

# Almanac

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Courtesy of HWKN

Conceptual rendering of Pennovation Center east and north façades.

## Approved Design for Pennovation Center at Pennovation Works Site

The design development for the new Pennovation Center has received approval from the University of Pennsylvania Board of Trustees. This 58,000-square-foot, three-story facility is located in the heart of the Pennovation Works, Penn's 23-acre site along the southern bank of the Schuylkill River and adjacent to the University campus. The Center's design by New York-based architects HWKN (Hollwich Kushner) rehabilitates an existing industrial building once used for materials-science research, bringing it back to life as Penn's hub for innovation, research and entrepreneurialism.

"The Pennovation Center design creates a truly iconic landmark for Penn's innovation ecosystem and a dynamic hub for Penn's culture of innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration," said Penn President Amy Gutmann. "The Center is designed to bring the University's eminent researchers and scientists along with our extraordinary students together with the private sector to foster creative exploration, entrepreneurship and new alliances and to generate economic development for the region. We are excited about the discoveries that will come out of the Center and about the kind of real societal and economic impact they will have in our region, the country and the world."

The building's northern façade bursts forth from the grid of the repurposed former industrial warehouse with illuminated angular panes of glass, reflecting the robust creativity and entrepreneurial activity taking place inside. It allows for natural light and unique views of the Schuylkill River, Penn's campus and the Center City skyline. As a nod to the many startups that have previously begun in personal garages, a series of garage doors on the eastern façade open directly to studio spaces for some of the teams that will work in the building. The interi-

or design includes a central bleacher space that organizes an open environment for events and a place for people to network and share ideas.

The Pennovation Center will house two floors of co-working space designed to support individual entrepreneurs and startups from the University and the private sector seeking affordable and flexible office space. The Center will create and host workshops, programs and professional-development resources for this community. These floors will include wet and dry labs with shared lab-support equipment, meeting rooms and social areas. The third floor will be occupied by the Penn Engineering Field Research Center, integrating computer science and electrical, mechanical and systems engineering. It is designed as a vibrant and open laboratory for promoting fundamental research and accelerating the lab-to-market technology transfer pipeline in robotics, in the Internet of Things and in embedded systems.

This first phase of development at the Pennovation Works is a \$37.5 million investment by Penn and includes the Pennovation Center, site landscaping and infrastructure improvements, along with signage and branding. The site planning calls for design of the Pennovation Plaza and surrounding landscape, which establishes a connection from the perimeter inward and forms a central active outdoor hub for tenants, as well as an instrumented, outdoor lab where the design and testing of robots within a netted enclosure provides passersby with an intriguing look into the developments occurring within the upper portion of the Center.

"This Pennovation Center represents a collaborative effort and significant, highly visible leap forward in the larger vision of Pennovation Works," said Anne Papageorge, vice president

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## Penn's 2015-2016 Financial Aid Budget and Tuition

The University of Pennsylvania announced that it has authorized a \$206 million financial aid budget for 2015-2016—the largest in the University's history—while increasing total undergraduate charges by 3.9 percent.

This represents the seventh consecutive year that Penn has kept its tuition growth under 4 percent. Since Amy Gutmann became Penn's president in 2004, Penn's financial aid budget has grown by 161 percent, averaging 8.3 percent per year, close to twice the average annual growth in total charges through FY16.

"Penn's all-grant policy is one of our highest evergreen priorities," said Penn President Gutmann. "We are steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that Penn's Ivy League education is accessible to young women and men with exceptional promise from all backgrounds. Increasing educational access is fundamental to sustaining Penn's vibrant and diverse campus.

"As the first in my family to attend college, I understand the far-reaching impact a college education can have. By eliminating financial barriers to be able to attend the University of Pennsylvania and by reducing the burden of debt, Penn's all-grant program is making a Penn education possible for thousands of students and their families."

Total undergraduate charges for 2015-2016—tuition, fees and room and board—will increase by 3.9 percent. Undergraduate tuition will increase to \$43,838 from \$42,176; room and board will increase to \$13,990 from \$13,464; and fees will increase to \$5,698 from \$5,492. Tuition and fees cover only 69 percent of the direct cost of delivering a Penn education.

As a result of Penn's all-grant financial aid program, the average net cost for aided students to attend Penn today is almost \$1,500 less than it was in 2005 in constant 2005 dollars.

Penn has substituted grants for loans in undergraduate financial aid packages since 2009. Next year, the average grant for students is estimated to be \$43,800. These grants do not require repayment.

This academic year 47 percent of Penn's undergraduate students received need-based grants from the University. Most undergraduates from families with incomes of less than \$180,000 are receiving grant assistance, and the typical student with family income of less than \$40,000 receives grant aid that covers full tuition, fees and room and board.

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## SENATE From the Senate Office

The following agenda is published in accordance with the Faculty Senate Rules. Any member of the standing faculty may attend SEC meetings and observe. Questions may be directed to Vicki Hewitt, 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 Agenda

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Meyerson Conference Room, 2nd Floor Van Pelt-Dietrich Library  
3-5 p.m.

1. Approval of the Minutes of February 11, 2015 (3 minutes)
2. Chair's Report (5 minutes)
3. Past-Chair's Report on Academic Planning and Budget & Capital Council (2 minutes)
4. Ballot: 2015 Senate Committee on Committees (5 minutes)
5. Discussion on the 2015 Economic Status of the Faculty Report (45 minutes)  
Discussion with Erika Holzbaur, Chair of the Senate Committee on Economic Status of the Faculty
6. Update from the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty (45 minutes)  
Discussion with Anita Allen, Vice Provost for Faculty
7. New Business (15 minutes)

### Penn Veterinary Medicine Appointments

Lisa Murphy is the new resident director of the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System (PADLS) at Penn Vet's New Bolton Center (NBC). Sherrill Davison is now Penn Vet's agriculture spokesperson.

"We look forward to Dr. Murphy's leadership at PADLS as she takes the reins from Dr. Davison, who has led the laboratory through an extremely dynamic time over the past eight years," said Joan C. Hendricks, the Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

In her new role as PADLS resident director, Dr. Murphy is responsible for oversight of all PADLS NBC laboratories: toxicology, mammalian pathology, poultry and microbiology. She is responsible for maintaining PADLS's accreditation from the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD).

Dr. Murphy will continue as an assistant professor of toxicology in the department of pathology at NBC, a position she has held since returning to Penn Vet in 2005 after graduating with her VMD in 1997. Dr. Murphy will also continue in her roles as a researcher and as head of the PADLS NBC Toxicology Laboratory.

"The health and well-being of our clients and the animals they care for is very important to me, both personally and as a veterinarian," Dr. Murphy said. "I am committed to our laboratory's role in keeping our clients, their animals, the environment and the general public safe in the face of infectious diseases and other dangerous hazards."

The PADLS system is comprised of laboratories at Penn Vet's New Bolton Center, Pennsylvania State University and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Established by the state

in 1991, PADLS is dedicated to providing accurate diagnoses to help protect animals and humans from health threats.

"Dr. Murphy brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position," Dean Hendricks said. "We are confident she will make great contributions in her new role and help Penn Vet continue to shine as a One Health leader, improving the health of humans, animals and the environment."

As Dr. Davison takes on the newly created role of agriculture spokesperson, she will continue as director of the Penn Vet Laboratory of Avian Medicine and Pathology and as associate professor of avian medicine and pathology.

"We are drawing on Dr. Davison's experience to enhance Penn Vet's reputation as the trusted source of information on agriculture issues in society, balancing the interests of food animal producers and the public," Dean Hendricks said.

Dr. Davison has been at the University of Pennsylvania for nearly 40 years, graduating with a BA in 1979 and a VMD from Penn Vet in 1983. She came back to Penn Vet as a resident in 1985 and joined the faculty as a lecturer of avian medicine and pathology in 1988. She steadily advanced, reaching the position of associate professor in 1999, laboratory director in 2005 and PADLS resident director in 2006. She also earned an MS in epidemiology in 1988 and an MBA from The Wharton School in 2004.

"I look forward to bringing a balanced, science-based approach to educating and informing people about veterinary medicine and animal agriculture," Dr. Davison said. "My goal is to increase regional and national awareness of Penn Vet's substantial research, educational and service commitments to animal agriculture."

### The "Barth" Memorial Fund for Mitral Valve Disease Research Established at Penn Vet

A \$450,000 gift from Bruce Wiltsie and William Davenport will support Penn Vet's research in the treatment of canine Mitral Valve Disease (MVD). Named in honor of their beloved dog, Barth, who passed away from MVD, the "Barth" Memorial Fund for Mitral Valve Disease Research will enable experts at Penn Vet to investigate new medications to stop or reverse the process of the disease. This work also has important implications for non-surgical treatment of MVD in people.

"We are incredibly grateful to Bruce and Bill for their generosity," said Mark Oyama, professor of cardiology at Penn Vet and a leading authority on MVD. "Having suffered the loss of

Barth to this devastating disease, they understand firsthand how important this research is to both dogs and humans."

MVD, the most common heart disease in dogs, affects as many as 70% of dogs over 10 years of age. In dogs with severe MVD, the mitral valve leak can lead to congestive heart failure. Currently, there are no available therapies to slow or reverse the underlying disease process.

Dr. Oyama and his colleagues have found that many of the pathological features of serotonin-mediated valve disease in humans are strikingly similar to those found in dogs with MVD, in that:

- Serotonin activates degenerative changes

## Deaths

### Alexandra Bilotti, Penn Junior

Alexandra (Alex) Bilotti, a junior in the College of Arts & Sciences, died of Ewing's sarcoma on February 21. She was 22 years old.

Ms. Bilotti was a member of Penn's Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and a Mayor's Scholar with an interest in pre-med.

She was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma at age 11 and fought the disease for nearly 11 years.

Ms. Bilotti is survived by her parents, Peter and Sandra; her brother, Joseph; her grandmother, Dorothy DiLauro; three aunts, Linda Mazzotta, Lisa DiLauro and Roseann Dunbar; one uncle, Bruce Bilotti; and six cousins, Vito and Symone Mazzotta, Angelina and Brooke Dunbar and Bruce and Justin Bilotti.

Donations may be made in Ms. Bilotti's memory to Episcopal Academy, 1785 Bishop White Drive, Newtown Square, PA 19073, c/o Alex Bilotti Scholarship Fund and/or Alexandra Bilotti Foundation for Childhood Cancer and Education, 1206 Reed Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

### 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](mailto:almanac@upenn.edu)

### PHOS Spring Education Series

Penn Home Ownership Services (PHOS) will host two informative events during March. On *Tuesday, March 17*, Christopher Waters, program manager at the City of Philadelphia's Urban Coalition, will be the featured speaker at *City of Philadelphia and PHOS: Credit/Homebuying Resources*. Those who attend this special session will learn about one of the City's housing programs, which offers matching funds to qualified individuals buying a home with PHOS.

*Purchasing a Home through PHOS*, scheduled for *Thursday, March 19*, will show attendees the step-by-step process to apply for the PHOS program. Lending partner Wells Fargo will join PHOS representatives at this workshop and take questions from the audience. This is open to employees of the University and its Health System.

Both events will be held in room 209, Steinberg Hall-Dietrich Hall from noon-1 p.m. Advance registration is required. For more information and to reserve your seat at one or both sessions, visit [www.upenn.edu/homeownership](http://www.upenn.edu/homeownership)

within the dog mitral valve;

- Drugs that block serotonin receptors reduce this response;

- Dog breeds that are predisposed to MVD have increased serotonin in their blood stream and heart tissues.

With the establishment of the "Barth" Memorial Fund for Mitral Valve Disease Research, Dr. Oyama aims to develop a serotonin-blocking drug to stop or reverse the disease before congestive heart failure occurs. Once a new drug is developed or the best existing alternative is identified, a clinical trial will follow, involving several hundred dogs worldwide with naturally occurring early MVD.

## Trustees February Stated Meeting Coverage

The University of Pennsylvania Trustees met at the Inn at Penn on February 26 and 27 for their winter meetings. They passed a resolution of appreciation for Howard S. Marks and designated him as an emeritus trustee.

President Amy Gutmann called Theodore Ruger, the new dean of Penn Law (*Almanac* February 24, 2015) an inclusive leader. President Gutmann noted that the new GSE dean, Pam Grossman, started in January. The Penn Wharton China Center will open with celebrations with a substantial Penn delegation there for what Provost Vincent Price called “a landmark event.”

President Gutmann also noted that student mental health is of paramount importance. She is grateful to the Task Force for their report (*Almanac* February 17, 2015) and looks forward to taking up their recommendations that have not yet been implemented.

President Gutmann said that Ambassador Samantha Power and the other six honorary degree recipients (*Almanac* February 17, 2015) represent the highest human achievement.

EVP Craig Carnaroli provided Penn’s financial report for the six months ended December 31, 2014. The Consolidated net assets were \$13.1 billion, an increase of \$812 million over the prior December, driven by strong investment performance and health system outperforming budget. Net operating income for the Consolidated University was \$190 million, \$60 million higher than the prior year.

Dr. Gail Morrison gave the Penn Medicine report and noted that the Henry Jordan Medical Education Building is open. She said that in FY 14 Penn Medicine contributed the equivalent of \$771 million to the community and the economic impact was \$4 billion.

The Trustees approved the revised Patent

and Tangible Research Property Policies and Procedures that were published For Comment (*Almanac* January 20, 2015) and will become effective July 1, 2015.

The Budget and Finance Committee presented eight resolutions which were approved: to authorize tuition, fees and other student charges for academic year 2015-2016 (see story); to authorize the financing of certain capital projects for the University of Pennsylvania Health System; to approve the membership substitution transaction related to Lancaster General Health and its affiliates; to authorize design and construction of the Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics, \$77.623 million; to authorize design and construction of Meyerson Hall HVAC upgrade, a Century Bond project, \$13.6 million; to authorize and approve the expansion and development of an additional two floors of the Penn Medicine University City

### Design for Pennovation Center

(continued from page 1)

for facilities and real estate services. “The entire site—its architecture, landscape, signage and programming—will reflect the innovative, collaborative ventures taking place within.”

The creative design team which has collaborated with Penn on the project includes HWKN, design architect; KSS Architects, architect of record; landscape architects Land Collective; and consultants Bruce Mau Design.

Completion of the Pennovation Center and the first phase of the Pennovation Works site improvements is anticipated in the summer of 2016 with the Penn Engineering lab opening in late fall 2015.

Additional information about the Pennovation Works and the Pennovation Center is available at [www.pennovation.upenn.edu](http://www.pennovation.upenn.edu)

Ambulatory Care Building, total lease for additional floors, \$12.754 million; to authorize Pennovation Works infrastructure and Pennovation Center construction documents and early equipment/drawings, \$6.71 million; to amend a February 27, 2009 resolution on the authority to execute and perform research contracts and grants.

There were also various appointments to the boards of overseers and other boards.

### Financial Aid Budget and Tuition

(continued from page 1)

With 10,400 undergraduates, Penn is the largest school in the nation to offer an all-grant financial aid program for undergraduates.

Penn’s all-grant financial aid initiative supports the University’s long-standing commitment to its need-blind admissions policy, which means students are accepted based on academic achievement, regardless of their ability to pay. The program has helped to reduce the number of Penn students borrowing. Today, nearly two-thirds of Penn undergraduates graduate debt free.

Penn’s all-grant program is aligned with the inclusion goals outlined in the *Penn Compact 2020* Presidential Initiatives, which include a comprehensive effort to raise additional funding for the endowment to support undergraduate financial aid. In support of this initiative, President Gutmann announced *Penn Impact 2020*, with the goal of raising one billion dollars for financial aid from 2005 to 2020, including \$600 million to support undergraduate financial aid. The other \$400 million is slated to fund graduate studies.

Additional information on undergraduate financial aid at Penn is available at [www.sfs.upenn.edu](http://www.sfs.upenn.edu)

## Penn Orphan Disease Center: First Grant Recipients from Million Dollar Bike Ride

The Orphan Disease Center at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania has awarded its inaugural grants funded by proceeds from the 2014 Million Dollar Bike Ride (*Almanac* February 11, 2014). Thirteen institutions—from academia in the US, Canada, Germany and Australia—received grants ranging from \$35,000 to \$60,000 from funds raised by 13 disease-specific cycling teams.

Orphan diseases represent a collection of disorders that afflict less than 200,000 individuals for any single disease type. Despite their rarity in the population, there are more than 7,000 distinct orphan diseases. In all, over 25 million people in the United States suffer from complications associated with orphan diseases; thousands die from them each year. Despite this toll, research in most disease types has lagged far behind other major areas due to a combination of technological and funding limitations.

The Million Dollar Bike Ride does not benefit just one rare disease, but many. Individual cyclists register and raise money for their specific orphan/rare disease foundation. Funds raised support pilot research projects and investigators studying a specific rare disease. These awards were made through a competitive call for proposals related to the needs of the individual disease foundations and reviewed by experts in each disease area.

The awards:

**Team ALD (Adrenoleukodystrophy):** Florian Eichler, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School; pilot study on adeno-associated virus serotype 9-mediated gene therapy for adre-

nomyeloneuropathy.

**Team CHI (Congenital Hyperinsulinism):** Diva De Leon, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; pilot study of the efficacy and safety of sirolimus in the treatment of congenital hyperinsulinism.

**Team Cure CMD (Congenital Muscular Dystrophy):** Pam Van Ry, University of Nevada School of Medicine; postdoctoral fellowship to study galectin-1 protein therapy for the treatment for laminin alpha2 related congenital muscular dystrophy.

**Team FH (Familial Hypercholesterolemia):** Chutikarn Butkinaree, Clinical Research Institute of Montreal, Canada; postdoctoral fellowship to study the molecular mechanisms of PCSK9-induced LDLR degradation.

**Team FARA (Friedreich’s Ataxia Research Alliance):** Yogesh Chutake, University of Oklahoma HSC; postdoctoral fellowship to study the reversal of epigenetic promoter silencing in Friedreich ataxia by histone deacetylase inhibitors.

**Team Spin Factor for Hemophilia:** Oscar Marcos-Contreras, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; hemophilia postdoctoral fellowship for \$35,000, enhancing coagulation factor expression in skeletal muscle by augmenting the endogenous post-translational protein modification machinery: application to hemophilia gene therapy.

**Team LAM (Lymphangioliomyomatosis):** Aristotelis Astreimidis, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center; pilot study to evaluate PLK1 inhibitors in a pre-clinical LAM animal model.

**Team LAM (Lymphangioliomyomatosis):** Vera Krymskaya, University of Pennsylvania; pilot study of STAT3 in pulmonary lymphangioliomyomatosis (LAM).

**Team ML4 (Mucopolysaccharidosis type 4):** Susan Slauenhaupt, Massachusetts General Hospital; pilot

study targeting miR-155 as a therapy for mucopolysaccharidosis IV.

**Team MPS (Mucopolysaccharidosis):** Alena Svatkova, University of Minnesota; postdoctoral fellowship to unravel the basis of white matter disease in mucopolysaccharidosis type I—a DTI study.

**Team NPC (Niemann Pick type C):** Ashley Bush, Australia Fellow; The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, Australia; pilot study of dual targeting of defective lipid and metal pathways in Niemann-Pick type C disease: an in vitro pilot study.

**Team NPC (Niemann Pick type C):** Brittney Gurda, University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine; postdoctoral fellowship to study CNS gene therapy to restore NPC1 protein expression in cerebellar Purkinje cells and delay or prevent disease onset in feline Niemann-Pick type C1 (NPC1) disease.

**Team Pitt Hopkins Pedalers:** Daniel Marena, Drexel University; pilot study to understand TCF4 function in post-mitotic neuron synaptic plasticity.

**Team Pitt Hopkins Pedalers:** Benjamin Philpot, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; pilot study to identify molecular targets for Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome treatments.

**Team RASopathies:** Maria Kontaridis, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School; pilot study to delineate the cause of gastrointestinal abnormalities in RASopathy disorders using human inducible pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs).

**Team NTSAD (National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association):** Annette Bley, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany; postdoctoral fellowship to quantitatively describe the clinical course of Canavan disease.

# Honors & Other Things

## Kimberly Bowes: Director of American Academy in Rome

Kimberly Bowes, associate professor of classical studies, has been named the 22nd director of the American Academy in Rome (AAR). Founded in 1894, the AAR awards the Rome Prize each year to a select group of artists and scholars who are invited to the city to pursue their work as part of a dynamic international community.



Kimberly Bowes

Dr. Bowes studies the archaeology of the ancient Mediterranean, specializing in domestic and religious architecture and the archaeology of the Roman economy. Her current interests focus on the archaeology of poverty during the Roman empire. She is part of "The Peasant Project," an archaeological campaign in Tuscany to explore the lifestyle, diet and habits of the rural poor of the ancient Roman world.

Her publications include *Houses and Society in the Later Roman Empire* and *Private Worship, Public Values and Religious Change in Late Antiquity*. She received her PhD from Princeton University and was a visiting fellow at Harvard. Dr. Bowes was herself an AAR fellow in 2006 and for the past two years has served as the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in Charge of the School of Classical Studies, the humanities arm of the AAR.

## Adrian Raine: Honorary Degree

The University of York in England has awarded an honorary degree to *Adrian Raine*, Richard Perry University Professor of Criminology and Psychiatry. Dr. Raine is a world-renowned expert in the neurobiological causes of antisocial and violent behavior in children and adults, as well as the potential for preventing future crime and the neuro-ethical implications of this effort. A Penn Integrates Knowledge (PIK) professor, he holds appointments in Penn's School of Arts & Sciences and Penn's Perelman School of Medicine.



Adrian Raine

Dr. Raine's 18 honors include an Independent Scientist Award from the National Institute of Mental Health and being named Young Psychologist of the Year by the British Psychological Society and a Fellow of the Academy of Experimental Criminology. He is the author of five books and more than 350 articles. His most recent book, *The Anatomy of Violence*, describes what neuroscience tools such as brain imaging are revealing on biological causes of crime and violence. Each year the University of York confers honorary degrees on people who have made a significant contribution to society.

## Brendan O'Leary: International Political Science Association Prize

Lauder Professor of Political Science *Brendan O'Leary* has been awarded the first Juan Linz Prize by the International Political Science Association (IPSA). The prize was created to honor a prominent scholar engaged in the comparative research on decentralization, multinational and multiethnic integration and federalism that Linz demonstrated.



Brendan O'Leary

Dr. O'Leary has authored and edited over 20 books and hundreds of chapters and articles on power-sharing; national and ethnic conflict-regulation; national self-determination; and national, ethnic and communal violence. His most recent books include *Power Sharing in Deeply Divided Places* (2013), *Divided Nations and European Integration* (2013), *Courts and Consociations* (2013) and *Getting out of Iraq With Integrity* (2009).

Dr. O'Leary has engaged in constitutional and policy advisory work, notably in Northern Ireland, Somalia, Nepal, Sudan and the Kurdistan region of Iraq. He has been employed by the European Union and the United Nations for his expertise on power-sharing, federalism and minority rights. He has been a visiting professor at the Universities of Uppsala, Western Ontario, Queen's Belfast and the National University of Ireland Galway.

Dr. O'Leary has been at Penn since 2002, where he directed the Program in Ethnic Conflict.

The Juan Linz Prize recipient presents the Juan Linz lecture or leads a special session at the IPSA World Congress of Political Science. Dr. O'Leary will be recognized at the 2016 World Congress in Istanbul, Turkey.

## Larry Gladney: Fellow of the American Physical Society



Larry Gladney

physics. Dr. Gladney, who is also the associate dean for the natural sciences, was nominated for his contributions to the study of high-energy physics and for his outstanding efforts in science teaching and outreach programs for middle and high school students and teachers. APS is a non-profit membership organization working to advance and diffuse the knowledge of physics. It represents over 50,000 members globally, including physicists in academia, national laboratories and industry.

## Jeffrey Winkler: Morgan Society

Merriam Professor of Chemistry *Jeffrey Winkler* has been elected to the John Morgan Society of the University of Pennsylvania. The Morgan Society, the oldest honorific biomedical society in the country, was founded to stimulate research in basic medical science by promoting favorable conditions for such investigations through fostering communication between its members.



Jeffrey Winkler

Dr. Winkler's research in organic chemistry focuses on finding new and better ways of synthesizing drugs. He was involved in developing the anticancer drug Taxol and a more effective version of Ritalin, used for treating hyperactive children. His research has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the American Chemical Society Cope Scholar Award and an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship.

Dr. Winkler has authored 75 publications and given more than 80 invited lectures to major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. He is a founding member of Penn's Center for Cancer Pharmacology and is active in several cancer associations and societies. He has served as a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of PolyMedix Inc. and as an expert consultant at leading law firms on a variety of chemical issues. Dr. Winkler holds a doctorate in chemistry from Columbia University and a BS in chemistry from Harvard University.

## 2015 Model Supervisor Award

Since 2007, the University of Pennsylvania has honored a Model Supervisor to spotlight the University's finest examples of staff leadership. This year's finalists are among the best managers at Penn.

The 2015 Model Supervisor finalists are:

*Derek Hunsberger*, associate director, Residential Services, Business Services

*Jules Spaeth*, senior executive director of services, Perelman School of Medicine, Development and Alumni Relations

The 2015 Models of Excellence Selection Committee has chosen these individuals based on the nomination materials submitted by members of the Penn community, as well as direct feedback from their staff. The finalists were selected for their outstanding embodiment of the Model Supervisor behaviors developed for this program, including fairness, strong leadership and exceptional managerial skills.

The Penn community is invited to join Penn Human Resources on Tuesday, March 24 at 4 p.m. for the announcement of this year's Model Supervisor Award winner at the Models of Excellence Awards Ceremony and reception in Irvine Auditorium. The individual chosen as the Model Supervisor will receive \$500 and a symbolic award. The other finalist will receive \$250 and a symbolic award.

To RSVP, contact Human Resources at [models@hr.upenn.edu](mailto:models@hr.upenn.edu) or (215) 898-1012. Visit [www.hr.upenn.edu/myhr/appreciation/models](http://www.hr.upenn.edu/myhr/appreciation/models) for more information.

—Division of Human Resources

## 2015 SAS Dean's Forum Scholars

Penn Arts & Sciences has named 20 students from the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Liberal & Professional Studies and the Graduate Division as 2015 Dean's Scholars. This honor is presented annually to students who exhibit exceptional academic performance and intellectual promise. The 2015 Dean's Scholars were formally recognized as part of the Levin Family Dean's Forum on February 19.

### College of Arts & Sciences

*Deqa Farah* (international relations) is a senior who, in pursuit of her studies in political science and Africana studies, has conducted research on traditional microfinance systems in Somalia, the economics of Somali refugee camps, the impact of the "Arab Awakening" on peripheral Middle Eastern states and modes of transitional justice in post-conflict African states. She served as a research intern for her major's Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, and she is currently writing her senior thesis on the impact of the Somali diaspora on reconciliation efforts in post-conflict Somalia.

*Xingting Gong* (mathematics and physics) is a senior in the Roy and Diana Vagelos Program in the Molecular Life Sciences and a recipient of a Roy and Diana Vagelos Science Challenge Award. She is a member of Randall Kamien's Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics research group, where she is participating in theoretical and experimental investigations into the topological defects in graphene and graphene-like materials. She has already co-authored original research papers that have been published in the journals *Physical Review* and *Physical Review Letters*.

*Vanessa Koh* (anthropology) is a junior whose work displays what one of her professors in the anthropology department calls her "maturity as a researcher and scholar." Her senior thesis, which includes an investigation of migrant labor and housing policy in Singapore, is an ambitious project in which she is working to create new understandings of complex human phenomena of migration, its legal rules, social norming, economic impossibilities and political and social inequities.

*Kimberly Kolor* (religious studies and South Asian studies) is a senior who has combined her interests in religion, Asian culture and social justice to create an ambitious cross-disciplinary course of study. She has spent semesters in India and Sri Lanka, honing her language skills in Tamil and Sinhala while also researching street temples in India and public space and beautification in Sri Lanka. Her independent ethnographic work has received support from the Gelfman International Summer Research Grant, the South Asia studies department, the Penn Program for Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism and the Penn Undergraduate Humanities Forum.

*Elana Stern* (political science) is a senior who has received praise from across the political science department not only for taking a demanding array of courses—including several graduate seminars—but also for her poised and professional approach to a highly challenging field of scholarship. In her senior thesis, she investigates why the Arab Spring had an uneven impact on the Middle East and North Africa, effectively hypothesizing that there is a link between the presence of South Asian migrant worker populations and the occurrence of uprising.

*Allison Siegenfeld* (biochemistry and biophysics) is a junior in the Roy and Diana Vagelos Program in the Molecular Life Sciences and a recipient of a Roy and Diana Vagelos Science Challenge Award. Passionate about her work in the lab, she has worked on non-coding RNA in Professor Kazuko Nishikura's lab at the Wistar Institute, and she is now doing organic synthesis in Gary Molander's lab. Her professors recognize her as someone who "will be making big discoveries of the future."

*Stefan Torborg* (biochemistry, biophysics and physics) is a junior in the Roy and Diana Vagelos Program in the Molecular Life Sciences who is well on his way to submatriculating into the mas-

ter's program in chemistry. The recipient of a Roy and Diana Vagelos Science Challenge Award, he has been recognized by faculty in the Schools of Arts & Sciences and Engineering for the breadth and challenging nature of his research and the deft skill with which he takes on projects that are technically and conceptually complex.

*Emmett Wynn* (comparative literature, English and history) is a senior who is both a University Scholar and a Benjamin Franklin Scholar. He has excelled in the College's Integrated Studies Program, as evidenced by faculty in three departments praising his "analytic rigor" and "remarkable intellectual clarity." He traveled to the University of Texas to use the primary sources at the Ransom Library as part of his research on the works of J.M. Coetzee, which his professors recognize as graduate-level work that enriches the fields of intellectual history and comparative literature.

*Aisling Zhao* (biochemistry and biology) is a senior in the Roy and Diana Vagelos Program in the Molecular Life Sciences. As part of Timothy Linksvayer's research group, she studies the genetics, behavior and evolution of complex social systems among insects such as ants and honey bees. The approach she takes to her work in genotyping ants for subsequent population genetic analysis and analyzing the molecular basis of caste differentiations has been characterized as enthusiastic, creative and dedicated.

### College of Liberal & Professional Studies—Undergraduate Program

*Donald Antenen* (classical studies) researches literary themes in the writings of Plato. Approaching Plato as a literary rather than strictly philosophical writer, he is reading closely—in both English and Greek—areas in the dramatic dialogue the *Symposium* for moments where Socrates is engaged in silent contemplation, in order to better understand both the author's dramatic technique and the goals of the work. In addition to convening a reading group to share and argue over interpretations of ancient texts, he is a scholar of Biblical Hebrew.

### Professional Master's Programs

*Christine Loveland Klein* (master of liberal arts) has combined classes in religion and public life, film studies and urban studies in pursuit of her program's writing, literature and society concentration. Her impressively creative capstone project, a memoir with an accompanying analytical paper, deals critically with central questions of memory—both reliable and unreliable—and conflict. According to the primary reviewer, her project is "remarkable, gorgeous, inspiring and a model in every way," and demonstrates her talent for choosing and rising to the challenge of a demanding course of study.

### Graduate Division—Doctoral Programs

*Iggy Cortez* (history of art) is completing his dissertation, which examines the impact of nocturnal filming on the aesthetic, narrative, political and psychological possibilities of cinema among an international group of contemporary filmmakers. He has curated two film series and planned a dual-site art exhibition, *Itinerant Belongings*, which explored states of homelessness, itinerancy and displacement through a mixture of photography, video and drawn imagery from several major artists. His excellence as a teacher earned him an SAS Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Graduate Student in 2014.

*Johannes Eichstaedt* (psychology) came to Penn with master's degrees in particle physics and positive psychology. Identified by the American Association for the Advancement of Science as an Emerging Leader in Science and Society, he uses machine learning and language analysis of social media to track the psychological states of large populations. His lab's findings, which to date include demonstrating that Twitter contains more information about spatial variation in heart disease mortality than gold-standard models, are expected to be a breakthrough in psychological epidemiology research.

*Omar Foda* (Near Eastern languages and civilizations) takes an interdisciplinary approach to investigate the history of the beer industry in Egypt. Using Egyptian Arabic novels, periodicals, songs and films and documents from the Egyptian national archives and the archives of the Heineken company, his research—which has already been published in a leading journal—addresses interactions between Egypt's emerging beer-drinking culture and Muslim sensibilities regarding alcohol consumption, as well as nationalist politicians' use of the Egyptian beer industry to assert "Egyptian" ethnic and brand identities.

*Amy Goodwin Davies* (linguistics) maintains a high quality of work while moving with ease between her research on the syntax and semantics of Swedish determiners and experiments on whether rhyme facilitates lexical access and on the mental representation of inflectional allomorphy. While she is "clearly on track to be a first-rate linguist," as one professor notes, she is also dedicated to outreach and clinical applications of linguistics, as evidenced by her work in Please Touch Museum's Living Lab, where children will participate as investigators in real research studies.

*Alex Moshkin* (comparative literature and theory) is described by one of his professors as "a deep intellectual who is attuned to the social and political realities of the world." His research, which focuses on the cultural, political and social life of the sizable Russian-speaking community in Israel, addresses broader questions of diasporic identities. Possessed of what has been called a "scholarly fearlessness," he has already presented his work to local and international academic audiences, and is poised to bring new insights into a complex and contested study of global social life.

*Jordan Pickett* (art and archaeology of the Mediterranean world) is internationally recognized for his expertise in ancient water systems. Innovatively drawing on both textual and archaeological reports, his dissertation, which is "filled with new information and remarkable insights," according to one of his professors, reflects the range and impact of Roman hydraulic technology in the Mediterranean world after the decline of Roman authority. He also researches ancient and medieval architecture from the perspectives of social and environmental history, early modern conflicts at the Holy Places in Palestine and Byzantine iconoclasm.

*Carlos Santana* (philosophy) brings his background in cognitive science and the philosophy of science to bear on his current research on the nature of evidence in linguistics, exploring questions of evidentiary standards, justification of idealizations, appropriate smoothing of data and potential loss of signal. Recognized by his professors as a future leader in the philosophy of cognitive science and linguistics, he has published two major papers on biodiversity and the evolution of ambiguity in signaling games, as well as several smaller commentaries.

*Daniel Snelson* (English) is an emerging scholar whose prominence is confirmed by his stellar publication record and his growing prominence as a poet, editor and archivist. He has published three books of poetry and numerous peer-reviewed essays and has edited several prominent poetry journals, in addition to serving as an exhibition advisor for the *Poetry will be made by all!* exhibition in Zürich. His dissertation, which his advisor calls a "groundbreaking work," explores artifacts of 20th-century art and literature in the wake of widespread digitization.

*Anru Zhang* (applied mathematics and computational science) works, as one professor notes, at the intellectual level of top researchers in the field on problems such as semi-supervised and statistical machine learning, high-dimensional interference with missing data, noisy structured matrix completion and applications in genomics. He has completed nine papers during his graduate studies, all published in top-ranked journals. Recognition of his accomplishments by the wider community is evidenced by the fact that he has been invited to review submissions to several leading publications.

## Beneath the Surface: Life, Death & Gold in Ancient Panama at the Penn Museum

For more than a thousand years, a cemetery on the banks of the Rio Grande Coclé in Panama lay undisturbed, escaping the attention of gold seekers and looters. The river flooded in 1927, scattering beads of gold along its banks. In 1940, a Penn Museum team led by archaeologist J. Alden Mason excavated at the cemetery, unearthing spectacular finds—large golden plaques and pendants with animal-human motifs, precious and semi-precious stone, ivory and animal bone ornaments and literally tons of detail-rich painted ceramics. It was extraordinary evidence of a sophisticated Precolumbian people, the Coclé, who lived, died and painstakingly buried their dead long ago.

*Beneath the Surface: Life, Death & Gold in Ancient Panama* at the Penn Museum invites visitors to dig deeper, exploring the history, archaeological evidence and new research perspectives in search of a greater understanding of the Coclé people, who lived from about 700 to 900 CE. Video footage from the original Sitio Conte excavation, video kiosks with opportunities to “meet” and hear from a range of experts, a centerpiece “burial” with interactive touchscreens—and more than 200 objects from the famous excavation—provide an immersive experience. The exhibition runs through November 1.

One massive burial, named “Burial 11” by the excavators, yielded the most extraordinary materials from the excavation. Believed to be that of a Paramount Chief, it contained 23 individuals in three distinct layers, accompanied by a vast array of grave objects. A to-scale installation of the burial serves as the exhibition’s centerpiece, drawing visitors beneath the surface of the site. The re-creation features many artifacts displayed in the actual positions they were found, as well as digital interactive stations for further exploration.

### About the Site

The site of Sitio Conte is located about 100 miles southwest of Panama City. When golden grave goods were exposed on the banks of the Rio Grande de Coclé, the Conte family, owners of the land, invited scientific excavation. The Peabody Museum of Harvard University carried out the first investigations in the 1930s. In the spring of 1940, J. Alden Mason, then curator in Penn Museum’s American Section, led a Penn Museum team

to carry out three months of excavations.

Diary entries, drawings, photographs and color film from the excavations set the story of the research in time and place. New excavations in Panama, most recently at nearby El Caño, conservation work and laboratory analyses, and ongoing research on Coclé and neighboring Precolumbian cultures add to a growing body of knowledge, told through short interviews with Penn Museum and outside experts.

### Coclé Culture and Society

Long overshadowed by research on other indigenous Central and South American peoples, the Coclé remain mysterious, but archaeologists, physical anthropologists, art historians and other specialists are drawing on the materials they have excavated to tell more. The rich iconography, sophisticated gold working technologies and craftsmanship, exacting placement of bodies and materials in the burials: all offer clues about the world view, artistic style and social hierarchy of the Coclé.

The art and artifacts uncovered from Burial 11 and throughout the Sitio Conte cemetery were rich in cultural meaning and utilitarian value, and *Beneath the Surface* uses them to begin to create a portrait of the Coclé people. Central to exhibition curator Clark Erickson’s vision of “peopling the past” is a contemporary rendering of the central burial’s Paramount Chief; he stands replete with some of the golden pendants, arm cuffs and plaques, exquisitely crafted and worthy of a great warrior, which he wore to his grave.

Though not identified as direct descendants of the Coclé, many indigenous groups continue to live in Panama and in the region of Sitio Conte today. A small section of the exhibition provides visitors with an opportunity to see contemporary Kuna clothing that echoes some of the design forms and styles of ancient Coclé pottery, pendants and gold.

(At right)  
Whale ivory and gold crocodile pendants, Sitio Conte, Panama, ca. 700-900 CE.



# BENEATH THE SURFACE

Life, Death, & Gold in Ancient Panama

Throughout, visitors can explore the evidence and encounter new perspectives on who these people were and how they lived.

Dr. Clark Erickson, curator-in-charge, American section, is the exhibition’s lead curator, working with co-curator Dr. Lucy Fowler Williams, associate curator and Sabloff Keeper of the American section; William Wierzbowski, American section keeper; and a team of undergraduate student assistant curators, Monica Fenton, Sarah Parkinson and Ashley Terry of the University of Pennsylvania and Samantha Seyler of New College, Florida, who provided additional collections and research support. Kate Quinn, director of exhibitions and public programs, leads the exhibition interpretation and design, working with Christine Lockett and Associates (interpretive planning), Alusive Design (exhibition design) and Bluecadet (multimedia design). The exhibition fabrication is provided by Art Guild, Berry and Homer Printing and the Penn Museum Preparation Department, led by Ben Neiditz, chief preparator.

*Beneath the Surface: Life, Death and Gold in Ancient Panama* is made possible with generous support from the Selz Foundation, lead underwriter, the Manning Family Exhibitions Fund, the Susan Drossman Sokoloff and Adam D. Sokoloff Exhibitions Fund and A. Bruce and Margaret Mainwaring. Global Arena is the language services partner.

### Upcoming Events Related to the *Beneath the Surface* Exhibition

- Sunday, March 8, 1 p.m.; *Re-Interpreting an Old Dig: Sitio Conte and the Penn Museum*; Clark Erickson, Curator-in-Charge, American Section.
- Sunday, April 12, 1 p.m.; *Animals at Sitio Conte: Beneath the Surface and the Living World All Around*; Katherine Moore, Mainwaring Teaching Specialist.
- Sunday, April 12, 1-4 p.m.; Family Second Sunday Workshop, *Panamanian Gold*. Explore the Museum’s new exhibition. Take inspiration from the artifacts in the exhibition and work with foil to etch your own gold plaque to take home. Free with Museum admission.
- Wednesday, April 15, 6-9:30 p.m., P.M. @ Penn Museum, *Gold Diggers*; this after-work event offers a chance to experience the marvelous objects in the new exhibition—combined with a full schedule of gallery tours, 60-second lectures, pottery painting and more. \$20; \$15, Penn Museum members and PennCard holders (includes one free drink for guests 21 and older).
- Wednesday, April 22, 6 p.m., *Special Guest Evening Lecture—El Caño: Excavations at an Elite Precolumbian Cemetery in Panama*; Julia Mayo, Panamanian archaeologist (talk in Spanish with English translator). Free with Museum admission.
- Wednesday, April 29, 6 p.m., *Curator’s Lecture on Beneath the Surface*; Clark Erickson discusses the excavation and spectacular finds of the Precolumbian cemetery of Sitio Conte (*Members Only*).
- Sunday, May 10, 1 p.m.; *Beneath the Skin: The Skeleton Within*; Janet Monge, keeper and curator-in-charge, physical anthropology section.
- Sunday, June 14, 1 p.m.; *Focus on Conservation*; Julia Lawson, Museum Conservator.

(At left) A ceramic polychrome plate with turtle iconography from Sitio Conte, 700 to 900 CE.



# Update

March AT PENN

## FITNESS & LEARNING

**10** *Post-Baccalaureate Studies, On-campus Information Session*; 5:30 p.m.; ste. 100, 3440 Market St.; register: [www.sas.upenn.edu/lps/info-sessions-post-baccalaureate](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/lps/info-sessions-post-baccalaureate) (PLE).

**17** *Organizational Dynamics Programs Information Sessions*; 6 p.m.; ste. 100, 3440 Market St.; register: [www.sas.upenn.edu/lps/info-sessions-dynn](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/lps/info-sessions-dynn) (PLE).

## READING/SIGNING

**7** *The Death of Caesar Lecture and Book Signing*; Barry Strauss, Cornell; 2 p.m.; Penn Museum; free w/ admission (Museum).

## AT PENN Deadlines

The March AT PENN calendar is online at [www.upenn.edu/almanac](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac). The deadline for the April AT PENN calendar is *Tuesday, March 17*.

## Almanac Schedule

Due to Spring Break, there is no issue scheduled for Tuesday, March 10. Staff will be on hand to accept submissions for the March 17 issue.



WOMEN OF COLOR  
AT PENN

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## Women of Color at Penn (WOCAP) 28th Annual Awards Luncheon

The 28th WOCAP Annual Awards Luncheon will be held on *Friday, March 20* in the Benjamin Franklin Ballroom at the University City Sheraton, noon to 2 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Nursing Dean Antonia M. Villarruel.

The National Institute for Women of Color (NIWC) has designated the first day of March during Women's History Month as National Women of Color Day.

For the 28th consecutive year, the University of Pennsylvania and its Health System (HUP, Presbyterian and Pennsylvania Hospitals) seek to increase awareness of the concerns, talents and achievements of women of color by recognizing them with the Women of Color Day Award. The 2015 WOC honorees will be recognized at the luncheon, representing faculty, staff, students and the community.

To order tickets (\$50 each or \$500 for table of 10), send journal voucher payment information to [wocaptix@gmail.com](mailto:wocaptix@gmail.com)

## The University of Pennsylvania Police Department Community Crime Report

**About the Crime Report:** No Crimes Against Persons or Crimes Against Society were reported for **February 16-24, 2015**, although 9 Crimes Against Property (7 thefts, 1 fraud and 1 other offense) were reported. Full reports are available at: [www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v61/n25/creport.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v61/n25/creport.html). Prior weeks' reports are also online. —Eds.

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 16-24, 2015**. 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.

### 18th District Report

Below are the Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 1 incident with no arrest (1 assault) was reported between **February 16-24, 2015** by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

02/20/15 7:48 PM 45th St & Baltimore Ave Assault

## Native American Voices at Penn Museum



This Thursday, March 5 at 4 p.m., the Penn Museum will present *Native American Voices: Reconciliation and Its Discontents*. Reconciliation has achieved a seemingly unquestioned status in Canada as the good thing that is to usher in the better thing that will be. But this discourse seeks to harmonize and balance a fundamental disjuncture—between a sovereign state unwilling to rescind its false claims to Indigenous land and life and Indigenous struggles for sovereignty. Audra Simpson, associate professor of anthropology at Columbia University, examines the ways in which reconciliation seeks to repair or perhaps subvert and mask the problem of historical and ethical impasse and injury. *Native American Voices* public programming is generously underwritten by Delaware Investments/Macquarie Group Foundation and cosponsored by the Penn Cultural Heritage Center, the departments of anthropology and history and the Greenfield Intercultural Center (Natives at Penn). This event is free with Museum admission.

*Modern Native Voices: The Medium of Hip Hop—New Music with a Distinctly Native Beat* is explored and performed at the Penn Museum on Saturday, March 21, beginning at 3 p.m. What happens when Native American voices speak out—through the musical medium of rap and hip hop? The Museum hosts Frank Waln, Def-i, Tall Paul and Wake Self (*above*), four nationally-known Native American rap and hip hop artists, for an afternoon of in-the-galleries spoken word, a follow up panel discussion and an evening concert. The afternoon-into-night program, *Modern Native Voices: The Medium of Hip Hop*, is presented in conjunction with the Museum's five-year exhibition, *Native American Voices: The People—Here and Now*. The program is sponsored by Natives at Penn, Native American and Indigenous Studies, the Greenfield Intercultural Center and Du Bois College House.

## March: Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Colon cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States. If caught early, there is a 90 percent chance that it can be cured. A simple colonoscopy can make a world of difference.

On *Dress in Blue Day, Friday, March 6*, thousands of people throughout the United States will

show their support by dressing in blue and talking to people about colon cancer and screening. On March 6, help the Penn Cancer Center spread colon cancer awareness by dressing in blue and sharing pictures with the Cancer Center through their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PennCancer>. To schedule a colonoscopy call (215) 615-2580 or visit [PennMedicine.org/Prenvention](http://PennMedicine.org/Prenvention)

## CLASSIFIED—RESEARCH

**Would you like to lose weight?** Tired of regaining? If so, then you may be interested in our research study that is combining behavioral weight loss program with an FDA-approved weight loss medication. The study provides 16 months of treatment and evaluation. For information call Alyssa at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Weight and Eating Disorders at (215) 746-5030 or email [aminnick@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:aminnick@mail.med.upenn.edu)

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For information about placing an ad, call (215) 898-5274 or visit [www.upenn.edu/almanac/faqs.html#ad](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/faqs.html#ad)

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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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On Thursday, March 26, the Committee on Open Expression will hold a series of three open hearings, at noon, 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m., soliciting the views of individuals and groups on the following two proposed interpretive rules. The open hearings will be held at the Law School, 3501 Sansom Street, Silverman Hall room 147 (enter at 34th Street between Chestnut Street and Sansom Street). Any member of the University community is welcome to submit comments in writing in advance of the hearings or to offer comments in person at a hearing. Anyone wishing to comment in writing or to speak should email the chair of the committee at [sbibas@law.upenn.edu](mailto:sbibas@law.upenn.edu) no later than *Wednesday, March 18 at noon*, indicating whether the commentator wishes to speak in person and providing a summary of proposed remarks for circulation to the committee.

## **University of Pennsylvania Committee on Open Expression**

### **Open Hearing: Proposed Rules Interpreting the University's Guidelines on Open Expression**

Pursuant to the University's Guidelines on Open Expression, and in particular Parts I.C (charging this Committee with the "major task[]" of "interpreting these Guidelines") and IV.B.1 (confering jurisdiction to adopt such interpretive rules after an open hearing), the University of Pennsylvania Committee on Open Expression proposes to adopt the following "rules to interpret[] [and] give more specific meaning to the Guidelines." "The University shall publish [these interpretive rules] at least once each academic year in a manner that brings them to the attention of Members of the University Community." (III.A.1.)

#### **I. Inviting Speakers to Campus**

A. The Guidelines clearly express the foundational value of free speech at Penn (I.A.): "The University of Pennsylvania, as a community of scholars, affirms, supports and cherishes the concepts of freedom of thought, inquiry, speech, and lawful assembly. The freedom to experiment, to present and examine alternative data and theories; the freedom to hear, express, and debate various views; and the freedom to voice criticism of existing practices and values are fundamental rights that must be upheld and practiced by the University in a free society." These values are of paramount importance: "In case of conflict between the principles of the Guidelines on Open Expression and other University policies, the principles of the Guidelines shall take precedence" (I.D).

By allowing a controversial speaker to speak or a group to organize and invite a speaker or hold an event, the University of course in no way endorses that speaker's or event organizer's content or viewpoint; rather, it affirms the value of creating a robust marketplace of ideas and fostering reasoned disagreement and discourse.

B. The Guidelines on Open Expression already unambiguously forbid discriminating against particular content and viewpoints (I.B): "the substance or nature of the views expressed is not an appropriate basis for any restriction upon or encouragement of an assembly or demonstration." The unpopularity of a speech's content or viewpoint is not a reason to suppress speech. Objectors may not have a "heckler's veto" over speech with which they disagree. Allowing threats of protests or violence to suppress speech in any way would encourage protesters to make such threats. In keeping with this foundational principle, the University has never revoked a commencement speaker's invitation to speak based upon the substance of the speaker's views, including any controversy they might generate.

Most speakers at Penn are invited not by the University itself, but by particular organizations, departments, schools, and individuals at Penn. The Guidelines protect members of the entire University community against official reprisals for hosting controversial speakers and events. An event organizer is at liberty to change its mind freely, without duress, and to cancel an event or a speaker invitation. Other members of the University community likewise have the right to criticize a proposed speaker's or event's substance or viewpoint, or even to call upon the event organizer to cancel an event or rescind an invitation. But they may not go beyond criticism to exert any duress on the event organizer or speaker to withdraw. Duress includes any express or implied threat—by an administrator, a member of an administrative staff, a student leader, or a faculty member or teaching assistant in a supervisory or hierarchical relationship to an event organizer or speaker (particularly one within the same department or school)—to an organization's or speaker's or event's safety, recognition, registration, budget, funding, or access to venues or security, or to any faculty, student, administrator, or staff member's employment, tenure candidacy, funding, grades, honors, academic standing, or other status within the University, or a threat of violence or similar unlawful conduct. Any such duress, express or implied, gives rise to the natural inference that the actor is seeking to suppress speech because it is controversial or unpopular. That would amount to "any restriction upon" "the substance or nature of the views expressed," in violation of the Guidelines (I.B).

C. The norm at the University is to allow reservations of rooms and other venues on a first-come, first-served basis. Denying a room-reservation request on any other basis, or worse rescinding an existing reservation of a room or other venue, raises the almost inescapable inference that the denial or

rescission is based on "the substance or nature of the views expressed" (I.B). Thus, the Guidelines already require, "if practicable, consulting with the Committee on Open Expression before denying a request for use of a room, facility, or space by an organization recognized by the University for a reason other than prior assignment of the room, facility, or space. In any event, any such denial must be reported promptly to the Committee" (III.A.2.d).

The same principle, in keeping with the Guidelines' letter and spirit, applies to the authorization of events and to the provision of security, audiovisual, publicity, and other logistical support. An organization must of course have a budget sufficient to defray the necessary expenses and must reserve any such resources sufficiently in advance to allow the University to provide them on a first-come, first-served basis. Once such reservations have been made with adequate funding and advance planning, however, and particularly once a student group, faculty member, school, department, or organization has formally invited a speaker, whether by contract or other formal invitation such as one on University letterhead, any rescission or compelled modification of existing reservations or security arrangements raises the strong inference that the rescission or modification is based on "the substance or nature of the views expressed" (I.B). "[I]f practicable, [any member of the University community must thus] consult[] with the Committee on Open Expression before denying [such] a request [or rescinding or forcibly modifying such a reservation] . . . for a reason other than prior [reservation of the scarce resource at issue]. In any event, any such denial [including a rescission or compelled modification] must be reported promptly to the Committee" (III.A.2.d).

D. "[T]o ensure the continuing openness and effectiveness of channels of communications" at Penn, the Guidelines establish the Committee on Open Expression (I.C). The Committee is expressly charged with "its major tasks" of "interpreting these Guidelines" and "recommending policies and procedures for the improvement of all levels of communication" (I.C). The Committee is also expressly charged with preventing, mediating, and resolving conflicts related to open expression (IV.B).

Penn's tradition strongly encourages consulting with interested stakeholders across campus. On issues involving open expression, such consultation ought to include the Committee on Open Expression and the Office of the Vice Provost for University Life. The Committee strongly encourages students, faculty, staff, and campus organizations and groups to raise such issues at the earliest possible opportunity. If a student group or other University of Pennsylvania affiliate believes that a member of the University community is violating or attempting to violate the Guidelines on Open Expression, including any of the foregoing provisions, it may ask the Office of the Vice Provost for University Life to mediate to resolve the issue. If the mediation does not produce a mutually satisfactory resolution, the aggrieved party may file a complaint with the Committee on Open Expression, or with the chair, administrative liaison, or members of the committee if a quorum is not immediately available.

#### **II. Open Expression in Electronic Media and Cyberspace**

The University's Guidelines on Open Expression were originally drafted decades before the spread of email and the Internet and well before the creation of social media, and therefore do not expressly mention electronic forms of communication. But their principles apply equally online.

The value of free and open expression and vigorous debate apply with equal force to newer forms of communication, including emails, web sites, social media, and other technologies and communication media. As the University's Information Systems and Computing Division's Policy on Acceptable Uses of Electronic Resources puts it, "The University's commitment to the principles of open expression extends to and includes the electronic information environment, and interference in the exercise of those rights is a violation of this policy and of the Guidelines on Open Expression" <http://www.upenn.edu/computing/policy/auip.html> Whether communications occur on Locust Walk or in cyberspace, open expression remains equally valuable to the University and equally protected to the same extent, under the same principles, and subject to the same limitations as non-digital forms of communication.