CHOP Physician-in-Chief & Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine: Joseph St. Geme, III

Dr. Joseph W. St. Geme, III, has been named physician-in-chief of The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and chair of the department of pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, effective July 1, 2013. Dr. St. Geme comes to Philadelphia from Duke University where he has served since 2005 as the chairman of the department of pediatrics and chief medical officer of Duke’s Children’s Hospital.

“I am very pleased that Dr. St. Geme has agreed to join us at Children’s Hospital,” said Dr. Steven M. Altschuler, chief executive officer. “He is a distinguished scientific researcher and member of the Institute of Medicine and is recognized nationally for his outstanding leadership at Duke.” Dr. St. Geme succeeds Dr. Alan Cohen as CHOP’s chair of pediatrics and physician-in-chief.

“Dr. St. Geme is a renowned researcher, acclaimed teacher and visionary and highly productive leader, and is an excellent choice to lead pediatrics to continued success,” noted Dr. J. Larry Jameson, executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania for the Health System and dean of the Perelman School of Medicine.

An internationally known and respected researcher, Dr. St. Geme has focused his efforts on studying host-pathogen interactions involving pathogenic bacteria, aiming to identify targets for novel antimicrobials and to facilitate vaccine development. The primary emphasis of his laboratory has been Haemophilus influenzae, a leading cause of childhood morbidity and mortality worldwide.

Dr. St. Geme is known by many in Philadelphia’s medical community, having completed a pediatric residency and chief residency at CHOP. He has a bachelor’s degree in biological sciences from Stanford University and a medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He pursued postdoctoral training in microbiology and infectious diseases at Stanford University, working in the laboratory of famed microbiologist Stanley Falkow, PhD, and receiving clinical training at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital.

In 1992, he joined the faculty at Washington University School of Medicine as a member of the departments of pediatrics and molecular microbiology. In 1998 he assumed responsibilities as director of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, and in 2000 he was named co-leader of the Pediatrics Infection, Immunity, and Inflammation Research Unit.
PennDesign Teaching Awards (continued from page 1)

Professor Gouverneur’s professional practice focuses on urban plans and projects for historic districts, the rehabilitation of areas affected by extraordinary natural events, new centralities and mixed use districts, improvement of informal settlements, and tourism/entertainment districts. He teaches 600- and 700-level studios including “Introduction to Landscape Urbanism and the Making of Communities,” “Landscape Urbanism in Developing Countries,” and “Case Studies in Contemporary Urban Design and Landscape Architecture in Developing Countries.”

Students have described Professor Gouverneur as “generous,” a teacher who “makes a difference.” “He’s exciting, knowledgeable, enthusiastic and always encourages us to go for more,” another shared.

Previously, Professor Gouverneur was chair of the School of Architecture at Universidad Simón Bolívar (1987-91), as well as a professor in the School’s departments of architecture and city and regional planning from 1980 to 2008. From 1991 to 1994 he was the director and from 1995 to 1996 the adjunct secretary of Urban Development of Venezuela. He was co-founder and professor of the Urban Design program and director of the Mayor’s Institute in Urban Design at Universidad Metropolitana. He received his MArch in Urban Design from Harvard University (1980) and his bachelor’s degree in architecture from the Universidad Simón Bolívar in Caracas, Venezuela (1977).

The 2013 G. Holmes Perkins Undergraduate Teaching Award will be awarded to Mr. Ivanco Talevski, lecturer in the department of fine arts. A painter and printmaker, Mr. Talevski received his BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art in 2006 and his MFA from the University of Pennsylvania in 2008.

Several of Mr. Talevski’s students noted his favorite expression, “We’re gonna make miracles happen today!”—as well as his ability to deliver on that promise.

“He is able to encourage students to push past the limits of their comfort zone and turn out amazing artwork. I am never underwhelmed with anything that happens in Ivanco’s class,” said one.

Other students described Mr. Talevski as “always enthusiastic, positive,” someone who “creates an excellent classroom dynamic” that embraces “students of different backgrounds, helping seasoned artists and newcomers work on the same projects.” He will “never hesitate to help a student in need” and “always has interesting things to say, and gives insightful critiques with an excellent approach!” enthused another.

Another Mr. Talevski student described the printmaking class said “I can honestly say I get incredibly excited to work under such a talented artist every week.”

Ivanco Talevski

Lindsay Falck

TheNano-Bio Interface Center Call For Proposals—June 1

The Nano-Bio Interface Center announces a call for proposals for pilot projects that forward the mission of the Center by exploring research directions that have the potential to generate external funding, and/or expand capabilities in the NBIC Probe Facility. The purpose of this program is to leverage the fundamental advances made over the last five years in areas of interest to NBIC for expanded impact. Awards from $50,000 to $150,000 are anticipated with a start date of June 30, 2013.

Any member of the standing faculty or research track faculty in the 12 professional schools at the University of Pennsylvania are eligible to apply. It is expected that the proposed research will be collaborative and, if successful, could nucleate a broader program that furthers NBIC research frontiers, evolve new directions consistent with NBIC goals or increase access to NBIC facilities.

Proposals will be evaluated based on technical merit, impact and feasibility of the research as well as potential to leverage for extramural funding with a clear vision of direction and implementation, innovation in connecting new concepts to current or evolving NBIC research directions, and/or expanding impact of NBIC facilities. A successful track record of research and interdisciplinary collaborations are advantageous.

The following should be submitted by June 1, 2013.

I. Non-Confidential Executive Summary

II. Research Plan
   a. Specific Aims
   b. Significance and Innovation
   c. Approach
   d. References
   e. Biographical Sketches
   f. Statement of how this project relates to current and pending support.

III. Budget: Funds may be used to support graduate students, and other research staff, materials and supplies. Faculty cannot charge their salary or request travel funds on these grants.

To apply, submit one PDF file to Hong-Mei Li, administrative coordinator, NBIC, nbicass@seas.upenn.edu

www.upenn.edu/almanac 2
Deaths

Dr. Gosfield Jr., Medicine

Dr. Edward Gosfield Jr., emeritus associate professor of medicine, a longtime cardiologist at Graduate Hospital, died on April 25, at the age of 94 of complications following surgery. Born in New York City and raised in Center City, Dr. Gosfield was a 1934 graduate of Central High School.

He attended Penn, receiving his BA with distinction, major honors in philosophy in 1939, and membership in Phi Beta Kappa. He received an MS in education in 1940 and a medical degree in 1944. Dr. Gosfield matriculated in 1947 at the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, completing his training as a resident at Graduate Hospital in 1950.

He served in the Medical Corps of the Army as captain and acting commanding officer at the station hospital at Fort Eustace, Virginia.

He was appointed to the faculty of Penn’s Graduate School of Medicine in 1950 and later to the faculty of the School of Medicine.

Dr. Gosfield founded the hypertension clinic at Graduate Hospital in 1957 and was chief of the clinic until 1980, writing numerous medical articles. Dr. Gosfield was designated attending physician to Queen Elizabeth II when she visited the United States in 1976.

He was elected chairman of the medical board in 1975 and again in 1992. Dr. Gosfield served as acting chairman of the department of medicine from 1979 to 1980 and from 1990 to 1992. He went on to serve as associate chairman of Graduate’s department of medicine as well as having a solo medical practice for many years.

He was a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and a member of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and acted as a consultant to Wills Eye Hospital, to the former Community Hospital at 10th and Reed Streets, and to the veterans hospital at Wilmington.

Dr. Gosfield retired from practicing cardiology and internal medicine at age 83 as emeritus associate professor of medicine at the Penn School of Medicine.

Three years later, the leaders of Graduate’s cardiology residency program asked him back to instruct residents on managing cases in the cardiac care unit.

He is survived by his wife, Thelma; a daughter, Alice; two sons, Edward III and Gregory G.; stepchildren Michael White and Stella White Fisher; four grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; and six great-step-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 11, at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 S. 22nd St. Donations may be made to Morris Animal Refuge, 1242 Lombard St., Philadelphia 19147, or through morrisanimalrefuge.org

Dr. Robbins, English

Dr. Larry M. Robbins, a retired English professor in SAS, died on April 28, at home after a long illness. He was 74.

Dr. Robbins was born on December 12, 1938, in Denver, Colorado, and earned his BA from Harvard University in 1961. After earning his master’s from the University of Wisconsin in 1962, he attended the University of California-Berkeley, where he obtained his PhD in 1969. He wrote his dissertation, which was later published by Elsevier, on Thomas Dekker, an English Renaissance writer.

In 1967, Dr. Robbins joined the faculty of the English department of the University of Pennsylvania. In 1975, he was asked to create a communications program for the Wharton School so that business students could become better writers and speakers. In 1985, he published a seminal book, The Business of Writing and Speaking (McGraw Hill) that has been reprinted numerous times.

He also pioneered an undergraduate Arts Management program where students from the Wharton School and the College of Arts and Sciences could learn from renowned leaders of orchestras, theaters and opera. In his last decade at the University, Dr. Robbins created one of the first Teacher Development Programs in the country, training PhD candidates and professors in every school and department of the University to become more effective classroom teachers.

He retired in 2007.

Dr. Robbins moved to the Berkshires with his wife, Wendy, five years ago, after teaching at Penn for 41 years. Here, he became an instant participant in the arts community, teaching Shakespeare and other literature courses for the Osher LifeLong Learning Institute.

He co-edited the Distinguished Speaker Series for OLLI and also consulted with the Barrington Stage Company, as his passion for concerts, lectures, operas and plays never waned.

In addition to his academic duties, Dr. Robbins served on the boards of Hillel of Great Philadelphia and Main Line Reform Temple Beth Elohim, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, and taught seminars for the Jewish Federation of Philadelphia. He was an active member of Hevreh of Southern Berkshire.

Dr. Robbins is survived by his wife, Wendy; and his daughter, Elizabeth.

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 almanac@upenn.edu. However, notices of alumni deaths should be directed to the Alumni Records Office at Room 517, Franklin Building, (215) 898-8136 or email record@ben.dev.upenn.edu

Dr. Wolf, Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Benjamin Wolf, retired professor emeritus of microbiology, at the School of Veterinary Medicine, passed away at the beginning of April 2013, at his Honolulu, Hawaii residence.

Dr. Wolf obtained a BS from Wayne University in 1949, earned his master’s degree in bacteriology from the University of Michigan in 1952 and his PhD in microbiology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1959. From 1959 until 1962, Dr. Wolf was a Pennsylvania Plan Scholar and an instructor on the faculty in the School of Veterinary Medicine. He became an assistant professor in 1962, associate professor in 1968 and professor of microbiology in 1973.

From 1962 until 1972, he was the recipient of a Research Career Development Award from the National Institutes of Health. He was involved with the Graduate Groups in Immunology, Parasitology, and Microbiology and taught on core and elective courses on immunology to veterinary students.

His graduate students praised his creative mind and unassuming, innovative and hands-on pursuit of scientific endeavors and unselfish encouragement as he groomed them to become scientists on their own. "Anyone who observed how much Ben enjoyed his work would feel inspired to pursue a career in science. It was clear that he relished his interactions with students at all levels and was a source of encouragement," said former student Richard Bankert.

Dr. Wolf moved to New Bolton Center as a professor emeritus in 1994 but curated his science activities to devote more time to his family.

Dr. Wolf was one of the few immunologists on the veterinary faculty and his presence nucleated what continues to be an active research group within the school. He was regarded as an incredibly enthusiastic scientist and it was obvious that he loved what he was doing. His own research centered initially on the isolation and characterization of soluble antigens of Brucella abortus but he developed an interest in the events that controlled antibody responses to pathogens and in autoimmunity. Consequently, in 1970 he spent nine months at Cambridge University, working on the expression of immunoglobulin allelic markers on the surface of lymphocytes, and in 1980, Dr. Wolf was awarded a Fogarty International Fellowship and spent six months at the University of Birmingham (England) where he continued his immunological studies.

"Ben is remembered as a reasonable, close friend and colleague able to offer advice and pertinent information on a wide variety of topics. He enjoyed his adventures in experimental immunology and pursued his immunologic research with fervor and tenacity. He shall be missed as an encouraging mentor, an interested teacher and dedicated scientist. The School has lost a good friend and supporter," said Chuck Benson and Leonard Bello, retired Penn professors.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah; and two sons, Michael and Howard.
Executive Summary

This report summarizes the general functioning and procedures of University Council (UC) Committees1 during the 2012-2013 academic year. Suggestions for enhancing the functioning of these committees typically covered one or more of the four attributes presented here: (1) need for enhanced orientation and explanation of duties to new members; (2) the use of more specific charges to focus the committees’ attention on key issues and items that are actionable; (3) challenges in scheduling and start-up; and (4) a more effective way to provide feedback from the administration to both former and new Committee members.

Mechanism of Evaluation

Each faculty member on the Committee on Committees was assigned to review a Council committee. Each review consisted of in-person, phone and/or email interviews typically with the committee chair, administrative liaison and staff support person, using the questions below. In some cases, other members of the committees were asked for responses to these questions as well. Other University constituencies were asked to provide information on committee performance via their members who serve on the committees. All Committee members then reported their findings to the Committee on Committees in March for discussion. This report provides an overview of the general findings, as well as specific comments on the functioning and procedures of each committee. However, Steering is advised to look at the individual committee reports to gain a complete view of how the committees are performing.

Questions Posed to Each Committee Chair

1. Was the Committee’s specific charge for this year clear and appropriate?

2. What changes, if any, do you think need to be made in the Committee’s general charge?

3. What issues were addressed this year, and were they resolved?

4. How many times did the full committee meet? If subcommittees were created, how many were created, how often did they meet, and what was their purpose?

5. Based on the charges for this year, and the discussion to date, was the Committee able to satisfactorily resolve the issues discussed, and what do you see as issues emerging for consideration next year?

6. Which members would you recommend to serve on the Committee next year?

7. Is the membership of the committee well-suited to the Committee’s purpose?

8. What was the role of the administration’s liaison in your Committee? (The liaison is an appropriate administrative person who can provide relevant information for a committee charge or connect the Committee with others on campus with relevant information.)

9. Did someone from the administration provide explicit feedback on last year’s recommendations? Was the feedback satisfactory? Were there any remaining aspects that have not been resolved or for which a path has not been developed?

10. What problems did the Committee encounter, e.g., access to necessary resources?

11. Did the Committee structure work involving opportunities for oversight, opportunities to work with your administrative liaison to resolve specific issues, and opportunities to generate larger recommendations?

(Each Committee has been charged to operate with three approaches: 1) perform general oversight reviews of their area of concern which may not turn up any specific problems to deal with; 2) where there are specific issues that they want to address (or they have been charged to address) to try and resolve them working through their administrative liaison; 3) where the intra-committee level effort is not able to resolve issues to move towards generating fully elaborated recommendations to be addressed outside of the Committee (as formal proposals to be forwarded to the administration or for the Council to consider.) Was this how the Committee worked? Was it an effective structure of tasks for accomplishing the Committee’s charges?)

12. What recommendations about the Committee’s process and organization would you make going forward?

13. Is there any question that should have been asked about process that was not included?

14. Students only: Do the student members feel their voices are heard? Was there a primary and an alternate student representative on each Committee?

General Comments

This is the second year in which relevant, high-level administrators attended meetings early in the year of each UC Committee and provided responses regarding the findings and recommendations from the previous year’s report. It appears that committee members valued this feedback since it enhanced the continuity between the Committees’ charges, their suggestions and implementation by the University.

In broad terms, University Council Committees seek more orientation, additional focus and a further explanation of their duties. Most committees prefer specific, focused and actionable charges. Some committees need more planning and advanced scheduling to ensure student participation. Finally, Committees would appreciate finding ways to provide administrative feedback to members from the previous year as well as new members joining the committee.

These results point to several consequences for the academic year 2013-2014. First, given the change in membership of the Committees and rotating responsibilities, we will look for ways to ensure a more detailed orientation of the Committees in the year to come, assistance during the first meetings and the use of continuity in membership. This will include enhanced orientation of chairs and also increased participation of the Tri-Chairs in the first one or two meetings of the Committees so that charges and explanation of duties can be articulated, discussed and clarified. Second, we will encourage Committees to have their first meetings early in the fall semester and provide a schedule of their meetings to Committee members by mid to late September. This will allow student members to better plan their academic schedules. As before, we will also encourage student members of Committees to have an alternate in case the schedule of the meetings and the course schedule of the students are inconsistent. Finally, we will look for ways to communicate the administration’s response to Committee members who are no longer on the Committee and to introduce new Committee members to the work of the Committees during the previous year.

Each UC Committee continues to have two major roles:

1. Broad review in its area(s) of interest—monitoring to see whether there are any issues requiring deeper exploration—it is possible that sometimes no recommendations come out of this process, but the University is well served by having a representative body tracking institutions and issues that could be important.

2. Deeper consideration of a small number (typically one or two) of issues that arise from last year’s agenda and recommendations, or new information. These issues might be examined by the Committee as a whole, or by subcommittees, and will likely involve multiple meetings and conversations with people around the University engaged with the issue.

(continued on page 5)
Committee on Diversity and Equity

General Comments: This Committee met four times during the year and anticipates another two meetings before the end of the academic year. Three subcommittees were formed to investigate each of the three focus issues: experiences of faculty diversity search advisors, graduate student diversity issues and undergraduate cultural competency and sensitivity. The Committee on Diversity and Equity noted that in several cases the issues will not be resolved this year and will need to be taken up again in the coming year. Student representatives noted some challenges in the scheduling of meetings.

The University Council Committee on Committees notes the concern of the co-chairs involving operational procedures, resources and the level oversight of the committee and will work with the incoming committee to clarify these areas and also to provide continuity. It also encourages the early scheduling of meetings for the semester to assist student and other members. Finally, it supports and encourages the continued use of sub-committees to accomplish the charges in the coming year.

Committee on Facilities

General Comments: The Committee met approximately once a month during this academic year. Most charges have been resolved through committee work. There is an ongoing discussion regarding new shuttle service. The Committee examined tax-reimbursements for bicyclers and continued to discuss the pump purchase program. The Committee suggests the continued monitoring of Penn Connects and discussed classroom space on campus. Committee members would like to have a better understanding of the maintenance of buildings on campus in terms of the Century Bond Program. The administration liaison, the University Architect, provided context for the facilities-related discussions, and this help was appreciated by committee members. Some additional orientation or background would be useful at the beginning of the year.

The University Council Committee on Committees notes that the Committee on Facilities appears to be well-run, and they suggested that sub-committees be formed as needed. It appears that there are some charges that should be continued to next year; there will be some additional focusing of the charges for next year given the breadth of facilities at Penn.

Committee on Personnel Benefits

General Comments: The Personnel Benefits Committee met six times during the year and addressed Penn’s wellness initiatives, effectiveness of Health Advocates and the health insurance, and the communication and utilization of the retirement options. One subcommittee was formed to investigate each of the three focus issues: experiences of faculty diversity search advisors, graduate student diversity issues and undergraduate cultural competency and sensitivity. The Committee on Diversity and Equity noted that in several cases the issues will not be resolved this year and will need to be taken up again in the coming year. Student representatives noted some challenges in the scheduling of meetings.

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Committee on Committees 2012-2013

Chair: Dwight Jaggar;  Staff: Susan White, Joseph Gasiewski; Faculty: Kathleen Boesze-Battaglia, Camille Charles, Emily Hannum, Robert Hollebeek, Susan Margules;  PPSA: Utsav Schurmans; WPPSA: Loretta Hauber; GAPSA: Udit Mathur; UA: Kanisha Parthasarathy

The other Council Committee 2012-2013 Year-End Reports were published in Almanac on April 30, 2013, and are available online at www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v59/n31/pdf_n31/043013-CouncilReports.pdf
Honors & Other Things

National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame: Mr. Bilsky

The University of Pennsylvania's Director of Athletics, Steve Bilsky (W'71), was inducted into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and Museum on April 21, 2013.

Mr. Bilsky, now in his 19th year as Director of Athletics, was a three-time All-Ivy guard and captain of a Penn team that was arguably the greatest in program history; in 1970-71, the Quakers went undefeated through the regular season and NCAA Tournament before falling in the East Regional final.

During his tenure, 90 Penn teams have earned conference championships in 22 different sports. Penn has been honored with more than 369 Academic All-Ivy honorees, 34 Ivy League Players of the Year and 133 All-Americans.

Morris Arboretum: Prestigious Accreditation

The Morris Arboretum was recently named a Level IV Accredited arboretum by The Morton Register of Arboreta, achieving the highest level of recognition available. The Morton Register is a comprehensive list and database of arboreta and other public gardens that have a substantial focus on trees and shrubs.

The Morton Register was created to 1) foster the establishment and professionalism of arboreta; 2) identify arboreta capable of participating or collaborating in certain scientific, collections or conservation activity; and 3) advance the planting and conservation of trees to improve the world.

Organizations that have been awarded Level IV status have met the highest levels of arboretum standards, including the following:

- A scientific and/or conservation staff and capability to collaborate on sophisticated scientific or conservation activities with other arboreta or organizations related to trees.
- Institutional capacity, stability, and commitment to hold and safeguard plants of collections or conservation value on behalf of the collective interests of the profession.
- Specific participation in collaborative scientific or conservation activities related to trees, such as the North American Plant Collections Consortium or the Global Trees Campaign.

The Morris Arboretum is the only arboretum in the Philadelphia area to receive this level of accreditation.

Starzl Prize in Surgery and Immunology: Dr. Cooper

Dr. Joel D. Cooper, a professor of surgery at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania who has made innovative contributions to lung transplantation, will receive the 2013 Thomas E. Starzl Prize in Surgery and Immunology, an annual award that honors transplantation icon Dr. Thomas E. Starzl.

Dr. Cooper is an internationally recognized surgeon-scientist who has been at the forefront of both experimental and clinical lung transplantation for more than 30 years. His contributions made clinical lung transplantation possible by advancing the understanding of the role of immunosuppression in wound healing and introducing new surgical techniques.

Dr. Cooper initiated a clinical lung transplantation program at Toronto General Hospital in 1983, and his team was the first to achieve reproducible long-term success, which was reported in a landmark article in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1986. He then went on to direct a series of experiments in the laboratory to devise and perfect the en-bloc double lung transplant technique. The Toronto Group carried out the first successful clinical double lung transplants in 1986 and 1987. Later, Dr. Cooper modified this procedure to a simpler one—bilateral, sequential, single-lung transplantation—that was performed as treatment of cystic fibrosis, emphysema and pulmonary hypertension. While advancing lung transplantation, Dr. Cooper also performed a series of fundamental studies that formed the basis for the lung preservation method currently used worldwide.

The annual Thomas E. Starzl Prize in Surgery and Immunology is awarded by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Department of Surgery and UPMC Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute. The award and lectureship were established in 1996 by the Department of Surgery and subsequently endowed by Fujisawa Healthcare Inc. (currently Astellas Pharma Inc.) to honor the distinguished career of Dr. Starzl, whose contributions to organ transplantation and immunology have been recognized around the globe.

Penn Tree Program: Commemorating 2013 Graduates

On April 24, Morris Arboretum Director of Public Programs Robert Gutowski joined the Class of 2013 at Penn’s College Green to plant a chestnut oak tree and dedicate it as part of the Penn Tree program, a program linking Penn students to their own Morris Arboretum. The Class of 2013 planting ceremony marks the fifth commemoration of this new Penn tradition, where a tree is planted and dedicated on campus in honor of each Penn class.

Every year, the Arboretum, in consultation with Bob Lundgren, the University Landscape Architect, provides students with a selection of three specimen trees. These are voted on by the Class, and their favorite becomes their Penn Tree. By engaging the expertise of the Morris Arboretum staff and the University Landscape Architect for the tree choices and placement, the Class is assured that the urban and other requirements of the Penn campus are carefully considered. Morris Arboretum works closely with the Penn Traditions program to promote the voting process and student participation.

The Class of 2013 tree planting took place in conjunction with the Final Toast. Linking the Penn Tree program to this popular Penn tradition will “maximize student engagement and help weave the Penn Tree program into the fabric of Penn student life,” says Miriam von Essen, Penn Outreach Coordinator at the Arboretum.

The Class of 2013 voted and selected a chestnut oak as its “Penn Tree”—while small when planted, in time this tree will mature into a stately tree that will provide beauty, shade and cleaner air for future generations of Penn students.

William Hohns, W’74, who generously funds the Penn Tree Program along with his wife, Kathleen, thinks that “the program is simple, both in its concept and execution; and through the placement of distinctive trees over time, can dramatically influence the appearance of the campus while building pride for each class.”

Photograph courtesy of the Morris Arboretum
Junior Investigator Preliminary/Feasibility Grant Program Awards

The CTRC (Clinical and Translational Research Center) and ITMAT (Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics) are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2013 Junior Investigator Preliminary/Feasibility Grant Program (JIPGP) awards. The JIPGP award is intended to support the work of promising junior investigators by providing grant support as well as reduced cost access to the infrastructure and support services of the CTRC.

There were a total of 24 applications from CHOP and HUP, and five have been selected for funding.

*Dr. Mona Al Mukaddam, endocrinology, medicine. Is Diabetes associated with higher bone marrow adiposity?

*Dr. Lama Chahine, sleep medicine. Implications of REM sleep behavior disorder in Parkinson's disease patients.

*Dr. Kristin Hudock, allergy, pulmonary and critical care, medicine. Mechanisms of the IL-1 receptor antagonist in the pathogenesis of ARDS.

*Dr. Jennifer McGuire, neurology, pediatrics. The neurobiological basis for HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders in horizontally-infected adolescents–prevalence, risk factors, and structural analysis.

*Dr. David Weber, endocrinology, pediatrics. Longitudinal evaluation of bone density and structure in children and adolescents with incident Type 1 Diabetes.

The 2013 Newly-Retired Faculty

The following faculty members were accorded emeritus status during the 2012-2013 academic year (unless otherwise noted). Those marked with an asterisk (*) have elected not to use the emeritus title modifier. The year in parentheses is the year that they joined the Penn faculty ranks.

*C-E, Oral Surgery/Dental Medicine, ('75)
*Dr. Lawrence Hrebiniak, Emeritus Professor, Management/Wharton, ('76)
*Dr. Aaravind Joshi, Professor A, Computer and Information Science/SEAS ('61)
*Dr. Charles Kahn, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, Philosophy/SAS ('65)
*Dr. Joseph Spear, Emeritus Professor, Vet Animal Biology/Veterinary Medicine ('72)
*Dr. Wendy Steiner, Richard L. Fisher Professor Emerita of English, English/SAS ('79)
*Mr. William Tyson, Emeritus Associate Professor, Legal Studies & Business Ethics/Wharton ('82)
*Dr. Frank Welsh, Emeritus Professor, Neurosurgery/PSOM ('73)
*Dr. Susan Lytle, Emeritus Professor, Education/GSE, ('85)
*Dr. Richard Markowitz, Emeritus Professor C-E, Radiology/PSOM ('88)
*Dr. Richard Misetis, Emeritus Professor, Vet Animal Biology/Veterinary Medicine ('75)
*Dr. Stanley Muravchick, Emeritus Professor C-E, Anesthesiology/PSOM ('81)
*Dr. William Potsic, Emeritus Professor C-E, Otorhinolaryngology/PSOM ('74)
*Professor Witold Rybczynski, Professor A, Architecture/Design ('93)
*Dr. Richard Salcido, Emeritus Professor C-E, Rehabilitation Medicine/PSOM ('99)
*Dr. Gillian, Emeritus Professor of Linguistics, Linguistics/SAS ('79)
*Dr. Herbert H. Schumacher, Emeritus Professor, Rheumatology/PSOM ('67)
*Dr. Joseph Steiner, Emeritus Professor, Vet Animal Biology/Veterinary Medicine ('72)
*Dr. Wendy Steiner, Richard L. Fisher Professor Emerita of English, English/SAS ('79)
*Dr. Donald Tyler, Associate Professor C-E, Anesthesiology/PSOM ('99)
*Mr. William Tyson, Emeritus Associate Professor, Legal Studies & Business Ethics/Wharton ('82)
*Dr. Frank Welsh, Emeritus Professor, Neurosurgery/PSOM ('73)
*Dr. Susan Wiegars, Emerita Associate Professor C-E, Cardiovascular Medicine/PSOM ('92)
*Dr. Jeffrey Wortman, Emeritus Associate Professor, Clinical Studies-Philadelphia/Veterinary Medicine ('81)

Class of 2013 Ivy Stone

The Class of 2013 Ivy Stone was designed by Ezekiel S. Saxauer C’13 and will be fabricated from black granite. The 2013 stone will be installed on the ARCH building. The exact installation site will be determined upon completion of the ARCH renovations in December 2013.

Student Awards

Senior Honor Awards
*Althea K. Hottel Award: Ariela R. Cohen, C’13
*Gaylord P. Harnwell Award: Isabel R. Friedman, C’13
*David R. Goddard Award: Pallavi R. Poddapati, C’13
*R. Jean Brownee Award: Lakshmi Sivaguru, C’13
*Spoon Award: Jonathon Youshae, C’13

Leadership Awards
*Association of Alumnae Fathers’ Trophy: Leslie J. Kovach, C’13
*Class of 1915 Award: Mark J. Rappo, W’13
*Penn Student Agencies Award: Andrew J. Jakubowski, C’13
*Penn Alumni Student Awards of Merit: Deirdre M. Bullard, C’13; Scott D. Dzialo, W’13; Sohail K. Hashmi, E’13 W’13; Scott J. Lupano, W’13; Elena D. Madian, C’13 W’13
*Sol Feinstone Undergraduate Awards: Alice Xie, C’14; Clarissa P. Palmer, C’14; Mimi Yi Sheng, C’13 W’13
*James Brister Society Student Leadership Award: Elizabeth (Lisa) C. Doi, C’13
*Association of Latino Student Leadership Award: Angel A. Contrera, W’13
*Black Alumni Society Student Leadership Award: Aya A. Stoed, C’13
*University of Pennsylvania Asian Alumni Network Student Leadership Award: Michelle Ming-Shih Leong, E’13
*Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alumni Association Student Leadership Award: Spencer B. Stubbs N’13
*Trustees’ Council of Penn Women Leadership Award: Morgan E. Humphrey, W’13
*William A. Levi Kite & Key Society Award for Service and Scholarship: Kimberly A. Tai, C’13

*Note: These awards will be presented during the Ivy Day ceremony on May 10.

The other awards are presented at several different ceremonies during Alumni Weekend May 10-13.
Wharton Social Venture Business Plan Competition: 1DocWay

The Wharton School’s Social Impact and Private Equity/Venture Capital student clubs announced that the student team 1DocWay won the $3,000 Grand Prize of the inaugural Wharton Social Venture Business Plan Competition (http://whartonpnc.com/activities/wsvbpc/).

The prize was awarded at the Social Venture Final Round on April 12, 2013, after finalists delivered pitches before a judging panel of experts in entrepreneurship, venture capital, technology and social impact.

1DocWay is an online platform that helps hospitals expand psychiatry inpatient and outpatient revenue by connecting to underserved and rural patient populations. Its HIPAA-compliant video chat platform transforms any room with a web cam and internet connection into a doctor’s office helping patients access psychiatrists quickly and easily. Rural, elderly and other underserved patients can schedule appointments online, building hospitals’ referral base and reducing the high cost of co-morbidity—or incidence of both chronic physical and mental illnesses.

In the past year, 1DocWay has implemented over 2,000 doctor-patient sessions. In addition, 1DocWay has received recognition as a Wharton Venture Initiation Program selection, and as a winner of Independence Blue Cross’ IBX Game Changers Challenge and the Wharton Venture Award.

The Wharton Social Venture Business Plan Competition was open to both individuals and teams with high-impact, sustainable business ideas that address a pressing global social issue. The competition aimed to promote social impact at Wharton and the broader Penn community by providing opportunities and resources for budding social entrepreneurs and global change-makers.

IEEE Benjamin Franklin Key Award: Dr. Engheta

Dr. Nader Engheta, H. Nedwill Ramsey Professor of Electrical and Systems Engineering, is the recipient of the 2013 Benjamin Franklin Key Award from the IEEE Philadelphia for “outstanding electrical engineering design, innovation and problem solving.”

The Key Award is given annually to an engineer in the Philadelphia section of IEEE for outstanding technical and technological contributions that have significant practical application. The award emphasizes technical innovation, a significant improvement to the design or application of a system, or patents of clear practical values. Emphasis is placed on tangible technical and technological achievements that demonstrate intellectual, industrial, economical or human benefits.

Dr. Engheta’s research activities span a broad range of areas involving the physics of fields and waves. He is a leading figure in the field of metamaterials, which combines physics, engineering and nanotechnology to bend and manipulate waves in ways that natural materials cannot. He has also published numerous journal papers, book chapters, and conference articles is a Guggenheim Fellow, an IEEE Third Millennium Medalist, a Fellow of American Physical Society, a Fellow of IEEE, a Fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and a Fellow of the Optical Society of America; and has received numerous other awards and distinctions for his scholarly research contributions and teaching activities.

IEEE, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, is the world’s largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence.

Grand Prix Scientifique: Dr. FitzGerald

Dr. Garret FitzGerald, chairman of the pharmacology department and director of the Institute for Translation al Medicine and Therapeutics. Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, has been awarded the 2013 Grand Prix Scientifique by the Institut de France.

Dr. FitzGerald shares the prize with Dr. Carlo Patrone, chairman of pharmacology at the Catholic University, Rome. The award is based on the recommendation of the International Scientific Council of the Board of Directors of the Lefoulon-Delalande Foundation, Paris. The prize will be awarded under the presidency of the Chancellor of the Institut de France and the President of the French Academy of Sciences on June 5, 2013. The Grand Prix Lefoulon-Delalande, valued at 500,000 euros ($650,000) is one of the largest prizes for scientific accomplishment and is considered the world's most prestigious prize for cardiovascular research.

Dr. FitzGerald and Dr. Patrone share the prize for their development of low-dose aspirin for the prevention of cardiovascular disease. Their work used novel approaches to assess the formation of short-lived fats in the body called prostaglandins that play a key role in the development of blood clotting. They discovered how lower doses of aspirin than had been previously used to treat pain and inflammation act on blood cells called platelets to shut down their role in blocking arteries to cause heart attacks and strokes. Low-dose aspirin is now used for this purpose throughout the world and has saved the lives of tens of millions of people.

Aside from work on aspirin, Dr. FitzGerald was the first to predict and then mechanistically explain the cardiovascular hazards from such nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs as Vioxx and Celebrex. His laboratory has discovered novel indices of oxidative stress and was the first to describe the molecular clock in the cardiovascular system. Among his awards in the past year have been the Scheele Award from the Swedish Academy of the Pharmaceutical Science and the Lucian Award from McGill University.

Translational Science Award: Dr. Strom

Dr. Brian L. Strom, the executive vice dean for Institutional Affairs in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and professor of biostatistics and epidemiology, was recently presented with a National Award for Career Achievement and Contribution to Clinical and Translational Science at the Translational Science 2013 meeting in Washington, DC.

Dr. Strom was named a 2013 Career Distinguished Investigator for his “outstanding contributions to translational science from clinical use into public benefit and policy.” A nationally-recognized leader in clinical research training and clinical epidemiology, Dr. Strom focuses heavily on the field of pharmacoepidemiology, which is the application of epidemiologic methods to study drug use and effects in populations. He is known as a founder of the field of pharmacoepidemiology and a pioneer in using large automated databases for research.

As one of many specific contributions, his work was also pivotal in getting the American Heart Association and American Dental Association to reverse 50 years of guidelines and recommend against use of antibiotics to prevent infective endocarditis, instead of recommending for this widespread practice. Since 10 percent of patients have these conditions and the typical patient undergoes dental care twice yearly, this resulted in a large proportion of the population no longer needing frequent antibiotics.

The awards committee for the Translational Science 2013 annual meeting is made up of representatives from Association for Clinical and Translational Science and the American Federation for Medical Research (ACTS/AFMR). This is the fourth year ACTS/AFMR has acknowledged distinguished investigators and educators who have had national impact by virtue of contributions to clinical and translational science. Three awards were presented this year, including translation from bench research to patient application and translation from early clinical use to applicability for widespread clinical practice.

In addition to his responsibilities as executive vice dean, Dr. Strom is also the George S. Pepper Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and a professor of medicine and pharmacology.
Concern About Health Effects of Hydraulic Fracturing

Residents living in areas near natural gas operations, also known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, are concerned their illnesses may be a result of nearby drilling operations. Twenty-two percent of the participants in a small pilot study surmise that hydrofracking may be the cause of such health concerns as sinus problems, sleeping difficulties and gastrointestinal problems.

The findings were presented at the American Occupational Health Conference on April 28 in Orlando, Florida. The full study is available at http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/language/v089/v089.1.labov.html

Increasing Sleep and Reducing Adolescent Obesity

Increasing the number of hours of sleep adolescents get each night may reduce the prevalence of adolescent obesity, according to a new study by researchers from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Results of the study show that fewer hours of sleep is associated with greater increases in adolescent body mass index (BMI) for participants between 14- and 18-years old. The findings suggest that increasing sleep duration to 10 hours per day, especially for those in the upper half of the BMI distribution, could help to reduce the prevalence of adolescent obesity. Full results of the study are available online in the latest issue of Pediatrics.

Previous studies have shown that a correlation exists between short sleep and obesity, but until now few have been able to rule out other variables such as time spent watching television and being physically active. The new study observed over 1,000 Philadelphia-area high school students from their freshmen through senior high school years. At six month intervals, study participants were asked to report their sleep patterns. At the same intervals heights and weights were reported and BMIs were calculated. Study authors suggest the results could have far-reaching implications and aid in reducing the high levels of obesity in the US.

“The psychosocial and physical consequences of adolescent obesity are well documented, yet the rate has more than tripled over the last four decades,” says lead author Dr. Jonathan A. Mitchell, a postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Penn Medicine. “What we found in following these adolescents is that each additional hour of sleep was associated with reduced BMI for all participants, but the reduction was greater for those with higher BMIs. The study is further evidence to support that getting more sleep each night has substantial health benefits during this crucial developmental period.”

Overall, researchers noted the strength of the association between sleep and BMI was weaker at the lower tail of the BMI distribution, compared to the upper tail. For example, each additional hour of sleep was associated with a reduced BMI for all participants, but the reduction was greater for those with higher BMIs. The study is further evidence to support that getting more sleep each night has substantial health benefits during this crucial developmental period.

Most with PTSD Getting the Wrong Therapy

There are psychological interventions that effectively ameliorate the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, but most are not treated, US researchers say.

Trauma expert Dr. Edna Foa, professor of clinical psychology in psychiatry and director of the Center for the Treatment and study of Anxiety, at the University of Pennsylvania, pioneered the use of prolonged exposure therapy in which patients approach—in both imaginary and real-life settings—situations, places, and people they have been avoiding. The repeated exposure to the perceived threat denies individuals’ expectations of experiencing harm, and, over time, leads to a reduction in their fear. This will be the topic of the keynote address by Seth Gillihan of University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Richard Bryant of the University of New South Wales in Sydney reviewed studies describing interventions that can effectively treat PTSD.

The researchers found prolonged exposure therapy and other forms of cognitive behavioral therapy proved highly effective in addressing the distress and dysfunctional problems that trauma victims experience.

However, they also found the majority of mental health professionals do not use such evidence-based treatments when working with patients suffering from PTSD.

Instead, many clinicians are using individualized psychotherapy which focuses on the underlying causes of one’s problems and symptoms. But studies show scant evidence that psychodynamic therapy—which focuses on such issues as difficult childhood relationship with parents—effectively treats PTSD symptoms, researchers presented.

The findings were published in the Psychological Science in the Public Interest.
Recognized Holidays for Fiscal Year 2014

The following holidays will be observed by the University in the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014) on the dates listed below:

**Independence Day:** Thursday, July 4, 2013
**Labor Day:** Monday, September 2, 2013
**Thanksgiving:** Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, 2013
**Christmas Day:** Monday, December 25, 2013
**New Year’s Day:** Wednesday, January 1, 2014
**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:** Monday, January 20, 2014
**Memorial Day:** Monday, May 26, 2014

Fiscal Year 2014  Fiscal Year 2015  Fiscal Year 2016

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Healthy Living

Get the tools you need to live well year-round. From expert nutrition and weight loss advice to exercise and disease prevention strategies, we can help you kick-start your body and embrace a healthy lifestyle. These free workshops are sponsored by Human Resources. For complete details and to register, visit www.hrc.upenn.edu/myhr/registration, and choose Health Promotions from the Browse by Category section. Or contact Human Resources at (215) 898-5116 or vyasr@upenn.edu.

Walk Your Way to Wellness with a 5K

Walking is a great way to stay fit—not to mention lower your blood pressure, cholesterol and risk of diabetes. So grab your sneakers and a bottle of water, and join us for a 5K-walk (3.1 miles) on May 22.

We’ll meet in front of Fox Fitness Center (in Weiss Pavilion at Franklin Field) at 11:45 a.m. The course will continue to Penn Park where we’ll stroll across 24 acres of rolling hills and meadows, then make our way back to the starting point. All faculty and staff are welcome to participate, no matter what your fitness level. We’ll have volunteer walkers placed throughout the group to help keep a steady pace and make sure no one is left behind.

You’ll also have the chance to learn more about the Penn Walking Program and become a member. If you’re already a member, you’re encouraged to wear your “I’m a Penn Walker” t-shirt and bring your pedometer.

Ready to walk your way to wellness? For complete details and to register, visit www.hrc.upenn.edu/myhr/registration, and choose Health Promotions from the Browse by Category section. Or contact Human Resources at (215) 898-5116 or vyasr@upenn.edu.

—Division of Human Resources

One Step Ahead

Security & Privacy Made Simple

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

Security & Privacy Tips for World Travelers

International travel introduces new risks to your data and devices. Below are a few key tips to keep you safe while going global.

**Before You Go**

- Identify your Local Support Provider (LSP), and let them know you will be traveling.
- Ask your LSP if a sanitized “loaner” computer is available. If not, work with them to conduct a full backup of your system and all its data. Also ask your LSP to confirm that all software is up to date and appropriate security tools (such as disk/device encryption, password locking, location services and remote wiping) are functional.
- Avoid taking sensitive data unless absolutely necessary.
- Encrypt data if it is essential that you take it with you. Users intending to travel to Cuba, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Sudan, Iran or Iraq should contact the Office of Research Services for assistance before exporting Penn owned equipment.
- Be sensitive to local privacy laws. Contact the Office of Audit, Compliance and Privacy (privacy@upenn.edu) for advice regarding the applicability of international privacy regulations if you will be working with other people’s personally identifiable data.

**While You’re Away**

- Select WiFi connections that encrypt traffic, are restricted with a password and are offered by a trusted source (University, colleague, hotel, etc.) whenever possible. Use encrypted services wherever in doubt (e.g., HTTPS over HTTP) when web-browsing.
- Accessing sensitive websites from public computers, such as at Internet cafes, as their security is highly unreliable.
- Keep mobile devices on your person or in a locked safe whenever possible. If your device is stolen, notify your LSP immediately.
- When You Return
  - Work with your LSP to securely transfer any data, and scan your system for malware.
  - Consider changing any passwords (e.g., your PennKey) that were used while you were abroad.
  - Please note that some software and data may be subject to Export Control Regulations. See www.upenn.edu/researchservices/exportcontrols.html Contact your Local Support Provider (LSP) or ISC Information Security at security@isc.upenn.edu for additional assistance. Safe travels.

For additional tips, see the One Step Ahead link on the Information Security website: www.upenn.edu/computing/security/
Penn’s Morris Arboretum Annual Plant Sale: May 10-11

On Friday, May 10, and Saturday, May 11, the Morris Arboretum will host its annual Plant Sale at the Horticulture Center at Bloomfield Farm, across the street from the Arboretum’s public garden. Friday is Members-only day, so now is a perfect time to become a Morris Arboretum member for first picks on great plants. Saturday is open to the public.

The 2013 Plant Sale will once again showcase an unusual and hard-to-find selection of plants all grown by local nurseries familiar with our climate and soils so their selections are well suited to thrive in this area. In annuals, an interesting selection of begonias will be offered such as Begonia boliviensis ‘Bonfire Scarlet,’ which has a profusion of eye catching, dark red flowers, and Begonia x ‘Doublet’ an easy care, fibrous begonia with loads of double blossoms. Or try something new such as Browallia, covered with blue and white star shaped blooms, or Torenia that features snapdragon like flowers in a range of colors.

The Arboretum’s plant sale is always full of interesting perennials and woody plants that are not widely available at most local retailers. This year in perennials, hearty herbs will be featured that include lavender, chamomile and rosemary. A special selection of roses is offered this year, both old and new, dating from as early as 1513 on up to 2006. And available this year, for the first time, are Earth-Kind® roses, a special designation made for select rose cultivars.

Friday, May 10, 10 a.m.–8 p.m., is Members-only day. All Morris Arboretum members will receive a 10% discount on their entire Plant Sale purchase and receive a free dividend plant. Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. is open to the public.

At Penn Deadlines

The May 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 Summer AT PENN calendar is today, May 7. Information is on the sponsoring department’s website. Sponsors are in parentheses. For locations, call (215) 898-9000 or see www.facilities.upenn.edu.

Update

May AT PENN

TALK

9 Ending Too Big to Fail: Financial Regulation after Dodd-Frank; Sheila Bair, former FDIC chairman; 2 p.m.; rm. 402, Claudia Cohen Hall; register: http://endingtoobigtofail.eventbrite.com (Penn IUR)

Dance Theatre of Harlem performs at the Annenberg Center from May 16-19. See www.annenbergcenter.org for tickets. For many years this ground-breaking company’s star shone brightly as it lit up major venues with some of the most beautiful and exceptionally-trained dancers around. After an eight-year hiatus, the contemporary, boundary pushing ballet company reinvents itself, with the blessing of founder Arthur Mitchell and now under the guidance of Virginia Johnson, who was the company’s lead dancer for 20 years. Its first tour will feature new works as well as a Balanchine classic.

On May 17–Stay after the performance for a ‘talk back’ with the company.

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 April 22-28, 2013. Also reported were 11 Crimes Against Property (9 thefts and 2 acts of fraud) and 1 weapons offense and 1 act of drunkenness. Full reports are available at: www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v59n32/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 April 22-28, 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) 898-4842.

18th District Report

Below are all Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 2 incidents with no arrests (1 aggravated assault and 1 assault) were reported between April 22-28, 2013 by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

04/27/13 12:42 AM 3930 Spruce St Complainant struck in the nose

04/27/13 1:04 PM 4627 Kingsessing Ave Aggravated Assault

04/28/13 1:22 AM 3930 Spruce St Assault

ALMANAC May 7, 2013

www.upenn.edu/almanac
The University of Pennsylvania’s Conflict of Interest Policy for Faculty Members (§II.E.10 in the Handbook for Faculty and Academic Administrators) (the “Policy”), available at http://provost.upenn.edu/uploads/media_items/ii-e-10-conflict-of-interest-policy-for-faculty.original.pdf, provides guidance on two key obligations:

- All employees are required to conform to the mores and ethical standards of the University and the rules promulgated to enforce them.
- Employment as a faculty member presumes a primary commitment of time and intellectual resources to the academic mission of the University and its functioning as a community.

There are several longstanding and fundamental principles that emerge from this policy:

- A faculty member’s primary professional obligation is to the University. This includes both a primary commitment of time and effort to University activities and a commitment not to compete with the University without advance permission.
- The scope of this obligation is broad, in that it includes not engaging in extramural activities that conflict with the University’s “outstanding or prospective commitments for teaching and research.” (Policy II.2; emphasis added.)
- With regard to teaching, this has always meant that faculty members may not teach elsewhere without advance permission.
- With regard to faculty business engagements with outside firms or groups, the Policy makes clear that a faculty member may not take on outside assignments that might be “suitable and appropriate activities for speculation within the University” (Policy III) without first offering that opportunity to the University and receiving University permission.
- Because of the broad scope of the Policy, it is critical that faculty members make early and full disclosure to their department chair and dean of any situational or proposed engagement that potentially raises a conflict of interest.

In any case that potentially raises a conflict of interest, this early and full consultation with the department chair and dean is critically important. Because the University has no interest in unnecessarily constraining faculty activities, there will be many instances in which the University determines that it does not conflict with other University activities, and grants permission to the faculty member to proceed on his or her own. In some of these cases, the University may ask the faculty member to make clear that he or she is acting in a personal capacity and, in order to avoid implication of University sponsorship or endorsement, disclaim University connection with the activity, not include the faculty member’s University affiliation, or comply with other conditions.

In applying the University’s Policy, we seek to further the foundational principle that faculty members make a “primary commitment of time and intellectual resources to the academic mission of the University and its functioning as a community.” (Policy I) As faculty members, our primary professional duties are to Penn, and outside professional activities should not conflict with our obligations to our students, colleagues, and the University as a whole. On the other hand, as the University has made online learning a part of its mission, there may be situations that, while not problematic in the past, will raise new concerns.

The University’s developing commitment to online teaching initiatives has two key implications. First, teaching online has become part of the “University’s outstanding or prospective commitments for teaching and research.” Just as a faculty member may not agree to teach at another university without the University’s permission, so too a faculty member may not agree to teach elsewhere in cyberspace without permission. Second, because the University is developing and offering a growing array of online programs, ranging from traditional for-credit courses for enrolled students to short modules for the general public, many activities that previously might have been outside of the University’s sphere are now within its operations. Whether or not the University’s online programs are intended to or do produce revenues, the University may decide that parallel activities that faculty members propose to conduct outside the University would compete or conflict with University initiatives and may deny permission for such activities on that basis.

Illustration 1: Prof. X, a faculty member of the School of Arts & Sciences, teaches a well-regarded course. Prof. X is approached by an outside company, GreatCourses4U, that offers to develop and distribute an online, DVD, and/or audio version of Prof. X’s lectures, targeted to a general, educated audience. What obligations does Prof. X have under the University’s policies?

Analysis: The core issue presented in Illustration 1 is that GreatCourses4U competes directly with the University’s online efforts in a way that did not arise in the past. As a result, the Policy imposes a variety of obligations on faculty members that did not arise before the University expanded its online learning initiatives. First, Prof. X is required to notify the University of the proposal and to provide guidance to the University on the proposed arrangement. Second, Prof. X should explain why the activity is better conducted through GreatCourses4U than through the University’s partnership with Coursera or other online initiatives such as the Learning Commons of the College of Liberal and Professional Studies. Third, under the Policy, the University may decide that if the course is to be offered, it should be offered as part of its Coursera initiative or through LPS or another University initiative. Alternatively, the University may decide that it does not wish to offer the course, that delivering it through GreatCourses4U would not conflict with other University activities, and therefore may allow Prof. X to pursue the opportunity with GreatCourses4U. Finally, if a judgment is made that Prof. X’s course would conflict with a University priority, permission may be withheld entirely or granted subject to specific conditions.

Illustration 2: Prof. Y, a faculty member of the Wharton School, teaches a well-regarded course. Prof. Y is approached by an outside company, CheapExecEd, with an offer to develop and distribute an online course to be offered to middle managers as part of a new, on-site executive education program. What obligations does Prof. Y have under the University’s policies?

Analysis: Illustration 2 presents a slight variation on Illustration 1 in that there is a sharper conflict with an existing and evolving School program. Wharton provides executive education in a variety of formats and contexts. CheapExecEd is thus a competitor or potential competitor. Under the Policy, Prof. Y cannot enter into an agreement with CheapExecEd without Wharton’s permission, and Wharton may properly withhold permission if it determines that an agreement is inappropriate.

Illustration 3: Prof. Q, a faculty member of the Perelman School of Medicine, is invited to deliver a lecture on her research to a collaborator’s class at another university. The lecture is to be recorded and made available online only to the class members.

Analysis: Ordinarily, giving a lecture at another university, whether as part of a class or in a faculty workshop, does not raise any issues under the Policy. While it could be considered “teaching at another university,” sharing one’s research in this way is such a core part of the academic enterprise that it either does not fall within the scope of the Policy or is subject to an implicit de minimis exception. The recording of the lecture and the posting to a class website does not change this analysis.

If, however, the other university asks Prof. Q to grant the right to include the lecture in an online course, Prof. Q should seek guidance from the department chair and dean. When a lecture becomes part of another university’s online course or other online offering, it could potentially conflict with online courses offered or contemplated by the Perelman School of Medicine, and thus it could raise an issue under the Policy.

There are myriad intermediate cases. In considering whether online activities conflict with the University’s initiatives, faculty, deans and chairs should consider, inter alia, the following factors:

- Implications for access to materials by Penn students and the public at large.
- Hosting of materials by or for another educational organization or by Penn.
- Potential reputational risk.
- Implications for time and other commitments to the University.
- Potential for competition with Penn’s online platforms or educational offerings.
- Potential for time-limited arrangements to permit exploratory opportunities.