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Mellon Foundation: Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has approved a grant of \$2.5 million to create a new University of Pennsylvania interdisciplinary program on democracy, citizenship and constitutionalism for approximately 15 years.



Rogers Smith

The Penn Program on Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism will begin in the fall of 2007. An interdisciplinary project group, chaired by Dr. Rogers Smith, the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Political Science, will plan and coordinate the annual events. Dr. Smith has written extensively on American citizenship, U.S. constitutionalism and democratic theory. The project group will include Penn scholars in history, philosophy and other disciplines as well as experts in media and public opinion from the Annenberg School for Communication and legal scholars from the Law School.

Each year the project group will select a theme

that will give direction to the program's invited speakers, fellows, seminars and other activities. Possible themes for exploration include citizenship and ethnocultural roles, controversies over civic education, electoral systems and democratic representation, and citizen power and judicial power.

"We thank and applaud the Mellon Foundation for funding an important new program that will shed light on the nature of citizenship in our world," President Amy Gutmann said. "Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism is ideally suited to build on Penn's interdisciplinary strengths in illuminating the role of citizens and the challenges facing constitutional democracies around the world."

SAS Dean Rebecca Bushnell noted that democracy and constitutionalism is one of the high-priority multidisciplinary initiatives that the School of Arts and Sciences has taken up. "Rogers Smith is exceptionally well qualified to bring this new initiative to fruition," she said. "Our faculty is strongly positioned with the expertise and collaborative skill to engage the changing political world through this program. We expect that scholarship emanating from it will shed much-needed light on efforts to advance democracy, citizenship and constitutionalism around the world today."

Dr. Smith cited the great import of the issues, the resources of Philadelphia and the University's scholarly strengths as the driving force behind Penn's embrace of teaching and research on democracy and constitutionalism. "We call the members of constitutional democracies self-governing 'citizens,'" he stated, "but what does that citizenship really mean and what should it mean in people's lives? That's what the program will explore."

The heart of the program will be a monthly seminar series, which will be attended by faculty and graduate students from Penn and area colleges and universities. The program will also sponsor a year-end conference. Discussions are underway to establish a University of Pennsylvania Press Series on Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism, which will be edited by Dr. Smith. The series would include volumes compiled from papers discussed at the seminars and annual conferences as well as invited essays and other pertinent scholarly works. The program will partner with the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia to host speakers and conferences, and sponsor scholarship focused on constitutional topics.

"We look forward to partnering with Penn on this exciting initiative to give it a vital public dimension," said Joseph Torsella, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center. "As an institution dedicated to involving ordinary citizens in civic conversations, we want to help the program reach the broadest possible audience."

The funding for the Program on Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism will also support a postdoctoral fellow, three graduate fellows and 10 undergraduates along with their faculty mentors. Each year, a postdoctoral fellow undertaking substantial scholarship in the area of the program's theme will be in residence and teach a freshman seminar in addition to conducting research. The graduate fellows will assist in various administrative aspects of the program and also convene a graduate student workshop for area students and faculty. In keeping with Penn's emphasis on undergraduate research, the program will also include research grants to undergraduates. These students would be convened each month by the program director and the postdoctoral fellow for a three-hour symposium to present and discuss research in progress.

Three Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Term Professors in SAS

SAS Dean Rebecca Bushnell announced that three faculty members have been named to Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn chairs.

Dr. Rita Copeland has been named the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Endowed Term Professor in the Humanities. Dr. Copeland, a member of the Department of Classical Studies and chair



Rita Copeland



Mark Goulian



Anthony Kroch

of the Graduate Group in Comparative Literature, has taught across a number of fields and periods including English, Latin and French medieval literature; intellectuals, learning, and literacy in medieval Europe; literary theory from ancient to early modern; and the history of rhetoric from ancient to early modern. Dr. Copeland is a co-editor and co-founder of the Medieval Cultures Series and the annual *New Medieval Literatures*.

Dr. Mark Goulian has been appointed the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Endowed Term Associate Professor of Biology. His research, which focuses on signaling pathways in bacteria, is at the interface of biology and physics; until recently his primary faculty appointment was in Physics and Astronomy. He is working to develop new techniques to measure signaling activity and to explore the general design constraints and schemes for cell signaling. He is a member of Penn's Institute for Medicine and Engineering.

Dr. Anthony Kroch has been named the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Endowed Term Professor in the Cognitive Sciences. He specializes in the formal analysis of natural language syntax, historical syntax and the syntax-semantic interface. Dr. Kroch is a widely published author. His latest book, *Specificational Sentences: an Investigation into Syntax, Semantics and Information Structure*, coauthored with Caroline Heycock of the University of Edinburgh, is currently under review for publication with MIT Press.

The Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Endowed Term Chairs were established through a bequest of Edmund and Louise Kahn. Mr. Kahn, W '25, had a successful career in the oil and natural gas industry. Mrs. Kahn, a graduate of Smith College, worked for *Newsweek* and owned an interior design firm. The couple's gift created 12 professorships in SAS and also supports the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library, the Modern Languages College House and other projects at the University of Pennsylvania.

An Eye on Penn Vet: *The Penn community is invited to an Open House at the School of Veterinary Medicine's new Vernon and Shirley Hill Pavilion, on Friday, January 5, 2-4 p.m. At right, one of the nine panels of the Living Wall in their Alan M. Kelly Lobby.*



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The following is published in accordance with the Faculty Senate Rules. Among other purposes, the publication of SEC actions is intended to stimulate discussion among the constituencies and their representatives. Please communicate your comments to Sue White, executive assistant to the Senate Office, either by telephone at (215) 898-6943, or by e-mail at senate@pobox.upenn.edu.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Chair's Report. Faculty Senate Chair Vincent Price reviewed Senate Committee activities stating that members can expect committee reports in the spring. The Senate Committee on Faculty and the Administration (SCOA) will be bringing Faculty Senate Bylaw revisions to a meeting possibly in March or April. The next SEC meeting in January will feature a presentation from John Zeller, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations.

Past Chair's Report. Faculty Senate Past Chair Neville Strumpf updated the Executive Committee on the work of the Trustee Committee on Budget and Finance. Professor Strumpf reminded SEC members that a minor revision of the "Just Cause" Procedures will be presented at the January SEC meeting for a vote.

Senate Nominating Committee. SEC voted for the 9th member of the Nominating Committee; choosing Sohrab Rabii or John Richetti in a runoff election.

Public Safety Update. Maureen Rush, Vice President of Public Safety, presented an overview of public safety at the University of Pennsylvania. All aspects of the Department of Public Safety were outlined: the departments under the Office of the Vice President, the breakdown of Penn and University City constituencies, the interaction of federal, state, and local agencies, and all partners within the University community. The status of initiatives, goals, and funding of Operation SAFE were reviewed including an upgrade in both pedestrian and street lighting in order to enhance community safety and security at Penn and in University City. Select Department of Safety programs and initiatives such as fire and emergency services, the bicycle theft reduction project, and community outreach were discussed.

Updates on the University. President Amy Gutmann presented critical issues for higher education to the Executive Committee. The implications of the Spellings Commission Report were discussed and the recommendations of the report that covered topics of student access to college, cost and affordability, financial aid, and institutional accountability. President Gutmann stressed the importance of financial aid and the high priority of the University of Pennsylvania to continue increasing financial aid based on need. President Gutmann discussed the importance of the removal of unnecessary barriers and economic constraints to increase access to American universities for international scholars. Provost Ron Daniels gave a brief report on the following priorities: school-based mentoring programs, accommodating family demands, faculty recruitment and retention, internationalization, and trends for NIH funding.

Senate Nominating Committee. SEC voted to select the chair of the Nominating Committee. Members added Sohrab Rabii, emeritus professor of electrical and systems engineering, SEAS, winner of the runoff election, to their ballot prior to voting.

Campus-wide Operations and Services During Winter Break

The Office of the Executive Vice President has compiled a listing of campus-wide operations and services available during Winter Break (Monday, December 25, 2006 through Monday, January 1, 2007). The listing is available on the EVP's website at www.evp.upenn.edu.

Search Committee for Williams Director of the Penn Museum

President Amy Gutmann and Provost Ron Daniels have announced the formation of the search committee to advise on the selection of the next Williams Director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. The Director is the chief academic, administrative and financial officer of the Museum. Malcolm MacKay, with the executive search firm Russell Reynolds Associates, will assist with the search process.

The members of the Search Committee are:

- Ronald J. Daniels, Provost and Professor of Law (Chair)
- Michael J. Kowalski, Chair, Museum Board of Overseers
- Leslie Laird Kruhly, Secretary of the University
- E. Ann Matter, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor and Chair, Department of Religious Studies, and Associate Dean for Arts and Letters
- H. Carton Rogers, Director, University of Pennsylvania Libraries
- C. Brian Rose, James B. Pritchard Professor of Archaeology, Department of Classical Studies and Curator-in-Charge, Mediterranean Section
- Sara S. Senior, Chair Emerita, Museum Board of Overseers
- Gregory Urban, Arthur Hobson Quinn Professor of Anthropology and Chair, Department of Anthropology
- Lynne A. Hunter, Director Strategic Projects, Office of the Provost (staff)

Details regarding the position and the nomination process will be published in a future issue of *Almanac*.

Deaths

Dr. Lucid, English

Dr. Robert (Bob) Lucid, professor emeritus of English and Faculty Master at Gregory College House, died on December 12 at the age of 76.

Dr. Lucid earned an A.B. from the University of Washington in 1954 and an A.M. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1955 and 1958 respectively. All of his degrees were in English.

Dr. Lucid joined Penn's English department in 1964 as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 1968 and professor in 1975. He was Chair of the Faculty Senate from 1976-77. He retired in 1996 (*Almanac* April 2, 1996); for his retirement, he was honored with a colloquium featuring writer Norman Mailer and former U.S. Poet Laureate Richard Wilbur.

At the time of his retirement, Dr. Lucid was serving as the chairman of Penn's Collegiate Planning Board, the Council of Undergraduate Deans and of the Council in Faculty Residence. Dr. Lucid was also instrumental in establishing the Kelly Writers House. Most recently, he had been serving as the faculty master at Gregory College House. Previously, he had served as the faculty master at Hill College House.

Dr. Lucid taught courses concerning mass-audience literacy and literature in America. His research interests focused on Norman Mailer, about whom he had edited two books. Before he passed away, he was in the process of completing Mr. Mailer's authorized biography. In recognition of his teaching, Dr. Lucid was awarded the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching (1975) and the Ira Abrams Award (1987).

Dr. Lucid is survived by his son, John Lucid, his brother, Philip, and his sister, Elizabeth Terhar. A memorial is being planned for next semester.

Mr. Robinson, Human Resources

Gerald (Jerry) L. Robinson, former executive director of personnel relations, died December 11 at age 73.

Mr. Robinson is a 1954 graduate of the Wharton School and also received an M.S. from GSE in 1966. He joined Penn's admissions staff in 1957 and then was promoted to vice dean of admissions in 1965. He became director of residence in 1966, dean of men in 1968 and dean of residential life in 1970. In 1971 he became executive director of personnel relations. He held this position until 1982, when he left Penn to work for Educational Advisory Services, International. Dr. Robinson returned to Penn as a part-time professional from 1986 to 1990.

While at Penn, Mr. Robinson headed his alumni class, the Faculty Club Board of Governors (now the University Club), the Friars Senior Society and served on numerous committees.

Mr. Robinson is survived by his children Susan Malta, Timothy, Patricia Geary and Katherine Robinson; eight grandchildren; and his companion, Melinda Schorr. Donations can be made to the Gerald L. Robinson Memorial Fund (which benefits academic programs at Penn), checks payable to Philadelphia Foundation, 1234 Market St., ste. 1800, Philadelphia PA 19107.

To Report A Death

Almanac appreciates being informed of the deaths of current and former faculty and staff members, students and other members of the University community. Call (215) 898-5274.



Robert Lucid

'University City Dining Days'

Daniel Stern's new restaurant, Rae, in the Cira Centre, joins this diverse eight-night celebration of 21 of University City's most popular eateries. To celebrate University City's culinary scene and build upon the existing image of University City as a dining destination, they are gearing up for the winter edition of 'University City Dining Days.' Considering the success of the previous 'Dining Days,' Philadelphia foodies are being encouraged by the organizers to make reservations early. 'Dining Days,' will run *Thursday, January 11 through Thursday, January 18, 2007.*

Restaurants will offer a pre-fixed three-course dinner special for \$20, \$25 or \$30. Prices do not include tax, gratuity or alcohol and reservations should be made directly through the participating restaurant. See www.ucityphila.org for a list of participating restaurants.

University City District (UCD) produces the event in partnership with a committee made up of local restaurateurs, local business owners and publicists to help organize the event.

Sponsors of the promotion include *Philadelphia Magazine*, Greater Philadelphia Tourism and Marketing Corporation, UCD and the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Ed. Note: This is the last issue of *Almanac* for the Fall Semester. After the Winter Break, *Almanac* will commence publishing for the Spring Semester on Tuesday, January 9, 2007. The deadline for that issue is Tuesday, January 2, 2007. The deadline for the February AT PENN is Tuesday, January 16, 2007.

One Step Ahead

Security & Privacy
Made Simple

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

Security Patches/Updates— Usually Automatic, but “Restart” Weekly to be Sure

A critical aspect of keeping your computer secure is to regularly download and install operating system (OS) updates, patches and service packs. Many updates can be downloaded and installed “on the fly” with little or no impact on the computer’s operation. In some cases, however, rebooting is required for an update to take effect, and you may be presented with a dialogue box giving you the option of restarting immediately or canceling the restart. If restarting is impractical or inconvenient at the time, it’s very important to remember that a reboot is needed. If you tend to leave your computer on most of the time, be sure to restart it weekly to make sure any recently installed updates can take effect.

Your LSP has probably set your office computer up for automatic updating, but your home machine should be configured for auto-updates as well. See “Six Steps to Stronger Security” at www.upenn.edu/computing/security.

For additional tips, see the One Step Ahead link on the Information Security website: www.upenn.edu/computing/security/.

CLASSIFIEDS — UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH

60 years of age or more? Sleeping less than normal lately? Have lots of energy? Feeling really good or really irritable? Distractable? Thoughts racing by? Engaging in lots of activities, even risky ones? You may be interested in learning about participation in a clinical research program that is currently being conducted at the Bipolar Disorders Program of the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center. Study participants receive free consultation, investigational medication and all study-related tests at no cost. Compensation available for time & travel. To learn more about this study, please call Stacy at (215) 746-6414.

Dr. Patrick LaRicca, at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine is investigating a **food supplement that may increase energy** in healthy individuals 45-65 years of age. The study is 9 weeks in duration, requires 3 office visits, weekly phone calls, and answering questions on very short questionnaires. All subjects will receive both active product and placebo at some time or times during the study. There are no charges to the subjects. Subjects who complete the study can elect to receive a two-month supply of the active product free of charge. Subjects must be free of major illnesses and diseases that are associated with fatigue such as cancer, chronic fatigue syndrome, major depression and fibromyalgia. Call (215) 662-8988 for information.

Is losing weight your new year's resolution? Penn's Center for Weight and Eating Disorders is currently offering a 12-month research study that provides a state-of-the-art weight control program. It begins January 2007 but call today. You may be eligible if you are overweight, at least 21 years old and free of significant health problems. There is no charge for participation. For more information, call Shelley at (215) 746-7188.

Almanac is not responsible for contents of classified ad material.

Submissions for classified ads are due Thursday, January 4 for the following Tuesday's issue.

For information call (215) 898-5274 or visit www.upenn.edu/almanac/faqs.html#ad.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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 **December 4-10, 2006**. Also reported were 23 Crimes Against Property (including 18 thefts, 2 auto thefts, 2 burglaries and 1 vandalism). Full reports are available at: www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v53/n16/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 **December 4-10, 2006**. 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.

12/04/06	2:48 AM	3800 Walnut St	Male wanted on warrant/Arrest
12/04/06	11:10 AM	3401 Walnut St	Males cited for city code violation
12/06/06	6:00 AM	3800 Walnut St	Male in possession of unauthorized weapon/Arrest
12/06/06	4:11 PM	255 S 36th St	Offenders violated city ordinance
12/07/06	12:21 AM	3549 Chestnut St	Complainant harassed by unknown male
12/07/06	5:45 PM	3901 Chestnut St	Unauthorized male on premises/Arrest
12/08/06	1:13 AM	100 41st St	Male wanted on warrant/issued new court date
12/08/06	3:35 PM	University Ave	Complainant robbed by unknown male
12/08/06	5:23 PM	3940-3942 Chestnut St	Harassing note found on locker
12/08/06	7:59 PM	4006 Market St	Person cited for disorderly conduct
12/08/06	9:09 PM	3800 Ludlow St	Male cited for contempt of court
12/09/06	2:04 AM	4300 Walnut St	Driver arrested for drunk driving
12/10/06	1:57 AM	4000 Sansom St	Male arrested for disorderly conduct
12/10/06	10:42 AM	4000 Walnut St	Male cited for failure to appear
12/10/06	11:00 AM	4001 Walnut St	Male wanted on warrant/Arrest
12/10/06	3:56 PM	3600 Spruce St	Citations issued for skateboarders
12/10/06	7:35 PM	100 40th St	Complainant assaulted by unknown persons

18th District Report

13 incidents with 4 arrests (including 9 robberies and 4 aggravated assaults) were reported between **December 4-10, 2006** by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th St. & Market St. to Woodland Ave.

12/04/06	5:58 PM	4826 Walton Ave	Aggravated Assault
12/04/06	8:52 PM	4826 Walton Ave	Aggravated Assault
12/05/06	6:26 PM	4700 Larchwood Ave	Robbery/Arrest
12/06/06	4:03 AM	5100 Spruce St	Robbery
12/06/06	3:17 PM	1215 Markoe St	Robbery
12/06/06	3:45 PM	123 44th St	Robbery
12/06/06	11:55 PM	5000 Walnut St	Robbery
12/07/06	1:40 PM	4820 Greenway Ave	Aggravated Assault/Arrest
12/07/06	2:30 PM	5100 Market St	Robbery/Arrest
12/08/06	3:35 PM	3600 Guardian Dr	Robbery
12/08/06	3:56 PM	4800 Locust St	Aggravated Assault/Arrest
12/08/06	7:50 PM	5103 Hazel Ave	Robbery
12/10/06	4:10 PM	4500 Ludlow St	Robbery



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The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam Era Veteran or disabled veteran in the administration of educational policies, programs or activities; admissions policies; scholarship and loan awards; athletic; or other University administered programs or employment. Questions or complaints regarding this policy should 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).

How Segregated Communities Shape Racial Attitudes

Dr. Camille Zubrinsky Charles, associate professor of sociology, examines how segregation shapes our attitudes about race in her new book, *Won't You Be My Neighbor? Race, Class and Residence in Los Angeles*.

Through in-depth survey data from a large multiracial sample of Los Angeles residents, Dr. Charles found that segregation doesn't stem from blacks and whites preference to live only among themselves but rather from negative stereotypes of African-Americans held by whites, Latinos, Asians and others and from those groups' avoidance of African-Americans as neighbors.

"People of all races show a clear and consistent order of preference, with whites considered the most highly desired neighbors and blacks the least desirable. This is even true among recent immigrants who have little experience with American race relations," Dr. Charles wrote in her book, published this fall by the Russell Sage Foundation.

Dr. Charles found that people's racial prejudices coupled with minority-group fears of white hostility strongly affect decisions about where they live. Her book expands the analyses of race relations beyond black-white relations, looking at the effect of rising racial-ethnic diversity in America on relations between minority groups and at minority-group relations with whites. Over time and with increased exposure to other racial and ethnic groups, people show an increased willingness to live with neighbors of other races, she found.

How HPV is Presented Affects Use

In June, the Food and Drug Administration approved a vaccine to prevent human papillomavirus (HPV), the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S and the leading cause of cervical cancer. The way that HPV is described can impact whether women decide to seek vaccination, according to a study by researchers at the Center of Excellence in Cancer Communication Research at Penn's Annenberg School for Communication.

A representative sample of 635 American adults, of whom 49 percent were women, was randomly assigned to read one of three slightly different paragraphs about the vaccine through the Annenberg National Health Communication Survey.

One paragraph addressed how the vaccine protects against cervical cancer, another how the vaccine protects against cervical cancer and sexually transmitted infection and the third how the vaccine protects against cervical cancer, sexually transmitted infection and how it may or may not lead to increased sexual promiscuity among those vaccinated.

When women in the survey read that the vaccine protects only against cervical cancer, 63 percent indicated that they were very likely or somewhat likely to get the vaccine compared to 43 percent of women who read that the vaccine protects against cervical cancer and a sexually transmitted infection.

"Despite high levels of exposure to and awareness of the newly approved HPV vaccine, intentions to vaccinate are mixed," said Amy Leader, research director of the Center. "Trends indicate that intentions are highest when the vaccine is framed to solely prevent cervical cancer. Intentions are lowest when the vaccine is framed to prevent both cervical cancer and a sexually transmitted infection indicating that people may feel the need for an STI vaccine is personally unnecessary."

Older Men Treated for Early Prostate Cancer Live Longer

Recent findings from an observational study by researchers at Penn's School of Medicine suggest that men between ages 65 and 80 years who received treatment for early stage, localized prostate cancer lived significantly longer than men who did not receive treatment. The study is published in the December 13 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"For this study we looked back over the existing data of a large population of prostate cancer patients, aged 65 to 80, with small tumors that were at a low or intermediate risk of spreading," said senior author Dr. Katrina Armstrong, assistant professor of medicine, who worked on the study with colleagues from Penn's Abramson Cancer Center, Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Leonard Davis Institute of Health and Economics and Division of Internal Medicine and Fox Chase Cancer Center.

Data was used from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Medicare database, a population-based cancer registry which encompasses approximately 14 percent of the U.S. population. Data was included on 44,630 men, aged 65 to 80, who were diagnosed between 1991-1999, with prostate cancer and had survived more than a year after diagnosis. All patients were followed-up until death or December 31, 2002, the end of the study. Of the 44,630 men, 32,022 (71.8 percent) were actively treated with either surgery or radiation therapy during the first six months after diagnosis. The remaining group of 12,608 (28.3 percent)

were classified as having received "observation" and did not undergo surgery, radiation or hormonal therapy.

During the 12-years of follow-up, researchers found that the patients who received treatment had a 31 percent lower risk of death. In the observation-only group, 37 percent of the patients died whereas only 23.8 percent of those in the treatment group died.

Progress Against Overlooked Lung Disease in Women

Researchers are advancing against a rare, deadly lung disease (related to hormones) that targets only women, striking them down during their childbearing years. It can be triggered by pregnancy, progresses rapidly, and often results in death within ten years.

The disease, Lymphangiomyomatosis (LAM), causes extensive, abnormal smooth muscle-like cell proliferation, which invades and destroys the tissues of the lung by forming cysts, eventually obstructing the flow of air and leading to lung collapse and failure.

The lab of Dr. Vera Krymskaya, research associate professor of medicine in the Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Division of Penn's School of Medicine, was responsible for the breakthrough step of discovering the function of the gene that caused the cell malfunction, paving the way for a potential treatment utilizing a medication to inhibit abnormal growth. This treatment is now in a clinical trial.

As many as 250,000 women may be suffering from LAM, but many are misdiagnosed with asthma or emphysema or remain undiagnosed. Dr. Krymskaya explains, "the key to combating this disease is to educate physicians to know how to diagnose LAM and treat it in its earliest stages before the damage to the lung is done and a transplant is needed. A biopsy and a high resolution CT scan, not just an X-ray, are needed to detect LAM."

Dr. Krymskaya's discovery in 2002 revealed that abnormal smooth muscle-like LAM cells invading the lungs are due to the loss of growth control by tuberous sclerosis (a genetic disorder which causes tumors to form in organs) complex proteins—and furthermore, Dr. Krymskaya then discovered that growth can potentially be controlled by a drug (FDA-approved Rapamycin), which mimics the function of the missing proteins. Dr. Krymskaya made the link between similar basic research found in flies and applied it to humans, opening the door for the first-ever LAM treatment clinical trial now underway.

JitterBugs Could Turn Your Keyboard Against You

Researchers from Penn's School of Engineering and Applied Science warn against an entirely new threat to computer security: peripheral devices—such as keyboards, mice or microphones—which could be physically bugged in an attempt to steal data. Penn graduate student Gaurav Shah has identified a class of devices that could covertly transmit data across an existing network connection without the user's knowledge.

They are called JitterBugs, named by Dr. Matthew Blaze, associate professor of computer and information science, for both the way they transmit stolen data in "jittery" chunks by adding nearly imperceptible processing delays after a keystroke and for the "jitters" such a bug could inspire in anyone with secure data to safeguard.

"This is spy stuff. Someone would need physical access to your keyboard to place a JitterBug device, but it could be quite easy to hide such a bug in plain sight among cables or even replace a keyboard with a bugged version," said Mr. Shah, a graduate student in the department of computer and information science. "Although we do not have evidence that anyone has actually been using JitterBugs, our message is that if we were able to build one, so could other, less scrupulous people."

JitterBug devices only need to be installed. The device itself sends the collected information through any interactive software application where there is a correlation between keyboard activity and network activity, such as instant messaging, SSH or remote desktop applications. The bug leaks the stolen data through short, virtually unnoticeable delays added every time the user presses a key.

Anytime the user surfs the web, sends an e-mail or instant messages someone, an implanted JitterBug could be timed to open a covert jitter channel to send stolen data. According to Mr. Shah, a JitterBug could not log and transmit every touch of the key due to limited storage space on the device, but it could be primed to record a keystroke with a particular trigger.

According to Mr. Shah, the channel through which the JitterBug transmits data is also the point where it could be most easily detected and countered.

"We normally do not think of our keyboard and input devices as being something that needs to be secured; however, our research shows that if people really wanted to secure a system, they would also need to make sure that these devices can be trusted," Mr. Shah said. "Unless they are particularly paranoid, however, the average person does not need to worry about spies breaking into their homes and installing JitterBugs."