

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of University Council
From: Amy Gutmann, President
Date: April 18, 2018
Subject: Report to the University Council

Both on campus and around the world, Penn people are making a tremendous difference. Just one measure is the many achievements of our superb faculty and students. First of all, congratulations to the 2018 President's Engagement Prize (PEP) and President's Innovation Prize (PIP) winners!

Six Penn seniors were named recipients of the President's Engagement Prize: Griffin Amdur, James McPhail, and Andrew Witherspoon for Chicago Furniture Bank; Svanika Balasubramanian and Peter Wang Hjemdahl for rePurpose; and Alaina Hall for Healthy Pequeños (Healthy Little Ones).

This year's President's Innovation Prize was awarded to Rui Jing Jiang, Brandon Kao, and Adarsh Battu for Avisi Technologies (VisiPlate).

The 2018 Prize winners seek to solve problems that transcend geographic, social, and economic boundaries, and the solutions they propose are simple, yet elegant. From our very own Pennovation Center to the streets of Mumbai, Chicago Furniture Bank, rePurpose, Healthy Pequeños, and Avisi Technologies embody and extend Penn's deeply held commitment to improving communities near and far. I congratulate all of this year's Prize recipients, and I wish them the very best as they prepare to launch their projects. I also thank their stupendous faculty mentors, the Prize Selection Committees for their excellent recommendations, and the staff at CURF and the Penn Center for Innovation for helping guide all of this year's PEP and PIP applicants.

Congratulations as well to Penn juniors Stephen Damianos and Anea Moore, both of whom have been awarded 2018 Harry S. Truman Scholarships, and to Penn's 2018 Fulbright Scholars. Results continue to trickle in, but with many Scholars from Penn already announced, this promises to be another remarkable year for the ranks of Penn's "Fulbrighters."

We also celebrate this year's faculty Guggenheim Fellows:

- Charles Bosk, Professor of Sociology in SAS and Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care in the Perelman School, as well as Senior Fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics
- Charles Yang, Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in Cognitive Science in SAS

Last month, we announced with great pride that Mark Wolff will become the next Morton Amsterdam Dean of Dental Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, effective July 1, 2018. Wolff is a celebrated teacher, globally engaged scholar, and deeply experienced clinician. He is currently Professor and Chair of Cariology and Comprehensive Care at the College of Dentistry at New York University and also the College's senior associate dean for development and alumni relations. When we met Mark, he told us that he has always loved his work and believed in dental medicine because dentists help make people smile. We, too, are smiling at the prospect of Mark joining Penn and partnering with the incredible faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of Penn Dental Medicine to bring this storied school to even greater heights.

As Penn approaches the conclusion of another successful academic year, I am grateful to the members of University Council for your dedication and leadership. Thank you.

PROVOST'S STATUS REPORT

University Council - April 2018

We learned, at last month's Council meeting, about the exciting transformations ahead at the [Penn Museum](#), including the imminent opening on April 21 of the [new Middle East Galleries](#) that feature 10,000 years of human history. As we approach the end of the semester, I encourage all of you to take a few minutes to visit one of our great arts institutions on campus. They provide oases of reflection at this stressful time of year – and, above all, offer creative vantage points on key aspects of our mission and life on campus. At the [Arthur Ross Gallery](#) right now, for example, you can experience historical objects that were part of Universal Exhibitions between 1851 and 1915. This show forms part of a curatorial seminar taught by Prof. André Dombrowski, in which students not only learn about this essential area of art history but also participate in creating a show about it for the Penn and Philadelphia communities. The Gallery works closely with our Art History Department on these curatorial seminars, which have in the past presented such topics as Japanese print-making, the history of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and the visual traditions of Haida and Tlingit Native Americans.

The [Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts](#) brings us vibrant performers from every corner of the world, an essential part of our mission of global engagement. The Center just concluded its three-week Cuba Festival, which showcased a dynamic range of artists from contemporary dance to Afro-Latin percussion to pianists Alfredo Rodriguez and Chucho Valdés. At other times of this year at the ACPA, you could experience South African jazz, a Korean music and dance festival, and Eastern European klezmer music played by women composer-performers. Penn students can get rush tickets for \$10, faculty and staff always have a 20% discount, and selected events feature Penn students or faculty in pre- or post-show events. The Center will also host the inaugural public event of our dynamic new [Sachs Program for Arts Innovation](#) – an evening with legendary filmmaker John Waters on April 24 – which will include an announcement of the Program's first grants to members of the Penn community.

This emphasis on innovation through art has long been the focus of our world-renowned [Institute of Contemporary Art](#), a pioneer of forward-looking art and culture since its founding in 1963. Its current exhibit, *Tag: Proposals on Queer Play and the Ways Forward*, exemplifies this mission, exploring how digital and online technologies create new possibilities to define our personal roles and forms of expression. Spanning such areas of contemporary culture as game design, queer identity, and fandom subcultures, the show is the work of major American artist Nayland Blake, who comes to Penn as Katherine and Keith Sachs Guest Curator. ICA is also at the leading edge of Penn's engagement with the city, presenting video work by Philadelphia-area artists throughout the building. It is always free and now also offers an Elixir Coffee Bar in the lobby that is open every day.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the many wonderful events celebrating the end of the year.

Wendell Pritchett, Provost



**Status Report- Penn Professional Staff Assembly
April 11, 2018**

The theme year for the PPSA is Year of Growth

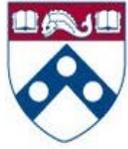
- April Professional Development Event: Sexual Harassment Awareness with speaker, Ralph J. De Lucia, M.S., Associate Director for Penn’s Office of Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity Programs. This event will be held this Thursday, April 12, 2018 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM in the Ben Franklin Room, Houston Hall.
- Rescheduled: PSSA/WPPSA sponsored event, “Developing a Culture of Health,” will be held on August 18, 2018 from 1pm-2:30pm (Penn Museum – Widener Auditorium). This event was originally scheduled as part of the Penn Teach-In and was rescheduled due to the nor’easter. The event will feature a panel with three speakers (two health researchers from the Penn community and one human resources professional to provide tips and resources). This event will be appropriate for staff, students, and faculty and will include lunch and 10 “be in the know” points for faculty and staff.
- PPSA’s call for nominations is open until April 22, 2018 for chair-elect, board member spots, and committee representatives. Candidates will be presented during our open membership meeting on May 16, 2018. The speakers will be James Pawelski, PhD, from the Penn Positive Psychology Center and his wife (and co-author), Suzann Pileggi Pawelski, MAPP.
- Our spring semester “Chats with Jack” are ongoing and we are encouraging PPSA members to sign up for slots.
- Plans are underway for our June wellness event.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather J. Kelley – Thompson
Chair, PPSA

Kuan R. Evans
Past Chair, PPSA

Stephanie S. Yee
Chair Elect, PPSA



Undergraduate Assembly

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Status Report – Undergraduate Assembly

April 18th, 2018

1. End of the 45th Session of the Undergraduate Assembly
 - a. The Undergraduate Assembly had its final meeting of the 45th session on April 1, 2018. This year there were five tenets that provided the basis of our work this year: prioritizing a campus that promotes mental wellness, reducing the costs of attending Penn, ensuring a safe and inclusive environment, working on academic initiatives, and meeting student needs. Some of the highlights included addressing club recruitment on campus, lobbying for lower course and clinical costs, supporting students affected by DACA, helping create Academic Steering to name a few. Overall, this semester the UA has been very successful in ensuring that the concerns of student groups are heard and addressed as well as continuing to foster more communication between undergraduates and the administration. An Annual Report, describing the comprehensive work of the UA for this session, will be sent out to all Penn undergraduates as well as be distributed to administrative offices on campus.
2. The 46th Session of the Undergraduate Assembly
 - a. Leading the UA next year will be Michael Krone (C'19) as President and Jordan Andrews (C20') as Vice President. The remaining members of the executive board will be chosen through internal elections and the board will be finalized in the next couple of weeks.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Shah, UA Vice President