On Sunday, May 13, Nipun Mehta will be Penn’s guest speaker for the Baccalaureate Ceremony which is an interfaith program that includes music, readings, prayers and a guest speaker. Two consecutive ceremonies will be held in Irvine Auditorium, in order to accommodate all those who wish to attend. Students whose last names begin with A–K are invited to attend at 1:30 p.m.; those whose last names begin with L–Z are invited to attend at 3 p.m.

Mr. Mehta is the founder of ServiceSpace (formerly CharityFocus), an incubator of projects that works at the intersection of volunteering, technology and gift-economy. What started as an experiment with four friends in the Silicon Valley has now grown to an global ecosystem of over 350,000 members that has delivered millions of dollars in service for free. Mr. Mehta has received many awards, including

**Heather Love: R. Jean Brownlee Term Professor in the School of Arts & Sciences**

Dr. Heather Love has been appointed to the R. Jean Brownlee Term Chair in the School of Arts and Sciences. She had previously served as the M. Mark and Esther K. Watkins Assistant Professor in the Humanities. Dr. Love studies late-nineteenth- and twentieth-century British and American literature, with research interests that include gender studies and queer theory, the literature and culture of modernity, affect studies, film and visual culture, psychoanalysis, sociology and literature, disability studies and critical theory. Dr. Love is the author of *Feeling Backward: Loss and the Politics of Queer History* and the editor of a special issue of *GLQ* featuring the scholarship and legacy of Gayle Rubin. She is also the co-editor of an issue of *New Literary History*. She has recent and forthcoming essays on description as method in literary studies and the social sciences, transgender fiction, spinner aesthetics and comparative social stigma. She is currently working on a book on the source materials for Erving Goffman’s *Encounter*. (continued on page 4)

**Benjamin Garcia: Presidential Term Professor**

Penn President Amy Gutmann and Provost Vincent Price are pleased to announce the appointment of Benjamin Garcia as the first Presidential Term Professor, effective June 1, 2012. Dr. Garcia will be Presidential Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics in the Perelman School of Medicine.

“I am delighted that Ben Garcia is joining us as Penn’s first Presidential Professor,” said Penn President Gutmann. “He is a brilliant young scholar and researcher whose pioneering work in cell biology and proteomics has placed him at the forefront of his field, earning him numerous awards, including a Presidential Early Career Award, the highest honor bestowed by the federal government on young scientists and engineers. Ben is the consummate interdisciplinary scholar and he will add further distinction to our eminent faculty.”

Dr. Garcia is currently assistant professor of molecular biology at Princeton University, where he has taught since 2008, following three years as an NIH-NRSA Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for Genomic Biology of the University of Illinois. His pioneering research involves developing new mass spectrometry methods and bioinformatic computational tools to examine critical modifications in cellular proteins that alter and control their functions.

In addition to the Presidential Early Career Award, Dr. Garcia has received more than a dozen major awards, including a National Science Foundation Early Career Award, a National Institutes of Health Director’s New Innovator Award, and an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship. “Ben Garcia is one of the most important and exciting young researchers in cell biology,” said Provost Price. “His innovative work impacts a wide range of areas, from medicine to chemistry to bioengineering. I am certain that his devotion to both teaching and integrating knowledge will be great assets to the Penn community in the years ahead.”

Presidential Term Professorships, supported in part by a $2 million grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts, are awarded to exceptional scholars, of any rank, who contribute to faculty eminence through diversity across the University. (Almanac December 6, 2011).

“Ben Garcia brings extensive proteomics expertise to Penn, and he is joining an environment dedicated to linking scientific discoveries to new diagnostics and treatments,” said Dr. J. Larry Jameson, Executive Vice President for the Health System and Dean of the Perelman School of Medicine. “I am confident that Ben will partner with collaborators throughout the University to make a major impact, particularly on the study of the molecular pathways that underpin cancer.”

Dr. Garcia earned a PhD in 2005 in chemistry from the University of Virginia and a BS in 2000 in chemistry from the University of California at Davis.
On Friday, March 23, the University of Pennsylvania Board of Trustees’ Executive Committee passed a resolution to authorize the incurrence of indebtedness for the University, to take advantage of the market. The University will incur new indebtedness and will delegate to the Debt Subcmmitee of the Budget and Finance Committee the power to determine the terms of the 2012 Bonds.

The Trustees approved the incurrence of up to $350 million of indebtedness. It may be for a term of up to 101 years and may bear interest at a fixed or variable interest rate. EVP Craig Carnaroli said that over the past year there has been a new phenomenon known as Century Bonds with a low taxable rate that have been issued only within higher education at a such institution as MIT, CalTech and Ohio State.

President Amy Gutmann suggested that the proceeds of these bonds would enable Penn to move forward on its Climate Action Plan goals—to complete more energy-efficient projects more quickly thereby generating more cost savings, including deferred maintenance, renovations, updating HVAC systems and lighting.

The EVP and the President for Finance and Treasurer are authorized to determine the method of sale of any indebtedness incurred, to select an investment banker or a lender or purchaser, to select a bank or other financial institution to provide credit or liquidity support for the indebtedness, to select an insurer to provide insurance for the indebtedness, to select a remarketing agent, and a trustee and paying agent, and to take all action for such indebtedness.

**SENATE From the Senate Office**

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 email at senate@pobox.upenn.edu

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2012**

**Chair’s Report.** Faculty Senate Chair Camille Charles reported that every SEC member needs to nominate a non-SEC faculty member from their constituency for the 2012-2013 Nominating Committee. She urged SEC members to send the name of their nominee to Sue White. The ballots for Senate Committee vacancies to be filled in the spring of 2012 were then distributed and Tobias Wolff reviewed the process taken by the Committee on Committees to create the ballot. President Amy Gutmann will be in attendance at the next SEC monthly meeting and Dr. Charles asked that SEC members write questions for President Gutmann on the back of SEC membership attendance cards or forward them to Sue White.

**Global Initiatives: Inventory Results and Strategic Framework.** Ezekiel Emanuel, Vice Provost for Global Initiatives, gave a 2-part discussion on Penn’s global initiatives. He first discussed Inventory and that past data had not been sufficiently comprehensive. 13% of Penn undergraduate students and 25% of graduate students are international students. The Vice Provost showed a map of global alumni and then discussed student participation in studying abroad from 2005-2011. The one rising component was the number of summer courses taken abroad by undergraduate students. There are low numbers of students going abroad after graduation and the number of students taking language courses is also declining. He then discussed many aspects of Penn faculty global activity. Faculty were recently surveyed and one third of Penn faculty were engaged in global activity this past year. Next steps for the global initiative program will be to ask schools to host meetings on the projects in Africa, Brazil, China, and India. Faculty who report research activities in specific regions will be invited to attend. The Vice Provost remarked that the challenge for his department would be to keep the faculty survey “up to date” without boring the faculty with yearly surveys. SEC members then discussed problems they encountered with survey question, particularly the six-month time allotment for faculty to qualify as having spent time away on global initiatives. Dr. Emanuel suggested that he may change the filter for faculty global activity and encouraged the group to contact his office with additional comments. He then discussed the three pillars of their Strategic Plan:

- Prepare Penn students for an increasingly globalized society
- Strengthen Penn as a global forum and agenda setter
- Promote healthy, productive lives.

**Discussion and Vote on the Graduate School of Education Proposal to Increase the Allocation of Senior Lecturers.** Stanton E.F. Wortham, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, representing his Dean gave a brief review of the issue. GSE currently has permission to have 10% of their faculty be Senior Lecturers. Because this has been so successful, they would like to increase this to 20%. He explained that the school does not have the expertise right now to meet the needs of their students. The school uses adjunct part-time faculty to meet their additional needs but full-time faculty would be much better for students due to the availability of full-time faculty. Several questions from SEC members were answered by the Associate Dean particularly questions about the three dissertations for which GSE faculty were denied tenure. Senator Margulies asked if senior lecturers would teach not only masters but doctoral students as well. President Amy Gutmann suggested that the向社会 of the Master’s program is directed at finding cures to combat other diseases, including the bioterror threat, smallpox. Dr. Ricciardi’s translational research program is directed at finding cures to combat other human viral diseases.

**Brownlee Term Chair**

(continued from page 1)

Goffman’s 1963 book, *Stigma: On the Management of Spotted Identity* (“The Stigma Archive”). In 2006 she received the SAS Dean’s Award for Innovation in Teaching. Dr. Love completed her PhD at the University of Virginia in 2001. The R. Jean Brownlee Endowed Term Professorship was established through a gift from the McLean Contributorship under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. William McLean, III. The McLeans established the endowed term chair in recognition of Dr. Jean Brownlee’s years of service to the Contributorship and to Penn; it also honors their lifelong friendship with her. Dr. Brownlee earned her doctorate in psychological political science in 1942 and returned in 1947 as an assistant professor of political science. She was named acting dean in 1958 and, a year later, dean of the College for Women (Almanac January 31, 1995).

Robert Ricciardi: Microbiology Chairman at Dental Medicine

Dr. Robert Ricciardi has been named Chairman of the department of microbiology at Penn Dental Medicine; his appointment was effective February 1, 2012.

Dr. Ricciardi has a long affiliation with University of Pennsylvania’s basic science departments and Penn dental medicine. From 1981-1992, while at the Wistar Institute, he served on the faculty of Penn’s graduate departments of microbiology, genetics, and biochemistry, and joined the Penn Dental Medicine faculty in 1992, becoming professor of microbiology in 1996. He recently served as chair of the microbiology, virology, parasitology (MVP) program of Penn’s Biomedical Graduate Studies.

Dr. Ricciardi’s scientific career began with the discovery of a gene mapping technology while a postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard Medical School. For many years his laboratory has focused on mechanisms that control gene expression, viral tumorigenesis, and immune escape. In particular, his studies have elucidated a major way by which the master regulator of the immune system (NF-kB) is controlled. In the last few years, Dr. Ricciardi’s laboratory has invented a technology and identified a new target for discovering and developing drugs to block viral diseases, including the bioterror threat, smallpox.
Deaths

Memorial Service: Lee Benson
A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, May 1 to honor Dr. Lee Benson, who passed away on February 10 at age 90 (Almanac February 21, 2012). In addition to being a professor of history at the University, Dr. Benson co-founded what is now the Nettel Center, which for decades has helped students in service to the West Philadelphia community. His memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. in the Hall of Flags at Houston Hall.

Memorial Service: Tere Pica
On Thursday, April 19, Penn GSE will hold a memorial service to celebrate the life and scholarship of Dr. Tere Pica who passed away November 14, 2011, at the age of 66 (Almanac December 6, 2011). Dr. Pica came to GSE in 1979. She was a respected and deeply cherished member of the GSE community. The memorial service will be held on Thursday, April 19 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Hall of Flags at Houston Hall. A light reception will follow. The event is open to the public. Please respond by April 12, 2012 to Melissa Kapadia-Bodi, melk@gse.upenn.edu

Memorial: Anne Tyng
A memorial service will be held for Anne Tyng on May 5, at 2 p.m. at Saint Peter’s Church 313 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. Dr. Tyng was a lecturer in GSFA, now known as the School of Design, from 1969 to 1998. She passed away December 27 at age 91 (Almanac January 17, 2012).

Memorial: Walter Wales
The memorial for Dr. Walter Wales is scheduled for Friday, April 20, in DRL (David Rittenhouse Laboratory, 209 South 33rd Street) Room A1 at 3 p.m. Dr. Wales died December 28 at the age of 78 (Almanac January 10, 2012).

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 or email record@ben.dev.upenn.edu

Correction: “Penn’s Graduate School Rankings” in last week’s issue, inadvertently omitted two rankings from Almanac’s coverage of US News & World Report’s ranking of professional school programs. Penn’s School of Social Policy & Practice ranked 16th on this year’s list; its previous ranking was in the 2009 rankings, when it placed 14th (Almanac April 1, 2008). The Perelman School of Medicine’s Clinical Psychology program placed 6th this year; its previous ranking was in the 2009 rankings, when it placed 9th (Almanac April 1, 2008). We regret the omissions. —Ed.

Penn Professional Staff Assembly

Call for Nominations: 2012-2013 Executive Board

The Penn Professional Staff Assembly (PPSA) a voluntary organization comprised of professional (monthly-exempt) staff members, is accepting nominations for the Executive Board for the 2012-2013 term year. The mission of PPSA is to support and focus staff engagement and collaboration within the University of Pennsylvania community and to act as a productive resource for all of our members. Being a member of PPSA allows you to network with your colleagues through numerous workshops and events that enhance your professional development and work life at Penn.

PPSA:
1. Provides a forum through which staff can engage in dialogue about issues facing the University and higher education;
2. Participates and collaborates in University governance through University Council and other committees and task forces;
3. Serves as an informational network to promote seminars and programs that enrich the quality of experience and work life for professional staff;
4. Provides the work to assist the University in achieving its goals and objectives.

For more information on PPSA go to: http://penn-ppsa.org

The following positions on the PPSA Executive Board will be available for the coming year:
Chair-Elect: The Chairperson is the principal executive officer who calls meetings, presides over meetings, and provides leadership and representation at the University Council and other meetings. After one year, the Chair-Elect automatically succeeds to the office of Chairperson.

Members at Large:
Four positions are available, each for a two-year term.

The Members at Large participate in Executive Board meetings, take on special projects, and serve on other University committees. University monthly-paid professional employees are welcome to self-nominate or submit names for consideration to PPSA at ppsa@exchange.upenn.edu no later than Friday, May 4, 2012. Please include the home department, email, and campus extension of the nominee. All individuals nominated will receive information on completing a candidate bio and personal statement. A list of candidates will be prepared and distributed to the PPSA membership prior to the election.

The 2012-2013 election for officers will occur during the annual meeting which will take place on a date to be announced soon.

Questions on the nominating and election process can be directed to ppsa@exchange.upenn.edu

OncoLink’s 18th Anniversary: Penn-Developed Online Cancer Resource Redesigned with New Features to Guide Patients and Caregivers

OncoLink, a free cancer information website developed by experts at the University of Pennsylvania’s Abramson Cancer Center has launched a redesigned website based on the search habits and feedback from patients, caregivers and healthcare providers who use the site. Enhanced, interactive features provide access to the most up-to-date information on cancers of all kinds, and allows users to develop personalized survivorship plans, and review the latest cancer research more easily.

The redesign comes just in time for the 18th anniversary of the site, which was the Internet’s first cancer information resource. OncoLink’s designers and a team of dedicated nurses and physicians implemented a new navigation system to make it easier for both patients and healthcare providers to rapidly locate the information they are seeking. Using a new “slide show” feature, any user searching for information—whether they are newly diagnosed with a specific disease, are curious about their cancer risk, are currently receiving treatment, or are a cancer survivor—can select a visual starting point based on their needs. Interactive tools available throughout the site help patients search and filter more than 75,000 pages of cancer-related content—a boon to patients and families who may be overwhelmed by the array of potentially unreliable or confusing cancer information on the web. “The new design and features are based on how users are searching for their information,” said Dr. James Metz, an associate professor and chief of clinical operations in the department of radiation oncology at the Perelman School of Medicine, who serves as editor-in-chief of OncoLink. “We took a close look at statistics and analytics to gauge what users are searching for the most, and how they are finding that information. The redesign puts content front and center. Our goal is to empower patients and healthcare providers with the information they are looking for instantly.”

Recent changes to the site include enhancements to interactive tools for patients, including:

- What's My Risk: A program designed to help users learn about factors that determine their personal risk of many types of cancer and what they can do to decrease that risk.
- LIVESTRONG Care Plan: Online tool that provides cancer survivors, their family members or their health care provider with an easy-to-follow roadmap for managing their health as they finish treatment and transition to life as a survivor.
- Clinical Trials Matching Service: A search tool that helps patients quickly learn about and evaluate research studies across the nation for which they may be eligible. A telephone matching service is also available.

The new site also offers a comprehensive Healthcare Professional’s Section, which includes:

- Nurses Notes: Resources for nurses including patient handouts, newsletters and practice information.
- Patient Education Center: Free handouts covering side effects, medications and procedures.
- Conferences: Coverage of the annual scientific meetings of the oncology societies, a calendar of global cancer related meetings.
- OncoLink University: Teaching guides for students at all levels and a core oncology related course for medical students entitled MD2B.

The site provides patient-friendly content; see www.oncolink.org/
Penn #19 in World Reputation Rankings

The University of Pennsylvania is ranked 19th this year in the second annual Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings. In 2011, the University ranked 22nd.

The Reputation Rankings complement the annual World University Rankings, published in the fall. The 2012 Reputation Rankings are based on a survey of academic opinion, featuring 17,554 respondents from 137 countries.

The invitation-only survey, carried out by Ipsos, has in the two years it has been running attracted almost 31,000 responses from senior, published scholars from 149 countries, providing a rich and unique insight into the academic prestige of universities across the globe.

Phil Baty, editor of the Times Higher Education Rankings, said, “Only 100 universities are listed in our prestigious World Reputation Rankings—that is around 0.5 percent of the world’s higher education institutions—so those that feature in the list are part of an exclusive global elite of exceptionally powerful university brands.”

Araf Meleis: International Think Tank on Health Education

Dr. Araf M. Meleis, the Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing, is co-chairing the Global Forum on Innovation in Health Education with Dr. Jordan J. Cohen, president emeritus of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) established the Global Forum on Innovation in Health Education to bring together educational leaders from academia, professional associations, and governments to share perspectives on institutional and institutional reform in the health professions.


Two Penn Alums: Luce Scholars

Two Penn alumni, Aimee Bailey (EAS ’06) and Abigail Seldin (C/G ’04), have been named Luce Scholars. Launched by the Henry Luce Foundation, the program provides stipends, language training, and individualized professional placement in Asia for 15-18 Luce Scholars each year, and welcomes applications from college seniors, graduate students, and young professionals who have had limited exposure to Asia.

Dr. Bailey graduated from Penn in May of 2006 from the materials science and engineering department. She earned a PhD from Imperial College London in 2009. As a Luce Scholar, Dr. Bailey would like to apply her analytical skill set and energy expertise to the issue of sustainable urban development. She is interested in spending a year in a region experiencing rapid development and urbanization to gain a better understanding of the technological and policy pathways being considered for sustainable development.

Ms. Seldin graduated from Penn in May of 2009 with a BA in anthropology and archaeology and a MSc in anthropology. She has been pursuing a DPhil in social anthropology at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. As a Luce Scholar, Ms. Seldin intends to pursue placement in the cultural heritage and tourism industries in Asia.

2012 Women of Color Day at Penn Awards

WOC Awardees left to right: Diana Olivos, Maryan Soliman (accepting on behalf of Khadija White), Loretta Sweet Jennmott, Elder Marietta Melton and Nicole Maloy.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, Penn and UPHS presented Women of Color Day at Penn, an effort to increase awareness of the concerns, talents and achievements of women of color. The accomplishments of these women were recognized at the Annual Women of Color at Penn (WOCAP) Awards Luncheon on March 16.

Helen O. Dickson Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Loretta Sweet Jennmott is the van Ameringen Professor in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, and director of the Center for Health Disparities Research in the School of Nursing. She is one of the nation’s foremost researchers in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention among African American adolescents and adults and has been actively involved with various community-based organizations regarding issues in minority health to design, implement and evaluate HIV prevention programs. Noted for expertise in building community-university partnerships, she is invited to travel across the country to train other scientists and leaders in various communities on this topic.

Community Awardee

Khadija White is a PhD candidate in the Annenberg School. She has played an extraordinary leadership role in the Fontaine Society, which helps PhD students of color connect with other students and faculty of color. She supervised the launch of its new website and increased participation to the society’s events by 200%. Ms. White is also a volunteer lecturer with several alternative high schools. She has been selected for a prestigious year-long internship in the White House.

Undergraduate Student Awardee

Khadijah White is a PhD candidate in the Annenberg School. She has played an extraordinary leadership role in the Fontaine Society, which helps PhD students of color connect with other students and faculty of color. She supervised the launch of its new website and increased participation to the society’s events by 200%. Ms. White is also a volunteer lecturer with several alternative high schools. She has been selected for a prestigious year-long internship in the White House.

Undergraduate Student Awardee

Diana Olivos, C’12, was commended for her contribution to women of color and Latinos through mentoring and working with university administration to secure the future of the Latino Dialogue Institute, a partnership between students and La Casa Latina that organizes public events intended to cultivate dialogue and understanding across all communities. She has served as vice president and president of Asociación Cultural de Estudiantes Latinoamericanos (ACELA), the oldest Latino student group at Penn.

Penn’s 2012 Baccalaureate Speaker: Nipun Mehta (continued from page 1)

Nipun Mehta (continued from page 1)

Penn’s 2012 Baccalaureate Speaker: Nipun Mehta (continued from page 1)
Mayo Clinic, Penn and Partners to Explore New Ways to Predict and Control Seizures

Mayo Clinic and partners from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Pharmacy, the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and NeuroVista Corporation have been awarded a $7.5 million grant (U01) from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, a division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The research involves studying new ways to predict and control epileptic seizures in dogs and people.

Epilepsy affects approximately 1 percent of the human population, with an estimated 50 million people worldwide currently suffering from the disorder. The hallmark of epilepsy is the seizure—a sudden and often violent event that strikes patients without warning. The goal of the research is to use information gleaned from real-time electroencephalograms (EEG) to consistently detect impending seizures, and develop methods of preventing these seizures through use of fast-acting drug therapies.

The grant awards $1.5 million a year for up to five years. The principal investigators of the studies are Greg Worrell, Mayo Clinic; Ned Patterson, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine; Jim Cloyd, University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy; Charles Vite, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine; Brian Litt, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania; and Kent Leyde, chief technology officer of NeuroVista Corporation of Seattle, Washington.

NeuroVista, a Seattle-based company developing novel technologies for the management and treatment of epilepsy, has developed an implantable device system that continuously collects and analyzes EEG data to detect impending seizures. The system uses an external patient-carried device with a very simple interface—three colored lights—to indicate the risk of an impending seizure to the patient. The system is currently undergoing study in clinical trials in human patients being conducted in Australia. The NIH-funded research will involve applying the NeuroVista technology to dogs with naturally occurring epilepsy, and extending the technology by using it to guide the administration of fast-acting drugs to prevent seizures. It is hoped that this work will translate to a similar solution for human patients.

“This collaboration with three major academic centers creates a powerful engine for innovation in the treatment of epilepsy,” said Kent Leyde. “We are excited about the opportunity to advance the promising research in this field and translate what we learn in canines into the clinical environment.”

“This epilepsy management system technology shows promise for detecting and predicting seizures in dogs and people,” notes Dr. Doug Sheffield, vice president of clinical research for NeuroVista. “This technology has the potential to profoundly impact epilepsy research and patient care.”

“Despite over 15 drugs currently available for the chronic treatment of epilepsy, approximately 25-35 percent of people continue to have persistent and serious seizures even when receiving the most advanced medical care,” added Dr. Cloyd. “For those whose epilepsy is well-controlled by medication, they must often cope with significant and debilitating side effects.”

“The constant fear and uncertainty as to when the next seizure is going to strike often exacts a serious toll on the quality of life for patients and their families. The problem for patients with epilepsy is they actually only have seizures a small percentage of their lifetime, but they’re on medication continuously,” said Dr. Patterson.

“There is a real need for technology to inform patients about when seizures are likely to occur and to alert caregivers when seizures strike,” said co-investigator Dr. Brian Litt, a neurologist and bioengineer at the Perelman School of Medicine.

While the long-range goal of the studies is to find better ways to treat human patients, Dr. Vite, assistant professor of veterinary neurology said, “as I remind everyone, I am a veterinarian, and this technology will be of value to animals as well.” Drs. Vite and Patterson each treat hundreds of dogs with epilepsy at their respective university veterinary clinics.

“Our goal is reliable seizure forecasting in conjunction with timely, effective short-term intervention, and this could lead to more effective treatment for both canine and human epilepsy,” added Dr. Worrell.
Discovering and Carbonizing a 300-Million-Year-Old Peat-forming Forest at a Site Near Wuda, China

Pompeii-like, a 300-million-year-old tropical forest was preserved in ash when a volcano erupted in what is today northern China. A new study by University of Pennsylvania paleobotanist Hermann Pfefferkorn and colleagues presents a reconstruction of this fossilized forest, lending insight into the ecology and climate of its time.

Dr. Pfefferkorn, a professor in Penn's department of earth and environmental science, collaborated on the work with three Chinese colleagues: Jun Wang of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Yi Zhang of Shenyang Normal University and Zhuo Feng of Yunnan University.

Their work was published last month in the Early Edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The study site, located near Wuda, China, is unique as it gives a snapshot of a moment in time. Because volcanic ash covered a large expanse of forest in the course of only a few days, the plants were preserved as they fell, in many cases in the exact locations where they grew.

“It’s marvelously preserved,” Dr. Pfefferkorn said. “We can stand there and find a branch with the leaves attached, and then we find the next branch and the next branch. And then we find the stump from the same tree. That’s really exciting.”

The researchers also found some smaller trees with leaves, branches, trunk and cones intact, preserved in their entirety.

Due to nearby coal-mining activities unearthing large tracts of rock, the size of the researchers’ study plots is also unusual. They were able to examine a total of 1,000 m² of the ash layer in three different sites located near one another, an area considered large enough to meaningfully characterize the local paleoecology.

The fact that the coal beds exist is a legacy of the ancient forests, which were peat-depositing tropical forests. The peat beds, pressurized over time, transformed into the coal deposits.

The scientists were able to date the ash layer to approximately 298 million years ago. That falls at the beginning of a geologic period called the Permian, during which Earth’s continental plates were still moving toward each other to form the supercontinent Pangea. North America and Europe were fused together, and China existed as two smaller continents. All overlapped the equator and thus had tropical climates.

At that time, Earth’s climate was comparable to what it is today, making it of interest to researchers like Dr. Pfefferkorn who look at ancient climate patterns to help understand contemporary climate variations.

In each of the three study sites, Dr. Pfefferkorn and collaborators counted and mapped the fossilized plants they encountered. In all, they identified six groups of trees. Tree ferns formed a lower canopy while much taller trees—Sigillaria and Cordaites—soared to 80 feet above the ground.

The researchers also found nearly complete specimens of a group of trees called Noeggerathiales. These extinct spore-bearing trees, relatives of ferns, had been identified from sites in North America and Europe but appeared to be much more common in these Asian sites.

They also observed that the three sites were somewhat different from one another in plant composition. In one site, for example, Noeggerathiales were fairly uncommon, while they made up the dominant plant type in another site. The researchers worked with painter Ren Yuguang to depict accurate reconstructions of all three sites.

“This is now the baseline,” Dr. Pfefferkorn said. “Any other finds, which are normally much less complete, have to be evaluated based on what we determined here.”

The findings are indeed “firsts” on many counts. “This is the first such forest reconstruction in Asia for any time interval, it’s the first for a peat forest for this time interval and it’s the first with Noeggerathiales as a dominant group,” Dr. Pfefferkorn said.

Because the site captures just one moment in Earth’s history, Dr. Pfefferkorn noted that it alone cannot explain how climate changes affected life on Earth. But it helps provide valuable context.

“It’s like Pompeii: Pompeii gives us deep insight into Roman culture, but it doesn’t say anything about Roman history in and of itself,” Dr. Pfefferkorn said. “But on the other hand, it elucidates the time before and the time after. This finding is similar. It’s a time capsule and therefore it allows us now to interpret what happened before or after much better.”

The study was supported by the Chinese Academy of Science, the National Basic Research Program of China, the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the University of Pennsylvania.

Decreasing the Risk of Failure to Thrive with a New Feeding Device

A novel feeding device developed at the School of Nursing may decrease the risk of failure to thrive (FTT), which currently affects half of all newborns with congenital heart defects even after their surgical lesions are corrected.

Dr. Barbara Medoff-Cooper, Ruth M. Colket Professor in Pediatric Nursing and director of the Center for Biobehavioral Research of Penn Nursing, invented a device that analyzes an infant’s ability to organize feeding by sucking, swallowing, and breathing effectively. This device, developed in collaboration with Penn Engineering, allows healthcare professionals to assess infants at risk for dysfunctional feeding and poor weight gain as often seen in both premature infants and infants with complex congenital heart disease. The data also can be correlated with growth or developmental problems that may occur during the first year of life.

“Feeding actually speaks loudly to us about the brain,” said Dr. Medoff-Cooper. “If a child is feeding well, it gives us one fewer major issue to worry about. Conversely, even a full-term infant who is not feeding well is at high risk for developmental problems.”

Dr. Medoff-Cooper conducted the first comprehensive evaluation of feeding difficulties in infants with complex congenital heart defects. Her work has demonstrated that feeding behaviors can predict developmental outcomes, and that these problems persist because of the complicated interplay of movements and physiologic responses needed in the feeding process.

The premise of her work is that feeding effectiveness corresponds to how well infants will achieve other developmental milestones.

Mentoring Provides Health Benefits for African-American Veterans with Diabetes

Intervention by peer mentors has a statistically significant effect on improving glucose control in African-American veterans with diabetes, according to a study by researchers at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion (CHERP). Full results of the study were published in the March 20 issue of the Annals of Internal Medicine.

In the study 118 African-American veterans aged 50-70 years old with persistently poor diabetes control were randomly assigned to three groups: those receiving their usual care (the control group for the study), those receiving peer mentoring, and those offered financial incentives if their glucose control improved. Mentors were matched with the diabetes patients according to sex and age.

“Our goal was to determine whether peer mentors or financial incentives would help African-American veterans improve their glycosylated hemoglobin levels (HbA1c)—a marker of diabetes control—better than conventional care,” said Dr. Judith A. Long, associate professor of medicine in the department of general internal medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine, and lead author of the study. “We performed this study in an African-American population because African-Americans have higher rates of diabetes and more complications resulting from the disease than other populations.”

Diabetes patients receiving their usual care were notified of their starting levels and recommended goals for HbA1c. Those in the mentor group were assigned mentors who previously had poor glycemic control but now had good control. Mentors participated in hour-long one-on-one training, including motivational interviewing techniques, and were informed that they would receive $20 per month if the diabetes patient confirmed that they had talked at least once a week. Those in the financial incentive group were told they would earn $100 if their HbA1c dropped by one point and $200 if it dropped by two points or to a level of 6.5%.

In the six-month study, intervention by the peer mentors had a statistically significant effect in improving glucose control. On average, diabetes patients in the mentor group saw their HbA1c drop by approximately one percent (from 9.8 to 8.7), HbA1c levels in the financial incentive group dropped from 9.5 to 9.1, while the control group saw the smallest change (from 9.9 to 9.8).

The authors of the study note that several factors may have contributed to the success of the peer mentor intervention. First, those in the mentor group may have benefited from a culture of camaraderie among the veteran participants. Second, social altruism may be a powerful motivator if patients are provided with a mechanism to help each other. Third, a history of mistrust and distrust in the health care system may make peer support particularly effective for minorities. Finally, the financial incentive may have motivated mentors to call more frequently.

(continued on page 7)
Sleepless in the South: State and Regional Prevalence of Sleep Disturbance

Researchers at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania have put sleeplessness on the map—literally. The research team, analyzing nationwide data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has produced the first state-by-state sleep maps for the United States, revealing that residents of Southern states suffer from the most sleep disturbances and daytime fatigue, while residents on the West Coast report the least amount of problems. The results are published online in the *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine*.

“Sleep disturbance is a major public health concern. However, geographic dispersion of sleep problems, and the factors that may play a role in why some states or regions get better sleepiness than others are largely unexplored,” said Dr. Michael A. Grandner, research associate at the Center for Sleep and Circadian Neurobiology at Penn and lead author of the study. “Our study generated the first sleep maps for the US that include data on sleep disturbance and daytime fatigue across most of the country.”

The findings suggest that, in general, those in the South are most likely to report sleep disturbance and daytime fatigue, and those in the West are least likely. Of the states where data was collected, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, and West Virginia ranked in the highest bracket for each category. The researchers note that this finding is consistent with other geographic studies, showing that many of the states that report worse sleep and fatigue problems are the same states that tend to report higher prevalence of other conditions, such as obesity, and that the pattern differed slightly between men and women.

The new study evaluated state-based prevalence of self-reported sleep disturbance and daytime fatigue across 36 US states/territories using data from 157,319 people who took part in the 2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The BRFSS is an annual, state-based, random digit-dialed telephone interview survey of adults aged 18 years and older from all over the US, conducted by the CDC. It is the world’s largest telephone survey, designed to monitor health-related behaviors in the general population.

The prevalence estimates for each state/territory were based on weighted figures derived from the census, so that every age, sex, and race/ethnicity combination was included relative to how often they were reported in the US census—helping to ensure that the data accurately reflect the general population. Overall, a pattern was found where some states reported higher prevalence of sleep disturbance and/or daytime fatigue, and that these differences could not be completely accounted for when adjusted for demographics (age, sex, race/ethnicity), socioeconomics (education, income, employment), mental health (depression, general mental health), physical health (general health, overall physical health, healthcare access, obesity), and substance use (alcohol, smoking).

To better understand the sleep patterns, the researchers examined a number of underlying possibilities, such as demographics, obesity, health, and even weather and sunlight patterns in the different states. They determined that regional differences in mental health, race/ethnicity, and access to medical care were the strongest factors that explain these differences.

The take-home message from this study is that different regions of the country sleep better than others,” said Dr. Grandner. “We should begin to use this data to track patterns of poor sleep and try to understand why these patterns occur. Sleep is such an important part of overall health, we need to do everything we can to help give a good night’s sleep to those in the highest-risk regions.”

Dr. Grandner and his colleagues note that targeted public health campaigns about healthy sleep patterns in states/regions that are most prone to sleep problems and increased screening programs for sleeplessness symptoms may help better guide individuals with sleep issues to medical care.
Liberal & Professional Studies Executive Director: Dave Bieber

Dr. Dave Bieber has been appointed Executive Director of the College of Liberal and Professional Studies. As Director of LPS Programs in the Natural Sciences for the last four years, he has had responsibility for the Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Health Program as well as four master’s degrees, in environmental studies, medical physics, and applied positive psychology. He has also overseen LPS’ relationships with Penn’s departments of mathematics, biology, chemistry, earth and environmental science, physics, and psychology.

Dr. Bieber holds a PhD in zoology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to coming to Penn in 2007, he was a research scientist at Stanford University, started several successful professional programs at California universities, and served as the founding executive director of the National Professional Science Master’s Association.

THATCamp@Penn

THATCamp@Penn, a humanities and technology camp, will be held on April 25 in Fisher-Bennett Hall.

THATCamp is a collaborative unconference, or informally structured gathering that focuses on digital humanities (http://thatchamp.org/). Participants set the agenda and run the sessions with assistance from designated facilitators. THATCamp@Penn will provide a rare opportunity for faculty, graduate students, and academic professionals in different disciplines—and with diverse backgrounds, roles, skills and interests—from across campus to meet in person for a day of informal discussion and collaboration. The morning begins with a group session where participants propose topics (some of which will have been posted previously on the THATCamp blog), vote on the proposals and then together create a schedule of sessions for the day. Participants reconvene as a group in the late afternoon to share conversations and perhaps identify those areas where more formal training on campus may be helpful. THATCamp@Penn requires a minimal commitment of time and could well lead to new initiatives and campus collaborations in the digital humanities.

Registration is now open; see http://penn2012.thatchamp.org/register/ to learn more and to register. A list of participants will also be available at http://thatchamp.org/campers.html.

Lauren & Bobby Turner Social Impact Executive Speaker Series: Chris “Ludacris” Bridges

The Lauren and Bobby Turner Social Impact Executive Speaker Series inspires the Penn community with high profile leaders who are “doing well, and doing good.” The series is funded by Wharton alumnus K. Robert (Bobby) Turner, W’84, and Lauren Golub Turner, W’85. In the April 3 Lauren and Bobby Turner Social Impact Executive Speaker Series event, Wharton alumnus Bobby Turner, W’84 will sit down with Chris “Ludacris” Bridges at 4 p.m. in Zellerbach Theatre, Annenberg Center, to discuss the entertainer’s personal and professional career as well as his insatiable drive to utilize “lateral thinking” in an effort to raise awareness of and to create sustainable solutions for some of the most pressing problems on the planet.

As part of the “scene,” Mr. Bridges is a hugely successful recording artist, actor, record producer and businessman and from behind the “scene,” he is a tireless advocate for children. Mr. Bridges will share some of his successes and failures over the past 25 years and talk about the Ludacris Foundation and its goal to uplift families, communities and foster economic development by focusing on LudacrisCares, Leadership and Education and Lifestyles.

The Penn community is invited to attend; pre-registration is required and PennCard is required upon entry. For registration go to: http://bit.ly/xCGukk or contact emanotti@wharton.upenn.edu

Did you know that Penn’s new 3-year academic calendar is available on Almanac’s website, Penn’s mobile website and as a printable PDF? You can also get the calendar to sync with MS Outlook, Apple iCal, Google calendar and your mobile devices by choosing “Almanac” under the category of “News” from the mobile site’s homepage, http://m.upenn.edu/acadcal.html and following the instructions from the link at the top of the page.
Spring Cleaning for RecycleMania Office Clean-Out Guide

You know there is lots of stuff in your offices, file cabinets and closets that can be recycled! An office clean out can help your office realize the amount of waste generated in-house and what type of sustainable practices would work best for your space. Do an office clean out during RecycleMania! Make it count! Here’s how:

Step 1: Plan Ahead
Determine the best date for an Office Clean Out. Decide the scale of your clean out (your office, certain departments or the entire floor). Housekeeping will try to accommodate the desired date, but it may need to be adjusted due to resourcing constraints (additional containers, etc.).

Step 2: Contact Facilities and Real Estate Services
Contact FRES for Housekeeping support. Use Facility Focus to contact FRES Housekeeping for support to remove material from your office and to provide large containers to collect recyclables. You can also call the Work Control Center for this request.

Step 3: Obtain Additional Recycling Containers
Regular office recycling containers
Order from the Penn Marketplace’s online catalog: see Rubbermaid recycling containers that are available.
• Batteries
Your office can use the Big Green Box program to recycle portable electronics and all batteries, including alkaline. The Big Green Box is shipped to your office pre-constructed. Place the box in a convenient location and start recycling your portable electronics and batteries. Once the box is full, drop it off at any FedEx shipping location to have the contents recycled. Shipping costs are included in the initial price of the box.

Waste Reduction and Recycling Tips
When shopping:
• Buy products in recyclable packaging or packaging that can be recycled.
• Avoid purchasing products with short life spans.
• Buy items that can be reused or recycled instead of throw away. Learn more about what Penn recycles on the Facilities and Real Estate Services website.

Improve your purchasing practices:
Avoid buying things you don’t really need and items with short life spans. Consolidate your orders to reduce packaging and purchase products that you can reuse rather than throw away after a single use. Then complete the cycle by purchasing products made from recycled materials. Visit Purchasing Services’ new Green Purchasing website to take advantage of discounts on green products for your office or department.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle paper and cardboard:
Mixed paper and cardboard alone make up approximately 40% of Penn’s overall waste stream. Reduce the amount of paper you use by printing only when necessary, double-sided jobs, and reusing one-sided pages. Flatten and recycle all cardboard boxes, recycle old newspapers and magazines, and email sustainability@upenn.edu to arrange a hard cover book pickup.

Bring your own bottle and get your fill:
Many Penn departments and College Houses have installed UV tap water filters so you can refill without paying for bottled water. In addition, various campus retail locations will reward those who reduce their waste throughput RecycleMania by offering discounts for bringing your own mug, cup, or bottle to use.

Pay your bills online:
 Virtually every company now offers paperless billing with email reminders, so you can start to chop down that stack of envelopes on your desk instead of the trees used to make them.

Got junk? Donate it to PennMOVES at the end of the year:
Since 2007, Penn Business Services has conducted PennMOVES, a campus recycling and re-use drive during move-out. Items collected are re-sold during a two-day event in early June, with the proceeds benefiting West Philadelphia charity organizations identified by The United Way.
2012–2013 Benefits Open Enrollment

Benefits Open Enrollment, your annual opportunity to make changes to your healthcare elections, begins next month. This year’s Open Enrollment period will run from Monday, April 9 through Friday, April 20, 2012. Read on for a brief overview of details to help you prepare for the Open Enrollment process.

Making Changes During Open Enrollment

During Open Enrollment you need to determine if your current benefits still meet your needs or if you need to make a change, such as:

- Enrolling in a health care plan for the first time, or dropping an existing plan.
- Switching to a different medical, dental or vision plan.
- Increasing or decreasing your life insurance coverage.
- Changing how much you contribute to a Flexible Spending Account.
- Adding or dropping a dependent from your benefits coverage.
- Making a new dependent election to provide verification if you re-enroll a spouse/partner who had previously been covered.

When Changes are Effective

Changes made during Open Enrollment will be effective as of July 1, 2012. New rates for your existing medical, dental and vision plans will be reflected in your July 2012 paycheck. Any elected Flexible Spending Account and Health Savings Account payroll deductions will begin with your July 2012 paycheck.

Making Changes After Enrollment

The choices you make during Benefits Open Enrollment will remain in effect through June 30, 2013, unless you experience a qualifying event. Qualifying events include the birth or adoption of a child, marriage or domestic partnership, divorce or separation, death of a dependent, and change in your dependent’s eligibility for benefits. Keep in mind that the IRS limits the types of changes you can make for qualifying events. If you experience a qualifying event, please contact the Penn Benefits Center within 30 days at 1-888-PENN-BEN (1-888-736-6236), Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. EST.

More Information

You can learn more about your benefits and options from the following resources:

- Visit www.hr.upenn.edu where you can access plan summaries, benefit comparison charts, contribution charts and online provider directories. You can also use the Medical Plan Cost Estimator to estimate your total out-of-pocket costs under each of the available plans.
- Contact the Penn Benefits Center at 1-888-PENN-BEN (1-888-736-6236), Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. EST.
- Contact Human Resources at benefits@hr.upenn.edu

Five Rewards of Working at Penn

From tuition assistance and wellness programs to retirement planning and career development resources, there are countless ways to thrive at Penn—both personally and professionally. Just take advantage of one of the many benefits that often make the University stand out as a top employer.

Tuition assistance. You (and your family) can get a college education at a discount. Our tuition benefit for employees covers 100 percent of the tuition, general and technology fees at Penn for up to two course units per term. Penn also helps subsidize the cost of undergraduate tuition for spouses/domestic partners (at Penn) and children (at Penn or other approved schools). Since 2003, about 8,000 faculty and staff have used the benefit for themselves or their families.

Health coverage. You can choose from a variety of medical, prescription, dental and vision benefits that provide you and your family with quality, cost-effective care. Penn pays a substantial portion of the premium costs for medical, prescription, and dental benefits.

Financial planning resources. Our retirement plans can help you prepare for financial security. You also have access to a breadth of resources to help you maintain a bright financial future—like free retirement counseling, online support from TIAA-CREF and Vanguard, and certified financial planners if you’re age 55 or older.

Family-friendly benefits. You can take advantage of a wealth of worklife balance programs to meet your everyday needs. Benefits include backup care, adoption assistance, snow day child care, nursing mother resources, and flexible work options.

Career support. Penn offers a wide array of tools to help fuel your career. Get free and confidential career planning advice from our career coaching service. Or register for one of our many professional development workshops to polish your professional edge.

Summary Annual Report for the University of Pennsylvania Health & Welfare Program

This is a summary of the annual report of the University of Pennsylvania Health & Welfare Program, Plan No. 503, sponsored by The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, EIN 23-1352685, for the period that began on July 1, 2010 and ended on June 30, 2011. This annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”). Please note that not all employees are eligible to participate in all of the benefits available under the Plan. Please consult your Plan materials for specific eligibility information.

Medical, Prescription Drug, Dental, and Long Term Disability Benefits

The University of Pennsylvania has committed itself to pay certain medical and prescription drug claims, dental benefits and long-term disability benefits incurred under the terms of the Plan on a self-insured basis. In addition, the Plan has a contract with Aetna, Inc. to pay certain medical claims incurred under the terms of the contract. The total premiums paid to Aetna, Inc. for the plan year ending June 30, 2011 were $165,649. The Plan also has a contract with Standard Insurance Company to pay certain long-term disability benefits incurred under the terms of the contract. The total premiums paid to Standard Insurance Company for the plan year ending June 30, 2011 were $776,060.

Vision Benefits

The Plan has a contract with Davis Vision Plan to pay vision claims incurred under the terms of the contract. The total premiums paid under this contract for the plan year ending June 30, 2011 were $799,734.

Life Insurance Benefits

The Plan has a contract with Aetna Life Insurance Company to pay life insurance, dependent life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance claims incurred under the terms of the contract. The total premiums paid under this contract for the plan year ending June 30, 2011 were $5,585,414.

Long Term Care Benefits

The Plan has a contract with John Hancock Life Insurance Company to pay long term care claims incurred under the terms of the contract. The total premiums paid under this contract for the plan year ending June 30, 2011 were $1,204,737.

Your Rights to Additional Information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. Insurance information is included in this annual report. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. financial information and information on payments to service providers; and
2. insurance information including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of the Plan Administrator, c/o Joanne M. Blythe, Retirement Manager, University of Pennsylvania, 3401 Walnut Street, Suite 527A, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6228, (215) 898-9947. The charge to cover copying costs will be $5 for the full annual report or 25 cents per page for any part thereof.

You also have the legally protected right under ERISA to examine the annual report in the offices of the Employer at the address for the Plan Administrator, above, and at the US Department of Labor in Washington, DC, or to obtain a copy from the US Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: Public Disclosure Room, Room N-1513, Employee Benefits Security Administration, US Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210.
Keeping Data Safe on Mobile Devices

Mobile devices effectively let us take our living rooms and offices everywhere we go. Here are three steps, beyond just requiring a passcode, that help keep your data safe in case your device is lost or stolen. These instructions are for iOS (used on iPhone/iPad) and many Android devices, but other platforms like Blackberry and Windows Phone 7 are similar:

1) Adjust the lock timeout to less than 60 minutes. Most lost or stolen devices are grabbed within minutes of the last usage, so reducing the passcode lock interval is wise.

   • iOS: Settings, General, Auto-Lock. Set it to 10 minutes or less.
   • Android: Settings, Security, Automatically lock. Set it to under 10 minutes or immediately at screen blank.

2) Configure your device to wipe after 10 failed passcode attempts. This will securely wipe your information after the 10th failed un-lock attempt:

   • iOS: Settings, General, Passcode Lock. Set “Erase Data” to “On”.
   • Android: This feature is unavailable to individuals, but may be configured as a part of a security profile set up by your school or center’s email administrator.

3) Keep Bluetooth off when not in use. Bluetooth is useful, but can be used to hijack phone calls and data if left on. This saves power, too!

   • iOS: Settings, General, Bluetooth. Set Bluetooth to “Off” when not in active use.
   • Android: Settings, Bluetooth. Toggle to “Off”. The ‘Power control’ widget can toggle Bluetooth, WiFi, and more with one touch from the home screen.

By policy, items #1 and #2 may already be configured by your school or center if you access Penn email on your device. Talk to your LSP for additional details.

Following these three simple steps won’t prevent you from losing your phone, but should give you some peace of mind related to your personal and Penn data if you do.

For additional tips, see the One Step Ahead link on the Information Security website: www.upenn.edu/computing/security/
Run! Super-Athletes of the Sierra Madre

The Penn Relays, which began in 1895, is the oldest and largest track and field competition in the United States.

The Penn Relays, which began in 1895, is the oldest and largest track and field competition in the United States.

Run! Super-Athletes of the Sierra Madre

A new exhibition of 30 contemporary color photographs by Diana Molina, opens at the Penn Museum on Saturday, March 31 and runs through September 30, 2012. In conjunction with the exhibition, Christopher McDougall, author of the national best-selling book and epic adventure Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen (2009), offers a public talk and book-signing at the Museum’s Annual Petersen Lecture on Wednesday, April 11 at 6 p.m. ($5 admission; free for Penn Museum members.)

Considered to be the world’s greatest long-distance runners, the Tarahumara people live in a remote region of Chihuahua, Mexico. They call themselves “Rarámuri,” the Uto-Aztecan word for “foot runner,” and for them, running is not a hobby, but a way of life. Living within the deep canyons of the Sierra Madre mountain range, the simplest mode of transportation is by foot, and running competitions are rooted in tradition. Races are often day-long events that can exceed 100 miles.

Although known as barefoot runners, the Rarámuri run today in homemade sandals made of tires that protect the soles of their feet. Their running style of striking with their toe, as opposed to the heel, is natural for barefoot runners.

Today, a host of pressures, including environmental issues, displacement, and drug wars, face the Rarámuri people. In 2001, the Copper Canyon Ultra-marathon, set in the heartland of the Sierra Madre mountain range, was founded by Micah True (a.k.a. Caballo Blanco) to celebrate and help protect the endangered Rarámuri way of life. In 2011, 230 Rarámuri and 40 international runners participated in the grueling race, covering 47 miles of remote, mountainous terrain.

Texas-born photo-journalist Diana Molina has documented the Sierra Madre and its people for almost two decades; more than half the photographs in the new exhibition were taken at an Ultra-Marathon there in March 2011, and many of the remaining images were taken in the 1990s. She has lived among the Rarámuri people in northern Mexico documenting customs, community, and politics. Her photographs have appeared in exhibitions nationally and internationally, including at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Texas; the Albuquerque Museum of Natural History and Science, New Mexico; and the World Museum of Art in Rotterdam, Holland. Rarámuri, the Footrunners of the Sierra Madre, her original exhibition about the Rarámuri, is currently showing at the Centennial Museum, University of Texas, El Paso, through May 5, 2012.

In addition to the contemporary photographs, the exhibition features nine 120-year-old Rarámuri artifacts, including racing equipment and traditional garments, from Penn Museum’s renowned American Collections. Dr. Carl Lumholtz, a Norwegian ethnologist, explored the uncharted territories of the Sierra Madre from 1890-1910 to make collections for the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Lumholtz lived among the Rarámuri for over a year and donated the exhibited objects to Penn Museum in 1893. His book, Unknown Mexico (1902), described the indigenous peoples of the region and the Rarámuri way of life.

Penn Relays: April 26-28

Penn faculty, staff and students are invited to attend the 2012 Penn Relays, free of charge on Thursday, April 26 and Friday, April 27 by showing their PennCard at the Penn Athletics Ticket Office in Weightman Hall. General admission ticket prices for Saturday start at $30. The first 500 Penn students to purchase tickets for Saturday will receive 50% off the price of their ticket. There is a limit of two discounted tickets per PennCard. Tickets are at the Penn Athletics Ticket Office and online at www.ThePennRelays.com.