Daniel Lee: Evan C Thompson Professor

Provost Ronald J. Daniels and Associate Provost for Education Andrew Binns announced the appointment of Dr. Daniel Lee as the second Evan C Thompson Endowed Term Professor for Excellence in Teaching, effective July 1, 2008. Dr. Lee is currently associate professor in the departments of electrical & systems engineering and bioengineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. He joined the Penn faculty in 2001, after six years in the theoretical physics and biological computation departments of Bell Labs. His research focuses on the speed and efficiency with which computers and other artificial systems process information, in part by using biological systems as a model for artificial, real-time, intelligent robotic systems that can learn from experience. He has taught Electrical Circuits and Systems I (ESE 215), Digital Signal Processing (EE 531), and Learning in Robotics (ESE 650), among other courses, and has conducted research in Penn’s General Robotics, Automation, Sensing and Perception (GRASP) Lab.

In 2006, he received a Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, (Almanac April 11, 2006) Penn’s highest university-wide teaching award. In nominating him, several students described him as one of the most compelling and engaging teachers they had encountered at Penn. 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.” His educational impact reaches beyond the classroom and includes advising a large number of design projects, many of which have won departmental and school honors. He also leads Penn’s legged robot soccer team, the UPennbots, in the annual Robocup competition, an international joint project to promote artificial intelligence, robotics, and related fields.

Dr. Lee earned a PhD in physics (1995) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an PhD in physics (1990) from Harvard University. Evan Thompson, W’64, endowed the Thompson Professorship in 2003 to recognize teaching excellence. The first Evan C Thompson Professor was Dr. Dennis DeTurck, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (Almanac March 23, 2004), whose three-year term ended in spring 2008.

Annette Lareau: Stanley I. Sheerr Term Professor in the Social Sciences

Dr. Annette Lareau, a professor in the department of sociology, has been appointed the Stanley I. Sheerr Term Professor in the Social Sciences. Dr. Lareau’s research interests include social stratification, family, childhood, education, and qualitative research methods. She is the author of Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life at Home: Advantage: Social Class and Parental Involvement in Elementary Education, and is co-editor of Journeys Through Ethnography: Realistic Accounts of Fieldwork, Unequal Childhoods won Best Book Awards from the Family, Childhood and Youth, and Sociology of Culture sections of the American Sociological Association. Dr. Lareau taught at the University of Maryland, College Park, before joining the Penn faculty in 2008. The Stanley I. Sheerr Term Professorship in the Social Sciences is named for the late Stanley I. Sheerr, W’33, the former chairman of Crown Textile Company. When Mr. Sheerr passed away in 1984, his family made a gift in his memory to support faculty in the social sciences. Mrs. Sheerr passed away in 1989, but her two children—Richard Sheerr, C’69, and Constance Sheerr Kittner, CW’61—remain active Penn supporters.

Joachim Krieger: Calabi Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Dr. Joachim Krieger has been appointed the inaugural Calabi Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Recently named a 2008 Sloan Research Fellow, Dr. Krieger’s scholarly interests include partial differential equations, mathematical physics, harmonic analysis, and differential geometry. His work has been published in journals including Inventiones Mathematicae, Communications in Mathematical Physics, Memoirs of the American Mathematical Society, and the American Journal of Mathematics. Dr. Krieger joined the Penn faculty in 2007, after three years at Harvard University. He received his doctorate from Princeton University in 2003.

Awarded to a promising young teacher and scholar in the department of mathematics, the Calabi Assistant Professorship is named in honor of Eugenio and Giuliana Calabi. Eugenio Calabi is a professor emeritus in the department of mathematics. Specializing in differential geometry and partial differential equations, he is most popularly associated with Calabi-Yau manifolds. Dr. Calabi was a Putnam Fellow as an undergraduate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and received his doctorate from Princeton University.

He came to Penn in 1964. Appointed the Thomas A. Scott Chair of Mathematics in 1967, he won the American Mathematical Society’s Leroy P. Steele Prize in 1991, the same year he assumed emeritus status.

Gary Bernstein: Reese W. Flower Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics

Dr. Gary Bernstein, a professor of physics and astronomy, has been appointed the Reese W. Flower Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics. Dr. Bernstein’s research is focused on the use of gravitational lensing—the deflection of light by gravity as predicted by general relativity. His current work consists of large astronomical survey projects from space and ground that will use this lensing effect to measure as-yet-unexplained dark matter and dark energy. His past projects have included surveys of the solar system beyond Neptune and construction of one of the first mosaic CCD cameras to be placed on a large telescope, which was used to measure many of the high-redshift supernovae that provided early evidence of the accelerating universe.

The recipient of a CAREER Faculty Award from the National Science Foundation, Dr. Bernstein received his doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, and his bachelor’s degree in physics from Princeton University. He taught at the University of Michigan before joining the Penn faculty in 2002. Dr. Bernstein is co-creator of the popular Penn Astronomy and Astrophysics. The recipient of a CAREER Faculty Award from the National Science Foundation, Dr. Bernstein received his doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, and his bachelor’s degree in physics from Princeton University. He taught at the University of Michigan before joining the Penn faculty in 2002. Dr. Bernstein is co-creator of the popular Penn Astronomy and Astrophysics.

The Reese W. Flower Professorships were established through a bequest from Reese W. Flower in 1892. While Mr. Flower did not attend Penn, his ancestry may explain his interest in astronomy. He was a descendant of George Graham of London, a noted maker of astronomical instruments. Dr. Mark Devlin holds a second Flower Professorship in Astronomy and Astrophysics.

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Chair's Report. Faculty Senate Chair Sherri Adams reported that the November SEC meeting will feature an extended conversation with the Senate Committee on Faculty and the Academic Mission (SCOF) members and Associate Provost Vincent Price to discuss where faculty are going in the 21st century. Dr. Adams noted that the November 12 SEC meeting will be held in the Levy Conference Center at Silverman Hall, Penn Law School.

Past Chair's Report. Faculty Senate Past Chair Larry Gladney reported that the Academic Planning and Budget Committee did not meet.

Senate Nominating Committee. SEC voted to select the members of the Nominating Committee.

Updates on Penn Research Enterprise Initiatives and Metrics. Vice Provost for Research Steve Fluharty reviewed the four main areas of the research enterprise: research infrastructure, research compliance, research commercialization, and research investments. Dr. Fluharty discussed the tough climate for federal research money, noting that the increase in proposal submissions is helping. He reported that the regulatory environment has become tougher and stressed the importance of research compliance. Dr. Fluharty introduced Associate Provost for Research and Executive Director for the Center for Technology Transfer (CTT) Mike Cleare, who was hired to reinvigorate CTT into a world-class technology transfer institution.

Research Commercialization at Penn—Development, Benchmarking & Sustainability. Associate Provost for Research and Executive Director for the CTT Mike Cleare reported on the reorganization and revitalization of CTT. Dr. Cleare highlighted enhanced communication with the faculty featuring access to a new help desk, a database currently under development to provide up-to-date tracking information, and engaging faculty in decision-making processes and meetings. He discussed CTT’s redesigned office that was accomplished by investing in new and high-quality staff and outlining clear goals, objectives, and incentives to achieve better service. Dr. Cleare reported that CTT is working with several schools to encourage student participation in technology commercialization.

The SEC discussion returned to Vice Provost for Research Steve Fluharty to complete his update on the research development, benchmarking, and sustainability. Dr. Fluharty benchmarked Penn’s disclosures, technology transfer staffing, and patent expenses against peer institutions and reviewed peer funding models for recovery of associated research commercialization costs. He highlighted various cost recovery scenarios for Penn, with a particular emphasis on those permissible under Penn’s Patent Policy. SEC discussion focused on possible ways for Penn to structure cost recovery and SEC members and Dr. Fluharty agreed that the Patent Policy may need to be revisited in the foreseeable future. During general discussion SEC members expressed concern with recent changes to the policy for awarding visas to postdoctoral trainees. Dr. Fluharty encouraged the faculty to send feedback directly to him regarding problems concerning awarding visas to postdoctoral trainees and assured SEC that he will be monitoring the situation.


Weiss Tech House’s Associate Faculty Director: David Hsu

The Weiss Tech House, a University of Pennsylvania technology hub for student inventors and entrepreneurs, announced recently that it has named Dr. David Hsu associate faculty director. Dr. Hsu is associate professor of management at the Wharton School, teaching two MBA electives, Entrepreneurship and Technology Strategy.

“Professor Hsu is just the kind of addition the Weiss Tech House needs,” said Dr. Mark Yim, faculty director of The Weiss Tech House. “He has the drive and the vision to make this group everything it was created to be. On behalf of myself, Anne Stamer, director of The Weiss Tech House, and all the students, we are confident he will help us achieve our goals while creating partnerships that will benefit The Weiss Tech House today and into the future.”

Dr. Hsu’s areas of interest are in entrepreneurial innovation and management. Within that domain, he has investigated topics such as intellectual property management, start-up innovation, technology commercialization strategy, and venture capital. He has held various positions at Wharton, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and in industry.

Dr. Hsu’s research has appeared in leading journals such as *Journal of Finance, Management Science, RAND Journal of Economics,* and *Research Policy.* In 2008, he was awarded a Sloan Foundation Industry Studies Fellowship. He has also been invited to speak on topics related to entrepreneurship and technology at a variety of conferences, and participated in the US Senate Committee on Small Business forum: “Encouraging and Expanding Entrepreneurship: Examining the Federal Role.”

“The Weiss Tech House has done a remarkable job in assisting student entrepreneurs and inventors reach new heights by cultivating an environment that motivates and teaches,” said Dr. Hsu. “I look forward to building on that foundation of success by working with faculty and students to see through initiatives like PennVention and Innovation Week.”

Dr. Hsu holds a PhD in management from MIT, a masters in public policy from Harvard University, and a BA in economics and political science from Stanford University.

The Weiss Tech House encourages and supports students in the creation, development, and commercialization of innovative technologies. The 3,000 square-foot facility offers meeting space, computer labs and other resources for student inventors and entrepreneurs. For more information, visit: www.tech-house.upenn.edu/index.htm.

Session on Retirement Savings

Want to learn more about how your retirement savings are affected by current events in the financial environment? With words like “bailout,” “bub-" "bubble" and even "bankruptcy" flying through news reports recently, it’s natural to be concerned about your investment portfolio.

The Penn Professional Staff Assembly (PPSA), in partnership with Penn’s Division of Human Resources, invites Penn faculty and staff to a special “brown bag” information session on Monday, October 27, from noon to 1 p.m., in the Hall of Flags, Houston Hall. We’ll provide beverages and dessert; feel free to bring your lunch.

Our guest speaker will be Jennifer Crowe, institutional consultant, Individual Client Services, a registered representative of TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member NASD/SIPC.

For more information about this event, visit www.upenn.edu/PPSA, or e-mail ppsa@exchange.upenn.edu.

—Penn Professional Staff Assembly
—Division of Human Resources

Correction: Elected to Institute of Medicine

In last week’s Honors & Other Things, two of Penn’s newly elected members of the Institute of Medicine were inadvertently excluded from the list published.

Mr. Ralph W. Muller, chief executive officer, University of Pennsylvania Health System; and Dr. J. Sanford Schwartz, Leon Hess Professor in Internal Medicine, School of Medicine; and professor of health care systems, health management, and economics, Wharton School.

We regret these omissions. —Eds.

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.
Optimism Experts Handicap the Presidential Election

A Penn study analyzing the relative optimism of the 2008 presidential and vice presidential candidates has found Barack Obama and John McCain to be equally optimistic and Sarah Palin slightly more optimistic than Joseph Biden.

Researchers have determined that the most optimistic candidates win more than 80% of presidential elections dating back to 1900. How optimism confers this electoral advantage is unclear, but Penn psychologists believe optimistic candidates inspire hope in the electorate and try harder, particularly when faced with a challenge.

The study, conducted by researchers from Penn’s Positive Psychology Center, analyzed speeches given by both presidential candidates at the mid-August Saddleback Forum on Faith and the candidates’ respective convention acceptance speeches to determine levels of optimism.

“The initial results suggest this election is too close to call, shifts in optimism and rhetoric over the next few weeks may very well predict which side emerges as the victor,” Stephen Schueller, lead analyst on the project and a doctoral candidate in the department of psychology at Penn, said.

As a group, according to the study, the vice presidential candidates are less optimistic than the presidential candidates, with Senator Biden by far the most pessimistic of the four. In addition, Republican candidates show a higher level of internality when explaining positive events and a lower level of externality when explaining negative events, meaning they take the credit for good events and blame others as the cause for negative outcomes.

While speeches analyzed for the study were scripted, more instances of impromptu speech—such as the debates—can provide additional material to look for shifts and changes in optimism as the election draws.

The first stage of this multi-part study established baseline optimism ratings for each candidate as of early this month, to be used to gauge and compare optimism levels throughout the remainder of the campaign. Additional stages will include analysis of candidates’ statements on specific issues and events. Analysis will be performed on three dimensions: absolute optimism and pessimism (where does the candidate fall on a numerical scale), comparison between candidates (where does the candidate fall in relation to other candidates) and relative optimism and pessimism (how the candidate compares with the initial baseline figure).

This study is also part of a larger project conducted in partnership with Sensory Logic Inc., a Minneapolis-based company with a proprietary methodology that assesses emotional engagement and focus on a second-by-second basis using facial muscles and combinations of muscle activities.

MsFLASH: NIH Initiative Treatments for Menopause

The University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine is part of a new National Institutes of Health (NIH) initiative to conduct clinical trials of promising treatments for the most common symptoms of the menopausal transition such as hot flashes and night sweats, to be used to gauge and compare optimism levels throughout the remainder of the campaign.

The initiative—Menopause Strategies: Finding Lasting Answers for Quality of Life (MsFLASH)—is led by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) in collaboration with the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) and the Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH), all parts of the NIH.

The network centers will collectively receive approximately $4.4 million each year of the initiative, which is projected to run for five years. The Penn portion of the five-center study will be led by Dr. Ellen W. Freeman, research professor and co-director of the Human Behavior and Reproduction Unit in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Penn.

Different treatments will be studied for their effectiveness against hot flashes and night sweats in diverse groups of women in trials with either placebo or usual-care control groups. The usual care group does not use a placebo pill. Investigators will also look at possible effects on other symptoms at middle age, including sleep disturbance, mood changes, vaginal dryness, and sexual function. Possible treatments to be studied during the five-year trial include antidepressants such as paroxetine (Paxil) or escitalopram (Lexapro); paced respiration (slow deep breathing also known as rephrasing); and exercise programs, both moderate and vigorous.

The target date to start trials is June 2009. The Penn trial aims to recruit approximately 190 women from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

“Estradiol is the only FDA-approved treatment for hot flashes at this time,” said Dr. Freeman. “Researchers have studied other treatments but the studies have been small, often uncontrolled, and results are conflicting.”

Tests for Blocking Progression of Alzheimer’s Disease

Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine are conducting studies on an experimental medication to block nerve damage and inflammation in the brain that can lead to progressive memory loss and behavioral changes in people with Alzheimer’s disease. Current Alzheimer’s disease therapies focus on improving symptoms rather than attacking the root of the disease progression.

The buildup of plaques can trigger inflammation in the brains of people with Alzheimer’s disease (AD). A protein called amyloid beta builds up in plaque deposits and may promote damage to nerve cells. Researchers across the country will test an experimental drug that seeks to stop amyloid beta from binding to a particular receptor in the brain. This receptor, called RAGE, (receptor for advanced glycation endproducts), is believed to prompt an inflammatory reaction and has been linked to several chronic diseases, including Alzheimer’s and diabetes. Dr. Douglas Galasko, professor of neurology at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), is directing the study.

The study will recruit 400 volunteers aged 50 and up at 40 sites nationwide, including the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. The drug, which has been tested in animals and in preliminary human studies, is being studied in this Phase II clinical trial to determine if it will slow the progressive decline associated with Alzheimer’s disease.

“In addition to monitoring disease progression through cognitive tests, we will also examine various blood and brain markers of the disease,” said Dr. Jason Karlawish, local principal investigator and associate director of the Memory Disorders Clinic at Penn. “These include the degree of atrophy (or shrinkage) of the brain as measured by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), the extent of amyloid buildup in the brain assessed by Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging, and levels of amyloid beta and other proteins in blood and spinal fluid.”

Physicians and nurses will monitor the participants during regular visits and measure the severity and progression of the disease using standard tests of functional and cognitive abilities. To ensure unbiased results, neither the researchers conducting the trial nor the participants will know who is receiving the study drug and who is getting the placebo.

Esophageal Cancer Tumor Suppressor

Researchers from Penn’s School of Medicine have identified a key step in the formation—and suppression—of esophageal cancers and perhaps carcinomas of the breast, head, and neck. By studying human tissue samples, they found that Fbx4, a naturally occurring enzyme, plays a key role in stopping production of another protein called Cyclin D1, which is thought to contribute to the early stages of cancer development.

When mutations block production of Fbx4, Cyclin D1 is not broken down, and subsequently contributes to cancer’s advance. Fbx4 acts like a bouncer, stopping trouble before it starts by breaking down Cyclin D1 before it can affect the body.

“Cyclin D1 was identified nearly 20 years ago and after that, it became apparent that it was overexpressed in a high percentage of tumors,” said Dr. Alan Diehl, associate professor of cancer biology at Penn’s Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute. “But its expression didn’t correlate to mutations within Cyclin D1, so we were looking for a protein that regulates accumulation. That’s Fbx4.”

For this study, researchers screened 116 esophageal tumors and found 16 mutations. Their findings were published in Cancer Cell.

The actual mutations researchers found are located within a highly conserved region of Fbx4 that functions like an ‘on switch.’ Mutations within that switch region inhibit activation of Fbx4, which means it can’t trigger destruction of Cyclin D1.

The results are important in that they show how Cyclin D1 becomes so prevalent in tumors. Before, it was thought that Cyclin D1 was present because of a mutation somewhere in the DNA of a cell. Instead, this study shows that Cyclin D1 naturally occurs, but our bodies have created a natural defense mechanism that breaks it down before cancer develops. “When Fbx4 is inactive, it permits the accumulation of its target, Cyclin D1,” said Dr. Diehl.

While it remains important to define the cause of the initial mutations, this study provides researchers with a better understanding of the early stages of cancer, which is crucial to finding a way to reverse the process.

Co-authors are Drs. Hiroshi Nakagawa and Anil K. Rustgi from the Department of Genetics; Dr. Olena Barbash, Ms. Petia Zamfirova and Mr. Douglass I. Lin from the Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute; and Drs. Xianguimei Chen, Ke Yang and Fengmin Lu of Peking University Health Center in China.
**Diabetes and Related Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders**

**Funding Opportunity: December 15**

The Diabetes Endocrinology Research Center (DERC) of the University of Pennsylvania is now accepting applications for support to perform pilot and feasibility studies in diabetes and related endocrine and metabolic disorders. Young investigators who are starting their laboratories or established investigators who wish to take a new direction to their studies, are encouraged to submit applications to the Diabetes Endocrinology Research Center, Suite 700 Clinical Research Building.

An original, 10 copies, and an electronic PDF of the complete DERC Application must be submitted. The cover page and application instructions are available on its website: www.med.upenn.edu/diomed/derc/pilots.html

If human subjects will be participating in the proposed research, it will be necessary to submit an NIH Human Subject form with the application. If animal research is being proposed, a copy of the IRB/IACUC application or approval letter is required. Please note that funds will not be disbursed until an approval letter is submitted.

Investigators who are currently in the first year of support through this Pilot and Feasibility Program may reapply for an additional year of funding. Such continuation requests need to be carefully justified, however, and will be considered as a competing renewal application.

Application Deadline: December 15, 2008; for information, contact Heather Yavil via telephone: (215) 898-4365 or e-mail: hyavil@mail.med.upenn.edu or Dr. Doris Stoffers, Director Pilot/Feasibility Grant Program via telephone: (215) 573-5413 or e-mail: stoffers@mail.med.upenn.edu.

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**Penn Press Collaboration with *Dissent* Magazine**

The University of Pennsylvania Press announced that it will begin publishing *Dissent*, with the first issue bearing the Penn Press imprint to appear in January 2009. The venerated quarterly political magazine will join Penn Press’s growing roster of journals in an agreement that will allow *Dissent* to retain control of its editorial content and mission while drawing upon the Press’s strengths as a dedicated publisher.

Penn Press Director Eric Halpern is confident that the collaboration will be mutually beneficial. “We have developed effective, efficient systems to serve the business, production, print distribution, and electronic syndication needs of our eight journals,” he remarked. “Adding *Dissent* to the family is in keeping with our goal of reaching a broad community of readers with scholarship and writing that matter.”

First published in 1954, *Dissent* was founded by writer and critic Irving Howe to “dissent from the bleak atmosphere of conformism that pervades the political and intellectual life of the United States.” In the ensuing decades, *Dissent* has published the work of some of the most influential journalists and intellectuals in America and Europe, from Norman Mailer and Hannah Arendt, to George Packer and Samantha Power. Current coeditors Michael Walzer and Mitchell Cohen continue to foster the kind of critical debate and penetrating analysis that is too often conspicuously absent from the commercial media.

With more than a century of experience as a nonprofit publisher, Penn Press releases more than 100 new book titles annually in a focused list across the humanities and social sciences. Penn’s President Amy Gutmann, a *Dissent* author, says that “the joining of Penn Press and *Dissent* reflects their shared commitment to disseminating work that is influential and innovative, work that addresses the concerns of students, teachers, professionals, and the reading public on a wider scale.”

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**MAGPI, Penn’s Internet2 Connector: Enabling Princeton Institutions to Access Global Sites at Lightning Speeds**

The University of Pennsylvania’s Internet2 regional connector, MAGPI (Mid-Atlantic GigaPoP in Philadelphia for Internet2), is providing high performance Internet connections for several institutions on Princeton University’s Forrestal Campus, including its Plasma Physics Lab and High Energy Physics Department as well as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory.

The project provides a 6,400 percent improvement in the performance of the physics lab’s Internet connection, now at 10 gigabit, 10 billion bits per second, from a previous speed of 155 megabit, 155 million bits per second. This upgrade allows researchers to access sites worldwide at near real-time speed and will facilitate collaborations on international fusion facilities, including the future ITER burning plasma experiment in France and existing facilities in Korea and China.

This connection was made possible through the US Department of Energy’s Energy Sciences Network, which supports the department’s science mission.

Through the use of ESnet, NOAA lab received a 1Gb circuit, providing high-speed access to supercomputing sites like Oak Ridge, where climate simulations will be run. Princeton’s High Energy Physics Department is also linked up at 1Gb, providing a “tiered” status for access to the new Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland.

Penn’s MAGPI connector serves as the coordinator and manager of this multi-agency consortium, through a funding model whereby DOE and NOAA equally share the cost of the fiber installation, with Princeton University contributing to the on-campus cost of the optical equipment. Penn is playing a leading role in developing Internet2 and is a founding member of the Internet2 consortium. MAGPI provides Internet2 connectivity to Penn and other research and education institutions in the tri-state region.

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**Penn CIGHT Postdoctoral Traineeships: February 1**

The University of Pennsylvania Penn CIGHT postdoctoral training program is recruiting junior investigators who are interested in developing research skills and expertise in the ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI) of human genetics and genomics. The training program is sponsored by the Penn CIGHT, a multidisciplinary, NIH-funded research center focused on studying ELSI-related aspects of uncertainty engendered by new genetic technologies. The overall goal of the center is to develop tools that will help consumers, professionals, policy makers, and insurers understand and cope with the implications of advances in genetic research. The center’s initial projects include (1) a historical and sociological analysis of prenatal testing for cystic fibrosis and Down syndrome; (2) an assessment from the perspective of patients, providers and third party payers of the utility of a genetic test to identify future disease susceptibility; and (3) an evaluation of the long-term psychological, social, and medical effects of genetic testing and counseling for breast cancer on African American women and their families.

The Penn CIGHT postdoctoral training program is a multidisciplinary, integrative 1-2 year experience. It includes three primary components:

1. A mentored research project designed and conducted by the trainee in collaboration with his/her mentors.
2. Involvement in the activities of the center including monthly conferences, annual retreats, research progress meetings, and linkages to the five other ELSI Centers of Excellence.
3. Individualized training experiences designed to match the research area and interests of the trainee.

Each trainee will be linked to one or more mentors from the Penn CIGHT faculty. Potential mentors include experts from multiple schools at Penn. Trainees and their mentors also can compete for pilot research funding through the Penn CIGHT.

The Penn CIGHT postdoctoral training program is appropriate for individuals from a wide range of backgrounds including the humanities, the social and behavioral sciences, genetics and other basic sciences, nursing and medicine. Candidates must be US citizens or permanent residents (Green Card holders) and must have received no more than four years of NRSA funding by the time of appointment. The stipend includes individual health benefits.

Underrepresented minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Individuals interested in applying should submit (1) a recent curriculum vitae including previous research experience, (2) a personal statement describing their reason for pursuing this training program and their potential research interests, limited to one page; and, (3) a letter of recommendation from their training director or doctoral committee chairperson/advisor. The deadline for submission is February 1, 2009. Applicants will be notified of the selection committee decision by April 1, 2009. Traineeships can begin in the period between June-September, 2009.

Mail applications to: Penn CIGHT, 538 Maloney, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, 3400 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA 19104

Or e-mail: penncight@uphs.upenn.edu

For additional information, contact Dr. Katrina Armstrong, at karmstr@mail.med.upenn.edu.

—Dr. Reed E. Pytercz, Professor of Medicine and Genetics, Director of the Penn CIGHT
University of Pennsylvania Libraries

Life In Boxes: Comic Art & Artifacts
Drawn from a Collection of over 20,000 Comic Books and 5,000 Related Books

While most ten-year-old boys were buying candy and baseball cards, Havertown native Steven Rothman was using his allowance to buy comic books. This early investment led to a life-long interest in comics, resulting in a recent donation to the University of Pennsylvania of 20,000 comic books and 5,000 graphic novels—titles and related titles. A fraction of this mammoth collection comprises the upcoming exhibit Life in Boxes: Comic Art & Artifacts at the Kamin Gallery at the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, on display October 27 through March 22. The exhibition opens to the public with a lecture by artist Charles Burns, in Meyerson Hall, followed by gallery remarks by Mr. Rothman. Boxes are the ruled surroundings of every comic strip and comic book panel and even of the 24 frames-per-second of the animated film. Life in Boxes: Comic Art & Artifacts reflects the history and development of the comic—strips, books, and graphic novels—and of animation that is often the cartoon come to life. The exhibit opens by exploring the development of the five major comic genres: cartoons, comic strips, comic books, graphic novels, and animation.

It then focuses in depth on Superman; women superheroes; Peanuts; Pogo; ducks from Donald to Dirty; seminal underground comics, including Air Pirate Funnies and R. Crumb’s Fanny Animals; and works by local and foreign artists. Exhibition highlights include original artwork by influential comic strip artists including Frank King (Gasoline Alley); Milton Caniff (Terry and the Pirates); Watsou (Hawkshaw the Detective); Stan Drake (The Heart of Juliet Jones); and Coulton Waugh (Dicky Dare).

Bibliophile and book collector Steven Rothman is a 1975 Penn alumnus, with a BA in American civilization and a long-time member of the Council of the Friends of the Library at Penn, and at Bryn Mawr College. For ten years he has been president of the Philobiblon Club, a Philadelphia-based group devoted to the book. He has also served as President of the Library Associates at Haverford College.

“I fondly recall being handed a dime when I was very young and told to choose a fountain soda, a candy bar, or a comic book. Beginning with that youthful (in)discretion, I have bought comic books, cartoon collections, graphic novels, reference works, histories, criticism, animation cells, and even some original art, building the mass from which I have selected this exhibition,” said Mr. Rothman. “I am grateful to the University of Pennsylvania Rare Book and Manuscript Library for the opportunity to curate this exhibition. The project has allowed me to see just what can be started on a dime.”

After working in a family business for over 25 years, he decided to spend some time researching and writing. He has collected the books of 20th-century essayist and novelist Christopher Morley since the age of 12 and now has the largest and most complete collection of Morley in private hands. With the encouragement of the Morley family he is working on a literary biography of Morley. Mr. Rothman also collects the works of Conan Doyle, books about Sherlock Holmes, and novels set in Philadelphia, among other things.

Mr. Rothman is a member of the Baker Street Irregulars (BSI), an international coterie devoted to Sherlock Holmes, and since 1999 has edited BSI’s quarterly journal, The Baker Street Journal. He is one of six members of the BSI Trust, formed in 2003 to set up, furnish, and maintain the BSI archives, housed at the Houghton Library at Harvard University. He has edited several books and articles including The Standard Doyle Company: Christopher Morley on Sherlock Holmes, published by Fordham University Press and A Remarkable Mixture of award-winning articles from The Baker Street Journal, and co-edited with Nicholas Utchan, To Keep the Memory Green: Reflections on the Life of Richard Lanceyn Green 1953-2004, published by The Quarterly Press, a collection of essays about the bibliographer and scholar of Arthur Conan Doyle.

Upcoming Events This Semester


October 22, 6 p.m., ICA: Whenever Wednesday Tour: R. Crumb, associate curator Jenelle Porter sorts through the themes and ideologies.

October 22, 7 p.m., International House: Whenever Wednesday Film: Crumb, Terry Zwigoff’s 1995 biography documenting the life and times of the comix pioneer R. Crumb. See www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/pow.html

October 27-March 22, Life in Boxes: Comic Art & Artifacts; Kamin Gallery, Penn Libraries exhibition featuring editorial cartoons; superheroes; underground comix.

October 27, noon, The David B. Weigle Information Commons, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center; Comic Life Showcase with Louise Krasnie-wicz; software for creating comic books and graphic novels. Anthropologist Louise Krasnie-wicz will demonstrate this program and show examples of her own and her students’ work. Register: www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/pow.html

October 27, 5:30 p.m., Meyerson Hall, Room B-1; Charles Burns, artist and author of Black Hole; this lecture is part of the Spiegel Resident’s made possible by the Emily and Jerry Spiegel Fund to Support Contemporary Culture and Visual Arts. The Spiegel Fund creates and supports a series of coordinated interdisciplinary courses, programs and events.

October 27—March 22, Life in Boxes exhibition Opening & Reception, 7 p.m., Kamin Gallery; alumnus Steven Rothman will speak briefly about his impressive collection and how to hide 20,000 comic books in a small apartment.

November 2, 1 p.m.; ICA; First Sunday Tour. Yael Rice analyzes the warped, genius vision of comix legend R. Crumb.

November 12, 7 p.m., ICA: Whenever Wednesday: Performance: Minicomic Pile Up; many comic artists get their start in the do-it-yourself world of minicomics, small, limited-edition artist books—collectable gems—that run the gamut from photocopied gag strips to multicolored silk-screen masterworks. Philadelphia artist Paul Swenbeck has gathered some of the brightest stars in underground comics to debut new minicomics—and to perform music, which comic artists have traditionally done on the side since the early days, with R. Crumb and his Cheap Suit Serenaders. Free to members & Penn students, $5 general admission.

November 6, 5:30 p.m., Rosenwald Gallery, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center; Arie Kaplan, From Krakow to Krypton; Jews and Comic Books. Kaplan argues that Jews built the comic book industry from the ground up, and that the influence of Jewish writers, artists, and editors continues to this day. A lively presentation—including film and video clips—followed by a book signing by author Arie Kaplan. This event is cosponsored by the Jewish Studies Program’s Kutchin Seminar Series.

November 19, 7 p.m., Rosenwald Gallery, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center; Animation Selections from the Library Collection, organized by Joshua Mosley. A fun-filled evening of animation and popcorn. On view will be a range of animation produced during the last century by individual animators and large studios.
Flu Shots for Penn Faculty and Staff

Human Resources is partnering with Occupational Medicine to offer full- and part-time staff flu shots at a discounted cost. Having the flu is never pleasant, so we hope you will take advantage of this health promotion opportunity.

How can I get a flu shot?

So that we can prepare for the demand, you must pre-register online to receive a flu shot. This allows us to keep lines and waiting to a minimum.

Pre-registering is very easy. Just go to www.hr.upenn.edu/quality/wellness/flushots.asp and follow the step-by-step instructions. You can register up until the day before the date you select, but it’s better to do so sooner rather than later because time slots fill up quickly. The first and last time slots typically fill up most quickly, so try selecting some time in the middle for easier registration.

*When can I get a flu shot?*

- Thursday, November 6, 2008, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 11, 2008, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Thursday, November 13, 2008, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

*Where can I get a flu shot?*

The shots will be administered at three convenient locations: the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS), the Wharton School, and the School of Nursing. You’ll see the exact locations when you pre-register online.

*What do I need to bring to the flu shot site?*

Be sure that you are wearing clothes that provide easy access to your upper arm. You will also need to bring the following with you in order to receive a flu shot:

- $22 cash (You may be eligible to receive reimbursement from your health care provider. Health insurance and pre-tax account reimbursement information will be available at each flu shot site.)
- Your PennCard

*Are flu shots available at any other time or place?*

Penn is offering flu shots only at the times and locations listed above. However, Aetna Health Care plan members do have access to a flu shot program through Maxim Health Systems clinics. Shots are available through mid-November. To find the Maxim Health Systems clinic nearest you, visit www.findaflushot.com or call 1-866-466-2976. Make sure you bring your Aetna ID card with you when you visit the clinic nearest you. This program is not available to members of health plans administered by providers other than Aetna.

—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.

**Filesharing Lawsuits: Not Just For Students Anymore**

Much has been reported in the media about the ongoing campaigns by entertainment trade organizations such as the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) to seek out infringement via illegal filesharing of their copyrighted materials on college campus networks and, in some cases, institute lawsuits in order to recover damages from the responsible parties.

As reported in the *Daily Pennsylvanian* in recent months, numerous Penn students have been targeted by RIAA lawsuits, but what you might not know is this: many other Penn network users who engage in illegal filesharing—employees, consultants, contractors, guests and more—have also found themselves the subjects of legal proceedings that have cost them thousands of dollars in settlement fees when they could have purchased the same songs for 99 cents each from iTunes. And if that weren’t enough, Penn employees found to be engaging in copyright violation are subject to disciplinary proceedings up to and including termination.

In the next couple of weeks you’ll start seeing signs around campus promoting Penn’s “Know The Facts” campaign to inform students—and parents—of the consequences of illegal filesharing, but it’s important for all Penn network users to know and understand that it’s not just a “student thing.”

To receive weekly OneStepAhead tips via e-mail, send e-mail to listserv@lists.upenn.edu with the following text in the body of the message: sub one-step-ahead <your name>.

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

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Stronger Together is the theme of the merged workplace charitable giving campaign at Penn and the Health System. The Campaign runs now through November 21. This year’s goal is $1,200,000.

**Week One Winners**


*Miriam Tyler,* Development & Alumni Relations—The Penn Ice Rink at the Class of 1923 Arena coupon booklet containing 10 admission tickets, Business Services

*Lee Williamson,* HUP—$100 certificate for Penne at the Inn at Penn, Business Services

*Mary Mazzola,* School of Social Policy & Practice—One-year University Club membership, Business Services

*Gloria Sims,* Corp HUP—One overnight stay with breakfast at Sheraton Hotel, Business Services

*Martin Mendetta,* ISC—Pretzel Party Pack, Auntie Anne’s

*Charles Batipps,* HUP—4 Upper Box Seats for an upcoming game, Camden River Sharks

*Linda Stover,* CPUP—Private Office Brunch or Happy Hour, Domus Apartments

*Gary Truhlar,* HR—$50 Certificate for Philadelphia’s oldest Italian restaurant, Dante and Luigi’s

*Julie Davis,* HUP—Voucher for a free sandwich at Subway in 1920 Commons, Business Services

*Edward Rock,* Law School—Penn umbrella, UPHS HR

*Pamela Burgess-Jones,* School of Medicine—Penn umbrella, UPHS HR

*Nicole Mazzaotto,* CPUP—trinket box, UPHS HR

To qualify for the week three raffle, you must participate by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 24—either online at www.upenn.edu/pennsway or contact your Penn’s Way Coordinator for a paper form.

Raffle winners for week two will be randomly selected Monday, October 27 and will be announced in *Almanac*.

**Week Three Raffle: October 20-24**

*Business Services*—University of Pennsylvania photograph book

*Business Services*—The Penn Ice Rink at the Class of 1923 Arena, 10 admission tickets

*Auntie Anne’s*—Pretzel Party Pack

*Abbraccio Restaurant*—$50 gift certificate

*Business Services*—$50 gift for Penne at the Inn at Penn

*Hilton Inn at Penn*—Free night stay

*Business Services*—iPod Nano

*Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site*—3 guest passes to the site

*Business Services*—Voucher for a free sandwich at Subway, 1920 Commons

*National Constitution Center*—4 passes

*UPHS HR*—Penn umbrella

*UPHS HR*—Penn umbrella

*UPHS HR*—trinket box

—Rob Eich, Penn’s Way Campaign

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**Almanac On-the-Go: RSS Feeds**

*Almanac* provides links to select stories each week there is an issue. Visit *Almanac’s* website, www.upenn.edu/almanac for instructions on how to subscribe to the *Almanac* RSS Feed.

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**CLASSIFIEDS—UNIVERSITY**

RESEARCH

The UPHS/Division of Endocrinology seeks women at least 60 years of age who have been told they need treatment for osteoporosis or who have had a bone fracture from osteoporosis for a research study. Women who are interested will be evaluated by bone densitometry and MRI. Women who qualify will receive an osteoporosis medication for two years and compensation for travel. Please call Terry Scatteredgood RN, MSN at (215) 898-5656 for more information.

For information call (215) 898-5274 or visit www.upenn.edu/classified. *Almanac* is not responsible for contents of classified ad material.
Update

**October AT PENN**

**CANCELLATION**

22 The talk, Molecular Targeted Therapies in Ovarian Cancer: Are They Working? with Andrew Goodwin, has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled in the spring semester (CRRWH).

**CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY**

24 Stimulus Children’s Theater Presents: Alice in Wonderland; 6 p.m.; Class of ’49 Auditorium, Houston Hall; $4/children, $7/adults; also October 25, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. (PAC).

**CONFERENCE**

24 The Shape of the New American City; 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; ARCH Bldg.; register: www.upenn.edu/pennniv/newcity/registration.shtml; continues October 25, 9-11 a.m. (Penn IUR; American Academy of Political and Social Science).

**ON STAGE**

22 Mask and Wig (All Male Comedy Troupe) Presents: Oil Vey!; for mature audiences; 8 p.m.; Iron Gate Theater; $15; tickets: www.maskandwig.com; also October 23, 8 p.m.; October 24 and 25, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. (PAC).

23 Penn Dance (Modern Dance Troupe) and Penn Glee Club (All Male Choral Group) Present: Nightmare on Spruce Street; 9 p.m.; Harold Prince Theatre, Annenberg Center; $10/door, $7 on Locust Walk; also October 24, 8 p.m. and October 25, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. (PAC).

**SPECIAL EVENT**


**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 October 6-12, 2008. Also reported were 15 crimes against property (including 14 thefts and 1 case of fraud.) Full reports are available at: www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v55/n09/crreport.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 October 6-12, 2008. The University Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from the Schuykill 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.

**District Report**

11 incidents with 5 arrests (including 2 aggravated assaults, 8 robberies and 1 rape) were reported between October 6-12, 2008 by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th St. & Market St. to Woodland Ave.

**18th District Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Incident Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/06/08</td>
<td>10:02 AM</td>
<td>3400 Spruce St</td>
<td>Complainant touched in inappropriate manner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/08/08</td>
<td>12:23 PM</td>
<td>4000 Walnut St</td>
<td>Gurrency taken from complainant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/06/08</td>
<td>5:12 PM</td>
<td>3800 Chestnut St</td>
<td>Male wanted on warrant/Arrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/06/08</td>
<td>12:19 PM</td>
<td>133 S 36th St</td>
<td>Male in building without authorization/Arrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/07/08</td>
<td>7:45 PM</td>
<td>4000 Spruce St</td>
<td>Complainant robbed by unknown offender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/09/08</td>
<td>8:35 PM</td>
<td>39th and Market St</td>
<td>Intoxicated driver arrested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/09/08</td>
<td>10:59 PM</td>
<td>4232 Spruce St</td>
<td>Complainant threatened by ex-boyfriend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/08/08</td>
<td>6:59 PM</td>
<td>3400 Ludlow St</td>
<td>Male wanted on warrant/Arrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/12/08</td>
<td>3:10 AM</td>
<td>3400 Spruce St</td>
<td>Male cited for disorderly conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/12/08</td>
<td>11:28 PM</td>
<td>3400 Chestnut St</td>
<td>Males urinating in public, 2 citations issued</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Naveen Ponnappa, Janday Wilson**

**TALKS**

23 Rare Murals from Late Medieval Kerala; Henri Schildt, visiting scholar; noon; rm. 816, Williams Hall (South Asia Center).

24 Live Web Seminar—Infections Caused by Balamuthia mandrillaris in Latin America; noon; Dunlop Auditorium, Steummerl Hall; register: janes@mail.med.upenn.edu (Penn Global Health Program).

**Deadline:** Submissions for the Update are due every Monday for the following Tuesday’s issue. The deadline for the December AT PENN calendar is Tuesday, November 18. For information see www.upenn.edu/almanac/calendar/caldead-real.html.

**Inbal Pinto Dance Company**

Inbal Pinto Dance Company comes to the Zellerbach Theatre at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts for two shows, October 28 and October 29, at 7:30 p.m., celebrating the Jewish New Year 5769. This past season Inbal Pinto, Israel’s new ‘high priestess of dance,’ collaborated with Pilobolus in the creation of a new work. For the first time in the 38-year existence of the Pilobolus they invited an outside choreographer to work with them. The result, Rushes, was a success. The Philadelphia debut of Ms. Pinto’s company in its full-length award-winning production, Shaker (above), is set inside a stage sized snow-filled globe, with various dance styles. For tickets and more information, visit: www.pennpresents.org.
Some Tricks for Traveling More Safely

Public Transportation Safety Tips

- Become familiar with the different bus and trolley routes and their schedules. SEPTA schedules and general information are now posted on the web—the URL is www.septa.com or call (215) 580-7800.
- When traveling at night it is better to use above-ground transportation systems. Buses, the above-ground stretches of subway/surface lines and elevated lines give less cover for criminal activity.
- If you do travel underground, be aware of the emergency call boxes on the platform. These phones contact SEPTA Police. The phones operate much like the University’s Blue Light Phones. To operate the SEPTA Phone, push the button. A SEPTA operator will identify your transit stop and assist you immediately.
- Whenever possible, try to sit near the driver.
- In the subway station stand back from the platform edge.
- Don’t fall asleep! Stay Alert!

**LUCY Loop**

- Operated by SEPTA, Monday through Friday except major holidays, 6:10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- LUCY Loop departs 30th Street Station every 10 to 35 minutes and loops through University City.
- For more information call (215) 580-7800.

**Emergency Phones at Subway Stops**

30th & Market Streets—Subway surface SEPTA Emergency Phone located near the middle of the platform on the wall.
33rd & Market Streets—SEPTA Emergency Phone on both the east and west platforms on the wall near the middle of the platform.
34th & Market Streets—SEPTA Emergency Phone on the El (elevated lines) platform for east and westbound trains.

- Penn Blue Light Emergency Phone located on the northeast corner next to the subway entrance.
36th & Sansom Streets—SEPTA Emergency Phone on both the east and west platforms on the wall near the middle of the platform.
37th & Spruce Streets—SEPTA Emergency Phone near the middle of the eastbound platform on the wall and near the middle of the eastbound platform.
- Penn Blue Light Emergency Phone located across the street at the entrance to the Quad. In Dietrich Gardens near the eastbound entrance to the subway. Also, outside on the wall to the entrance of the Steinberg-Dietrich cafeteria.

40th & Market Streets—El subway stop; SEPTA Emergency Phone located on the platform near the cashier.
33rd & South Streets (University Station)—SEPTA Emergency Phone located in middle of platform.
- Penn Blue Light Emergency Phone located at northbound and southbound stairwells of platform.
40th & Baltimore Avenue—
- Penn Blue Light Emergency Phone located next to SEPTA station.

**Traveling During Non-Peak Times**

- If possible use above-ground transportation.
- If you use subways, stand near the SEPTA call box.
- If possible use the Market-Frankford El. In case of an emergency there is a cashier’s booth staffed during hours of operation.
- If possible travel with a companion(s).