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Two Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professors in SAS



Stephanie McCurry Sharon Thompson-Schill

Dr. Stephanie McCurry and Dr. Sharon Thompson-Schill have been appointed Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professors in the School of Arts & Sciences.

Dr. McCurry has been named the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of History. She is a specialist in nineteenth century American history and focuses on the American South and the Civil War era, as well as the history of women and gender.

Dr. McCurry is the author of *Masters of Small Worlds: Yeoman Households and the Political Culture of the Antebellum South Carolina Low Country*, which received honors including the John Hope Franklin Prize of the American Studies Association and the Charles Sydnor Award of the Southern Historical Association. It was also a finalist for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for History. Her most recent book, *Confeder-*

ate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South, earned the Frederick Douglass Book Prize, established to stimulate scholarship in the field of slavery and abolition. The book also received the 2011 Merle Curti Award, given annually for the best book published in American social or intellectual history, and the Avery O. Craven Award, presented annually for the most original book on the Civil War era. Both awards are granted by the Organization of American Historians, the largest learned society and professional organization dedicated to the teaching and study of the American past.

Dr. McCurry has served as the director of the California History Project, director of the Alice Berline Kaplan Center for the Humanities at Northwestern University and co-chair of the program committee of the Organization of American Historians.

Dr. Sharon Thompson-Schill has been named the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Psychology. Her research focus is on the neural basis of human memory and language with an emphasis on semantic memory and frontal lobe function.

Dr. Thompson-Schill is the author of numerous articles published in academic journals such as *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, *Cognitive Neuroscience* and *Neuroimage*. In 2003, she was awarded the Young Investigator Award for outstanding contributions to cognitive neuroscience at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society. In 2006, she received a Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback

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Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Term Professor in the Humanities: Kevin Platt

Kevin M. F. Platt of the department of Slavic languages and literatures has been appointed the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Term Professor in the Humanities in the School of Arts & Sciences. Dr. Platt's research examines representations of Russian history and historiography, history and memory in Russia, Russian lyric poetry and global post-Soviet Russian culture.

Dr. Platt received his BA from Amherst College and his PhD from Stanford University and taught at Pomona College before joining the Penn faculty in 2002. He is the author of *Terror and Greatness: Ivan and Peter as Russian Myths* and *History in a Grotesque Key: Russian Literature and the Idea of Revolution* and is the co-editor of *Epic Revisionism: Russian History and Literature as Stalinist Propaganda*. He edited and contributed translations to *Modernist Archaist: Selected Poems* by Osip Mandelstam and edited *Intimations: Selected Poetry* by Anna Akhmatova.

Dr. Platt is the chair of the Graduate Group in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory and serves as the topic director for the 2012-2013 Penn Humanities Forum theme "Peripheries." Dr. Platt was a 2011-2012 Guggenheim Fellow and received CEC Artslink grants from 2009-2011. He was an SAS Weiler Faculty Research Fellow in 2005-2006. He is a member of the Penn Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies Group.

The Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Endowed Term Chair in the Humanities was established through the bequest of Edmund and Louise Kahn. Mr. Kahn was a 1925 Wharton graduate who had a successful career in the oil and natural gas industry, while Mrs. Kahn worked for *Newsweek* and owned an interior design firm. The couple created several professorships in the School of Arts & Sciences and generously supported Van Pelt-Dietrich Library, the Modern Languages College House Program and other projects at Penn.

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The Success of Making History: Penn's Time to Shine

After seven years of extraordinary support from alumni, faculty, staff, parents, students and friends, *Making History: The Campaign for Penn* came to a successful close on December 31, 2012. The final Campaign total will be announced at the February 28 Board of Trustees' meeting and shared with the University community immediately afterwards.

With a \$3.5 billion goal, which was surpassed 16 months ahead of schedule (*Almanac* October 4, 2011), the Campaign was the most ambitious in the University's history and one of the largest ever in American higher education.

Making History succeeded in achieving its three broad goals: reaching the \$3.5 billion financial target; funding core priorities across all Penn schools and centers, including undergraduate and graduate financial aid, faculty and staff support, programs and research, and buildings and renovations; and enhancing alumni engagement. One of the key outcomes of the Campaign has been a surge in alumni participation in Penn programs on and off campus, thanks to the introduction of new events and the reinvention of old favorites such as Homecoming Weekend.

"The Campaign has strengthened virtually every corner of Penn," explains John H. Zeller, vice president for development and alumni relations. "We are grateful to everyone—alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students and friends—who came together to help us transform our University. We look forward to announcing the results and sharing the many wonderful stories of the ways in which the Campaign is making a difference all around campus."

The University community will celebrate the Campaign's success at *Making History at Penn Park*, a campus-wide event on Friday, April 19, from 5 to 9 p.m. in Penn Park. To learn more, visit www.alumni.upenn.edu/timetoshine and watch the mail for an invitation.



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, January 23, 2013

Chair's Report: Faculty Senate Chair Susan Margulies announced that the Senate Committee on Committees will be meeting in late February and is charged with nominating faculty to serve on various Senate and University-wide committees. She passed out a document describing the various committees and asked SEC members to use the document to get the word out to their constituency members and colleagues. She noted that faculty nominations should be sent to the Office of the Faculty Senate. She reminded SEC members that the March SEC meeting will be held at the Annenberg Public Policy Center in the Agora and will feature a conversation on *The Future of Research-Intensive Institutions of Higher Learning* with guest speakers Ronald Ehrenberg, professor of industrial and labor relations and economics at Cornell University, and Andrew Delbanco, professor of American studies and humanities at Columbia University.

Update from the President: President Amy Gutmann updated SEC on the following three topics: the Commission on Student Safety, Alcohol and Campus Life; continuing efforts to diversify the student body, the faculty and senior leadership; and the upcoming Report on Governance and Administrative Structure. She reported that the Commission on Student Safety, Alcohol and Campus Life will be chaired by Dr. Charles O'Brien, a PSOM faculty member who is an internationally renowned expert on alcohol dependency and addiction. She stated that the Commission will form working groups and will consult broadly with all constituencies of the Penn community. She encouraged SEC members to contact her if they have any interest in serving on one of the following working groups: Facilities, Student Experience and Perceptions, Policies and Resources, Academics and Safety. She stated that the Commission's goal is to identify ways for Penn to be a leader in providing a safe environment. President Gutmann updated SEC on the status of Penn's Action Plan for Excellence and Diversity. She explained that all 12 schools have diversity action plans and that three Presidential Term Professors have been appointed. She reported that the Call for Proposals for the Excellence through Diversity Fund was published in *Almanac* on February 5 with an April 1 deadline for submissions. She noted that the Gender Equity report was just published on January 15. The Minority Equity Report will be published next academic year and the Vice Provost for Faculty will be asked to include a two-year progress report on the Action Plan for Faculty Diversity in that update. She stated that the Consultative Committee process will be reviewed in an effort to identify means of strengthening it. President Gutmann explained that she and the chair of the Penn Board of Trustees, David L. Cohen are near completion of a review of the administrative and governance structures at Penn and expect to release a report to the Penn community in the near future.

Update from the Vice Provost for Faculty: Vice Provost for Faculty Lynn Lees updated SEC on the recently published Gender Equity Report. She explained that the report is published once every three years and this report contains data from 2011. She reported that women as a percentage of standing faculty is on an upward trend and is now at 30.7% noting that this varies by school and by discipline. Vice Provost Lees reviewed the change in women standing faculty over the past 10 years and the change for women standing faculty by rank over the past five years which shows progress. She reported that Penn is in the middle of the pack in comparison to peer institutions. She reviewed an upward trend in women in leadership positions for the past three years. She described a new regression analysis for female faculty salaries that was performed in consultation with the Senate Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty. After controlling for discipline, rank, time in rank and chair status, the raw difference of 17.6% between female and male salary is reduced to 2.6%. Discussion ensued regarding additional factors that could be considered in future analyses.

Vice Provost Lees outlined the gender equity initiatives that her office has undertaken this year including: co-sponsorship of the Penn Forum for Women Faculty programs, faculty survey analyses, evening childcare pilot, dual career hiring supports, pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships. Vice Provost Lynn Lees gave a brief update on this year's progress with faculty diversity: three Presidential Term Professorships, Diversity Search Advisors training and support, continued monitoring of schools, increased requests for the Faculty Opportunity Funds, rising use of job ads on diversity sites, new appointments in multiple schools and the newly published Call for Proposals for the Excellence through Diversity Fund. She reviewed the process for hires using the Target of Opportunity Fund, which has a rolling deadline. She outlined other initiatives that her office is working on this year: Faculty Climate Survey data that was circulated to Schools, analysis of the Faculty Climate Survey data in cooperation with the Senate, discussions in health schools concerning job tracks, provision of health care benefits for eligible part-time faculty in 2014, and several upcoming workshops and lectures for faculty developments.

UCD Craft Market: February 23

The UCD Craft Market, originally scheduled for February 9, has been rescheduled; it will be held on Saturday, February 23, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the 30th Street Station—featuring nearly 30 unique local artists and craftspeople.

No Issue During Spring Break

There is no issue scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, due to Spring Break. Submissions for the March 12 issue are due no later than March 5, space permitting. The deadline for the April AT PENN calendar is March 12.

Council Open Forum Topics

The following topics are scheduled to be discussed at the February 20 Council meeting, 4 p.m., Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall.

1. Concerns regarding Penn's commitment to the faculty, staff, students and alumni who live in Penn Alexander catchment area

Topic submitted by Michael McGarvey, Associate Professor of Neurology, PSOM

2. Discussion of partnering with local public schools beyond Penn Alexander

Topic submitted by Catherine Brinkley, G'16, V'16

3. Achieving Climate Neutrality

Topic submitted by Andrew Huemmler, Lecturer, Energy & Sustainability Minor, SEAS

4. A Report from the United Nations Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties in Doha, Qatar, November 2012

Topic submitted by Kensey Berry, C'13

5. Concerns regarding size of late fees assessed by SFS

Topic submitted by Jon Newman, L'13

6. Discussion of Penn's faculty and student diversity initiatives vis-a-vis Arabs, Muslims and South Asians

Topic submitted by Engy Abdelkader, GL'15

7. Concerns regarding scheduling limitations on LPS students

Topic submitted by Alisa Shargorodsky, LPS'13

8. Exploration of Penn's commitment to sustainable transportation and what steps are being taken towards Penn's mission.

Topic submitted by Chris Cruz, C'13

9. Proposal for additional ways to promote entrepreneurship at Penn

Topic submitted by Antoine Saillon, MBA'14

10. Request that the University divest from fossil fuel companies

Topic submitted by Sara Allan, C'15

11. Concerns regarding tuition increases for graduate students

Topic submitted by Patrick Dooley, MBA'14

Two Browne Chairs in SAS

(continued from page 1)

Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching, the University's highest teaching honor. She is a past national board member of the Association for Psychological Science.

Dr. Thompson-Schill is the director of undergraduate studies in psychology and director of the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, a University-wide multidisciplinary center dedicated to understanding the neural bases of human thought.

The chairs are two of 10 Browne Distinguished Professorships created by the late Christopher H. Browne, C'69, former chair of the Board of Overseers of the School and a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania. The Browne Chairs recognize faculty members who have achieved an extraordinary reputation for scholarly contributions, who have demonstrated great distinction in teaching, and who have demonstrated intellectual integrity and unquestioned commitment to free and open discussion of ideas.

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Deaths

Dr. McGill, Wharton

Dr. Dan M. McGill, professor emeritus of insurance and risk management in the Wharton School, passed away February 5 at age 93.



Dan McGill

Dr. McGill received his BA from Maryville College in Tennessee in 1940, his MA from Vanderbilt University in 1941 and afterward served in the US Army Air Force as a statistical control officer before earning his PhD in economics

from the University of Pennsylvania in 1947. He served again in the Air Force as director of finance from 1951-1952.

Prior to joining Penn's faculty, Dr. McGill was an associate professor at the University of Tennessee, the Julian Price Associate Professor of Life Insurance at the University of North Carolina and a visiting associate professor at Stanford University. In 1952, he was appointed associate professor of insurance in the Wharton School, was promoted to professor in 1956 and was named the Frederick H. Ecker Professor of Life Insurance in 1959. He also served as chair of the department in the 1960s.

In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. McGill served as research director of the Pension Research Council and then as its chairman. He also served as executive director of the S. S. Heubner Foundation, 1954-1974, was chairman of the governing board of the Leonard Davis Institute and chairman of the Graduate Group in Business and Applied Economics. He became emeritus in 1981.

Dr. McGill testified before Congress concerning various matters, held several Presidential appointments and was a noted expert in pensions for different corporations and countries.

He was the recipient of the Elizur Wright Award for outstanding publication in the field of insurance with *The Fundamentals of Private Pensions* in 1955. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Maryville College in 1962 and was the 1973 Employee Benefits Man of the Year according to *Pension and Welfare News*.

Dr. McGill is survived by his wife, Elaine Kim McGill; his son, Doug; several grandchildren; brother, Marvin McGill; sister, Marcelle Lillard; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Clover Hill Presbyterian Church, PO Box 4877, Maryville, TN 37802.

Dr. Rosenthal, Wharton

Dr. Isadore "Irv" Rosenthal, a retired senior fellow of the Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center, passed away February 10 at age 87.



Irv Rosenthal

In 1984 when the Wharton Risk Center was being established, Dr. Rosenthal was the head of corporate health and safety at Rohm and Haas. Don Felley, then president of Rohm and Haas, was to become the first chairperson of the Risk Center's newly formed Advisory Committee. He indicated that if he were to serve on the Advisory Committee, he wanted Dr. Rosenthal to be his right-hand man, given his keen insights into the health and safety issues facing the chemical industry.

"From the very outset, Irv kept us academics honest by making sure that we understood how our research applied to real world problems. At the same time, Irv had an insatiable thirst for new knowledge and became well-versed in the language of economics, psychology and decision sciences by rubbing elbows with the students and faculty associated with the Risk Center," said Dr. Howard Kunreuther, co-director of the Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center, James G. Dinan Professor and professor of business and public policy and decision sciences.

"Dr. Rosenthal understood the importance of involving the relevant stakeholders concerned with the problems that were being studied. He was instrumental in organizing many meetings, bringing together experts from industry, government, public interest groups and the research community to discuss topics ranging from the epidemiology of health and safety risks to the role of insurance and third-party inspections in dealing with catastrophic accidents. Without his efforts, Congressional legislation and regulations associated with the Clean Air Act Amendments would not have had such a high profile within the chemical industry, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and public interest groups."

After Dr. Rosenthal retired from Rohm and Haas in 1990, he became a senior fellow at the Risk Center, where he threw himself into teaching and research on a full-time basis. He left the Risk Center in 1999 to join the National Chemical Safety and Hazards Investigation Board, a five-year appointment made by President Clinton. In 2004 Dr. Rosenthal returned to the Risk Center to continue his research on approaches for managing

environmental, health and safety (EHS) risks.

Dr. Rosenthal continued as an active researcher until his retirement from the Wharton Risk Center in 2011. He proposed processes for verifying the performance of EHS activities in firms and the roles that third parties could play in implementing US Department of Agriculture food safety process management programs. He also interacted with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and EPA on how third party inspections and insurance could help enforce regulations on process safety risks, co-organizing a workshop on this topic in 2010.

"Dr. Rosenthal was instrumental in highlighting ways that research on low-probability, high-consequence events are relevant to the public and private sectors," added Dr. Kunreuther.

A native of New York City, Dr. Rosenthal earned his BA from Purdue University and his MS from New York University. He earned his PhD in physical chemistry from Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Rosenthal is survived by his daughters, Cindy and Leslie; sons, Richard and Seth; nine stepchildren, Alison, James, Jon, Robert, Joseph, Fred, Elliot, Eric and Mark; four grandchildren, Andrew, Jacob, Ruth and Eli; a sister, Betty Roland; and a brother, Julius Peschansky.

Contributions may be made to Friends of Farmworkers Inc., 42 S. 15th St., Suite 605, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Ms. Singh, Nursing Junior

Arya Singh, a junior in the School of Nursing, passed away February 8 from unknown causes; she was 20.

Ms. Singh was a native of Allentown, PA, but was born in India. She graduated from Parkland High School. She was a resident of Rodin College House and a former member of PennHype, a hip hop fusion dance group.

Over the summer, Ms. Singh worked for the Cribs for Kids program at Maternity Care Coalition, where she provided safe sleep education and information on infant care.

She is survived by her parents, Narendra and Sujata Singh; and a sister, Shweta Singh, Nu'08, GNu'12, GrNu'17.

A viewing will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Jeffrey A. Naugle Funeral & Cremation Service, 135 W. Pumping Station Rd., Quakertown, PA 18951.



Arya Singh

Summer Research Support For Junior Faculty & Tenured Associate Professors: April 1

The Trustees' Council of Penn Women offers three \$5,000 summer research stipends to female faculty or faculty members whose research is centrally concerned with the role of women in society, science or arts and letters.* The Trustees' Council of Penn Women wishes to assist associate professors working for promotion to Full Professor, as well as Assistant Professors seeking promotion to the permanent rank of Associate Professor.

If you are interested in applying for the stipend, submit a two-page summary of the research you wish to undertake, an explanation of how the stipend will facilitate the research, a curriculum vitae and the name of a University reference. In your application describe how you will use the award and why it would be particularly useful to you at this time. Also, we require that you indicate whether you have other sources of research funding. Those who have previously applied and did not receive an award are encouraged to apply again. The summary should be sent to:

Summer Research Award,
The Alice Paul Center for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality,
411 Cohen Hall, 249 S. 36th Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6304

Deadline: *Monday, April 1, 2013*

Research proposals will be reviewed, and the stipend awarded, through a peer review process. It is expected that the research, or a significant subset thereof, will be concluded during the summer of 2013, and a written report will be submitted to the review panel and to the Trustees' Council. Any subsequent publication of the research results should acknowledge the support of the Council.

***Note:** The amount of the award varies according to whether the recipient chooses to receive it as salary or to use it for research expenses.

—The Alice Paul Center for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality

University Research Foundation: March 25

The University Research Foundation (URF) is now accepting applications for the March 25 deadline. The URF is an intramural funding program that provides up to \$50,000 support for research projects and up to \$3,000 for conference support.

The objectives of the URF research program are to:

(1) Help junior faculty undertake pilot projects that will enable them to successfully apply for extramural sources of funding and aid in establishing their careers as independent investigators;

(2) Help established faculty perform novel, pioneering research to determine project feasibility and develop preliminary data to support extramural grant applications;

(3) Provide support in disciplines where extramural support is difficult to obtain and where significant research can be facilitated with internal funding; and

(4) Provide limited institutional matching funds that are required as part of a successful external peer-reviewed application.

URF Review Panels comprise established Penn faculty members and are charged with giving preference to projects that meet one of the aforementioned criteria.

As part of the University's commitment to providing research op-

portunities to scholars across our campus community, URF applicants are encouraged to include undergraduate student participants within the framework of their proposals. URF Review Panels will take undergraduate participation under strong consideration when evaluating and scoring proposals. Should applicants require assistance in identifying interested and qualified undergraduates, the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF) will be glad to provide support: curf@upenn.edu

Faculty members are invited to submit their research applications to one of four disciplinary areas: Biomedical Sciences, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Engineering, and Social Science and Management. In addition, URF offers a Conference Support program to provide funding for meetings designed to enhance existing research and scholarly programs, particularly in disciplines where external funding is difficult to obtain. Conferences that promote interdisciplinary and multi-school participation are given priority.

Complete details about the URF and links to the forms can be found on the Office of the Vice Provost for Research website at: www.upenn.edu/research/funding/university_research_foundation

—Steven J. Fluharty, Senior Vice Provost for Research

*In the most recent cycle—Fall 2012—of Penn's internally-funded University Research Foundation and URF Conference Support (noted with *), the Office of the Vice Provost for Research has announced awards to the following members of the faculty for the projects listed below.*

University Research Foundation Awards and Conference Support Awards Fall 2012

Linda Aiken, School of Nursing, Biobehavioral Health; *Developing a Program Evaluation Research Initiative in Health Services*

Daud Ali, School of Arts & Sciences, South Asia Studies; *The Vicissitudes of Ma'bar: State and Society in the Pandya Country, c. 1200-1485 CE*

Daniel Barber, School of Design, Architecture; *The Invention of Thermal Comfort: Climatic Design and the Globalization of Modern Architecture*

Gregory Bisson, Perelman School of Medicine, Medicine; *Using adaptive cellular immune function to diagnose drug resistance in Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection: A proof-of-concept study*

Igor Brodsky, School of Veterinary Medicine, Pathobiology; *Novel mechanisms of caspase activation by microbial infection*

Zahra Fakhraai, School of Arts & Sciences, Chemistry; *TA Instruments Discovery Differential Scanning Calorimetry to Enhance Materials Research and Education*

*Tulia Falletti, School of Arts & Sciences, Political Science; *New Approaches to Historical Institutionalism*

Michael Gamer, School of Arts & Sciences, English; *A History of English Theater, 1649-1843: Staged Conflicts*

Johanna Greeson, School of Social Policy & Practice; *Attitudes and beliefs about the implementation of a child-welfare based natural mentoring intervention for older foster youth*

Wayne Hancock, Perelman School of Medicine, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; *Novel Therapeutic Approaches to Dietary-Induced Obesity and Inflammation*

Robert Hollebeek, School of Arts & Sciences, Physics & Astronomy; *Micromegas Detectors for Proton Therapy*

Toshinori Hoshi, Perelman School of Medicine, Physiology; *Optical Measurement of Absolute Membrane Potentials*

*Michael Kahana, School of Arts & Sciences, Psychology; *2013 Context and Episodic Memory Symposium*

Randall Kamien, School of Arts & Sciences, Physics & Astronomy; *From Elementary Particles to Electrons to Elasticity*

Terri Laufer, Perelman School of Medicine, Medicine; *Intestinal lamina propria contains an isolated niche for regulatory T cells*

*Richard Leventhal, School of Arts & Sciences, Anthropology; *Yucatan in Pennsylvania 2013*

*Heather Love, School of Arts & Sciences, English; *Queer Method: Discipline and Counter-discipline in Gender and Sexuality Studies*

Nuala Meyer, Perelman School of Medicine, Medicine; *ILIRN Genetic Variation and Protection from Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome: Gene to Function*

*Lisa Mitchell, School of Arts & Sciences, South Asia Studies; *Contested Spaces*

*Kevin Platt, School of Arts & Sciences, Slavic Languages and Literatures; *Russia Out of Bounds: Contemporary Russian Culture Beyond the Russian Federation*

Nicole Rust, School of Arts & Sciences, Psychology; *Developing a model to study the neural mechanisms underlying massive visual memory capacity*

Marc Schmidt, School of Arts & Sciences, Biology; *Using optogenetics to investigate the role of a respiratory-thalamic pathway in song production*

*Michael Solomon, School of Arts & Sciences, Romance Languages; *Thinking with Cervantes: Exemplarity and the Potential to Be Otherwise*

David Spafford, School of Arts & Sciences, East Asian Languages & Civilizations; *Who Counts as Kin?*

*Peter Stallybrass, School of Arts & Sciences, English; *Geographies of the Book: The 21st Annual SHARP Conference*

Alison Sweeney, School of Arts & Sciences, Physics & Astronomy; *Tools for communicating and refining complex spatial hypotheses across physics, biology and materials engineering*

Ebony Thomas, Graduate School of Education, Reading, Writing & Literacy; *Learning and Teaching African American Historical Metanarratives through Children's and Young Adult Literature in an Urban Middle School Literacy Lab/Media Center*

Yin-Ling Irene Wong, School of Social Policy & Practice; *Stigma and Community Inclusion of People with Psychiatric Disabilities and their Family Members in Urban China*

Xiaolu Yang, Perelman School of Medicine, Cancer Biology; *Catalytic activity of the tumor suppressor p53*

Honors & Other Things

Perelman School of Medicine Awards of Excellence

The winners of the 17th annual Perelman School of Medicine Awards of Excellence were honored at a dinner on November 14, 2012. The awards recognize outstanding performance by the faculty in the research, clinical and mentoring areas. The following remarks are excerpts from the event.

Dr. Anil K. Rustgi, T. Grier Miller professor of medicine and chief of the division of gastroenterology, is the recipient of the Arthur Asbury Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award, which recognizes a faculty member who has fostered professional development of other faculty members by providing inspiring and effective counsel and opportunities for achievement. His mentees and colleagues comment on his active engagement and encouragement as a mentor, reviewing countless grant applications and manuscript drafts, providing timely edits and comments, supporting applications for national awards, polishing presentations, facilitating research collaborations, improving clinical and teaching skills, and “opening the right doors.”

Dr. Y. Joseph Woo, associate professor of surgery, is the recipient of the Luigi Mastroianni, Jr., Clinical Innovator Award, which recognizes a clinician who has pioneered the invention and development of new techniques, procedures or approaches that change medical practices. Dr. Woo is a nationally-recognized academic cardiothoracic surgeon who has a robust, high-volume cardiac surgical practice at HUP, performing 400 pump cases per year and heading the Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery Program. He performed the first robotic heart surgery in the Delaware Valley a decade ago, and the world’s first robotic aortic valve procedure. He also heads the Mechanical Circulatory Assist and Cardiac Transplant Program.

Dr. Jennifer S. Myers, associate professor of clinical medicine, is the recipient of the Alfred Stengel Health System Champion Award, which recognizes a physician who has contributed significantly to the clinical integration of the Health System. As a hospitalist, she is recognized for her diagnostic acumen and compassionate patient care. She has led or has been an active contributor to numerous quality improvement initiatives at HUP, including improving chest pain triage and reducing length of stay, co-leading the development of Penn’s first rapid response team and improving many aspects of hospital discharge transitions. As one of HUP’s Patient Safety Officers, she provides clinical oversight and leadership for the incident reporting system and medical error review process.

Dr. Joseph R. Carver, clinical professor of medicine, is the recipient of the I.S. Ravdin Master Clinician Award, which recognizes an active clinician who is regarded and revered by his colleagues as a masterful practitioner—a “doctor’s doctor.” He currently serves as the chief of staff of the Abramson Cancer Center, the senior administrative officer of the Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute and interim director of consultative cardiology in the division of cardiology. Dr. Carver has authored over 75 medical papers and monographs and has received the Distinguished Teacher Award in Cardiology from the Perelman School of Medicine.

Dr. Janice K. Hillman, a clinical associate in the department of medicine, is the recipient of the Sylvan Eisman Outstanding Primary Care Physician Award, which recognizes a Health System primary care physician who goes beyond the norm and exemplifies the HUP’s

excellent care. She is one of only a few internists in the United States who is board certified in both internal medicine and adolescent medicine. Dr. Hillman has been recognized by *Philadelphia Magazine* as a “Top Doc” and has been in adolescent medicine for more than 10 years.

Dr. Patrick M. Reilly, professor of surgery, is the recipient of the Louis Duhring Outstanding Clinical Specialist Award, which recognizes a teaching and practicing physician in a clinical or ancillary department, exclusive of primary care, who combines biomedical research with clinical insight and knowledge to provide leading-edge service and creative care to patients and colleagues. He is a leader in trauma surgery and surgical critical care whose contributions have advanced patient care and improved patient outcomes. Since 1997, he has been program director of the surgical critical care fellowship and clinical director of the Rhoads Surgical Intensive Care Unit at HUP. He assumed the role of chief of the division of traumatology, surgical critical care and emergency surgery in 2011.

Dr. David Artis, associate professor in the department of microbiology, is the recipient of the Stanley N. Cohen Biomedical Research Award, which acknowledges a member of the Perelman School of Medicine faculty for a body of work with an emphasis on biomedical research, performed at Penn in the last five years. Dr. Artis’s research in mucosal immunology and immune regulation has placed him at the forefront of his field. Recently, the Artis lab has begun to develop translational research approaches that will allow analysis of findings in murine model systems to be tested in patient populations. These approaches offer the potential to significantly advance the understanding of the pathogenesis of chronic inflammatory diseases and could have broader implications for multiple autoimmune diseases.

Dr. Robert H. Vonderheide, associate professor of medicine and investigator in the Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute, is the recipient of the William Osler Patient Oriented Research Award, which is granted to a member of the PSOM faculty for a body of work with an emphasis on clinical research, performed predominantly at Penn in the last five years. Dr. Vonderheide is being recognized for his groundbreaking work in the area of tumor immunotherapy. His work seeks to optimize tumor antigens and enhance the potency of patients’ immune systems to overcome immune ignorance or tolerance.

Dr. David J. Margolis, professor of dermatology and professor of epidemiology, is the recipient of the Samuel Martin Health Evaluation Sciences Research Award, which is granted to a member of the PSOM faculty for a body of work with an emphasis on health services research, performed predominantly at Penn in the last five years. His work has transformed understanding of the pathogenesis, prognosis and treatment of chronic wounds, which remain a major health problem. Dr. Margolis’s research has demonstrated that easily measured clinical factors such as anatomic depth, wound size, wound duration and early changes in wound size would pre-

dict healing. His innovative clinical assessments are now routinely incorporated into clinical trials designed to explore new treatments of venous leg and diabetic foot ulcers. The outcomes of his research are facilitating the development of safe and efficacious agents for treating chronic wounds, including the use of gene therapy for this important indication.

Dr. James Shorter, assistant professor in the department of biochemistry and biophysics, is the recipient of the Michael S. Brown New Investigator Award, which recognizes emerging faculty investigators engaged in innovative discoveries. Dr. Shorter’s independent research focuses on the mechanisms by which protein-remodeling factors, molecular chaperones and small molecules antagonize amyloid fibers and preamyloid oligomers. It provides a unique link between detailed quantitative analyses of protein folding and the diseases that arise when it goes awry. This work has enormous significance for diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s in which amyloid structures play an important role.

Dr. Michael P. Cancro, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, is the recipient of the Lady Barbara Colyton Autoimmune Research Award, which recognizes a PSOM faculty member, fellow or postdoctoral student who has been engaged in innovative discoveries and outstanding research in the area of autoimmune diseases. Dr. Cancro has made seminal contributions to the understanding of autoimmunity. His pivotal discovery of the peripheral B cell developmental intermediate now known as the “transitional” B cell permanently changed the accepted paradigm. His work on the mechanisms responsible for B cell survival, homeostasis and selection has made him a thought leader in the field. Of most significance, however, is the outcome of his groundbreaking research: Dr. Cancro’s findings contributed to the first new FDA-approved therapeutic drug for the treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus in the past 50 years.

Dr. Scott D. Halpern, assistant professor in the departments of medicine and biostatistics & epidemiology, is the recipient of the Marjorie A. Bowman New Investigator Research Award, which recognizes a junior faculty member whose research has illuminated a fundamental clinical problem or improved the organization and delivery of health care. Dr. Halpern is internationally recognized as one of the leading scholars at the intersection of epidemiology, health services research and medical ethics. His research is underscored by a consistent mission to improve transparency, fairness and efficiency in healthcare and in the conduct of randomized clinical trials that inform healthcare delivery. Already, he has made conceptually fresh and empirically grounded insights that have improved allocation of scarce healthcare resources, the quality of healthcare decisions made by patients and the design and ethics of randomized clinical trials. Dr. Halpern is also considered a generous and devoted mentor, serving as primary mentor to more than 10 junior faculty, fellows and medical students.

Many Thanks to All Those Who Volunteered and Donated

Dear Penn Community,

There are no words to adequately describe your generosity during the holiday season. Thank you so very much for all of your contributions to benefit our surrounding community. Many benefitted from your willingness to give. Here are examples of the various efforts: Thank you to President Gutmann for hosting her Annual Holiday Party where over 500 toys and gifts were donated. These toys along with many others were donated to Councilwoman Blackwell's Annual Holiday Party for the homeless. Councilwoman Blackwell entertains over 3,000 homeless women, men and children. Each guest leaves with a gift. The donations collected from the party are much appreciated by Councilwoman Blackwell. Thank you to the following departments that brought joy to families during the holidays by "adopting" them:

- Business Services, coordinated by Tracy Hawkins
- Career Services, coordinated by Jamie Grant
- Center for Excellence in Environmental Toxicology, coordinated by Mary E. Webster
- Central Corporate and Foundation Relations, coordinated by Don Bone
- Central Research, coordinated by Olivia Pridey-Patton
- College Housing and Academic Services, coordinated by Pamela Robinson
- Department of Medicine Transitional Research Center, coordinated by Patricia Mericko
- Development and Alumni Relations, coordinated by Patricia Speakman
- Facilities and Real Estate Services, coordinated by Carole Mercaldo
- Family of Lauren Robinson, coordinated by Lauren Robinson
- Family of Petra Todd, coordinated by Petra Todd
- Family of Olivia Pridey-Patton, coordinated by Olivia Pridey-Patton
- Graduate School of Education Admissions, coordinated by Emily Schrag
- Housing Services, coordinated by Katrina Terrell
- Office of the General Counsel, coordinated by Helen Logan
- Office of Gift Planning, coordinated by Lorleen A. Maxwell
- Office of Government & Community Affairs, coordinated by Linda Satchell
- Office of the Comptroller, coordinated by Stephanie Mahan
- Office of the Treasurer, coordinated by Margaret Heer
- Office of the Vice President for Finance, coordinated by Karen Hamilton
- Penn Abroad, coordinated by Barbara Gorka
- Perelman Quad, coordinated by Kristine Werez-Patterson
- Research Services, coordinated by Lauren Oshana
- School of Arts & Sciences, coordinated by Juliana Walker
- Student Health, coordinated by Sharon McMullen
- University Communications, coordinated by Laura Cavender
- Weekly-Paid Professional Staff Assembly, coordinated by Linda Satchell
- Wharton School Dean's Office, coordinated by Jennifer O'Keefe

Special thanks to the department of cell and developmental biology and the Penn Cardiovascular Institute coordinated by Carolyn Henry for the donation of gift cards which helped to provide groceries for deserving families during the holidays. Thanks to Helen Logan and the Office of the General Counsel for providing additional gifts to insure that all the families referred to us were adopted.

Thanks to Liz Anzalone from Student Financial Services for providing additional gifts for the Adopt-A-Family Program. Thank you to Robin Hartley for donating several brand new coats, hats, gloves and sweatshirts to the Annual Coat Drive.

Thank you to Karen Hamilton for providing gift cards to help increase efforts to provide holiday meals to local families. Special thanks to Human Resources for their Coat Drive, coordinated by Syreeta Gary. Most of their donation benefitted the Outley House Men's Shelter located in Southwest Philadelphia which serves men, women and children. Special thanks to Business Services for their "Keep Warm Drive" donation of new hats, scarves and gloves, coordinated by Donna Petrelli. They benefitted many local youngsters including those involved in the Penn Workplace Mentoring Program.

Special thanks to Student Health for their yeoman efforts in the Coat and Toy Drive.

Thank you to Peter Zutter and colleagues from Space Planning & Operation Services for their donation of gift cards that were shared with local families involved in the Adopt-A-Family Program. Thank you to the entire University community for donating over 1,000 gifts and toys. Thank you to the Dropsite Volunteers that collected all the gifts/toys and made it possible for us to respond to requests for donations from our neighbors listed below:

- Councilwoman Blackwell's Annual Holiday Party for the Homeless
- The Salvation Army
- Earthkeepers, Inc.
- Mill Creek Community Partnership
- Parents Against Drugs
- People's Emergency Shelter
- Work in conjunction with Penn student Alexandra Bittle to provide items for victims of Hurricane Sandy
- Work with Megan Maxwell to provide items for families at St. Peter the Apostle Parish
- Several families referred by individuals not connected with Adopt-A-Family Program

If you have any excess office supplies, furniture or equipment suitable for donations to local nonprofits in the area, please email sammapp@pobox.upenn.edu

Upcoming March Event: Change Drive to benefit Alex's Lemonade Stand with a donation of non-secured funds in conjunction with ISC. Further details will be provided in the near future.

—Isabel Mapp, Associate Director, Netter Center for Community Partnerships

Penn Retail Survey: Reminder

The University of Pennsylvania's Division of Facilities & Real Estate Services is currently conducting a master plan for its retail real estate holdings. A key piece of this plan is incorporating the ideas, opinions and spending information of the University community. The information shared in the survey will be used to evaluate the retail opportunities on- and off-campus and plan for future needs. The deadline to complete the survey is *February 28, 2013*.

Those who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing to win a gift card from a Penn retailer (\$10 to \$100 value). All Penn students, faculty, staff and neighborhood residents are invited to participate. Visit www.pennretailsurvey.com to take the survey.

Tuition Assistance for Your Family

Tuition assistance is one of the many perks of working at Penn. But faculty and staff aren't the only ones who can get an education for an affordable price. Your entire family can take advantage of the University's tuition benefit to pursue their academic goals.

Eligible dependent children can receive tuition assistance for courses at Penn or other accredited institutions, and it is usually tax-free. The tuition benefit covers 75% of your child's technology and tuition fees at Penn. You can also take advantage of the Direct Grant program which helps subsidize the cost of your child's education at accredited schools other than Penn. Penn covers the school's tuition charge per term, or the equivalent of 40% of the tuition cost for one full-time semester at Penn (whichever is less).

Your spouse or domestic partner can also cash in on the value of Penn's tuition benefit. Generally, the University covers 50% of the tuition and technology fees for eight semesters toward an undergraduate degree at Penn.

Keep in mind the tuition benefit for both children and spouses/domestic partners applies to undergraduate degree programs only. For more information, visit the HR website at www.hr.upenn.edu/myhr/benefits/tuition (PennKey required).

A Helping Hand When You Need it Most

Life is full of battles, and most people can't tackle every challenge on their own. Maybe you're struggling with depression, suffering from the loss of a loved one, or stressed about major life changes like buying a home, adopting a child or getting married. No matter what your situation, sometimes you need help to get you through. That's when you can turn to Penn's Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the EAP gives you and your family access to free, confidential counseling and referral services for personal and professional life issues. Penn Behavioral Health counselors will work with you to assess your situation and help identify next steps.

What's more? You and your family members can each schedule up to eight counseling sessions per fiscal year for a specific issue—at no cost to you. Get started by contacting the EAP online or calling (888) 321-4433 for help.

To learn more about how the EAP can help you, visit www.hr.upenn.edu/myhr/worklife/healthyleap (PennKey required).

—Division of Human Resources

Update

February AT PENN

FITNESS AND LEARNING

22 *Modern Landscape Aesthetic: Looking to Natural World for Inspiration & Sustainability*; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Morris Arboretum; \$135; register: <https://online.morrisarboretum.org/schoolofarboriculture>

ON STAGE

22 *Penn Dhamaka Presents: Dhamakastan*; 7:30 p.m.; Iron Gate Theatre; \$10/evening, \$8/matinee. Also February 23, 1:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

READINGS AND SIGNINGS

20 *Between Muslim Anticlericalism and Soviet Atheism: Islam in Uzbekistan's Cultural Revolution, 1917-1932*; Adeeb Khalid, Carleton College; 5 p.m.; rm. B26, Stiteler Hall (Middle East Center, History, Slavic Languages and Literatures).

Round Up Holler Girl: Readings by 3 Queer Performance Artists from NYC; Dan Fishback, writer/performer; Erin Mackey, conceptual music creator; Max Steele, writer/performer; 6 p.m.; Arts Café, Kelly Writers House (KWH).

21 *Brandywine Boy, a memoir*; Adrian Morrison, Vet Med; 11 a.m.; rm. 220 Hill Pavilion, School of Veterinary Medicine (Penn Libraries).

The Collection: Short Fiction from the Transgender Vanguard; 6 p.m.; Kelly Writers House (KWH).

26 *Love & Truth*; Chaz Shepherd, actor/activist; 6 p.m.; Penn Bookstore (Bookstore; AACR).

How Literature Saved My Life; David Shields; 6 p.m.; Kelly Writers House (KWH).

28 *7 Up on Camp*; rescheduled from February 21; 6 p.m.; Kelly Writers House (KWH).

TALKS

21 *My Sister's Keeper*; Ambassador Nancy G. Brinker, founder/CEO, Susan G. Komen for the Cure; 4:30 p.m.; Jon M. Huntsman Hall (Wharton's Leadership Lecture).

Class in Session; 9th Wonder, hip-hop producer; 7 p.m.; rm. 109, Annenberg School for Communication, followed by Q&A with director Kenneth Price, "The Wonder Year" (Africana Studies).

24 *Curator Talk and Conversation: Brian Weil Exhibition*; Stamatina Gregory, ICA; Patrick Moore, Andy Warhol Museum; Ric Curtis, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; 2 p.m.; ICA (ICA).

26 *Roles of the telomere protein complex POT1-TPP1 in chromosome end protection and end replication*; Jayakrishnan Nandakumar, University of Colorado; 12:15 p.m.; rm. 252, BRB II/III (Biochemistry & Biophysics).

Turban and Crown; Robert Dankoff, University of Chicago; 5 p.m.; rm. 231, Fisher-Bennett Hall (Middle East Center, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations).

From Douglass to Django: Slavery and Freedom in the Age of Obama; Salamishah Tillet, English; 6 p.m.; World Cafe Live (Penn Lightbulb Cafe).

27 *Recipes for Thought: All's Well That Ends*

Get Credit for Your Retirement Savings

Tax season has arrived—and if you put money toward a retirement plan last year, you may be able to get credit for it.

The Retirement Savings Contribution Credit (also known as the Saver's Credit) provides a credit of up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for joint filers).* The amount of the credit depends on your income, tax filing status and how much you contributed to your retirement plan in 2012.

Take a look at the table below to see if you're eligible.

Keep in mind that you can't be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return if you want to take advantage of the Saver's Credit. For more information, visit www.irs.gov

—Division of Human Resources

Modified Adjusted Gross Income			Credit %	Maximum Tax Credit (per person)*
Married Filing Jointly	Head of Household	Single		
\$0-\$34,500	\$0-\$25,875	\$0-\$17,250	50% of first \$2,000 deferred	\$1,000
\$34,501-\$37,500	\$25,876-\$28,125	\$17,251-\$18,750	20% of first \$2,000 deferred	\$400
\$37,501-\$57,500	\$28,126-\$43,125	\$18,751-\$28,750	10% of first \$2,000 deferred	\$200

* According to the IRS, the maximum annual contribution eligible for the Saver's Credit is \$2,000.

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 **February 4-10, 2013**. Also reported were 20 Crimes Against Property (11 thefts, 1 act of vandalism, 1 liquor law violation, 2 narcotic offenses, 3 traffic offenses, 1 case of fraud and 1 other offense). Full reports are available at: www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v59/n22/creport.html Prior weeks' reports are also online. —Ed.

This summary is prepared by the Division of Public Safety and includes all criminal incidents reported and made known to the University Police Department between the dates of **February 4-10, 2013**. The University Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from the Schuylkill River to 43rd Street in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police. In this effort to provide you with a thorough and accurate report on public safety concerns, we hope that your increased awareness will lessen the opportunity for crime. For any concerns or suggestions regarding this report, please call the Division of Public Safety at (215) 898-4482.

02/05/13	7:15 AM	Convention Avenue	Complainant assaulted by known male
02/06/13	12:40 AM	4002 Market St	Complainant assaulted by unknown males
02/08/13	12:21 AM	4000 Spruce St	Disorderly male arrested
02/08/13	2:37 PM	3400 Spruce St	Complainant assaulted by boyfriend
02/09/13	3:08 AM	200 S 42nd St	Officer assaulted/Arrest made

18th District Report

Below are all Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 2 incidents with no arrests (1 robbery and 1 aggravated assault) were reported between **February 4-10, 2013** by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

02/08/13	2:30 PM	3400 Spruce St	Aggravated Assault
02/10/13	1:30 AM	200 S 49th St	Robbery

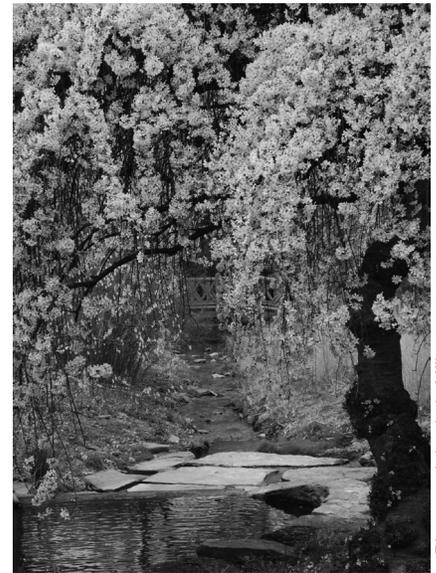
Well and Early Modern Knowledge-Practices; Wendy Wall, Northwestern University; 5 p.m.; rm. 401, Fisher-Bennett Hall (English, Penn Humanities Forum, Alice Paul Center).

Brian Weil Gallery Talk; Jeanne Vaccaro, gender, sexuality and women's studies; 6:30 p.m.; ICA (ICA).

AT PENN Deadlines

The February AT PENN calendar is online at www.upenn.edu/almanac The deadline for the weekly Update is each Monday for the following week's issue. The deadline for the April AT PENN calendar is *Tuesday, March 12*.

Information is on the sponsoring department's website. Sponsors are in parentheses. For locations, call (215) 898-5000 or see www.facilities.upenn.edu



Photograph by Judy Miller

Anthony S. Aiello presents the Klein Endowed lecture, *Japanese Flowering Cherries: A 100 Year-Long Love Affair*, on Sunday, February 24 at 2 p.m. at the Morris Arboretum.

Almanac

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FAX: (215) 898-9137
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The University of Pennsylvania's journal of record, opinion and news is published Tuesdays during the academic year, and as needed during summer and holiday breaks. Its electronic editions on the Internet (accessible through the Penn website) include HTML, Acrobat and mobile versions of the print edition, and interim information may be posted in electronic-only form. Guidelines for readers and contributors are available on request and online.

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Sharing A Discovery of Connection

Bruce Kothmann

A positive student course evaluation will often cite the instructor's "enthusiasm" as a significant factor in the overall learning experience. A search through my own evaluations found the word "enthusiasm" frequently followed by affirming references to "motivation" or "fun." Though it certainly feels good to read kind words in course reviews, as educators we also would like to know that the ultimate effect of the perceived enthusiasm is improved learning: greater breadth, depth, retention or some combination of all of these. There is indeed academic research that confirms that enthusiastic teaching has clear positive effects on a variety of quantitative measures of learning outcomes.¹ But how can teachers manipulate their enthusiasm to harness these potentially beneficial effects?

I think we should let the outward expressions of enthusiasm, such as body language and facial expressions, take their natural course and focus instead on the internal sources of our passions. Despite our great diversity of experience and expertise, Penn faculty share a nearly universal zeal for the spirit of discovery. This spirit is a driving force behind the groundbreaking research across all disciplines at the University. Because graduate students participate directly in the research enterprise, interactions in upper-level courses tend quite naturally to be exciting and engaging for everyone involved. How do we achieve this same sense of wonder early in the undergraduate curriculum, where the students are only just beginning to understand key concepts and methods?

The students may have opportunities for genuine discovery, but for faculty, there is a risk that the lectures seem simplistic and mundane, particularly after several years of repetition, leading to anything but an enthusiastic presentation.

One simple and specific action that I have found to be especially useful for sustaining my own enthusiasm in an established undergraduate course is adding a novel story or example to an existing lecture. Avoid narrow constraints on what constitutes a proper source or type of example. If you teach a technical discipline, be on the lookout for potentially interesting examples while reading new or classic fiction. I find that a "random walk" on the internet, perhaps sparked by a news story or personal observation, is often a very fruitful method for finding new stories to tell. Remember, your lectures already have world-class content; you are merely looking for a different lens through which to view that content. The objective here is to be sure that *you*, as the instructor, are learning something completely new—making some sort of personal discovery—that you will share with your students.

Not long ago, I saw the power of this technique in action from the perspective of a student. Before I came to Penn as a lecturer in 2007, I worked for more than a decade at Boeing Rotorcraft near the airport in Philadelphia. We had a lot of on-the-job training, much of it necessary, if quite forgettable. But during one lunchtime short-course, a lecture given by a brilliant colleague, David G. Miller, was most memorable. Dave's goal was to explain two things: first, why computers would not fully replace pilots in military aircraft; and second, why the difficulty that a pilot has flying a helicopter is so fundamental. Contrary to the usual engineering approach, the lecture was not a dry nor mathematical discourse, but a gripping narrative. Dave weaved his two main points into a brilliantly crafted story linking a heroic bus driver, the 19th-century Phillies ace William I. For example, Rosenshine, Barak, "Enthusiastic Teaching: A Research Review," *The School Review*, 78:4, August, 1970.

"Kid" Gleason,² and the practical consequences of the pitcher's mound being moved 15 feet further from home plate. When I asked Dave where the story had come from, he told me that he put it together from information he had found online.

No one who heard Dave's lecture that day would soon forget his two main points. It is tempting to believe that this is merely the result of how clever the lecture had been. But I think it is because of how passionately the lecture was delivered. Dave was sharing a *discovery* with us. Not a technical or scientific discovery, but a discovery of connection—how diverse and keen interests in his own life were related in an almost magical way. Such discoveries are just waiting to be made, and *enthusiastically shared*, whenever highly knowledgeable, actively engaged and intellectually curious people make the time to search.

One great facet of this approach is that it is easily adapted to the time available. I often spend only an hour or so to find something fresh for a tired lecture. But "following the scent" of a good story can also take you on much longer journeys of discovery as well. In the summer of 2011, I was updating some notes for an especially dry lecture on the structure of airplane wings. The notes already included a 1919 photograph of a Fokker D8 aircraft in which the workers at the factory in Amsterdam were sitting on the wing to vividly demonstrate its strength. A short web search revealed a compelling backstory: the original design had suffered multiple sudden and catastrophic wing failures, and the cause of the disasters was widely disputed. After a good deal more surfing, I came across a lay textbook

on structures³ that promised to provide a clear resolution of the underlying design flaw. And indeed it did. But the discovery was not yet complete, because the book also contained fascinating expositions on the design and construction of all types of bridges, presented with enthralling

prose and fascinating historical context. I was hooked, finishing the book in only a few days.

The next weekend, while on a recreational bicycle ride with my family, I came upon the Falls Bridge, crossing the Schuylkill river. Though I had crossed the bridge many times before, my eyes had been newly opened: this bridge exhibited, in plain view and on a grand scale, many of the key ideas that we try to teach engineering sophomores about mechanics and structures. After finishing the ride, I went back to the internet to discover the fascinating history surrounding the many bridge crossings of the Schuylkill River northwest of Center City. A few months later, the first annual MEAM Bicycle Bridge Tour was underway, with more than 40 faculty and students sharing a voluntary journey of discovery along Kelly Drive, admiring steel girders, stone arches and Pratt trusses, all while enjoying the beauty of a crisp autumn morning. I'm confident that Bridge Tour participants will find themselves admiring bridges and thinking about static equilibrium and buckling loads, long after their formal educations are complete.

Of course, not every search for an interesting story leads to a journey of this scope, nor does it need to in order to be effective. But even a cursory search will often reignite the spark of discovery that fuels passionate and enthusiastic teaching.

2 Kid Gleason is the Phillies pitcher with the most wins (38) in a single season (1890).

3 Gordon, J.E., *Structures, or Why Things Don't Fall Down*, Penguin, 1978.



2011 MEAM Bicycle Bridge Tour

Bruce Kothmann is a Senior Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics (MEAM) and the recipient of the SEAS Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2010 as well as the Provost's Award for Teaching Excellence by Non-Standing Faculty in 2012.

This essay continues the series by the Center for Teaching & Learning that began in the fall of 1994 as the joint creation of the College of Arts & Sciences and the Lindback Society for Distinguished Teaching.

See www.upenn.edu/almanac/teach/teachall.html for the previous essays.