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INSPIRING IMPACT

MAGAZINE

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Spring 2025





“Every day, the University’s students, faculty, and staff generate knowledge and ideas that transform lives and inspire new ways of thinking.”

–Kathryn Griffo, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations

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Dear Friends,

Every time I visit Penn, or talk to someone on campus, I learn something exciting. For example, how Dr. John Wherry is working to understand the causes of autoimmune diseases and how our immune systems respond to treatment. Or, how the Zilberman Family Center for Global Collections at the Penn Libraries is creating a research environment that allows students and scholars to explore cultures around the world. After every one of these interactions, I’m even more certain of Penn’s impact and the value of higher education.

Yet we are all aware that Penn, like other universities, is currently facing growing political pressures and shifting public opinion, including reduced federal support and increased demands to prove our value. To meet this moment, those of us who believe in the power of higher education and the importance of Penn in the world must champion the work being done on this campus and at colleges and universities everywhere.

You only have to look as far as the contents of this issue to demonstrate Penn’s impact for good. From its decades-long commitment to expanding access through increased financial aid to the revolutionary advances that have shaped our lives—Penn creates new knowledge and uses it for the good of all. I hope you have a chance to take a look and see what we have accomplished—and what discoveries are waiting on the horizon.

Warmly,

Wendy Holman, W’97

Chair, Trustee Development Committee



Learn more about Penn’s strategic framework,
In Principle and Practice at pennpri.de/principle.

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Throughout this issue, we’ve included QR codes that link to related videos and other digital content. Using your mobile phone or tablet, open the built-in camera app. Point the camera at the QR code, and tap the banner to access the content.

Our Unwavering Commitment

Penn strengthens its long-standing commitment to undergraduate financial aid with expanded support for middle-income families

Meet



Lindsay, C'28
who just completed her
first year in the College
of Arts & Sciences.

Lindsay's journey to Locust Walk began when her high school teacher recommended a Penn summer program focused on biomedical research. "I fell in love with the campus and the program," Lindsay explains. "I quickly realized that if I wanted to reach high and stay close to home, Penn was the best place."

But financial aid was a major consideration for Lindsay, a Philadelphia resident. Fortunately, she was accepted to Penn, and, thanks to the Quaker Commitment, she received a financial aid package that covered tuition and costs, making it possible for her to enroll.

As a first-generation college student, Lindsay has found a welcome home in the Penn First Plus (P1P) program, which serves students who are the first in their families to attend college and/or those from modest-income backgrounds. "I liked the community they built, the resources, and the people," she says. She is especially grateful to her P1P student mentor, who helped her successfully navigate her first year.

Next year, Lindsay hopes to give back by serving as a mentor for the newest class of P1P students. At the same time, she'll continue her studies, with an eye toward a possible Health and Societies major and a career as a dentist.

At Penn, providing access and opportunity for talented undergraduate students like Lindsay is fundamental to who we are.

We call this promise the Quaker Commitment.

"Higher education is one of America's greatest strengths. It is a long-standing social contract that has enabled U.S. colleges and universities to be a cornerstone of innovation and opportunity in our society."

—J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD
President, University of Pennsylvania

"Higher education is one of America's greatest strengths. It is a long-standing social contract that has enabled U.S. colleges and universities to be a cornerstone of innovation and opportunity in our society," explains Penn President J. Larry Jameson.

Too often, however, financial constraints—not ability, ambition, or potential—determine who has a seat at the table. That is why Penn has led the charge to ensure that talented students admitted to Penn can afford to attend. And while they're here, they can study, research, create, and fully engage in the Penn experience.

"At Penn, we are deeply committed to ensuring that this pathway to personal opportunity and societal impact remains affordable for all talented students," President Jameson continues. "Financial aid has always been critical to our ability to keep this pathway open and available for the next generation—undergraduates, as well as graduate and professional students. With federal funding at risk, this priority has never been more important."

The Quaker Commitment: *Our promise*

- 100% of demonstrated need met with grant-based, no-loan financial aid packages
- Home equity will not affect financial aid calculations
- Expanded support for middle-income families (\$75,000–\$200,000), including scholarships guaranteed to cover *at least* full tuition
- Comprehensive support for highly aided students (under \$75,000), covering tuition and fees, housing, and dining, as well as additional resources to ensure access to the full Penn experience

Making Penn More Affordable and Accessible than Ever Before

Penn has a long-standing commitment to providing grant-based undergraduate financial aid that meets 100 percent of a student’s demonstrated need without loans. Last fall, the University built upon that commitment with expanded policies that help middle-income families.

With this change, already effective for all aided students, Penn will be tuition-free for students from families earning \$200,000 or less. The higher income threshold also closes an “opportunity gap” that previously excluded middle-income families. In addition, the University will no longer consider the value of the primary family home in determining financial aid eligibility.

Together, these changes to the Quaker Commitment will have a meaningful impact on families, with the average aided student seeing an increase of \$5,000 in support per year.

This latest expansion builds upon nearly 20 years of growth in Penn’s undergraduate financial aid program, beginning in 2008, when Penn announced that it would replace loans with grants in its financial aid packages so students would not be burdened with significant debt upon graduation. The first among its Ivy League peers to adopt an all-grant policy, Penn has been a pioneer in promoting access and affordability ever since.

Global Reach

“Like many of my fellow alumni, I came to Penn as an international student,” says Ramanan Raghavendran, ENG’89, W’89, LPS’15, Chair, Board of Trustees. “Today, Penn is committed to being an excellent global citizen and to recruiting and supporting exceptional students of all backgrounds, including international students. A robust financial aid program is key to this goal.”

During the 2024–2025 academic year, Penn was home to more than 1,300 international students from over 100 countries, 28 percent of whom received financial aid. Penn is now working to increase financial aid for international students to continue attracting the best and brightest minds from around the world.



See how the Quaker Commitment is making a difference for today’s undergraduate students:
pennpri.de/quaker-commitment

Meeting the Challenge

The expansion of the Quaker Commitment is the latest step in Penn’s long-term investment in undergraduate financial aid, which has made the University a leader in promoting access and opportunity. Philanthropy is critical to ensuring Penn can continue and grow this investment.

Over the years, the University has had valued partners in this effort in the form of its many generous donors.

In 1998, a trio of pioneering Penn leaders—George Weiss, W’65, HON’14; James Riepe, W’65, WG’67, HON’10; and Roy Vagelos, C’50, HON’99—introduced the Trustees Challenge, a first-of-its-kind initiative to expand support for undergraduate financial aid. The challenge provided matching funds from a pool of Trustee gifts to encourage donors to create endowed scholarships of their own.

The Trustees Challenge was so successful that it launched a tradition of challenge fund giving that continues to this day. In recent years, the Undergraduate Financial Aid Leadership Council (UFLC) has led the charge, first in 2020 and again this year.

“This is a critical time in higher education,” explains Herald Chen, ENG’93, W’93, Chair of the UFLC. “This moment requires our volunteer leaders, including the Council, to lead by example to ensure that we can provide talented students with the ability to attend Penn. Once again, the Council has come together to inspire new and existing donors to support undergraduate financial aid in honor of the Quaker Commitment.”

Making an Impact: Scholarship Giving Opportunities

Endowed scholarships are the cornerstone upon which the Quaker Commitment is built, allowing admitted students to attend Penn with the peace of mind that they will not incur insurmountable debt in the process.

Many scholarship gifts are eligible for matching funds, which will further expand the impact of your support. To explore available giving opportunities, visit: pennpri.de/scholarship-giving.

Donors are also invited to consider the Shleifer Family Challenge, which offers matching funds to encourage support for highly aided students in the Penn First Plus community. To learn more, visit: unsp.upenn.edu/penn-first-plus.

Financial aid has never been a greater priority. Join Penn’s investment in the future with a gift to support our students. 🌱

To learn more about supporting the Quaker Commitment, please contact: **Maryann O’Leary Salas**, Executive Director of Development for Undergraduate Financial Aid & Penn First Plus, at **215-898-4551** or maryanno@upenn.edu.

The Quaker Commitment at Work:



Penn’s financial aid budget for FY25 is **\$328 million**



Since 2008 we have increased our financial aid budget by **more than 150%**



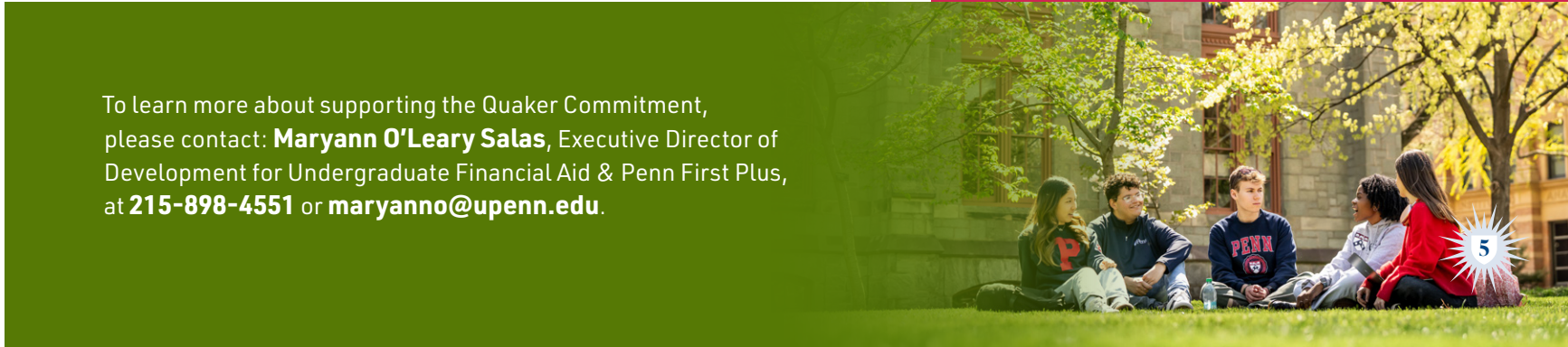
Penn is tuition-free for families earning up to **\$200,000**



The average aid package of **\$70,552** now covers more than the cost of tuition



This year only **18%** of students receiving financial aid supplemented that with a loan—**down from 80% in 2004**



A Real Change

Penn's Graduate School of Education presents a new vision to transform society for good

We need teachers more than ever.

But the economics of teaching are particularly challenging: novice teachers, on average, make under \$50,000 a year, 26 percent less than similarly educated professionals. On top of that, the average debt load per student in the United States is nearly \$39,000, and teachers carry additional debt to cover extra training. It's no wonder that 44 percent of teachers leave the profession in the first five years.

Katharine Strunk, Dean of Penn's Graduate School of Education, knows that GSE makes an impact: preparing educators who are empowered and respected, producing educational research that is expansive and innovative, leveraging technological advances to enhance learning, and making educational equity a reality.

But changing the calculus of the teaching profession takes a bold approach, and so GSE has created a new strategic vision, *Together for Good: A Vision for Transformational Impact*.

GSE has an ambitious goal of raising \$110 million to make its teacher training programs free, supporting 80 students per year. That kind of visionary philanthropy would impact 250,000 children over the course of 10 years, an investment of just \$440 per child. Without debt, new teachers could focus on their passion—teaching—and not worry about how they were going to make their next student loan payment. And with access to a network of alumni and ongoing contact and support, teachers have the resources to excel in their careers.

"Penn is a place where you do work that is intended to be applied," says Strunk, who is also the George and Diane Weiss Professor of Education. "We have some of the most brilliant scholars in the world housed here, but the difference is that we are not doing this research just to add more knowledge for knowledge's sake. We are actually thinking about how we use that knowledge to improve the lives of learners and educators throughout the world. Everything we do here is intended to feed back into our communities—whether they're here in Philadelphia, across the country, or across the globe."

The strategic vision is built around four ambitious priorities and needs generous support from Penn's global community of alumni and friends to make this bold vision for the future into a reality.

"Everything we do here is intended to feed back into our communities—whether they're here in Philadelphia, across the country, or across the globe."

Katharine Strunk
Dean of Penn's Graduate
School of Education

Katharine Strunk
Dean of Penn GSE



Build

Prepare and sustain a highly skilled education workforce from preschool through postsecondary education

GSE will:

- Offer high-quality programs that evolve to address the real-time needs of educators, leaders, and counselors at multiple stages across their careers.
- Make Penn GSE's degree and non-degree programs more accessible to more people.
- Advocate for necessary policy changes in Philadelphia, statewide, across the region, nationally, and around the globe.

"When we go into schools and we look for new mentors, who's raising their hand? It's our graduates saying, 'Yes, I want to give back. I want to help, because I can see that the preparation that I got at Penn GSE helped my students learn, and I want that for all the rest of the students in this school, in my community, in our city.'"

Patrick Sexton

Assistant Dean of Educator Preparation and Undergraduate Programs



Collaborate

Collaborate with local, national, and global communities through scholarship and programs for the public good

GSE will:

- Deepen its long-standing relationship with Philadelphia's public schools.
- Change the national conversation on community-engaged scholarship.
- Expand its global engagement.
- Broaden the reach, impact, and accessibility of Penn GSE scholarship.

"We are seeking to effect powerful, sustainable, and demonstrable change in educational and human outcomes for kids and families by being strong, present, engaged, responsive neighbors."

Caroline Watts

Director of Penn GSE's Office of School and Community Engagement



Transform

Innovate by bridging theory and practice to conduct educational research with consequence

GSE will:

- Conduct groundbreaking, practitioner-informed educational research that addresses the great challenges of our time.
- Cultivate an intellectual community where interdisciplinarity is the norm, not the exception.
- Prepare educators, leaders, scholars, and other stakeholders to shape, embrace, and use novel technologies and practices.

"We know a lot about learning science and how people learn, and it is experiential. We are so excited to have a makerspace and an AV/VR lab in our new building to be able to give students the opportunity to experiment, be creative, and use technologies in new ways—to become capable and facile with those technologies and also to think how they can apply them immediately, especially in teaching and learning."

L. Michael Golden, GRD'07

Vice Dean of Innovative Programs and Partnerships



Elevate

Elevate education's role within democratic society

GSE will:

- Enhance approaches to challenging, productive conversations within Penn GSE.
- Build capacity for discourse that promotes democratic values University-wide.
- Equip its students as well as partners, community leaders, and the wider public with tools to encourage critical thinking, open dialogue, and civic engagement.

"I think we're at a moment where everyone understands the importance of discourse and the importance of conversation—nobody can deny it. And I think the challenge is that we're still working with really impoverished models of what classroom discourse looks like . . . As a school of education, we must support teachers in addressing this knotty problem of how to navigate discussions in this really complex historical moment."

Abby Reisman

Associate Professor of Teacher Education

"In 10 years, my hope is that we have changed the world. I know that sounds grandiose, but I don't think it is. We have the potential at GSE to do the work that ensures more people can learn and succeed in a just and thriving society . . . It's time for real change, and I think that Penn GSE is poised to do it."

Katharine Strunk

Dean, Penn GSE

RESEARCH FOR GOOD

Each day, in every school at Penn, researchers are making strides to cure diseases, improve lives, and better understand our world. With more than \$1.45 billion in research awards during 2024, Penn is one of the nation's top research universities—generating new knowledge and applying it to critical, real-world challenges. In this Q&A, Dawn Bonnell, Penn's Senior Vice Provost for Research, shares why a robust research enterprise is at the core of the University's educational mission.

What kinds of research does Penn conduct? What are some of Penn's most notable discoveries and innovations?

At Penn, our research spans virtually every discipline—from the life sciences and medicine to engineering, business, social policy, education, and the humanities. What makes Penn distinctive is the way we work across disciplines, which is helped by our interconnected campus. Our researchers collaborate across schools and specialties, which leads to groundbreaking ideas with practical applications. With experts in all stages of research and development—from theory to policy, to bench research, analytics, business, and entrepreneurship, all in one place—Penn is ideally set up to translate concepts into tangible new medicines, technologies, or processes for the benefit of society. Some of Penn's most transformative discoveries have truly changed the world.

The best-known recent example is the foundational mRNA technology behind the COVID-19 vaccines—work led by Drs. Drew Weissman and Katalin Karikó. But that's just one example. Penn researchers have also pioneered new approaches in CAR T cell therapy to treat cancer, created life-changing assistive robotic devices, developed new protections against chemical warfare, offered critical insights into the Higgs boson and the search for dark matter—and so much more.

How do Penn researchers secure funding, and what is the role of government grants versus private sources?

Most research at Penn is funded through a combination of federal grants, philanthropic support, and the University's general operating budget. Agencies like the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Department of Defense are crucial sources of support.

In 2024, we received over \$1 billion in total awards from government sources, making up nearly 70 percent of Penn's total research awards. These grants are highly competitive, and Penn is consistently ranked among the top recipients nationally.

Private foundations and individual donors play an increasingly vital role—especially in supporting high-risk, high-reward ideas that may not qualify for federal funding, or in helping early-career researchers as they launch their work. Philanthropy enables us to pursue bold questions and explore the frontiers of visionary thinking. Suppose we experience a decline in federal funding. In that case, private philanthropy will become more important than ever.

What happens when research funding is disrupted or withheld? Can't Penn use its endowment to replace federal research funding?

Penn's endowment supports a wide range of priorities—including student financial aid, faculty positions, and academic programs—and over 90 percent of our endowment funds are legally restricted to specific purposes. It's not a general fund that can be used to cover research shortfalls.

When federal research funding is delayed or frozen, as we have experienced this year, the impact is immediate. Promising projects stall as labs have to scale back, delay hiring, or stop critical experiments. It can legitimately harm the scientific integrity of the research. These interruptions can have a lasting effect, particularly for early-career researchers, including PhD students, whose career trajectories may be altered as a result. Sustained, reliable funding is what allows research to progress—and ultimately, to deliver real benefits to society.



What areas at Penn have already been impacted by federal funding freezes?

This year, we’ve seen significant delays and disruptions in federal funding from multiple agencies. Several of our schools, including the Perelman School of Medicine and Penn Arts & Sciences, had to reduce the number of admitted PhD students. Our medical research areas have been hit hard, and so have other critical fields, including climate-related studies, AI, social policy and law, and public health initiatives—areas that are not only timely but deeply important to communities here and around the globe.

Even brief funding gaps can ripple across labs and research centers, putting momentum at risk. Long-term funding reductions will negatively impact our country’s global competitiveness and societal well-being for decades to come.

How does the research done at Penn contribute in tangible ways to society?

Penn research changes and saves lives every day. As I mentioned, our medical research provided the blueprint for the COVID-19 vaccines, and we have developed new therapies that are improving outcomes for cancer, Alzheimer’s, heart disease, and other common, deadly human conditions. Our engineers have developed building materials that absorb carbon from the air to combat climate change. Our social scientists are helping to shape better approaches to combatting poverty, providing education, and ensuring justice. Our research also drives tremendous economic growth—generating startups, attracting industry partners, and training the next generation of innovators. In the 2024 fiscal year alone, Penn had over \$2 billion in R&D expenditures, which not only includes external funding like federal sources but philanthropic giving and Penn’s own financial investment in its research as well. That’s a direct investment in better health, stronger communities, and a more informed, resilient society.

How can donors help support Penn research initiatives?

Donors are essential to our ability to drive innovation, never more so than now, when federal funding streams are in doubt. Research is expensive: It takes funds to pay our top research minds, maintain up-to-date lab facilities, purchase materials, and provide necessary support for all the stages of research and development. If alumni or others want to help ensure the strength of Penn’s research engine, the best way is to make a gift either to an unrestricted fund at the school of their choice, such as the Dean’s Discretionary Fund, or give directly to an area of research that is of particular interest. Endowed support or short-term support is equally helpful at this moment. 🏠

To learn more about the transformational research being done at Penn, visit upenn.edu/research-at-penn

BY THE
NUMBERS
\$2 BILLION
IN ANNUAL RESEARCH EXPENDITURES

920 PATENTS
ISSUED

#2 RECIPIENT OF
NIH FUNDING

230 RESEARCH CENTERS
AND INSTITUTES

5,000+
RESEARCH FACULTY



Broadening Minds, Building Connections

An \$8 million gift from The Robert K. Johnson Foundation will enhance integrated studies at Penn Arts & Sciences

Have you ever wondered about curiosity as a core component of human nature? Or whether self-transformation changes you in a fundamental way? Or, perhaps you are driven to understand how biology and the history of food are intertwined?

Penn students are engaging with questions just like those as part of the newly named Robert K. Johnson Integrated Studies Program, which offers an immersive, interdisciplinary learning experience for Benjamin Franklin Scholars pursuing degrees in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Launched in the fall of 2011, this residential academic program invites highly motivated students to examine complex themes through the integration of multiple academic disciplines and methodologies. This year, The Robert K. Johnson Foundation contributed \$8 million to name and endow the program in perpetuity.

“The program is designed around an idea that goes back to Benjamin Franklin: that no single discipline, method, or perspective can solve complex problems and challenges,” says Peter Struck, Stephen A. Levin Family Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Vartan Gregorian Professor of Humanities, and founding director. “This generous gift ensures that we will be able to continue fostering intellectual agility in these bright minds for years to come.”

Robert K. Johnson Integrated Studies students are taught by Penn’s leading faculty and live together in Hill College House. Students pursue a challenging curriculum molded by theoretical and methodological approaches that encourage the crossing of intellectual boundaries and the integration of diverse ways of knowing. Students are also bolstered by the camaraderie of their fellow RKJ Integrated Studies students, as they work their way through Penn and beyond.



“The program is designed around an idea that goes back to Benjamin Franklin: that no single discipline, method, or perspective can solve complex problems and challenges.”
Peter Struck

“If Bob Johnson were alive today, he would be the first in line to apply to the Integrated Studies Program at Penn,” adds Anthony Belinkoff, C’85, and member of the Distribution Committee of The Robert K. Johnson Foundation. “Bob’s philosophy was to always broaden one’s mind and to take in the world around oneself.” 🏠

FIGHTING FOR A CURE

Visionary philanthropy is helping to find new treatments for autoimmune diseases

RVCL (retinal vasculopathy with cerebral leukoencephalopathy) is a rare genetic disease that affects the body's small blood vessels. It damages multiple organs including the brain, eyes, kidneys, liver, and bones, leading to vision loss and premature death in all cases, often within 10 years of the first onset of symptoms. There is currently no cure or treatment that targets the disease, and there are fewer than 200 known patients and 60 families with RVCL in the world.

But hope is on the horizon. New philanthropic support is enabling Penn's RVCL Research Center to develop precision and personalized therapies for RVCL. The Clayco Foundation, led by Bob and Shawn Clark and their family, has made a \$4.2 million commitment to the Center, continuing their philanthropic efforts toward finding a cure for the disease. Bob Clark's late wife, Ellen Clark, passed away from RVCL, and he and his family hope to help others around the world who suffer from the disease. This builds on prior commitments from the Clayco Foundation as well as hundreds of small donations from families and friends, totaling over \$7.9 million dollars for this research program, leading to the development of custom therapies.



Jonathan J. Miner is Director of the RVCL Research Center and Associate Professor of Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine. His lab discovered how mutations in the *TREX1* gene cause this disease and has since been developing and testing personalized medicines for RVCL. He is optimistic that a clinical trial for a custom therapy is on the near horizon.

"Our work on the role of *TREX1* in RVCL has also taught us how *TREX1* plays a role in more common human conditions, including cancer, autoimmune diseases, and aging," Miner says.

Two sisters, Laura Friedman and Fran Jaskot, have also dedicated their philanthropic efforts to supporting Dr. Miner and his team by raising awareness and bolstering research on the disease. For the past two years, their friend Renee Butler has led a 50-mile run/walk in support of finding a cure for RVCL. Last year, they raised over \$75,000, and, vitally, their run has brought in dozens of new donors who are committed to the RVCL Research Center.

"When I first met Laura, I was not only inspired by her story, but by her positivity. As an avid runner, I decided to create this event as a way to fundraise and create awareness for RVCL," says Butler.

This is a critical time at Penn for rheumatology, the branch of medicine that specializes in diseases like RVCL that affect immunity, the musculoskeletal system, and blood vessels—and many of these diseases are autoimmune disorders. The Colton Center for Autoimmunity, established in 2021 with a generous gift of \$60 million from Stewart and Judy Colton, represents a significant institutional investment in unlocking the many mysteries and puzzles of autoimmunity; by uniting the best scientific minds in autoimmune research, including rheumatologists, the Colton Center is also energizing Penn Rheumatology and the division's passionate supporters.

And the Relapsing Polychondritis Foundation recently expanded its commitment to the Penn Relapsing Polychondritis Program by making an additional investment of \$305,000 to expand RP-focused research and clinician training. Penn Medicine is one of few academic medical centers in the world conducting research on RP, which causes inflammation of the cartilage throughout the body.

Thanks to new discoveries and the power of philanthropy, Penn faculty members have a greater understanding of autoimmunity and are able to do more than ever to treat autoimmune diseases.

Discoveries at Penn Rheumatology are being translated into new hope for autoimmune diseases. To help accelerate their breakthroughs, contact Amanda Hills at **215-360-7928** or **amhills@upenn.edu**.

A New Chapter in AI at Penn

Faculty leaders from across the University come together to guide the future of artificial intelligence

Artificial intelligence is reshaping the way we live, work, and learn—and at Penn, it's also reshaping the way scholars collaborate. That was the central message of *AI Across Disciplines*, a public event held on April 1 to mark the official launch of the Penn AI Initiative. With remarks from Penn President J. Larry Jameson and a panel discussion among faculty leaders from across disciplines, the event signaled a new chapter for AI research, education, and engagement at the University.

Incorporating faculty from all 12 of Penn's schools, the initiative advances responsible AI through deep, cross-campus collaboration. At a time when AI is raising urgent questions about privacy, equity, and human decision-making, Penn is bringing its full intellectual community to bear on understanding and guiding the development of this technology for the public good.

"AI will touch every aspect of academic life and virtually every human endeavor."

Provost John L. Jackson Jr.

In his opening remarks, Provost John L. Jackson Jr. underscored Penn's advantage: "Our focus on interdisciplinary education and research means that we are uniquely positioned to both understand and advance artificial intelligence," he said. "It will touch every aspect of academic life and virtually every human endeavor."

The event included a panel discussion featuring members of the Penn AI Council—a group of faculty leaders who are helping to shape the initiative's vision and connect AI-focused efforts across the University. Duncan Watts, Stevens University Professor and a member of the AI Council, emphasized the importance of building new connections. "There are so many interesting things happening in different schools and so many different perspectives on AI," he said, underlining the value of a University-level conversation to amplify and align these efforts.

As artificial intelligence continues to evolve, Penn is working to lead with purpose. With the launch of the Penn AI Initiative, the University is building the foundation for a future where technology serves society—guided by knowledge, grounded in ethics, and powered by collaboration.

Philanthropy continues to play a critical role in this work, offering meaningful opportunities for donors to make a lasting impact on the future of AI. To learn how you can support AI research and discovery at Penn, contact **Wylie Thomas** at wthomas@upenn.edu.



Discover how Penn is pioneering the understanding and advancement of AI research, applications, and education at pennpri.de/penn-ai

Building an Archive and a Legacy

A bequest from the late historian Elizabeth A.R. Brown will position Penn as a leader in the field of medieval studies

In a field like medieval studies, archives are of paramount importance to researchers. Simultaneously establishing and maintaining those archives, which are essential infrastructure for the creation of new scholarship, requires resources and the expertise of skilled archivists.

Now, thanks to a \$5 million bequest from noted historian Elizabeth A.R. Brown, the Penn Libraries will be able to establish an archive for the professional papers of medieval historians. Brown's gift will also endow an archivist position to develop and manage the collection, which includes Brown's own professional papers from her long and distinguished career. She elected to make this commitment because the Penn Libraries is globally renowned for managing archival materials with the utmost care and attention.

"We deeply appreciate this gift from Professor Brown, which enables the Penn Libraries to preserve and provide access to the works of medieval studies scholars in perpetuity," says Brigitte Weinsteiger, H. Carton Rogers III Vice Provost and Director of the Penn Libraries.

"Professor Brown's selection of the Penn Libraries for this gift is a testament to Penn's expertise in the field of medieval studies, particularly through the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies," continues Weinsteiger. "We look forward to honoring her legacy of scholarship through this initiative for generations to come."

Brown was a distinguished scholar whose work contended that the idea of feudalism, which defined the twentieth-century approach to medieval studies, was historically inadequate. She argued that it failed to account for the complex social and economic structures of the period. Her ideas shook the field and led to extensive debate, controversy, conferences, and new scholarship on the subject.

The Elizabeth A.R. Brown Medieval Historians' Archivist Fund will create a repository for the professional papers of medievalists, to be led by the Elizabeth A.R. Brown Archivist, an endowed position in the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts. This position will ensure that the archive becomes a vital tool for scholars expanding on the work of experts like Brown.

The Brown Archivist "will be one of the key people in identifying these archives and then assessing them through on-site visits," says Nicholas Herman, the Lawrence J. Schoenberg Curator at the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies and Medieval Studies Librarian at Penn Libraries. "There's also a born-digital archival component. Correspondence and project files are increasingly electronic, so the archivist will be preserving Brown's digital records in tandem with her physical materials."

A one-day symposium to honor Brown is being planned for September 2025. Individuals interested in contributing materials to the archive can contact **Carrie Greif**, Associate Director of Development, at **215-898-2520** with suggestions for the Advisory Committee of Medieval Historians.

To support the critical and wide-ranging work of the Penn Libraries, contact **Doug Stuart**, Director of Development, at **215-573-3609**.



Elizabeth A.R. Brown was a renowned scholar of medieval studies.

Giving Highlights

Philanthropy touches every part of the University. Through the support of our engaged and generous donors, Penn is able to inspire impact locally and globally. Here is a small sample of recent gifts that are fueling the University’s drive to advance knowledge for good.



Sarah Keating, C’85, PAR’18, and **Daniel Keating, III, PAR’18,** further expanded their philanthropic generosity to Penn Medicine by making a \$100,000 gift to the Center for Surgical Health, led by Dr. Jon Morris, to improve the health of Philadelphians with surgical needs by enhancing and expanding prompt, world-class care. The Keatings are emeritus members of the Abramson Cancer Center Director’s Leadership Council, and Mr. Keating is also a former member of the Penn Medicine Board, Penn Medicine Campaign Cabinet, and Penn Medicine Development Leadership Cabinet.

Barbara and Larry Magid made a \$1 million commitment to establish the Mickey and Larry Magid Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Fund, which will fuel innovative research projects and priorities within the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program and help develop the future leaders of cardiovascular medicine. The Magids have also committed \$50,000 to support the Abramson Family Center for Nursing Excellence at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in honor of all the nurses of the Cardiology Intensive Care and Progressive Care Units.

◀ **Arbour Way Foundation** made a gift of more than \$690,000 to establish the Robin S. Wolpov, PAR’14, and Marc B. Wolpov, W’80, PAR’14, Scholars Program Fund, which will provide full-tuition merit scholarships for students at the Perelman School of Medicine who have a proven track record of leadership and an interest in entrepreneurship, commercialization, and innovation in health care. The Wolpows are longtime supporters of Penn.

▼ **Erdan Gu, GEN’04, GR’06,** and **Jingbin Wang** gave \$250,000 to name the Erdan Gu and Jingbin Wang Open Collaboration Space in Amy Gutmann Hall. The gift reflects both their commitment to advancing data science and AI through this state-of-the-art facility and their gratitude for Gu’s formative Penn Engineering education.

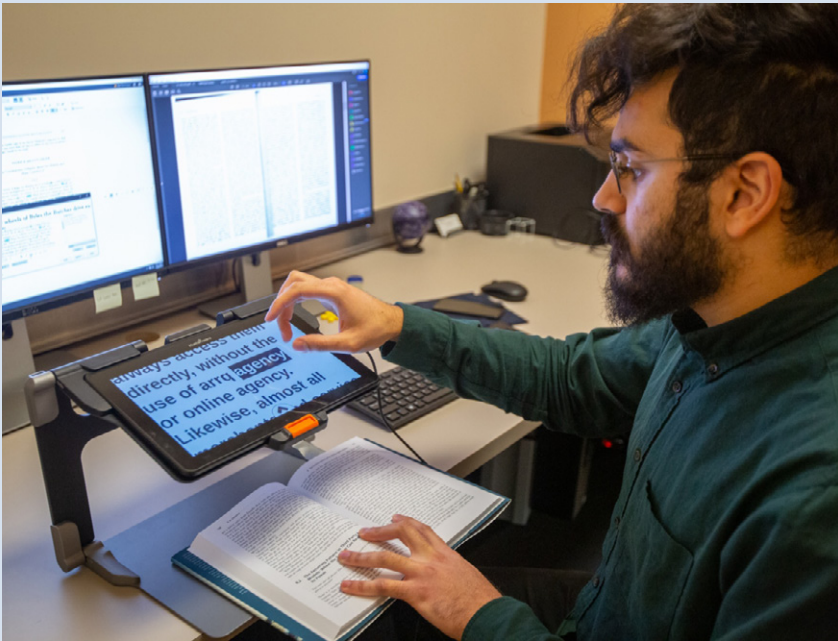


The late **Clark R. Green, W’52,** established a \$7 million bequest to fund the Green Scholarship in Memory of Clark Ray Green and Richard Denton Green supporting undergraduate financial aid.

Hanli K. Mangun, ENG’01, W’01, and **Ji Sun Park, W’01, C’01,** gave \$125,000 to establish the Mangun Family Endowed Scholarship Fund for students in the School of Engineering. Mangun is a member of The Penn Fund Executive Board and the Board of the Penn & Wharton Club of Singapore.

David Gasser, HOM’78, PAR’94, Emeritus Professor of Genetics, generously contributed an additional \$50,000 to the David and Gail Gasser Fund, which supports the Perelman School of Medicine’s Department of Genetics in offering unparalleled summer research internships for undergraduate students, enhancing their experience in biomedical research under the guidance of expert mentorship.

Deepti Juturu, WG’08, and **Rajat Mishra, WG’08,** have generously committed \$250,000 to establish the Juturu-Mishra Scholarship Fund. This fund supports Penn undergraduate students who are pursuing educational opportunities in entrepreneurship and innovation, helping to empower the next generation of changemakers.



▲ **Patrick Yau, W’95,** and **Jennifer Pei-Ling Shen, WG’03,** added to their existing scholarship and gave \$625,000 to support financial aid for Wharton students; the Wharton Fund; and the Weingarten Center, Penn’s home for academic support and disability services—among other University priorities.

▼ A generous gift from **Frances Reagan Copping, C’93, WG’00,** and **The Reagan Foundation** created the Julia L. Reagan Endowed Scholarship Fund supporting undergraduate student financial aid.



Giving Highlights



▲ **Diane vS. Levy** and **Robert M. Levy, WG’74**, gave \$1 million to the Penn Museum to support the Unpacking the Past Presidential Challenge, the Summer Internship Program, and the Visionaries Annual Fund. Unpacking the Past is an innovative partnership with the School District of Philadelphia that has brought archaeological collections to life for sixth- and seventh-grade classrooms studying the ancient world.

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Dr. Evamarie Malsch continues to increase her support for the preservation of water features at the Morris Arboretum & Gardens with an additional \$200,000 charitable gift annuity. The Morris’s historic water features enhance the beauty and serenity of the 165-acre public garden.

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The Baker Family Foundation gave \$100,000 to support a new Sedation Suite at Penn Dental Medicine. The suite will primarily serve patients in the School’s Care Center for Persons with Disabilities and will also reduce wait times for all patients requiring general anesthesia for complex dental procedures.

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Richard A. Levine, L’72, named Penn Carey Law as a beneficiary of the Richard A. Levine Legacy Fund at the Jewish Fund for the Future of the Delaware Jewish Federation. This thoughtful designation ensures that his annual support for the Law School will continue in perpetuity.

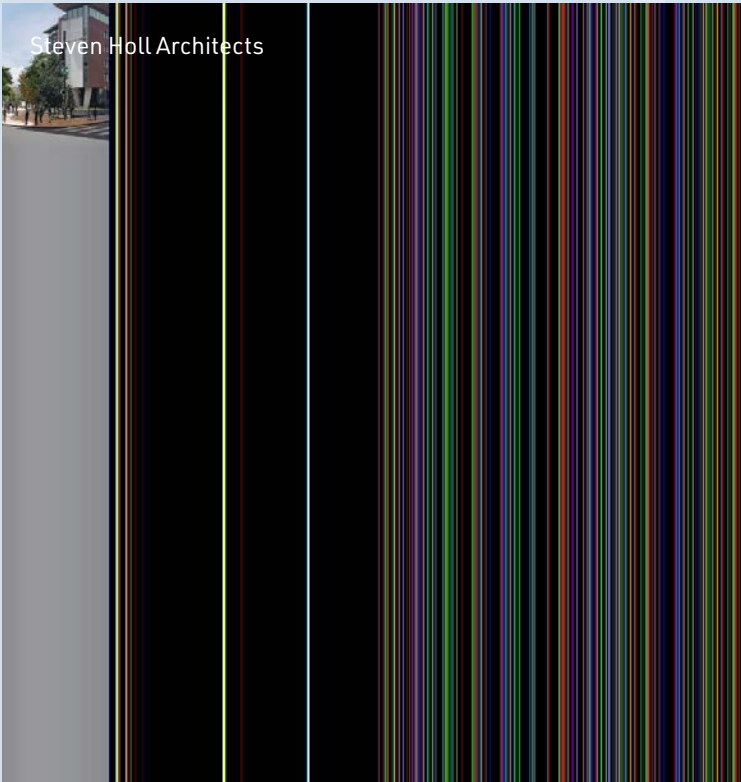
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Melanie Nussdorf, CW’71, PAR’02, PAR’04, made a \$500,000 gift to support innovation at Penn Nursing.

Philip J. Yanni, ME’81, made a \$40,000 gift in recognition of the Penn Engineering Entrepreneurship Program’s 25th anniversary. This gift adds to Yanni’s previous \$48,000 gift to establish the fund in 2019, and provides financial support for special guest speakers, programmatic initiatives, and more.

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▼ **Joshua Frank, C’93, PAR’24, PAR’26**, and **Carolyn Friedman Frank, C’93, PAR’24, PAR’26**, gave \$250,000 to support construction of the new Student Performing Arts Center, which was enhanced by an additional \$250,000 in Presidential Matching Funds. Added to their additional support of the Penn Live Arts Annual Fund and The Penn Fund, this \$650,000 gift will have significant impact on the performing arts at Penn.



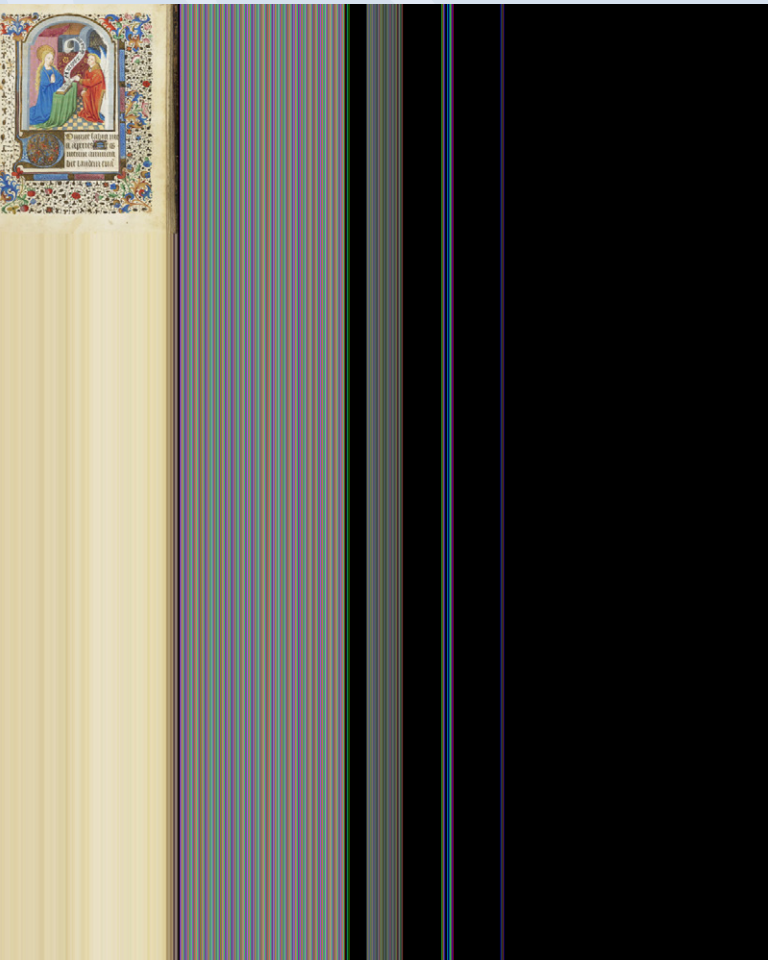
Max M. Chen, C’99, and **Sabeen Mekan, MD**, made a \$150,000 gift to establish the Max and Sabeen Chen Endowed Scholarship IV, their fourth fund supporting undergraduate financial aid, in addition to their support of lupus research and education in Penn Medicine’s Division of Rheumatology. These undergraduate endowed scholarships have considerations to support students in the College of Arts & Sciences from Canada, Pakistan, and most recently, the Vagelos Life Sciences & Management program.

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The James J. and Marianne B. Lowrey Foundation gave \$350,000 to create the Marianne Black Lowrey HUP’61 Fellowship for Graduate Nursing Education & Research, which will support a graduate student or students at Penn Nursing. This gift was made in memory of Marianne Black Lowrey, HUP’61, by her family, and honors Marianne’s lifelong interest in health care, nurse-led research, and nursing innovation.

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▼ **Barbara Brizdle Schoenberg** recently donated 11 exceptional medieval manuscripts dating from the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries to the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies at the Penn Libraries. Among them, she dedicated an astro-medical anthology in honor of Brigitte Weinsteiger’s appointment as the H. Carton Rogers III Vice Provost and Director of the Penn Libraries.



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▲ **David Liu, ENG’93, W’93, LPS’20**, gave \$1 million to establish the Dave A. Liu, M&T’93 and Lauren Wu Prize for a graduating senior in the Jerome Fisher Program in Management & Technology and to support Real Arts Internships at the Kelly Writers House and the Kelly Writers House Student Fellows.

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Vincent Marron, W’09, and **Alexandra Solomon** made a unique gift to the Penn Libraries to support up to five faculty course development grants designed to bring classes into direct engagement with the Libraries’ Special Collections around the America 250 celebration.

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Stephanie Zilberman, WG’01, and **Daniel Zilberman, WG’01**, made a generous gift to name the Zilberman Family Center for Global Collections at the Penn Libraries, which will allow students and scholars to engage with a diversity of cultures and societies around the world.

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Ali M. Haroon, C’98, gave \$250,000 to establish the Haroon Family Huntsman Endowment Fund, which provides discretionary support for the Huntsman Program in its mission to educate globally-minded scholars who become engaged citizens, creative innovators, and ethical leaders in their chosen fields. Haroon is a member of the Huntsman Program Advisory Board.

