

CURRENT

NEWS TO USE FOR YOUR LIFE AT PENN

FOR FACULTY AND STAFF/JUNE 20, 2002

- 2 FROM TRASH TO TREASURE FOR CHARITIES
- 2 POWER TOOLS FOR YOUR CAREER AT PENN

- 4 SPARK PLUG FIRES UP TO SERVE PENN
- 4 GARDENERS DIG 40 ACRES, NO MULE

NEWS BRIEFS

National Medal of Science

President George W. Bush has named Professor of Physics **Raymond Davis Jr.** one of 15 recipients of the 2001 National Medal of Science, marking the second year in a row Penn scientists have received the award. Davis was the first scientist to detect neutrinos, ghostlike particles produced in solar nuclear reactions that, until recently, have been thought to have zero mass. His work, which found only one-third the number of predicted neutrinos, galvanized astrophysicists into a mad search for the missing particles. Later experiments, which involved Penn collaboration, solved the neutrino mystery (Current, March 28). The National Medal of Science is the nation's highest award for lifetime achievement in scientific research.

City Year here

Want to know more about the hordes of clean-cut kids in matching khakis and t-shirts standing in circles around campus? They were some of City Year's 17-to-24-year-old corps members who descended upon Penn the first week of June to celebrate a year of national service. The AmeriCorps program, which includes nearly 1,000 full-time volunteers, ended its annual convention with a day of service. Members built playgrounds, planted trees and spruced up schools in West Philadelphia.

ID savers

With identity theft on the rise, Penn has set up measures to help the community safeguard their personal information. A hotline has been established at 888-BEN-TIPS to answer questions regarding privacy. Also, those who believe they have been victimized should contact Detective Jane Curry of the Division of Public Safety at 215-898-4485 and file a police report, Chief Privacy Officer Lauren Steinfeld ad-

■ Continued on page 2

**Ask Benny:
May I take a
class during
work hours?**

— Page 2



Daniel R. Burke

Benefit of a graduate education

The proud pop is Manager of Transportation Ron Ward, who with help from Penn's staff benefits, was able to pay for daughter Patricia's (G'02) graduate program in video production and communication at the College of General Studies and the School of Arts and Sciences. "I moved down from New York to take advantage of it," Patricia said. For more on commencement, see "Campus Buzz," page 4.

HEALTH CARE/Why are so many uninsured? It's not for lack of money.

No good reason for health inequities

BY TRINH TRAN

Ethical failure was blamed for the nation's uninsured at a conference titled "Toward Health Equity."

Sponsored by the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, the May 10 forum gathered Penn health experts as well as political leaders.

Health care expert Mark Pauly said money, or the lack thereof, was not the real problem because the actual cost of covering the uninsured is "peanuts."

"The real problem is political will, not economics," said Pauly, Bendheim Professor at the Wharton School and chair of Health Care Systems.

Bioethicist Arthur Caplan said statistics citing the number of uninsured have not motivated action.

"We've depended upon numbers to motivate a solution to the problem," said Caplan, director of

the Center for Bioethics. "Numbers do not compel any moral action. They're just numbers."

Caplan expressed exasperation regarding the struggle to cover America's children.

"Why anybody would worry about 12-year-olds abusing and overusing the health care system, I don't know. Most of them are not

"The real problem is political will, not economics."

spending their weekends trying to figure out how to see their doctors," he said.

Loretta Sweet-Jemmott, associate professor in the School of Nursing and director of the Center for Urban Health Research, said she

was concerned about the quality of health care for adolescents who engage in risky sexual behavior. She said health care could be improved through outreach programs that are culturally sensitive.

But Pennsylvania State Senator Connie Williams said even when programs are in place many children still go without care. "We cannot get families to admit that they don't have insurance for children," she said.

Caplan said such programs, which entail screenings and sign-ups, are not obstacle-free.

Universal coverage could be achieved with enough public backing, said Williams. She pointed to an example where firefighters, America's newly celebrated heroes, were able to get coverage for hepatitis under workers' compensation. "So much of what happens is public pressure and grassroots support," she said.

HONORS

Three elected

BY TRINH TRAN

Three Penn scholars have been elected to the nation's most prestigious academies.

Robert Boruch, Trustee Professor of Education and professor of statistics, has been named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Penn scientists **Tom Lubensky** and **Alan MacDiarmid** have been elected members of the National Academy of Sciences.

Founder and chair of the Campbell Collaboration, an international research organization, Boruch studies the effectiveness of innovations in education, social welfare and police programs.

Lubensky, co-author of "Principles of Condensed Matter Physics," studies the theories of soft condensed matters, liquid-like materials that are used in the displays of watches and computers.

Winner of the 2000 Nobel Prize in chemistry, MacDiarmid rocked the world of conducting polymers with his research on polyaniline. MacDiarmid's and Lubensky's election to the NAS place them on a list of more than 170 Nobel Prize winners.

NEWS BRIEFS/From page 1

vised in an e-mail to the University community. More information at www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

SimWar

Future computer software may help put American troops one step ahead of their enemies. Barry G. Silverman, a professor of systems engineering and computer and information science, is working on a training tool that could pit troops against virtual mobs and terrorists. Unlike existing military games that focus on eye-catching graphics, Silverman's work aims at more realistic simulations. He uses computer-generated figures who react as would real humans to fatigue, stress, personal values and cultural influences. Silverman also plans to include a diverse set of provocateurs, from mobs of rock-throwing women and children to armies of angry teens.

Outstanding cops

Hats off to Penn's guardians of safety, who were recognized by the Division of Public Safety at a May 2 commendations ceremony. Merit awards for service above and beyond the call of duty were given to Police Officers **Darryl Blair, Gary Cooper, Denis Daly, Robert DeLaurentiis, Christopher Denshuick, Casandra DeVaughn Park, Domenic DiLorenzo, Hector Huddleston, Philip Lydon Jr., Andrew Malloy, William McCullough, Tony Ramos, Michael Sylvester, Henry Vega** and **Gary Williams**, Sgt. **Joseph Risoli**, and Tactical Supervisor **Joseph Hasara**.

Kid citizens

Today's youth are making their voices heard thanks to a \$100,000 grant to Penn. The award is part of a \$3.4 million Pew Charitable Trusts grant. Harris Sokoloff, director of Penn's Center for School Study Councils, said the project will help students identify the concerns they have about their communities, whether it be proper building maintenance, drug use or racism. The center and three other Penn organizations—the Pennsylvania Service Learning Alliance, the Greater Philadelphia High School Partnership and the Center for Community Partnerships—will provide training and orientation to teachers and students.

THE PENN CURRENT

GOLD MEDAL WINNER,
Periodical Staff Writing and
Internal Audience Periodicals

CASE 2000 CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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the University.

Historic John Morgan lights shine again

Dear Benny,
I'd like to know what happened to the lighting fixtures that used to hang in the first-floor corridor of the John Morgan Building.

—Curious

Dear Curious,

They're right back where they used to be—along with new fixtures created to match the antique originals.

The original fixtures were removed for restoration and rewiring in the wake of the September 2000 steam-pipe leak that seriously damaged the building's hallways and artwork. Eric Weckel, executive director of space planning and operations for the School

Ask Benny



BO BROWN

of Medicine, said that the John Morgan restoration project staff worked closely with Lecturer in Urban Studies and Historic Preservation George Thomas to return the building's corridors to their original 1903 appearance. That task included ordering eight new replicas of the original light fixtures to replace ones that had

been lost over the years, as well as historically accurate shades for all of the fixtures. The new and restored lights were installed in early May.

Dear Benny,

I would like to take language courses at Penn, and I'm eligible for the tuition benefit. But the courses only meet during the day. Can I take them anyway?

—Speaking in Tongues

Dear Tongue-Tied,

If your supervisor permits it, you can. Human Resources' Tuition Assistance Policy, on the Web at www.hr.upenn.edu/policy/policies/406.asp, states that employees

are still expected to fulfill all their work obligations while taking courses, but may take courses that meet during working hours if they have received prior approval of their immediate supervisor and made arrangements to make up for lost time or undone work. Supervisors can deny such requests if they feel the employee's presence is essential during working hours. In addition, please note that English as a second language is not covered.

Got a question for Benny? Send it to the *Current*, 200 Sansom Place East, 3600 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106 or e-mail it to current@pobox.upenn.edu.

FEATURE

Charitable staff turn trash to treasure

BY SANDY SMITH

Every September, a tide of some 10,000 students rolls into University City to begin another year at Penn.

And when the tide rolls out the following May, it leaves behind a mountain of material goods that have to be disposed of somehow.

Of course, one person's trash is another's treasure, and the stuff Penn students leave behind underscores the truth of the old saying.

"It looked like a thrift shop in the lobby," said Mike Latimore, front desk manager at Harrison College House, of the food, clothing and household goods departing students donated to charities.

In their rush to pack up and leave this year, students nonetheless found the time to give truckloads of clothing and small household items—including clothes never worn and items in like-new condition—to a charity drive organized by Harrison College House staff. A moving-van-sized truck from the St. Vincent de Paul Society made daily trips for three days to haul everything away.

But not everything students leave behind is so easy to cart off. "A lot of things get left behind because [students] fly home," said Stephani Robinson, the front desk manager at DuBois College House. "They can't afford to carry big things with them."

So they end up leaving them in hallways or inside their rooms—"old phones, ironing boards, radios, even undefrosted refrigerators with food inside," Robinson said. Housekeeping staff interviewed for this story reported finding, on their final sweep of evacuated dorm rooms, computers and big-screen televisions among the items left behind.

Usually, students leave only a few things behind in rooms otherwise cleared of the essentials, but that's not always the case.

"In the early 1990s, I once had an international student from South America leave behind an entire room full of things," said Jane



"Still Life with Teddy Bear" (2002), our photographer's take on a representative sample of items left behind by graduating seniors.

"It looked like a thrift shop in the lobby."

Rogers, house dean in Goldberg College House. "Our housekeeping staff confirmed that the student had indeed checked out, so I called the student and said, You left all your stuff."

"He said, It was too much trouble to move it. We gave all the clothing to charity, and other students

and staff claimed the other items."

Some of the things students leave behind, such as items found in hallways, end up being thrown away. Unless, that is, someone can find a suitable new home for them.

Take that food left in refrigerators, for instance. "If their sell-by dates haven't passed," Robinson said, "we donate [unopened items] to food banks."

Not everything makes it to charity, however.

"I've seen sofas, lamps, all kinds of things" left in hallways by students rushing to beat the deadline for moving out, said Alton Strange, house dean of Spruce College House. "If you need something for your home, you can usually find it in the halls."

Power tools for your career at Penn

These Learning and Education courses from Human Resources will help boost your career. For information, call 215-898-3400 or visit www.hr.upenn.edu/learning. Registration required.

THE PENN PERSPECTIVE

Understand the business of run-

ning an institution as large and diverse as Penn. Come away with an appreciation for the role you play in this process

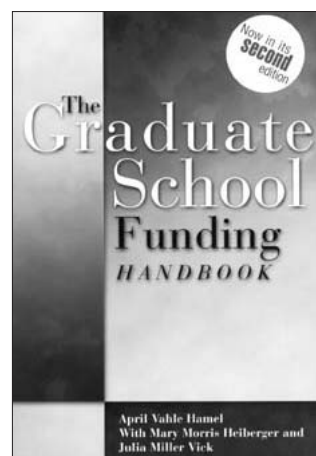
■ June 25 and 26, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall, \$50, continental breakfast and lunch included

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The revised program will help you assess your career, skills and goals all within a new two-day format.

■ July 18 and 19, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 3624 Market St., Suite 1B South, \$50

BOOKQUICK / New from the University Press



"The Graduate School Funding Handbook, Second Edition" April Vahle Hamel, with Mary Morris Heiberger and Julia Miller Vick
176 pages, 3 illustrations, \$17.95 paper

"The Graduate School Funding Handbook, Second Edition" illuminates the competitive world of graduate school funding. Covering programs in the arts and sciences and engineering, it is an invaluable resource for undergraduate and graduate students who seek information about applying to graduate school in the United States or abroad, at the master's, doctoral and postdoctoral levels.

Written by April Vahle Hamel, an associate dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis, in cooperation with Mary Morris Heiberger, associate director of Career Services at Penn, and Julia Miller Vick, graduate career counselor at Career Services, this new edition contains much updated material and the latest grant information. The authors include detailed descriptions of the types of funding offered graduate students, ranging from tuition scholarships to assistantships, work-study opportunities, and university loan programs. In addition, the handbook thoroughly covers the availability of nationally prominent grants and fellowships through the federal government and private organizations.

Spanning fellowships and grants for individual training, study abroad, research, dissertations and postdoctoral work, the book includes useful addresses, deadlines, number of available awards, number of applicants, purpose of grants and restrictions, duration of awards, applicant eligibility, and application requirements. The information is comprehensive, detailed and based on data from funding agencies through interviews, review of application packets, web site information and the authors' many years of experience in the field.

—University of Pennsylvania Press

What's On

PERFORMANCES/LECTURES/EVENTS

JUNE 20-JULY 17

Thursday, June 20

FILM

■ **MOONLIT MOVIES:** See "Editor's Pick" below. Tonight: a classic cowboy B-movie double feature: "Saga of Death Valley" (1939), featuring Roy Rogers, and "Call of the Prairie" (1936), with William Boyd as Hopalong Cassidy. Rain date: Sunday, June 23.

Sunday, June 23

MUSIC

■ **PHILADELPHIA YOUTH ORCHESTRA:** The 85-member ensemble performs works by noted European and Chinese composers. 3 p.m. at the Philadelphia Cathedral, 38th and Ludlow streets. Tickets \$15, students/seniors \$10. Tickets/info for all Cathedral concerts: 215-386-0234, ext. 103.

Wednesday, June 26

TALKS

■ **QUICK HITS:** The 60-Second Lectures are back for a third summer of compressed erudition. Today: *Philadelphia Inquirer* columnist Jane Eisner. Noon sharp at 37th St. and Locust Walk; musical entertainment from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. precedes and follows lecture.

Thursday, June 27

FILM

■ **JAZZ ON FILM:** A two-day Film @ International House program focuses on films featuring jazz innovators from the '50s to the '70s. Tonight: "The Connection," Shirley Clarke's 1961 pseudocumentary on beat culture, and "Thelonius

Monk: Straight, No Chaser," Charlotte Zwerin's 1989 documentary about the influential pianist and composer. 7 p.m. at International House, 3701 Chestnut St. Admission \$5. Info: www.ihousephilly.org or 215-895-6542. See also Friday, June 28.

■ **MOONLIT MOVIES:** See "Editor's Pick" below. Tonight: "Blind Alley" (1939), an early psychological thriller starring Ralph Bellamy and Chester Morris. Rain date: Sunday, June 30.

Friday, June 28

FILM

■ **JAZZ ON FILM:** See Thursday, June 27. Tonight: Four short films showing jazz innovators at work, including Ornette Coleman, Charles Mingus and the Sun Ra Arkestra, featuring private footage of the Arkestra at work and play.

Saturday, June 29

MUSIC

■ **SPIRIT-FILLED:** The Royal Priesthood keeps the traditions of the Negro spiritual, gospel music and church hymns alive. 7 p.m. at the Philadelphia Cathedral. Tickets \$15, students/seniors \$10.

Wednesday, July 10

FOR THE KIDS

■ **MAGICAL WORLDS:** The "Summer Magic" series introduces 6- to 12-year-olds to world cultures through the performing arts. Today: the Afro-One Dance, Drum and Drama Theatre. 10 and 11 a.m. in Harrison Auditorium, University of Pennsylvania Museum, 3260 South St. Free with Museum



Garden-variety patriotism

Master garden railway builder Paul Busse has added 14 Philadelphia-area Revolutionary War sites, including Germantown's Desher-Morris House and the soldiers' quarters at Valley Forge, shown here, to his Garden Railway exhibit at the Morris Arboretum this year. They're on display at the Arboretum, 100 Northwestern Ave., Chestnut Hill, through Oct. 14 during regular hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, Thursdays to 8 p.m., weekends to 5 p.m.). Admission \$8, students/seniors \$6, children 3 to 12 \$3, members/PennCard holders/children under 3 free.

admission (\$5, students/seniors \$2.50, Museum members/children under 6/PennCard holders free). Series continues Wednesdays through Aug. 15, plus Tuesday, Aug. 6.

TALKS

■ **QUICK HITS:** See Wednesday, June 26. Today: Phil Nichols, associate professor of legal studies.

VIDEO

■ **OPEN VIDEO CALL:** See what local videographers are up to at the Institute of Contemporary Art's first-come, first-served video showcase. Sign-up at 8:30 p.m., screenings at 9 p.m. at the ICA, 118 S. 36th St. Free.

Thursday, July 11

FILM

■ **MOONLIT MOVIES:** See "Editor's Pick" below. Tonight: "Seven Chances" (1925), one of Buster Keaton's funniest features, with live accompaniment by silent film musician Don Kinnier. Rain date: Sunday, July 14.

Wednesday, July 17

FOR THE KIDS

■ **MAGICAL WORLDS:** See Wednesday, July 10. Today: Egyptian dance.

TALKS

■ **QUICK HITS:** See Wednesday, June 26. Today: Kathryn Kolbert, senior research fellow at the Annenberg Public Policy Center.

Tell us what's on!

If you have an event that may be of interest to the University of Pennsylvania community, we want to hear about it. Send your announcements to:

What's On
The Penn Current
200 Sansom Place East
3600 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106
or e-mail them to
current@pobox.upenn.edu

Deadline is two weeks prior to issue date.

EDITOR'S PICK

The stars come out at night

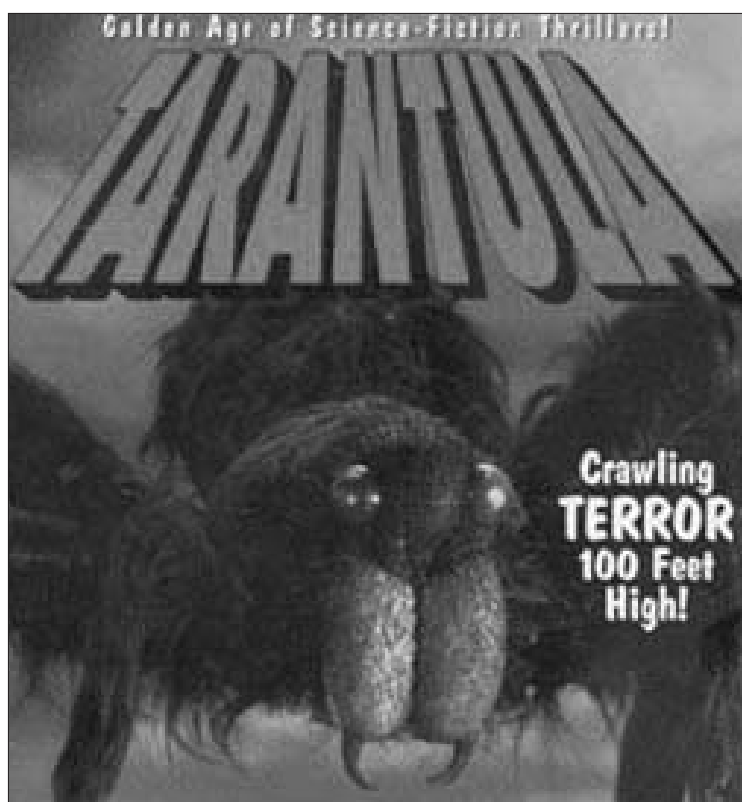
Wanna see some great old movies? You could

- nuke a bag of popcorn and watch American Movie Classics on TV, or
- bring a blanket or lawn chair and your favorite snacks out to the 40th Street field and see them on the big screen under the stars.

Which sounds more fun to you? We thought so.

The Moonlit Movie Series, which runs through Aug. 8, features classics from the golden age of movies, shown the way they were meant to be shown, complete with short subjects—an episode each week of the 1939 serial "Dick Tracy's G-Men." —S.S.

■ **MOONLIT MOVIES:** 9 p.m. Thursdays through Aug. 8 on the field behind the Free Library branch, 40th and Walnut streets. See day-by-day listings for film titles. In case of rain, films will be screened the following Sunday evening. Info: www.upenn.edu/summer.



While "Tarantula" (1955) has come and gone, there are plenty of thrills and chills to come in this summer's Moonlit Movie Series.

Catch these each week

In addition to the weekly talks and films listed above, there are other events taking place each week this summer, and most of them are free. Outdoor events are weather permitting:

■ **36TH STREET JAZZ:** The Arpeggio Jazz and Music Ensemble gives free outdoor concerts on the 36th Street Plaza, between Sansom and Walnut streets. 5 to 7 p.m. Thursdays through Aug. 29 (no concert July 4).

■ **STARGAZING:** Come view the heavens at the free open nights at the David Rittenhouse Lab's

rooftop observatory. 9 p.m. Thursdays and Mondays through the end of August on the roof of DRL, 33rd and Walnut streets. Info: www.physics.upenn.edu/~observer or 215-898-5995.

■ **MUSIC SPACE 1026:** Some of the artists' collective's faves will drop by the Institute of Contemporary Art to play. 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays through July 10 at the ICA, 118 S. 36th St. Free with gallery admission (\$3, students/seniors/artists \$2, ICA members/children 12 and under/PennCard holders free). Info: www.icaphila.org or 215-898-7108.

CAMPUS BUZZ

BY SANDY SMITH

A (relatively) quiet celebration: Although early-morning storms caused the cancellation of the academic procession down Locust Walk for the second year in a row, not a drop of rain dampened Commencement itself. The speaker, PBS "NewsHour" host **Jim Lehrer**, harbored no illusions about the importance of his speech: "I cannot remember what any of the speakers said at my graduation ceremonies," he told the Franklin Field crowd. "In fact, I can't even remember what they looked like." His speech combined observations on journalism post-Sept. 11 (reports of its demise are greatly exaggerated, according to Lehrer) with stock advice for the graduates (to sum up: Take risks!). But the real crowd-pleasing part was a verbatim recital of the Trailways bus announcements he made as a youth in Texas. President **Judith Rodin** provided the event's main dose of *gravitas* with her argument that foreign students wishing to study in the United States should not be among the casualties of Sept. 11.

Penn's \$407k plan works, thanks to you: The annual Penn's Way workplace charitable campaign raised more than \$407,000 for service organizations throughout the Philadelphia region this year, surpassing the drive's \$400,000 goal. Nearly 1,700 University employees contributed to this year's drive, an impressive figure in light of the impact of the Sept. 11 tragedy on charitable giving across the nation. Noteworthy for their participation rates were Public Safety, with 100 percent of the staff contributing, and Human Resources, with 98 percent participation.

Brownlee drops anchor: For taking the helm of the College House project and successfully setting it afloat, History of Art Professor **David Brownlee** received a warm "Bon Voyage" sendoff from his fellow College House staff May 8. In addition to a bunch of nautical-themed gifts, including a "gargoyle" by sculptor Zenos Frudakis, Brownlee received a more permanent thank-you from President **Judith Rodin**, who announced that a tribute to his stewardship of the College Houses would be inscribed on the new seating wall in the refurbished Lower Quad.

Lights out at 90: When the temperature goes up, the lights go out. To reduce energy consumption, save money and ease the strain on the power grid, the University is asking that you turn off all lights during peak usage periods on days when the forecast high is 90 degrees or higher. Watch your e-mail for advisories.

Penn in ink: If you get the feeling those low inflation numbers don't reflect your own situation, you may be right. *Business Week* reported June 3 that the official 1.6 percent inflation rate for last year hid significant differences based on city size. In the largest metropolitan areas, the inflation rate last year was 2.1 percent, while in small cities, it was a mere 0.7 percent. Professor of Real Estate and Finance **Susan Wachter** attributed the difference to housing, telling the magazine, "Housing prices have increased in cities faster than inflation."

What's the buzz? Tell us what's happening! Give us a call at 215-898-1423, send e-mail to current@pobox.upenn.edu or drop a line to the *Current* at 200 Sansom East/6106.

STAFF Q&A/Becoming a mom at an early age lit a fire under Afi Roberson. The whole campus has benefited.

"I think I have a lot to offer the community and I love Penn."

BY SANDY SMITH

There's a wisecrack that circulates on many college campuses that goes something like this: The junior faculty are allowed to touch the robe of God. The senior faculty get to talk to God. The dean sits at the right hand of God. And the secretary is God.

"Sounds good to me," Afi Roberson (G'95) said of the joke.

In fact, Roberson demurs at being called God—or a secretary, for that matter, for her role at the African-American Resource Center (AARC) involves much more than the clerical work associated with the term. But the people who work with her at the AARC and the faculty and staff who have participated in the activities she has organized would probably consider themselves blessed to have her around.

One reason why is because she is not content just to perform the tasks listed in the official job description. In her work as in her life, she has taken the initiative to push for more—more responsibility, more education, more service.

And in the course of our interview, she made it clear that she's still looking for more.

Q. Had you been looking for this sort of work when you took the AARC position?

A. Yes. I was working at Antioch University, and I graduated from there in '89 [when the school had a campus in Philadelphia]. I was looking for [work at] a higher institution, so I came to Penn.

Q. Is this job a continuation of what you were doing there?

A. No, it's different because I don't have the student interaction as much. [Here,] I'm working mainly with staff, budgets—a lot of program planning, research, and I do training.

...This job is totally different from my last job because I never had the opportunity to do any training, or really do some re-

AFI ROBERSON

Position:
Staff assistant, African-American Resource Center

Length of service:
12 1/2 years

Other stuff:

She has also coordinated the Martin Luther King and Women of Color celebrations and organized Alliance and Understanding, which promotes black-Jewish harmony on campus.

search, things that are of interest to me.

Q. What kind of training do you do?

A. I've developed in the past several workshops. The one I'm most proud of is a seven-part working parent series that started out as one program, but as I started doing the research on the [subject], it developed into seven programs, so I did it as a series.

This year I'm working on designing and facilitating a time management workshop and a workshop on procrastination for the staff. I'm going to finish it up this summer and probably present it sometime in the fall.

Q. These seem like programs that anyone on campus could benefit from, regardless of their race or ethnicity.

A. Exactly. We don't just turn away individuals because they are [not] African-American. Of course, we are here to enhance the African-American community, but our programs are open to the community at large, so anyone's really free to come and sit in.

Q. How did you get to do this sort of thing?

A. This is something I proposed on my evaluation time, which is when I think people need to re-



Roberson with photographic souvenirs of some of the projects she has worked on

ally start thinking about themselves and something they want to do in the office and how they can go about growing in that office. No one in the office came and said, Okay, this is part of your job description, you can do this. These are things that I proposed for my own growth and development here.

...I came up with a doable program that my director [Jeanne Arnold] was pleased with, and thank God for her that she actually let me expand my horizons. That was not really part of my job starting out. She saw the potential and I expressed an interest, so she said, "Okay, go for it." And I did. And I researched it and conducted a workshop. It was really good. That is what I love. That is what I want my next job to be—some type of training, development, special events. I really love to coordinate those. I would love to do that at Penn. And why someone hasn't just snatched me up and said, Come work for me, I have no idea. I think I have a lot to offer the community and I love Penn.

Q. Speaking of working parents, do you have kids of your own?

A. I have two children of my own. I have a daughter, Fa-

timah Rasul, that's 31, and I have a son that's 24, Qawiy Rasul.

I'm 45. I was a teen mother who really was able to survive. ...It was a struggle, but what I found was that if you have faith in Allah, then you can accomplish anything. And I had a great family support system behind me.

[I wanted] my children to have more than "My mom was a teenage..." on that little status line. But also to say, Well, my mother did that, but she also got her higher degree. She went on to college, got her M.S. from an Ivy League university, so at times they don't even talk about the teenage pregnancy. What motivated me was my children, because I know you have to lead by example.

My daughter graduated with her bachelor's from Temple University in 1995. I graduated from Penn with my master's [in organizational dynamics] in '95. And I doubled up classes for two years just so we could graduate together. It was just fabulous that we were actually able to do that. Because we were—tight. My daughter and I are best friends, really.

For information about the AARC and its programs, visit www.upenn.edu/aarc or call 215-898-0104.

AT WORK WITH...

Mel Garcia and Johnny Rodriguez

WHO THEY ARE: Garcia (left) and Rodriguez are two of 11 groundskeepers at Penn.

YEARS AT PENN: Garcia, 6; Rodriguez, 2

WHAT THEY DO: The groundskeepers keep Penn's campus green, planting annual flowers and shrubs in 10 acres of flowerbeds, mowing, seeding and sodding 30 acres of lawn, and pruning hundreds of trees. In addition to routine maintenance such as spring planting in May, shown here, they also handle event-related and specific requests, such as trash and debris cleanup after events or individual plantings.

CONTACT INFO: Facilities Customer Service, 215-898-7208



Tommy Leonardi