor of linguistics, died March 24 in Philadelphia. He was 87.

A three-time Penn alumnus, Dr. Lisker received his A.B. in 1941, with a major in German, his M.A. in 1946, and a Ph.D. in 1949 in linguistics. He was a major figure in phonetics, working both at Penn and at Haskins Laboratories in New Haven, CT, where he was a senior scientist from 1951 until the end of his life. He collaborated with several phoneticians, principally Arthur S. Abramson. Dr. Lisker also made important contributions to Dravidian linguistics, including the book Introduction to Spoken Telugu, and did research comparing phonetic and phonological perceptions on the part of linguistically naive and linguistically sophisticated speakers of different native language backgrounds. He conducted such studies in collaboration with Dr. Abramson of the University of Connecticut, Bh. Krishnamurti of Hyderabad University, India, Adrian Fourcin of London University, and M. Rossie of the Institute of Phonétique at the Université de Provence, Aix-en-Provence.

Dr. Lisker spent almost his entire career at Penn, where he was one of the first members of the linguistics department. He began as an assistant instructor of German in 1947 and began teaching linguistics in 1949. From 1951-1959 he was an assistant professor of linguistics and Dravidian linguistics, he was associate professor of linguistics and Dravidian linguistics, 1960-1964, and professor of linguistics from 1965 until his retirement in 1989. He also served as chairman of the department of linguistics, 1970-1978. He was a visiting professor at Georgetown University, Princeton University, Columbia University, the Central Institute of Indian Languages (Mysore, India), and Osmania University (Hyderabad, India).

Dr. Lisker received several awards, including a 1967 Guggenheim fellowship and fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies and the Fulbright Foundation. He was elected fellow of the Acoustical Society of America in 1979.

Dr. Lisker is survived by his daughters, Carol Kennedy and Lisa; son, Roy; and two grandchildren. Donations can be sent to the Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine St., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Ms. Pollock, Security Office

Ms. Adah Mench Pollock, a retired administrative assistant, died March 31 at age 85.

Ms. Pollock came to the Penn’s Personnel Office in 1964 as a receptionist and retired in 1978, as an administrative assistant in the Security Office.

She is survived by her daughter, Beth Avery and her sister, Alice Aronson. A memorial service is being planned for May at Christ Church, 20 N. American St., Philadelphia, PA 19106.

Ms. Rhoads, Wharton

Ms. Ann Rhoads, business administrator for the operations and information management department at the Wharton School, died March 24. She was 51.

Ms. Rhoads came to Penn in 1972 as a secretary in the Moore School of Electrical Engineering. In 1982, she joined Wharton as an administrative coordinator in the dean’s office. In 1984 she served as office manager and then in 1988 was promoted to assistant director for administrative services. In 1995, she transferred to the operations and information management department where she became the business administrator, a position she held at the time of her death.

Ms. Rhoads is survived by her husband, John; three children, Jack, Scott and Kristen; three grandchildren; parents, John and Helena Maguire; and stepsister, Helena Heinaman.

The Wharton School is planning a memorial service at a later date. Details will be published in Almanac when available.

Correction

Last week’s obituary for Dr. Ralph Erickson inadvertently omitted one of his survivors, his wife, Elinor. We regret the error.—Eds.

To Report A Death

Almanac appreciates being informed of the deaths of current and former faculty and staff, students, and other members of the University community. Contact Almanac staff at (215) 898-5274 or e-mail almanac@pobox.upenn.edu.
Biomedical Graduate Studies Grant from Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Biomedical Graduate Studies (BGS) at the School of Medicine has been chosen by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to receive a four-year, $700,000 grant to develop training for students to help shorten the time it takes to translate basic science discoveries into new medical treatments.

BGS was chosen for its proposal to develop the Graduate Training in Medical Sciences (GTMS) Certificate Program, consisting of three modules that present core principles of medical sciences, focus on human pathology and physiology, and offer clinical clerkships that stress translational research. The program will promote more clinically-relevant research by producing basic scientists who have a clearer understanding of human biology and pathology, and who can more effectively interact with clinical scientists to tackle medically-relevant research problems.

“Our current BGS curriculum provides predoctoral students with excellent training in focused areas of basic biomedical science,” says Dr. Mitchell Lewis, director of the GTMS Program. Dr. Carolyn Cambor, co-director of the GTMS program, says, “This grant now allows us to augment graduate training with a component that provides comprehensive medical science education that explores human biology and disease.”

BGS is composed of seven inter-departmental, cross-school graduate groups: Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics; Cell and Molecular Biology; Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Genomics and Computational Biology; Immunology; Neuroscience; and Pharmacological Sciences. The GTMS Program will be open to all BGS students, and will admit up to six students a year. The curriculum will integrate into existing programs, without lengthening the time it takes to earn the degree.

“It is critical that we develop this training, given the increased intersection between basic and clinical research, and we are excited to provide this opportunity to our students,” says Dr. Susan Ross, director of BGS. For additional information on BGS, visit www.med.upenn.edu/bgs.

Purchase of Wind-Generated Power: 27% of Penn’s Energy Needs

Under a new agreement, the University of Pennsylvania will now purchase 27 percent of its energy needs from wind-generated power, nearly tripling its wind-energy purchase.

Following previous annual wind-energy purchases of 40,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) from Pennsylvania wind farms, Penn’s new agreement to purchase 112,000 MWh each year for the next five years from wind farms across the country represents the largest retail purchase of green power in the nation by an institution of higher education.

“Research has shown that wind-powered energy is a safe, non-polluting alternative to electricity produced by fossil fuels,” President Amy Gutmann said. “We at Penn are pleased to be a national leader in clean energy and in the development of the wind-generated power industry in the state. Through this environmental stewardship, we can continue to raise the awareness of our students and the community about alternative fuel options.”

The 112,000 MWh—represents 27 percent of the 412,000 MWh the University uses annually—is enough to power nearly 10,500 average American homes for a year.

Penn has been a leading organization in purchasing wind energy, and according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Penn has also been on EPA’s Top 25 list of national green power purchasers since the list was begun (Almanac October 18, 2005). Penn’s new commitment will move Penn up to No. 8 nationally.

“EPA applauds the University of Pennsylvania for its role as a green power leader, not only amongst its peers in the Ivy League, but for higher education institutions across the nation,” Blaine Collison, program director for EPA’s Green Power Partnership, said. “Penn’s purchase supports America’s domestic supply of clean, renewable energy.”

This new agreement is part of an on-going campaign at Penn to become greener and to show its commitment to a sustainable environment. The Penn student group Green Campus Partnership has been engaged in this effort that includes recycling audits and lobbying for more efficient energy usage.

“There has been a lot of talk recently about universities’ responsibilities not only to instruct their students about environmental stewardship but to practice such stewardship,” Dr. Robert Giegen-gack, professor of earth and environmental science, said. “This has translated into student campaigns to increase recycling or to establish bike paths, but relatively little attention has been paid to a university’s biggest impact on the environment: its energy appetite.”

Penn’s previous significant wind energy-purchases, supplied by Exelon—Community Energy Wind Farms in Pennsylvania, catalyzed the industry in the state, spurring the development of additional renewable generation facilities (Almanac October 30, 2001). Because purchases of green power support the development of new renewable generation facilities, Penn’s latest commitment is expected to have the same effect nationally.

“Penn continues to lead the way at a time when our energy and climate future demands strong leaders,” Brent Alderfer, president of Community Energy Inc. of Wayne, PA, said. “Penn’s decision to step up to a top-10 national-level wind purchase sets a new benchmark in higher education.”

Regalia Rental Reminder

Faculty invited to participate in the Academic Procession for the 250th Commencement must order their academic regalia from the Penn Bookstore by Friday, April 14. Please see www.upenn.edu/commencement/facadmin for the order form.

$3.2 Million from NIH for Musculoskeletal Disorders

(continued from page 1)
to detect, evaluate, and treat problems of musculoskeletal injury and repair. The cutting-edge technologies of these research cores will provide investigators with the tools they need to fundamentally advance their research.

“The purpose of the Center is to support and foster collaborations between programs already in place, as well as help jump start interactions,” continued Dr. Soslowsky. “We will be able to support whatever the investigator is already interested in, allowing people to work in their strengths and improve their own programs through new and enhanced opportunities. Also, pilot grant funding will seed new investigations and also provide funding for established investigators who have an interest in moving to musculoskeletal research.”

In addition to the significant participation of faculty within the School of Medicine, investigators from Veterinary Medicine, Dental Medicine, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Arts and Sciences will participate as well.

Further information on this new Center can be found at: www.uphs.upenn.edu/orl/ccmd.

Earth Day 2006: April 22

Morris Arboretum: Kids “Earth Day” Planter: Cheryl Wilks, floral designer and owner of Flowers on Location. Let’s keep our planet green. This special Earth Day program is for kids 5 to 12 years old. They’ll learn about the care and handling of houseplants as they plant and decorate a keepsake container and fill it with an assortment of plants to take home. 10:30 a.m.–noon; Members: $27, Non-members: $30. Register: (215) 247-5777, ext. 125.

Civic House: Let’s Pick It Up Pennsylvanica Day! Everyone wants to live, work and play in a clean and green community and it’s up to everyone to make it possible and improve the overall quality of life for us all. Join Pennsylvanians across the state and Americans across the nation in cleaning up litter and trash along our roadsides, streams, parks, forests and neighborhoods. Anyone can help! Community and civic associations, schools and youth groups, business employees, hunting and fishing clubs, conservation organizations, sport teams and others can organize their members and participate in the Great PA Clean Up. To learn more about how to get involved, visit www.greatpacleanup.org.

Sansom Place College House: Join in the celebration of Earth Day and tour one of the largest municipal parks in the world, Philadelphia’s Fairmount Park! 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meet in Sansom Place East Lobby. See http://gbsp.bussiness-services.upenn.edu/ or for information: ourplace@pobox.upenn.edu.
Lindback and Provost's Awards: Sketches of the 2006 Winners

**The Non-Health Schools**

**Daniel Lee**, Associate Professor, Graduate Chair, Departments of Electrical and Systems Engineering and Bioengineering, received his B.A. from Harvard and his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined the Penn faculty as an assistant professor in 2001 in the departments of electrical and systems engineering and bioengineering. His impact on a wide group of students goes well beyond classroom education. Since he joined the Penn faculty, he has been the most sought-after advisor in his department for the senior design projects all undergraduate students must perform. As a result, he single-handedly advises more students than anyone else in the department. Quality does not decrease the quality of advice; projects he supervises have regularly won the award for best senior design project. His classroom teaching is equally well-regarded. One student describes his class as being "as challenging as it was fun," since it allowed students to examine some fundamental concepts from a fresh perspective. Another described him as "one of our outstanding professors," because he is "very passionate about his work and cares about his students." He is also known for being "creative and interested in exploring many avenues" in his teaching, rather than "playing it safe." Many students mentioned his accessibility and willingness to be helpful. As one said, "He has in a true sense been a Guru for me, one who shows the path towards light and success and also helps in attaining it."

**Nicholas Souleles**, Associate Professor of Finance, received his B.S.E. from Princeton University in 1988 and his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1995, whereupon he joined the Finance Department in the Wharton School at Penn. One colleague described him as a "teacher, scholar and leader whose generosity with his time, insight and judgment has greatly benefited generations of students." At all levels (undergraduate, M.B.A. and Ph.D.), his course evaluations are outstanding. Students at all of these levels spoke highly of his "personal qualities and leadership skills," as well as his "talent for simplifying very complex subject matter into coherent, understandable segments." One student reported: "I learned so much from Professor Souleles and find that his teaching had a permanent effect. Another described his class as "one of the academic high points of my college experience." And his influence extends outside the classroom. One student called him, "not only an incredible source of knowledge but also a role model for his students." Many referred to his passion, "the kind of which I believe students greatly need," and his ability to kindle a similar passion in those who take his classes. As one student said, "When a professor is truly dedicated to his subject, it is evident in the fierce drive and passion with which he delivers his lecture. Professor Souleles possessed this quiet intensity."

**Sharon Thompson-Schill**, Class of 1965 Endowed Term Associate Professor of Psychology and Neurology, received her B.A. from Davidson College and her Ph.D. from Stanford University. She joined the Penn faculty in the Psychology Department in 1999. One colleague has described her as being, "as close to being a perfect teacher as anyone I have seen," and "a superb undergraduate lecturer," as well as "a highly popular and effective supervisor of independent undergraduate research," and her department's most popular graduate student mentor. In addition, she single-handedly created the Psychology Department's new Honors Program. One graduate student spoke of her as, "very possibly . . . the most influential teacher and mentor I have had here," and went on to call her "one of the most challenging and rewarding." An undergraduate student commented on her lecture: "Energetic and articulate, she transforms a multitude of details into a coherent and startlingly thorough understanding of a difficult topic." Students also remarked on her availability outside the classroom. "She encourages students to come to her office with questions and stays up late on nights before exams replying to e-mailed questions." In short, "Dr. Thompson-Schill stands out due to her unyielding commitment to engage students through their time in her class and well beyond."

**Provis'ts Award**

**Louis Rulli**, Practice Professor of Law, received his B.A. from Rutgers University and his J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law. He joined the Penn Law School faculty as an associate practice professor of law in 1995, and was promoted to practice professor in 2001. The Dean of the Law School describes him as having had, "a fundamental impact on the educational programs at the Law School as well as a profound influence on the professional and personal goals of a generation of students." By developing and teaching courses in legislation and public interest law, he broadened the spectrum of educational options available to Penn law students. Many of these students have been profoundly affected by these courses and his teaching of them. As one student said about his class, "I will never forget this course or the lessons I learned during the semester." She reported that Professor Rulli, "made me ponder much deeper questions," than she otherwise would have. Another called his classroom, "a vibrant learning environment; a space for exploration and examination of each student's goals and achievements." Students remarked upon his attention not only to each individual case but also to each individual student, challenging them to produce their best work. One student stated of his class: "I believe that every student at Penn should have this immense learning opportunity before they graduate."

**Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award**

Awarded for Distinguished Teaching

The Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching at the University of Pennsylvania was first given in 1961 with the help of the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation. The Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation is a private foundation based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was established in 1960 by the late Christian R. Lindback, who served as a director from 1945 until 1960. The Lindback Foundation supports education and innovative programs in the arts and sciences. The Lindback Foundation supports the arts and sciences in the state of Pennsylvania through grants, scholarships, and fellowships. The Lindback Foundation is named after Christian R. Lindback, a prominent business leader and philanthropist.

**The Provost's Awards**

In October of 1987, the Office of the Provost announced the Provost's Awards—ones in a Health School and one in a Non-Health School—awards of distinguished teaching by associated faculty or academic support staff are as much a sign of spring at Penn as are al fresco classes on College Green and flowers and trees blooming all over campus. Below are profiles and excerpts from colleagues' and students' letters of recommendation for this year's winners.

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Adapted From [www.upenn.edu/almanac](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac)

**ALMANAC April 11, 2006**
Deadlines are the same. The first recipients for the Provost’s Awards were Nora Magid of SAS and Paul Orsini.

The award recipients are the same as those given for the Lindback Awards, and the selection processes and guidelines for the selection of awards—one in a Health School and one in a Non-Health School—to be given annually in recognition of distinguished teaching by associated faculty or academic support staff. The guidelines for the selection of Lindback Awards for Distinguished Teaching at colleges and universities throughout the Abbotts Dairies Inc.’s 1961 with the help of the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation. Christian Lindback was president of the University of Pennsylvania normally gives out eight Lindback Awards each year, divided evenly between the Health Schools and the Wharton School’s departments. These awards are presented at a reception in late April. The Lindback Society was revived in the late 1980s and sponsors ceremonies. Currently, the Provost presents the scroll and a cash award of $3,000. During the 1960s, Lindback Awards were presented at Commencement.

Lindback Awards at the University of Pennsylvania:

At the University of Pennsylvania were established in 1961 by a Lindback Foundation. Christian Lindback was president of Bucknell University. The Foundation established Lindback Foundation in 1961 to support the Lindback Awards at the University of Pennsylvania. These awards are presented at a reception for Lindback Award winners in April. The Provost presents the Lindback Society was revived in the late 1980s and sponsors a Lindback Award organized itself as a Lindback Society. The Lindback Society had a long history and has been an annual reception for Lindback Award winners. Currently, the Provost presents the Lindback Society was revived in the late 1980s and sponsors a Lindback Award organized itself as a Lindback Society. The Lindback Society had a long history and has been an annual reception for Lindback Award winners. Currently, the Provost presents the Lindback Society was revived in the late 1980s and sponsors a Lindback Award organized itself as a Lindback Society. 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The Deep Blue Sea: Best known for his 1985 discovery of the Titanic, Dr. Robert Ballard will give a lecture on A Career in Deep Sea Exploration at the Penn Museum tonight at 6 p.m. He has a long and dramatic career of tracking down significant shipwrecks of the recent and ancient past. Professor of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island’s Graduate School of Oceanography and Director of its Institute for Archaeological Oceanography and a National Geographic Society explorer-in-residence, Dr. Ballard is the author of 18 books and numerous popular and scientific articles. In this talk, he looks back at highlights of his career, beginning with the first manned explorations of the Mid-Ocean Ridge to the development of advanced robotics technology leading to the discovery of the Titanic, the German battleship Bismarck, and other famous contemporary shipwrecks. More recently, Dr. Ballard has turned his attention to the creation of a new field of research in Archaeological Oceanography focusing on the ancient trade routes of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Lecture: $10 in advance, $20 at the door. Lecture, book signing and reception: $50 (advance reservations required). Tickets available at the Annenberg Box Office: (215) 898-3900.

Dr. Robert Ballard, discoverer of the Titanic.

Penn Blood Drives: Today and Tomorrow

There are two Blood Drives this week; please donate. Visit http://penn.givesblood.org/ to view available times and make an appointment. Thanks for helping save lives!

April 11: Dental School, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Schattner Hall Lobby, register in lobby/donate on bus.
April 12: Greek Life Challenge, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall—The Penn American Red Cross Club

April Volunteer Opportunities

Dear Penn Community,

Thank you very much for your donations to the Penn Volunteers In Public Service Annual Change Drive which will benefit the I CAN agency located at 60th and Vine Streets in Philadelphia. We are in the process of counting the donations and will report the amount in May.

Thank you for your continued support in our efforts to perform community service in the surrounding community. Contact me at sammapp@pobox.upenn.edu for additional information.

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

Senior Interview Project University City High School

The senior project involves having seniors mock interview with professionals from outside the school. Most of the students have never interviewed before, and are working hard at overcoming their nervousness and acquiring interview skills. They have been practicing their interview skills with their mentors in their senior mentoring program, and would like to have a safe but realistic interviewing experience with people they don’t know. We need 14 people to interview five students each on Tuesday, April 25, from 10–11:30 a.m. at UCHS. Each interview should last 10–12 minutes. Interviewers will be provided with interview questions to ask; they can improvise as they see fit. At the conclusion of each interview the interviewers will fill out a short evaluation of the student’s interview skills. Interviewing is a real-world skill that all students need, and the seniors are looking forward to being able to test their skills.

Volunteer to Help Out at the Penn Relays

Relay Dates for 2006: Our Distance Classic (20K, 5K & 1 Mile Kids Fun Run) will be held on Sunday, April 23. We will need help starting at 6 a.m. until 11 a.m. includes: Registration Table, setting up and maintaining water stations and cutting up fruit and bagels for the runners at the end of the race.

Registration (The Palestra) help needed would start on Wednesday of Relay weekend, Wednesday, April 26 — 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday, April 27 — 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, April 28 — 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday, April 29 — 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a meeting prior to the event for people to sign up for available hours. Many of the helpers after the registration hours go out to the track to help wherever needed.

“Adopt A Daughter/Son” on Take Our Daughters & Sons To Work Day

1,000 Girls/Boys Are Waiting, Thursday, April 27. Volunteer to “adopt/host” a high school student participant in the College and Career Access program here at the University. Take your student to the many events that will be held around campus and share with them information about your career. Students will meet mentors on campus around 9 a.m. and will be dismissed around 2 p.m.

Volunteer at the Philadelphia International Children’s Festival

The American Heart Association needs volunteer help for the Philadelphia International Children’s Festival, Sunday, April 30 through Saturday, May 6. The volunteers will use their talents in all areas of the Festival: theater ushers, Playworks, arts, crafts and games. There are positions for gift shop, artist hospitality and ushering. They are looking for people Sunday through Saturday: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.–3 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Move Out Drive (M.O.D.): April 28–May 2

M.O.D. Squad, Penn Volunteers In Public Service, University City District and Dan DeRitis, owner of Apartments at Penn, are working together to help you travel light as you leave campus at the end of the spring semester. Donate your small electronics, small furniture, computers, clothing and other articles. Donations will be distributed to area agencies free of charge to help deserving families. Check for donation sites around campus. Donations will also be accepted by Isabel Mapp at the Center for Community Partnerships, 133 South 36th Street Room 507 on the 5th Floor on the following dates and times: April 28–May 2, 9 a.m.–noon.

Open Enrollment Reminder: April 6–21

Open Enrollment for the 2006-2007 plan year began last week. You should have already received your personalized Open Enrollment materials at your home address. Visit the online enrollment website at www.upenn.edu/ebenefit (click on “Online Enrollment” under “Benefits”). If you have any questions, please call the Penn Benefits Center at 1-888-PENNBEN (1-888-736-6236), Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

Division of Human Resources

One Step Ahead

Security & Privacy Made Simple

Another tip in a series provided by the Offices of Information Systems & Computing and Audit, Compliance & Privacy.

To Stay Secure, Keep Your Software Current

If you are using old, outdated web browsing, email or IM software, you are vulnerable to malware attacks, hacking, and other problems. These can be avoided by keeping your software updated. The following tips will help keep your system running smoothly.

- Follow the latest IM software, see:
  AOL Instant Messenger http://www.aol.com
  Yahoo Messenger http://messenger.msn.com/security
  MSN Messenger http://messenger.msn.com/download
  ICQ http://www.icq.com/download

Always check with your Local Support Provider before installing new software on your computer.

For additional tips, see the One Step Ahead link on the Information Security website: www.upenn.edu/computing/security/
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 March 27-April 2, 2006. Also reported were 15 Crimes Against Property (including 12 thefts, 2 burglaries, and 1 act of vandalism). Full reports are on the www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v52/n22/crimeport.html. Previous week’s reports are also online.

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 March 27-April 2, 2006. The University Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and 43rd Street in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police. In this effort to provide you with a thorough and accurate report on public safety concerns, we hope that your increased awareness will lessen the opportunity for crime. For any concerns or suggestions regarding this report, please call the Division of Public Safety at (215) 898-4482.

18th District Report

11 incidents with 4 arrests (including 5 aggravated assaults, 5 robberies, and 1 confidential incident) were reported between March 27-2006 by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market St. to Woodland Ave.

03/27/06 2:35 AM 4000 Market St Unknown males attempted to rob complainant

03/29/06 7:20 AM 3474 Spruce St Female panhandling/Arrest

03/29/06 7:45 PM 4034 Ludlow St Complainant assaulted by male

03/29/06 7:51 PM 3900 Sansom St Male wanted on warrant/issued new court date

03/29/06 8:39 PM 3700 Spruce St Male stopped with illegal substance/Arrest

03/29/06 9:45 PM 100 S 38th St Male wanted on warrant/issued new court date

03/29/06 9:57 AM 3800 Sansom St Complainant threatened with news article

03/30/06 12:24 AM 3604 Chestnut St Male wanted for warrant/Arrest

03/31/06 10:00 PM 4006 Spruce St Complainant assaulted/Arrest

03/31/06 11:02 PM 4012 Walnut St Female cited for disorderly conduct

04/01/06 12:30 AM 3100 Convention Ave Complainant robbed by 3 unknown males/Arrest

04/02/06 10:38 AM 4036 Convention Ave Complainant threatened with news article

The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Inquiries regarding the University’s policies and practices may be directed to Jeanne Arnold, Executive Director, Office of Affirmative Action, 3600 Chestnut Street, 2nd floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106 or (215) 898-6993 (Voice) or (215) 898-7803 (TDD).
Penn Museum International Research Conference Program: An Open Invitation to Penn’s Academic Community

Richard M. Leventhal
The Williams Director
University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology has always been associated with a great University with world class experts in a wide variety of fields—scholars and researchers who have used the Museum’s many resources, and shared their own knowledge and perspectives with the Museum’s diverse scholarly and public audiences.

As Penn Museum begins a new initiative this spring, we invite the rich and diverse academic community at Penn to join us. Backed by a generous, two-year seed grant, we begin the Penn Museum International Research Conference Program, designed to offer leading scholars at Penn and throughout the world opportunities to come together to share ideas, explore the perspectives and intersections of multiple disciplines, and grapple with complex issues about human cultures and societies. The International Research Conference Program will be intellectually creative, challenging, and rigorous—with the goal to create new avenues of understanding, and to publish newly emerged knowledge through web and print media.

A little background: for more than a century, a core mission of Penn Museum has been to foster research that leads to new understanding about human culture. For much of the 20th century, this research took the form of expeditions, more than 400 of them, to all parts of the globe. Scholars brought back both data and artifacts which, through ongoing analysis, continue to help shed light on early, recent, and contemporary societies—on what it means to be human.

Penn Museum seeks to reinvigorate its commitment to research focused on questions about human societies. To generate new knowledge and frameworks for understanding, today’s best research requires more than data and collections. More than ever, it depends on collaboration among communities of scholars investigating shared problems using distinct lines of evidence or different modes of analysis. Recognizing the importance of collaborative and multidisciplinary endeavors in the social sciences, Penn Museum has launched the International Research Conference Program.

How the program will work: each of these conferences will bring together ten to fifteen scholars who have reached a critical stage in their consideration of a shared problem. Through intense face-to-face deliberations in a setting detached from the daily demands of their professional lives, they will have a rare opportunity to reach a more integrated and nuanced understanding of their endeavors.

The conference structure will be driven by papers circulated among participants at least a month in advance of the conference. These will be the starting point for the discussions held in closed sessions. Initial discussions will be followed by a consideration of cross-cutting issues and will conclude with an overarching synthesis of ideas. The conferences will be held at Penn at comfortable sites with meeting rooms and dining spaces that are conducive to lively interaction. Every effort will be made to create an atmosphere in which participants can meet without interruption or distraction. Penn Museum will provide coach airfare, lodging, and all meals in addition to covering all of the administrative costs.

Following the conference the ideas and thinking will be disseminated through three different media. Immediately after the conference, Penn Museum will host a lecture or forum at which one or several of the participants will speak to the interested community and wider public about the ideas discussed at the gathering. Then a website—accessed through Penn Museum’s home page—will facilitate the dissemination of the ideas and thinking to both the general public and interested professional communities. Finally, and most importantly, the participants will rewrite their papers, taking into account the ideas generated and shared during the conference. This group of papers, edited and introduced by the conference organizer, will be submitted to Penn Museum Publications for peer review and publication in a timely manner.

The goal of this collaborative effort is no less than the generation of new knowledge and understanding: interaction within the conference setting is expected to move the study of human culture and societies forward. We are working for new insights into the nature of human evolution, human behavior, culture, and society—fresh understanding of the past as well as of contemporary issues.

Possible topics of inquiry include the rise of complex cultures, the collapse of ancient and modern societies, the nature of political power, the impact of the changing environment on human societies, the development of writing and other communication systems and communication within and between communities. Topics already under consideration include: “Landscapes of Movement: Trails, Paths, and Roads”; “Comparative Diplomatics: Historical and Cultural Implications”; “Evolution of Mind”; and “Forces of Nature: Environmental Risk and Resilience as Factors of Cultural Change.” Proposals on topics relevant to the study of humans and human societies, drawing on a variety of Penn departments and schools, are welcome.

We are excited about the possibilities for new knowledge of the human condition generated through our International Research Conference Program. I invite all in our wider community to submit inquiries or proposals to Professor Holly Pittman, Deputy Director for Academic Programs (hpittman@sas.upenn.edu), who will coordinate the conferences through my office. We hope that this initiative will attract the interest of Penn scholars who seek an innovative structure to support their study of humans and human societies, across time and space, and that it will move us all toward a new era of integrated thinking in the human sciences.

Background image of the Sphinx and Pyramid at Giza, Egypt, representative of the big questions that the International Research Conference Program seeks to explore: issues that might encompass politics and power, architecture and environment, aesthetics, religion, time, and cultural change.

Photo by David Silverman.