Marci Hamilton: Penn Arts and Sciences’ Third Professor of Practice

Marci A. Hamilton, one of the country’s leading church-state scholars, has been appointed Penn Arts and Sciences’ third Professor of Practice, in the Robert A. Fox Leadership Program. Ms. Hamilton also serves as a Fox Family Pavilion Senior Fellow in Residence in the Robert A. Fox Leadership Program’s Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS) and is Co-Chair of the Common Ground for the Common Good Program.

Ms. Hamilton, L’88, is the founder, CEO and academic director of Children’s Healthcare Is a Legal Duty, or CHILD USA, a nonprofit dedicated to interdisciplinary research and advocacy to end child abuse and neglect. She co-leads the organization with Steven Berkowitz, a leading child traumatologist, director of the Penn Center for Youth and Family Trauma Response and Recovery, and associate professor of clinical psychiatry at the Perelman School of Medicine; and Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at CHOP and Maurice R. Hilleman Professor of Vaccinology and Professor of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine.

Ms. Hamilton is a tireless pro bono advocate for access to justice for all child sex abuse victims and an international leader in the movement to eventually eliminate statutes of limitations (SOL) in child sex abuse cases. She has submitted testimony and advised legislators in every state where significant reform has occurred.

CHILD USA tracks and provides analysis on the SOL movement in the United States and around the world, as well as information regarding ages of majority, consent and marriage; religious liberty statutes that create opportunities to harm children; and medical neglect laws.

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Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania and other international universities are working to save an invaluable scientific resource badly damaged during Hurricane Maria: a population of rhesus macaques living on the remote island, Cayo Santiago, as well as the staff and facilities that support them.

More than 1,000 free-ranging monkeys live on Cayo Santiago, a small Puerto Rican island. These animals have provided researchers a unique field site since the 1930s, the longest-running primate site in the world. It is work that cannot be done almost anywhere else.

The monkeys roam free on the natural tropical island, but they are also so habituated to humans that they can be involved in up-close and personal work, allowing researchers unprecedented access into the animals’ daily lives. This social microcosm has shed light on questions as diverse as how the monkeys think, choose friends and choose mates, as well as the genetic underpinnings of their complex social behaviors.

On September 20, Cayo Santiago received a direct hit from Hurricane Maria, then a Category 4 storm, that devastated Puerto Rico and other parts of the Caribbean. “This fragile population somehow survived this awful storm, but we need to act quickly to save them and the important scientific possibilities they represent,” said Michael L. Platt, the James S. Riepe University Professor at Penn with appointments in psychology, neuroscience and marketing in the School of Arts & Sciences, Perelman School of Medicine and Wharton School. “Unless we immediately rebuild the infrastructure on the island, as well as the lives of the people who support it, this important resource may disappear.”

International researchers are now working hard to do just that. The team includes scholars from Penn, New York University, Yale, University of Buffalo, University of Exeter in the United Kingdom, University of Michigan, University of Puerto Rico and University of Washington from fields such as biological anthropology, psychology and neuroscience.

After Hurricane Maria hit, the staff of the Caribbean Primate Research Center (CPRC) went to heroic lengths to reach the island and assess the monkey groups, even surveying damage by helicopter.

“All the different social groups on the island have been accounted for,” said James P. Higham, associate professor of psychology at NYU, “which means that most of these resilient monkeys weathered this powerful storm.”

But the situation is still precarious.

“Vegetation on the island has been decimated, and the infrastructure providing life-sustaining fresh water has been destroyed,” said Noah Snyder-Mackler of the University of Washington.

The scientists said they hope this newly organized relief effort can address these pressing problems. People living in surrounding communities are suffering even more. The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico—which still has limited electricity, fuel, food and water—has had a dire impact on the neighboring community of Punta Santiago and the region of Humacao in general. Many of the staff who live near the site have lost everything, and limited phone service has left others still unaccounted for.

Two GoFundMe sites have been set up for this relief effort:


Cayo Santiago Employees, https://www.gofundme.com/helpcayo

Ms. Hamilton is the author of God vs. the Gavel: The Perils of Extreme Religious Liberty, which was nominated for a 2015 Pulitzer Prize; Justice Denied: What America Must Do to Protect Its Children; God vs. the Gavel: Religion and the Rule of Law, which received Foreword Magazine’s Political Science Book of the Year Silver Medal; and numerous scholarly articles.

Ms. Hamilton was recently honored with the prestigious 2017 Louis H. Pollak Award, which is awarded to an outstanding Penn Law alum who has pursued a career of advancing justice through service to others. Ms. Hamilton has also received the 2016 Voice of Gratitude Award from Voice Today, Inc.; the 2015 Religious Liberty Award from the American Humanist Association; the 2014 Freethought Heroine Award; the National Crime Victim Bar Association’s Frank Carrington Champion of Civil Justice Award in 2012; the E. Nathaniel Gates Award for outstanding public advocacy and scholarship in 2008; and the Pennsylvania Woman of the Year Award in 2012, among others. She is also frequently quoted in the national media on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, First Amendment, clergy sex abuse and statute of limitations issues.

“Marci Hamilton is a force of nature on issues of religious freedom. In the context of the Penn Common Ground for Common Good Project, she has proven once again that civil and respectful church-state debates remain possible even among and between leaders who hold strongly opposing views,” said John J. Dilulio, Jr., the Frederic Fox Leadership Professor of Politics, Religion, and Civil Society and Director of Penn’s Fox Leadership Program for undergraduates. “She is also a national champion for abused children, an amazing classroom teacher and a brilliant writer. We’re lucky to have her with us at Penn.”

The Robert A. Fox Leadership Program supports Penn’s commitment to producing future leaders, by equipping students with hands-on leadership experience and connects them with successful leaders—including Penn Law Alumni and senior University faculty and administrators—for discussion and mentorship.

INSIDE

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5 Models of Excellence Nominations; DRP Pilot and Feasibility Grants; Correction; Faces of Courage: Ten Years of Building Sanctuary One Step Ahead; Secrecy
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7 Research Roundup
Nominations: University-Wide Teaching Awards: December 1

Criteria and Guidelines

1. The Lindback and Provost’s Awards are given in recognition of distinguished teaching. “Distinguished teaching” is teaching that is intellectually demanding, unusually coherent and permanent in its effect. The distinguished teacher has the capability of changing the way in which students view the subject they are studying. The distinguished teacher provides the basis for students to look with critical and informed perception at the fundamentals of a discipline, and s/he relates that discipline to other disciplines and to the worldview of the student. The distinguished teacher is accessible to students and open to new ideas, but also expresses his/her own views with articulate and informed understanding of an academic field. The distinguished teacher is fair, free from prejudice and single-minded in the pursuit of truth.

2. Skillful direction of dissertation students, effective supervision of student researchers, ability to organize a large course of many sections, skill in leading seminars, special talent with large classes, ability to handle discussions or structure lectures—these are all attributes of distinguished teaching, although it is unlikely that anyone will excel in all of them. At the same time, distinguished teaching means different things in different fields. While the distinguished teacher should be versatile, as much at home in large groups as in small, in beginning classes as in advanced, s/he may have skills of special importance in his/her area of specialization. The primary criteria for the Provost’s Award for Distinguished PhD Teaching and Mentoring are a record of successful doctoral student mentoring and placement, success in collaborating on doctoral committees and graduate groups, and distinguished research. The criteria for the Lindback Award also demand excellence in student relations and in the progress of the student through the degree programs.

3. Since distinguished teaching is recognized and recorded in different ways, evaluation must also take several forms. It is not enough to look solely at letters of recommendation from students or to consider “objective” evaluations of particular classes in tabulated form. A faculty member’s influence extends beyond the classroom and individual classes. Nor is it enough to look only at a candidate’s most recent semester or opinions expressed immediately after a course is over; the influence of the best teachers lasts, while that of others may be great at first but lessen over time. It is not enough merely to gauge student adulation, for its basis is superficial; but neither should such feelings be discounted as unworthy of investigation. Rather, all of these factors and more should enter into the identification and assessment of distinguished teaching.

4. The Lindback and Provost’s Awards have a symbolic importance that transcends the recognition of individual merit. They should be used to advance effective teaching by serving as reminders to the University community of the expectations for the quality of its mission.

5. Distinguished teaching occurs in all parts of the University. Therefore, faculty members from all schools are eligible for consideration. An excellent teacher who does not receive an award for distinguished teaching might be the best teacher in the University for the year; the criteria for the award do not exhaust the standards of excellence.

6. The Lindback and Provost’s Awards may recognize faculty members with many years of distinguished service or many years of service in a single field. The criteria for the award do not exhaust the standards of excellence. The criteria for the award do not exhaust the standards of excellence.
We are pleased to announce the formation of an ad hoc Consultative Committee to advise us on the selection of the next Dean of the Annenberg School for Communication. The members of the Consultative Committees are listed below. The Committee welcomes—and will keep in the strictest confidence—nominations and input from all members of the University community. For fullest consideration, communications should be received, preferably in electronic form, no later than November 15, 2017, and may be sent to Adam P. Michaels at adampm@upenn.edu.

—Amy Gutmann, President
—Wendell Pritchett, Provost

Consultative Committee for the Selection of a Dean of the Annenberg School for Communication

Chair
Theodore Ruger, Dean and Bernard G. Segal Professor of Law (Law)

Faculty
Joseph Cappella, Gerald R. Miller Professor of Communication (ASC)
Emily Falk, Associate Professor of Communication, Psychology, and Marketing (ASC)
Daniel Gillon, Presidential Associate Professor of Political Science (SAS)
Robert Hornik, Wilbur Schramm Professor of Communication and Health Policy (ASC)
Victor Pickard, Associate Professor of Communication (ASC)
Susan Yoon, Associate Professor, Teaching, Learning, and Leadership Division (GSE)
Barbie Zelizer, Raymond Williams Professor of Communication (ASC)

Students
Kartisa Hand, Undergraduate Student
Aaron Shaprio, PhD Student
Alumni
Shavonika Hull, G’07, Gr’10
Nikhil Sinha, ASC’89, Gr’91
Ex Officio
Joann Mitchell, Senior Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer

Staff to the Committee
Adam P. Michaels, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President

Consultants to the Committee
Vivian Brocard, Isaacson, Miller
Greg Esposito, Isaacson, Miller
Sarah Hadjian, Isaacson, Miller

We are pleased to announce the formation of an ad hoc Consultative Committee to advise us on the selection of the next Dean of the School of Dental Medicine. The members of the Consultative Committees are listed below. The Committee welcomes—and will keep in the strictest confidence—nominations and input from all members of the University community. For fullest consideration, communications should be received, preferably in electronic form, no later than November 15, 2017, and may be sent to Adam P. Michaels at adampm@upenn.edu.

—Amy Gutmann, President
—Wendell Pritchett, Provost

Consultative Committee for the Selection of a Dean of the School of Dental Medicine

Chair
Antonia Villarruel, Professor and Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing (Nursing)

Faculty
Hydar Ali, Professor of Pathology and Director of Faculty Advancement and Diversity (SDM)
 Faizan Alawi, Associate Professor of Pathology; Director, Penn Oral Pathology Services; and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (SDM)
Kathleen Boesze-Battaglia, Professor of Biochemistry (SDM)
Eve Higginbotham, Professor of Ophthalmology and Vice Dean for Inclusion and Diversity (PSOM)
Kelly Jordan-Sciatto, Chair and Professor of Pathology (SDM) and Associate Dean for Education and Director of Biomedical Graduate Studies (PSOM)
Bekir Karabucak, Chair and Associate Professor of Endodontics (SDM)
Eric Stooper, Associate Professor of Oral Medicine and Director, Oral Medicine Residency Program (SDM)

Students
Sehe Han, D’18
Bret Lesavoy, D’19
Alumni
William Cheung, D’81, GD’82 (Chair of Penn Dental Medicine Board of Overseers)
Martin Levin, D’72, GD’74 (Chair of Penn Dental Medicine Dean’s Council)

Ex Officio
Joann Mitchell, Senior Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer

Staff to the Committee
Adam P. Michaels, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President

Consultants to the Committee
Kenneth Kring, Korn Ferry
Warren Ross, Korn Ferry

Memorial for Bayard Storey
A memorial service for Bayard T. Storey will be held on Saturday, October 28. Dr. Storey was professor emeritus of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania. He died on June 4 at the age of 84 (Almanac July 11, 2017). The memorial will be held from noon-3 p.m. at the Rubenstein Auditorium in the Smilow Center for Translational Research. All are welcome.

One Health Award:
Deadline Extended: October 13
The deadline for the One Health Award has been extended to Friday, October 13. The deans of Penn’s health schools announced the Award for Excellence in promoting One Health initiatives and education. For more details, see Almanac September 19, 2017.

Corrections: In the article about the LGBT Center’s 35th Anniversary, in last week’s issue, it should have read, with $5 million in funds from a fundraising campaign, the Center redesigned the interior of a Carriage House to provide two stories of space for the Center. Previously, the Center had been located at 3537 Locust Walk, not 3533 Locust Walk which is now the Sweeten Alumni Center. Almanac regrets the errors.

—Ed.

Lynn Hollen Lees, University Ombuds

The Office of the Ombuds offers a safe space where all members of the Penn community can bring complaints and concerns. We welcome the chance to discuss problems relating to Penn and to explore options for their resolution. During the past year, the University recognized the Ombuds Office as a confidential resource in matters involving sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship violence and stalking. Both the Ombuds and the Associate Ombuds have undergone training in the counseling of victims of sexual violence. We can provide advice and support, as well as discussion about next steps and the availability of other University resources. We will neither identify our visitors nor discuss their concerns with anyone unless we have been given explicit permission to do so. The only exceptions to confidentiality arise when there is a risk of imminent harm to the visitor or to someone else, or if we have a legal obligation to disclose information. We are not agents of the University for purposes of reporting complaints of sexual violence or harassment.

The Ombuds Office does not take sides in disputes. Rather, we are neutral and independent. We aim to de-escalate tension and to settle problems informally. Although the Office does not carry out investigations, we can make inquiries and seek out information as needed, for purposes of illuminating matters of concern. We cannot impose a particular resolution of a problem, but we can and do advocate for fairness and consistency. When we see patterns of problematic actions, we bring these to the attention of appropriate University administrators. The Ombuds Office operates under guidelines conforming to “best practices” as outlined by the International Ombudsman Association. Marcia Martinez-Helfman, the associate ombuds, is a certified mediator. In short, our office is a resource for all members of the Penn community—faculty, staff, graduate and professional students, undergraduates and post-docs—who are having difficulties in any aspect of their work and life on campus.

During the academic year 2016-2017, our office served 154 visitors from all parts of the University. Of that group, 43 percent were staff, 21 percent graduate and professional students, 20 percent faculty, nine percent undergraduates and three percent post-doctoral fellows. These proportions among our visitors have remained approximately the same since 2011. (See charts 1 and 2.) Our visitors are drawn from all 12 schools and all parts of the Penn community.

Alternative resources are also available to members of the Penn community. The Division of Human Resources, the Offices of the Vice Provost for University Life and Faculty, Dean’s offices, and other resource offices step in to help resolve many disagreements. The Ombuds’ Office offers another option for the discussion of concerns and complaints, as well as for conflict management and mediation of disputes, and we encourage those with unanswered questions or need for advice to consult with us.

During this past year, the office has seen significant shifts in the types of issues that have been brought to our office. The proportion of complaints that concern academic matters—denials of tenure, procedural irregularities, disputes over particular decisions, etc.—has decreased from 30 percent to 25 percent, when 2016-2017 is compared with the period 2011-2016. At the same time, grievances relating to individual behavior—disrespectful treatment, bullying, abusive language, or other inappropriate comments and actions—increased from 16 percent to 23 percent during the same period. (See charts 3 and 4.) During the past several years, more and more of our visitors have complained about the way they were treated by other members of the Penn community. When an adverse decision is made or there is a disagreement about a policy, what we hear about is not the substance, but rather the manner in which it was communicated and implemented.

Fears about retaliation have made it difficult for some people to raise concerns directly within a department or a work unit. In a diverse community where there are many individual differences that shape opinions and actions, everyone must remember the value of respectful communication and civility. All members of the University community must be treated with respect, whatever their status or points of view. We continue to work with departments and units that have identified issues or situations that have made it difficult for them to function smoothly. In such cases, we have held group meetings and facilitated discussions about outstanding problems. We can also relay concerns, doing “shuttle diplomacy” among the parties to a dispute.

Questions regarding the rights and responsibilities of those involved in graduate education are regularly brought to our office from different parts of the university. Disagreements over academic policies reveal a lack of transparency in the implementation of those policies, as well as inadequate communication of their substance. What should a student expect from an advisor or a teacher with respect to accessibility, timely commentary on work, or writing recommendations? How should evaluations of performance or decisions about dismissal from a program be handled? Too often, departments do not have detailed guidelines or handbooks that specify policies and promote consistency and clarity. Irregular contacts between faculty and students compound these problems. Post-doctoral fellows also have raised questions about their rights and responsibilities, complaining of their treatment by faculty supervisors. When there is a lack of written procedures, the ability of faculty, students and post-docs to resolve disputes is hampered.

Our office is located in 113 Druing Wing adjoining the Fisher Fine Arts Library in the center of the Penn campus. We can be reached by phone at (215) 898-8261 or at www.upenn.edu/ombuds/ Please consult our website for more information on our office and its activities. We respond to inquiries quickly, and we encourage anyone experiencing difficulties related to their work, academics, or any other aspect of life as a member of the Penn community to set up an appointment. Our office is staffed during regular business hours. The Ombuds Office keeps neither the names of visitors nor written records. Those who wish to speak with us may do so without providing names or other identifying information if they so choose.

Table 1
July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017

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<tr>
<th>Visitors by Issues Raised</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
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<td>21.43%</td>
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<tr>
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Chart 1
2016-2017 Visitors by Status

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<td>Staff</td>
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<td>42%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Undergraduate</td>
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<tr>
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<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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2016-2017 Visitors by Issue

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Chart 2
2011-2016 Visitors by Status

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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Doctorate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate/Professional</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>3%</td>
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2011-2016 Visitors by Issue

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Chart 3
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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2018 Models of Excellence Award Nominations: October 20

Nominating your coworkers for Penn’s Models of Excellence awards is meaningful way to show appreciation to truly outstanding staff members. Nominations for fiscal year 2018 are open now through October 20, 2017.

The online nomination form is available at www.hr.upenn.edu/models

The Models of Excellence award program celebrates the extraordinary achievements of full- and part-time staff members and teams across the University’s schools and centers.

Awards are given in three categories:

Models of Excellence Award—Recognizing staff member accomplishments that reflect initiative, leadership, increased efficiency and a deep commitment to service.

Model Supervisor Award—Honoring supervisors who contribute to Penn’s success.

Pillars of Excellence Award—Celebrating the important work that weekly-paid staff members do to promote Penn’s success.

Your deserving colleagues can’t receive these awards without your nominations. Being nominated for Models of Excellence is an honor in itself. All nominees receive a certificate of appreciation for their service.

Models of Excellence, Pillars of Excellence and Model Supervisor winners each receive $500 and a symbolic award. Nominees selected for honorable mention receive $250 and a symbolic award. Awards are presented at the Models of Excellence ceremony on April 4, 2018 in Irvine Auditorium. The entire Penn community is invited to attend.

Visit the Models of Excellence program website for more information, or contact Human Resources at models@hr.upenn.edu or (215) 898-1012 if you have questions.

—Division of Human Resources

DRC Pilot and Feasibility Grants: December 4

The Diabetes Research Center (DRC) of the University of Pennsylvania is now accepting applications for support to perform pilot and feasibility studies in diabetes and related endocrine and metabolic disorders.

The application deadline is Monday, December 4, 2017 by 5 p.m.

The Pilot and Feasibility program is intended to support new investigators and established investigators new to diabetes research. Established diabetes investigators pursuing high impact/high risk projects or projects that are a significant departure from their usual work are also eligible for support under the DRC P&F program. Applications are welcome from basic, clinical and translational investigators.

Grants will be reviewed by the DRC Pilot and Feasibility Review Committee, as well as internal and external reviewers. Funding level maximum is $50,000.

For detailed information and instructions: see http://www.med.upenn.edu/idom/drc/pilots.html

Investigators who are currently in the first year of support through this P&F Program may reapply for an additional year of funding. Continuation requests need to be carefully justified and will be considered as competing renewals.

For more information please contact Lisa Henry at henryl@pennmedicine.upenn.edu; (215) 898-4365 or Doris Stoffers, director, DRC Pilot and Feasibility Grants Program at stoffers@pennmedicine.upenn.edu; (215) 573-5413.

Faces of Courage: Ten Years of Building Sanctuary, From the Ground Up

In celebration of Latinx Heritage Month at the University of Pennsylvania, La Casa Latina, the University’s Center for Hispanic Excellence, is hosting a reception and panel discussion for the exhibit, Faces of Courage: Ten Years of Building Sanctuary, From the Ground Up on Wednesday, October 11, 5-7 p.m. in the ARCH Building Gallery, on the ground level. The exhibit, which features photographs by Harvey Finkle, runs through October 25; it is free and open to the public. Exhibit hours: Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Harvey Finkle is a documentary still photographer whose interests are social, political, economic and cultural. His career has centered on photographing marginalized and disenfranchised communities and their Movements; these include low income and homeless families, refugees and immigrants, the disabled and the Deaf, as well as other groups working for economic equality, peace, justice, human rights and civil rights. La Casa Latina promotes greater awareness of Latinx issues, culture and identity at Penn. La Casa Latina works closely with the Penn community to offer a supportive environment where all students are welcomed and engaged in programs, events and dialogues that address important issues affecting Latinx/Hispanic locally, nationally and internationally.

New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia is an intersection, multicultural immigrant justice organization working to build community across faith, ethnicity and class in our work to end injustices against immigrants regardless of immigration status, express radical welcome for all and ensure that values of dignity, justice and hospitality are lived out in practice and upheld in policy.

“This makes me proud of all that we have done. I am proud we are able to carry something of us, that people can see you can serve others, to be able to serve others with my heart,” said Teresa Herrera, New Sanctuary Movement leader.

“Seeing Harvey’s photos of the last ten years is an anchor for me. With the brutality of the Trump administration’s weekly attacks on the immigrant communities, Harvey’s photos remind us to breathe, to connect with community, to remember the power of collective action and celebrate the victories we have had. From this grounding, we find the strength and spirit to fight back every day,” said Peter Pedemonti, New Sanctuary Movement executive director.
Penn’s Way 2018 Raffle

Week 1 Winners (Awarded October 3)
ThermoFisher—Amazon gift card (value $50): Ant Quivette Jackson, Nursing National Constitution Center—Four Passes (value $58): Victoria Thompson, HUP Philadelphia Catering Company—Gift certificate for large dessert tray (value $65): Ant Quivette Jackson, Nursing

Internet Safety for Kids: October 13
On October 13, ISC Information Security and Wharton are hosting a must-attend event for anyone interested in understanding the full context and impact of technology on the social, emotional and academic lives of children and teens. Erica Pelavin, a psychologist, educator and the co-founder of Palo Alto-based My Digital TAT2, will give a lecture that is an eye-opening look at the constantly-changing number of applications and platforms currently used by teens. Her organization, My Digital TAT2, emphasizes the need to understand how and why teens use technology, and encourages parents and educators to hold an ongoing dialogue with kids on safe usage. Joining her for a panel discussion after the lecture are three Penn subject matter experts: Amy Bleakley (Arenberg School of Communication, research scientist), Scott Schafer (University Privacy Officer) and Wiam Younes (OIS Training Officer). Due to the overwhelming response to this event last year, it is being presented again. This will take place from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. To register, visit www.isc.upenn.edu/security/aware/ncsam

Public Safety Open House: October 12
Penn’s Division of Public Safety is hosting its annual open house on October 12 from 1-4 p.m. at its headquarters, 4040 Chestnut St.

Meeting the Penn MERT Team and members of Public Safety, try the firearm training simulation machine, learn about the RAD self-defense program and fingerprinting and tour the state-of-the-art PennComm Emergency Communications Center. There will be raffles and giveaways as well as refreshments.

For information visit www.publicsafety.upenn.edu

18th District Report
Below are the Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 13 incidents with 7 arrests (4 domestic assaults, 3 aggravated assaults, 3 assaults, and 3 robberies) were reported between September 25, 2017-October 1, 2017 by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

About the Crime Report: Below are all Crimes Against Persons or Crimes Against Society from the campus report for September 25, 2017-October 1, 2017. Also reported were 7 incidents with 7 arrests (5 other offenses, 1 drunkenness, 1 thefts, 1 fraud, 1 liquor law, 1 DUI, 1 burglary). Full reports are available at: www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v64n08/report.html

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 September 25, 2017-October 1, 2017. 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.

The University of Pennsylvania Police Department
Community Crime Report

Assault on Police/Accident

9/26/17 3:00 PM 4000 Sansom St Assault on Police/Accident

9/26/17 3:18 PM 3400 Civic Center Blvd Unwanted phone call received

9/26/17 6:56 PM 4200 Walnut St Confidential sex offense

9/26/17 9:15 AM 3440 Market St Offender demanded money and cigarettes

The University of Pennsylvania’s journal of record, opinion and news is published Tuesday during the academic year, and as needed during summer and holiday breaks. Its electronic editions (available at https://www.upenn.edu/almanac) include HTML, Acrobat and mobile versions of the print edition, and interims are posted in electronic-only form. Guidelines for readers and contributors are available on request and online.

SPECIAL EVENTS

11 Facets of Courage: Ten Years of Building Sanctuary, From the Ground Up; reception and discussion; 5 p.m.; Gallery, ARCH (Center for Hispanic Excellence).

TALKS

11 Medieval Renaissance Seminar; Daniel Davies, English; 4:30 p.m.; Graduate Lounge, Fisher-Bennett Hall (English).

12 Tissue of the World: On Stoic Sympathy; Brooke Holmes, Princeton; 4:30 p.m.; rm. 402 Claudia Cohen Hall (Classical Studies).

13 After Development: The Latin American Novel Now; Emilio Sauri, UMass; 4:30 p.m.; rm. 543 Williams Hall (Hispanic and Portuguese Studies).

Update October AT PENN

10 Tales from Webster’s; John Shea; 6 p.m.; Penn Bookstore.

No Cost Fall Flu Shots on Campus
Penn faculty and staff can prepare for the flu season with a free influenza vaccine on-campus at one of these convenient clinics.

Flu Vaccine Clinics sponsored by Student Health Service: No appointment or pre-registration is necessary; open to all Penn faculty, staff and students. Bring your valid PennCard to Houston Hall, Bodke Lounge: October 11-12, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; October 13, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

The University of Pennsylvania's values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected class status in the administration of its admissions, financial aid, educational or athletic programs, or other University-administered programs or in its employment practices.

Questions or complaints regarding this policy should be directed to Sam Starks, Executive Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, Office of Affirmative Action, Sansom Place East, 3600 Chestnut Street, Suite 228, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106; or (215) 898-6993 (Voice).
Bone Marrow Protein to Improve Stem Cell Transplants

Researchers at University of Pennsylvania and Technical University of Dresden have identified a bone marrow protein that, when targeted, could improve stem cell transplants for both donors and recipients. They also found they may be able to modulate levels of the protein, called Del-1, to enhance immune cell production in patients with certain blood cancers.

“The because the hematopoietic stem cell niche is so important for the creation of bone marrow and blood cells and because Del-1 is a soluble protein that can reveal whether the process is going the way it should,” said George Hajishengallis, the Thomas W. Evans Centennial Professor in the department of microbiology in Penn’s School of Dental Medicine and a senior author on the work.

Dr. Hajishengallis began studying Del-1 in the bone marrow as it applies to dental medicine. He and Triantafylllos Chavakis, co-senior author on the study and a professor at the Technical University of Dresden, identified Del-1 as a potential drug target for gum disease after finding that it prevents inflammatory cells from moving into the gums. When the scientists discovered that Del-1 was also expressed in bone marrow, they began to investigate further.

Drs. Hajishengallis and Chavakis found that Del-1 was expressed at least three cell types in the bone marrow that support hematopoietic stem cells: endothelial cells, CAR cells and osteoblasts. They then conducted research on mice deficient in Del-1 which showed that the protein promotes proliferation and differentiation of hematopoietic stem cells. They also discovered through bone marrow transplant experiments that Del-1 is required to be present in recipient bone marrow in order for the transplanted stem cells to engraft in the recipient and produce myeloid cells.

“We saw roles for Del-1 in both steady state and emergency conditions,” Dr. Hajishengallis said.

The research could lead to therapeutic interventions thanks to the identification of the protein on hematopoietic stem cells with which Del-1 interacts, the β3 integrin. The findings could impact bone marrow and stem cell transplants—for both the donors and the recipients—as well as people undergoing chemotherapy.

“It’s easy to think of practical applications for these findings,” said Dr. Hajishengallis. “Now we need to find out whether it works in practice, so our studies continue.”

Student Debt’s Disproportionate Negative Effects on Female Lawyers

A new study from the University of Pennsylvania and Ryerson University shows that student debt from law school, combined with recently stagnant median first-year salaries, can negatively influence career choices and partner prospects for new female lawyers.

According to economists Holger Sieg of Penn and Yu Wang of Ryerson, student loans for lawyers have an asymmetric effect: women with more student debt are more likely to stay in private-sector jobs, to postpone marriage, to marry partners who have lower earnings and to delay having children than male lawyers who have similar student debt loads.

Dr. Sieg is the J. M. Cohen Term Chair in Economics at Penn as well as a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and at Penn’s Population Studies Center and Dr. Wang, Gr’16, is assistant professor of economics at Ryerson.

“Most male graduates from law school are fairly career-oriented, and whether they have debt to pay back is not going to change whether they will pursue a career in the private sector,” Dr. Sieg said. “For women, we found it’s a lot more problematic.”

The researchers studied two datasets—one from the American Bar Association and the National Association for Law Placement and one from the US Department of Education—to create a long-term picture of the choices made by 1,300 female lawyers, including which law school they attend and what job they take post-graduation.

Upon noticing the gender disparities, the researchers built a model to work toward applying potential solutions such as a loan-forgiveness program or weighted subsidies dependent on base salary.

“You are accomplishing similar objectives, but you make working in the public sector more attractive,” Dr. Sieg said. “In the one case, you forgive debt; in the other case, you pay a higher salary, and with a higher salary, you can pay back debt, so it works in similar ways but there are some differential effects.”

They found identifying complete loan forgiveness in a decade does not change the gender disparity; instead, successful programs provide annual incentives that vary from paying a higher salary to dropping a percentage of the debt. This lowers the entry barrier to working in the public sector.

The research could be applied to other sectors with public policy components, such as business or medicine.

Shedding Light on Optical Properties of Stable Glass

Although glass has been around for at least 5,000 years, many of its properties are not well understood. But researchers at the University of Pennsylvania are learning more about the properties of stable glasses. Stable glasses are closely packed forms of glasses produced by depositing molecules from a vapor phase onto a cold substrate.

“There have been a lot of questions about whether this is analogous of the same amorphous state of naturally aged glasses such as amber, which are formed by just cooling a liquid and aging it for many, many years.” said Zahra Fakhraai, associate professor of chemistry in Penn’s School of Arts & Sciences.

Dr. Fakhraai and PhD student Tianyi Liu studied a new, spherical molecule designed and synthesized by chemistry professor Patrick Walsh. Because this special molecule cannot align itself with any substrate as it is deposited, the researchers expected the glasses to be amorphous and isotropic, with constituent particles arranged in no overarching pattern or order.

Their results surprised them: The researchers found that these stable glasses are birefringent, so that the index of refraction of light is different in directions parallel and normal to the substrate. The light shined in one direction on birefringent glass will break differently than light shined from a different direction, which changes the orientation of the material and can produce optical effects. Birefringence patterns are not common in material made of round molecules.

The researchers were able to confirm that the material had no orientation by conducting photoluminescence experiments with physics professor James Kikkawa and PhD student Annemare Eaxrhos, and by calculating the index of refraction of the crystal and determining the degree of birefringence in the amorphous state with help from chemistry professor Joseph Subotnik and PhD student Ethan Algure.

While the glass measured at zero order, it displayed birefringence analogous to having up to 30 percent of the molecules perfectly ordered. The researchers found this was due to the layer-by-layer nature of the deposition, which allowed the molecules to pack more tightly in the direction normal to the surface during the deposition. They found they could control this by changing the substrate temperature, which controls the degree of densification: The denser the glass, the higher the value of birefringence.

The research sheds light on the process of accessing lower state phases and also offers a way to engineer optical properties without having to induce an order or structure in the material.

“I think understanding how shape, orientation and packing could affect the mechanics of these coatings is one of the places where interesting applications could emerge,” Dr. Fakhraai said.

Now that the researchers have successfully showed that there can be amorphous phases that are high density, Dr. Fakhraai hopes to apply this understanding to find out what would happen in highly aged glass.

Scientists tell us that we can actually make glasses that have packings that would be relevant to very well-aged glass,” she said. “This opens up the possibility of better fundamentally understanding the process by which we can make stable glasses.”

Discovering New Law of Perception

Penn researchers have discovered a new law of perception that helps to explain why people see the world the way they do. The new law links the discrimination threshold (measured by how sensitive people are to changes occurring in front of them) to the perceptual bias (the amount perception deviates from reality). The link was confirmed by Alan Stocker, professor of psychology in the School of Arts & Sciences and electrical and systems engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, and his former graduate student Xue-Xin Wei, Gr’15, now a postdoc at Columbia University.

The researchers knew from a theory they developed several years ago that humans go through a two-step process to perceive a stimulus. Step one is the encoding, in which the brain filters the information from the senses, filters the information and sends it to the brain. Step two is decoding, or “taking that signal and combining it with what we know about the world, intelligence, prior beliefs that get used to interpret this encoded signal in a way that makes sense,” according to Dr. Stocker. Research has established that the encoding step shapes the decoding step, but Drs. Stocker and Wei theorized the decoding might also influence the encoding. The next step was connecting the discrimination threshold and perceptual bias.

While no practical applications have been developed for the new perception law yet, it helps researchers develop a better idea of the importance of people’s previous experiences in shaping their perceptions.