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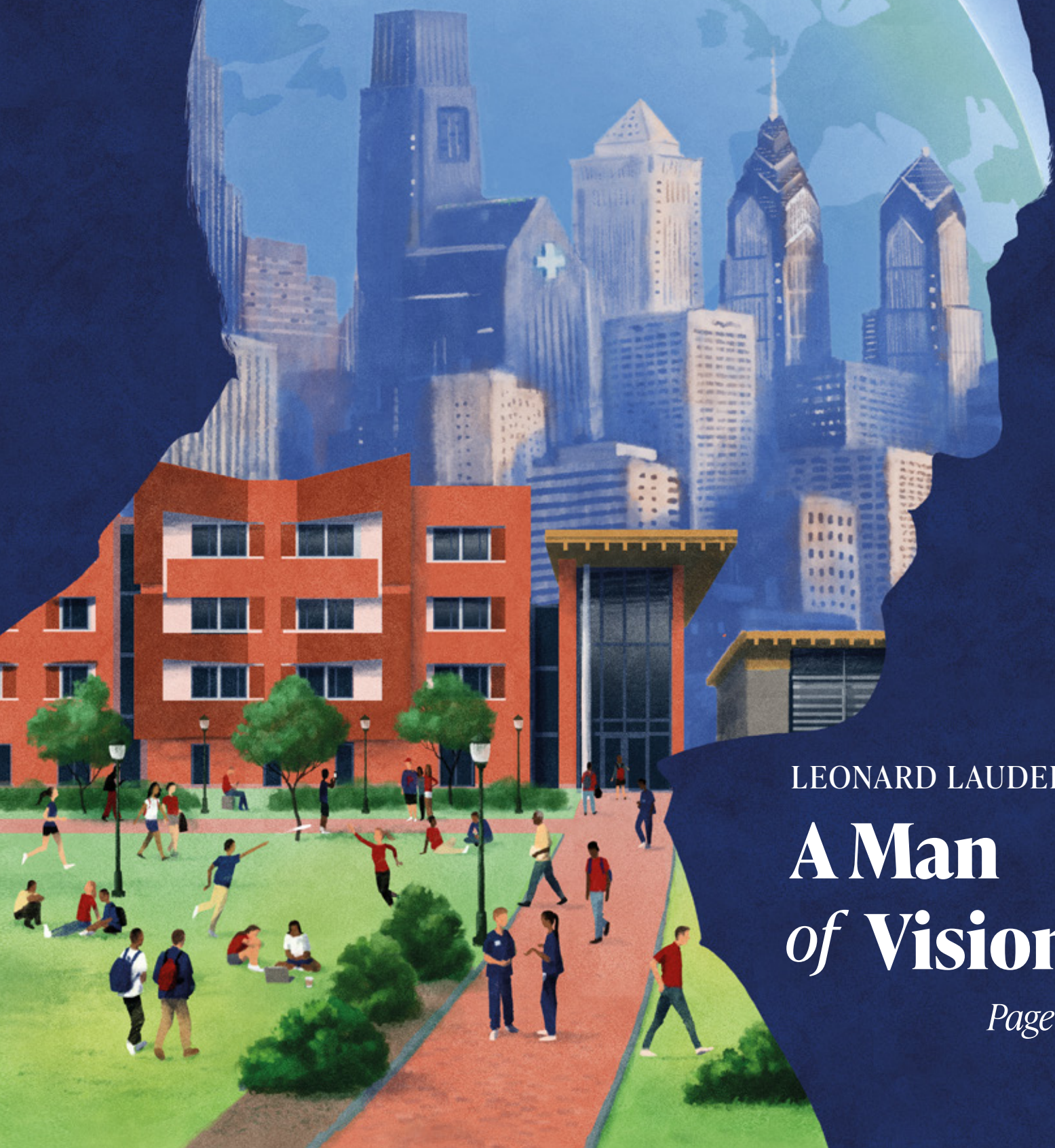
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# INSPIRING IMPACT

MAGAZINE

Winter 2026



LEONARD LAUDER:

## A Man of Vision

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Dear Friends,

A new year and a fresh semester are here—and what an exciting time to be part of the Penn community! I’m inspired by the incredible generosity of alumni and friends who have fueled groundbreaking research, opened doors to new academic opportunities, and enriched student life in countless ways. Penn pride has been evident at events across the country and around the globe, culminating in a Homecoming weekend that celebrated the vibrant arts and culture thriving on campus.

In this issue, you’ll find stories that show the true impact of your support—from pioneering advances in health care powered by AI to graduate fellowships shaping the next generation of scholars and leaders. Penn continues to prove how higher education can change lives and create a better world for all.

Thank you for all you do to help Penn thrive—and I hope to see you at an event soon!

Sincerely,

**Wendy Holman, W’97**  
*Chair, Trustee Development Committee*

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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.



# A MAN OF VISION

How Leonard A. Lauder, W'54, touched generations of Penn students and made a lasting impact on education, business, and health care

“It is impossible to overstate Leonard Lauder’s impact at Penn. He has shaped our campus landscape and created new paths for students to find their passions and use their knowledge for the good of others. We are deeply grateful to Leonard for his vision, leadership, and commitment to Penn’s educational mission.”

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



**H**ow do you define a legacy? In the case of Leonard A. Lauder, W'54, you just need to know that his thoughtful and strategic vision led the way. For decades, Lauder devoted time and resources to supporting the University of Pennsylvania with a keen ability to see what was needed in the moment and take action.

In June 2025, Lauder died at the age of 92. The renowned Penn alumnus was many things: a giant of business who grew The Estée Lauder Companies, founded by his parents, into a global cosmetics powerhouse; a lover of art, who collected one of the world’s finest collections of Cubism and then donated it to the Metropolitan Museum so others could enjoy and learn from the art; and a devoted philanthropist, whose support had a profound impact on the University of Pennsylvania and its students, as well as on many other causes dear to his heart.

In addition to his philanthropy, Lauder was a dedicated volunteer leader, serving on the University’s Board of Trustees, where, for decades, presidents, deans, and other campus leaders relied upon his forward-looking insights.

Lauder’s foresight changed the landscape of the University—literally. In 2016, he and his family supported the creation of Lauder College House, Penn’s first residential building designed specifically as a college house. This architecturally striking new building created a unique environment where students could live and learn together. As Lauder had hoped, it became as iconic as the Quad itself.

“Leonard Lauder and his family were committed to fostering the idea of active citizenship at Lauder College House. Their vision was to build a community that was engaged with the city of Philadelphia, the state of Pennsylvania, and the world.”



Campbell Grey,  
Faculty Director and Professor  
of Classical Studies



This year, Lauder College House is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a host of events, including the announcement of a new Citizenship Lab, which will start in the spring. The program will encourage students to think deeply about Pennsylvania as a state and will offer them opportunities to delve into issues in local government, after which they will share presentations on what they’ve learned.

Years ago, Leonard Lauder helped change the way we think about the study of business. In 1983, Lauder and his brother, Ronald S. Lauder, W’65, created the Joseph H. Lauder Institute of Management & International Studies in honor of their father. The Institute gives students the opportunity to pair their Wharton MBA with a Master of Arts in International Studies. A long-time member of the Institute’s board, Leonard Lauder continually impressed upon Penn the importance of international awareness to round out a business education.

“Leonard Lauder had a passion for global education, foreign languages, and cross-cultural dialogue,” says Jules H. van Binsbergen, the Lauder Chair Professor and Anthony L. Davis Director of the Lauder Institute. “He understood that success in the global business world required not just financial acumen, but cultural fluency.”

Most recently, in 2022, Lauder saw the opportunity to improve access to health care across the country. He made a transformational gift to Penn Nursing, which created the Leonard A. Lauder Community Care Nurse Practitioner Program. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he observed the fault lines deepening in the American health care system and knew that immediate action was critical. His support created a tuition-free program that recruits and educates individuals who become nurse practitioners and then go on to provide primary care in underserved communities throughout the United States.

“There is a critical shortage in primary care providers across the country,” explains Penn Nursing Dean Antonia Villarruel. “Leonard Lauder recognized that need, and graduates of this program are already making a vital impact on health equity in vulnerable communities.”

Morgan Bacon, Nu’22, GNU’26, of Philadelphia is part of this year’s cohort of Leonard A. Lauder Fellows, and her focus is adult gerontology. “This fellowship has validated my commitment to advancing health education, equity, and patient advocacy,” says Bacon. “I am inspired by Mr. Lauder’s mission to foster academic excellence and to expand one’s own viewpoint.”

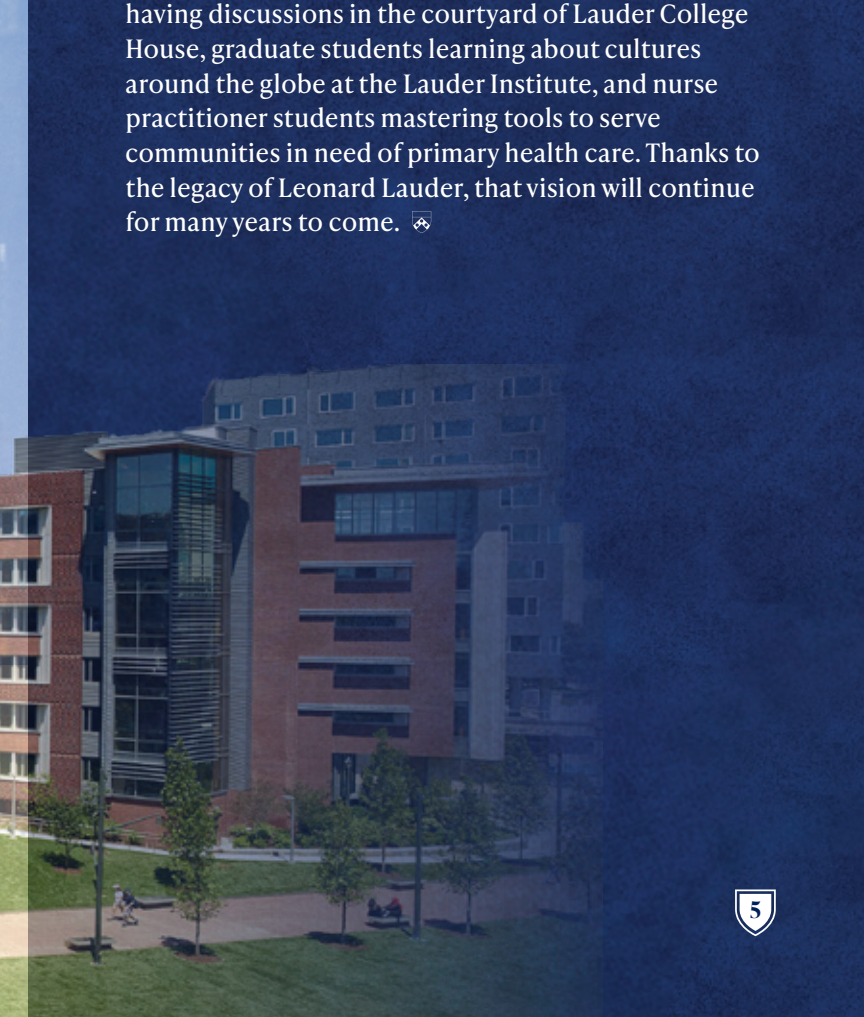
Recent graduate Greta Morrisette, Nu’21, GNU’24, started a nurse practitioner residency at Unity Health in Washington, D.C., where she is honing her skills and providing care to residents. “The Lauder program has provided me with an incredibly well-rounded education,” says Morrisette. “I am a better provider because I did not need to worry about working to afford tuition—I was able to focus on studying and my clinical rotations.”



Beyond Lauder’s support of student fellowships, faculty chairs, breast cancer research, and so much more, he also built deep, lasting connections across the University.

He knew many graduates of the Lauder Institute over the years and enjoyed hearing from nursing students in the program he funded. He also kept strong relationships with Penn faculty and administrators. Known for both his charm and his avid listening skills, he made everyone feel that he knew them personally.

Perhaps the greatest example of Lauder’s vision is in the day-to-day as it unfolds at Penn: undergraduates having discussions in the courtyard of Lauder College House, graduate students learning about cultures around the globe at the Lauder Institute, and nurse practitioner students mastering tools to serve communities in need of primary health care. Thanks to the legacy of Leonard Lauder, that vision will continue for many years to come. 🌱





**Philanthropic support of graduate education is critical in fostering the next generation of scholars and leaders in every field.**

**Investing in**

**EXCELLENCE**

**Advancing knowledge, leadership, and discovery**



**A**n investment in graduate and professional education is an investment in discovery itself. It is also an investment in the innovators and leaders who will go on to shape our world. At Penn, donor-supported fellowships and scholarships make it possible for exceptional graduate students to pursue the research, innovation, and professional preparation that fuel progress across every field.

What's more, through the strength of their contributions, graduate students are partners in driving discoveries that benefit communities near and far. They define new avenues of inquiry, energize faculty collaborations, and generate insights that translate into real-world impact. Their work often defines the frontiers of human knowledge, which will inspire the next generation of innovators and shape the professions and industries that sustain society.

**“Graduate students are an essential spark driving research and discovery. Having a robust and energetic graduate program defined by excellence in scholarship is one of the highest priorities we have.”**

**Mark Trodden**

*Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences and  
Thomas S. Gates, Jr. Professor of Physics & Astronomy*

**A Leading Philanthropic Priority**

Supporting graduate education is not simply about funding students—it is about cultivating leaders, creating knowledge that serves communities, and advancing society itself.

Graduate students often face difficult financial choices as they strive to balance tuition, living expenses, and future debt. Some must take on additional jobs to make ends meet, limiting the time they can devote to research, professional development, and discovery that drives societal progress.

For many others, cost is a key factor in where they decide to enroll, or whether they can attend graduate school at all. Recent federal policy changes have further raised the stakes by placing a cap on graduate student loans.

To attract and support the very best emerging scholars, Penn must remain competitive with peer institutions who have more substantial endowment resources. Philanthropy plays a key role in ensuring that Penn can recruit the most promising minds—those who will expand the boundaries of understanding and make a lasting impact in their fields.

**Unlocking Potential**

Financial aid unlocks potential. Freed from make-or-break calculations about cost, graduate and professional students can focus fully on the pursuit of ideas, experimentation, and innovation. The result is a vibrant intellectual community whose ideas ripple outward—benefiting the entire University and the world beyond campus.

“Supporting graduate and professional students strengthens Penn’s entire ecosystem of inquiry and impact,” says Penn’s Provost, John L. Jackson, Jr. “Philanthropy empowers students to pursue ideas that matter and fosters the interdisciplinary collaborations that move society forward.”

# Powering

# Possibilities

Here, five graduate students share what it means to receive donor-funded fellowships.



## SP2 Scholar

**Edgar Bruno Díaz Castro, SPP'25**

School of Social Policy and Practice (SP2)

The SP2 Scholars Program, funded by a supportive group of SP2 stakeholders, is designed to attract leaders with an interest in social innovation and impact. While working as a public servant in his native Puebla, Mexico, Edgar saw how important it was for public policy to be rooted in data. As an SP2 Scholar, he gained skills that now help him drive systemic change by guiding local governments to make data-informed decisions, track resource use, and measure progress.

**“By covering the financial burden of tuition, the SP2 Scholars Program has allowed me to consider a wide range of professional opportunities at the intersection of public policy and social change. Penn offered me the intellectual resources, the mentorship, and the supportive environment that I needed to take this next step in my career.”**

Opportunities still remain to support the SP2 Scholars Program. Gifts made in increments of \$500,000 will be matched up to \$1 million. Learn more at [sp2.upenn.edu/giving-opportunities](https://sp2.upenn.edu/giving-opportunities).



## Pottruck Graduate

## Prize Fellow

**Shivanand Boddapati, Gr'28**  
Penn Arts & Sciences

As a PhD candidate, Shivanand researches the historiographical and ethnographic elements of Indian classical music. The Pottruck Fellowship, established with a generous gift from Dave Pottruck, C'70, WG'72, has enabled Shivanand to connect these distant threads across place and time—deepening cross-cultural understanding and situating his work within a vibrant community of scholars who explore the global exchange of ideas through music.

**“With such a specific field of interest, I gain a great deal by being in a community of scholars who share similar questions. There are very few programs in the U.S. or even the entire world which have the kind of interdisciplinary breadth I was seeking. Being able to study alongside the scholars I studied as an undergraduate has been a dream come true.”**



## Toll Public Interest Scholar

**Madeline Nagler, L'27**  
Penn Carey Law

Thanks to a generous donation from the Robert and Jane Toll Foundation, founded by Robert Toll, L'66, and Jane Toll, GSE'66, Penn Carey Law is home to a remarkable roster of public interest scholarships and programs. As a Toll Public Interest Scholar, Madeline is using her background in documentary storytelling to help previously incarcerated youth reintegrate into society.

**“The Toll Scholarship has enabled me to focus on doing meaningful work, and it has given me a community of people who are incredibly intelligent, creative, and collaborative. By supporting passionate people in doing important public interest work, the Toll Scholarship is creating a chain of good.”**



## Twenty-First

## Century Scholar

**Zoe Barinaga, M'28**  
Perelman School of Medicine

In 1992, Anne and the late Walter Gamble, M'57, founded the Twenty-First Century Scholars Program to ease the debt burden for talented students so that they could make a strong social impact by practicing medicine. After earning her bachelor's in biomedical engineering from the University of Florida and her master's in AI from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Zoe enrolled at the Perelman School of Medicine, where she joined a cohort of ambitious researchers and clinicians. She has quickly added tremendous value by helping to develop a new AI-centered curriculum with the administration, driven by her goal to harness AI for more accessible and inclusive medical care.

**“The financial support is a blessing. Without it, I would not have been able to focus on both clinical sciences and artificial intelligence. I can now consider a non-traditional career path beyond the typical progression of medical education, and I can explore additional technical training and research. I feel very valued at the Perelman School of Medicine and celebrated for my unique background, and I am confident that its vision aligns with my own hopes to bridge medicine and AI for good.”**



## Class of 1957

## Endowed Scholar

**Tarek Atallah Benson, V'27**  
School of Veterinary Medicine

While undergoing cancer treatment earlier in life, Tarek witnessed how emotional support dogs were shut out of a hospital floor because of a human tuberculosis case. For Tarek, this experience revealed the link between human-animal disease transfer. After working for the Department of Defense on antibiotic resistance, Tarek decided to enroll at Penn Vet and study zoonotic and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in order to understand and prevent future outbreaks. His goals are now being realized thanks to the Class of 1957 Endowed Scholarship, which was established by the class to support future veterinary leaders.

**“The Class of 1957 Scholarship has allowed me to take full advantage of amazing opportunities. I have been able to participate in wet labs—autopsies and necropsies—including gowning up and performing procedures to extract parasites. I have been able to attend symposia, can do externships with the CDC and WHO, and I can explore on-site study with indigenous populations practicing traditional medicine, which is crucial to understanding NTDs. None of these opportunities would have been available if I needed to take a job to make ends meet.”**

## Supporting the Future of

## Knowledge Development

The need to invest in graduate aid has never been greater. Future cohorts of Penn graduate students will be instrumental in making scientific discoveries, addressing pressing social needs, teaching the next generation of scholars around the world, and moving our understanding of society and culture forward. ✎

To learn more about supporting graduate fellowships at Penn, please contact **Paul Mischler, Chief Philanthropic Advisor**, at [mischler@upenn.edu](mailto:mischler@upenn.edu).

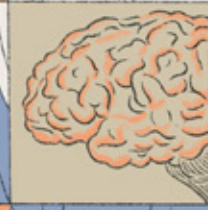
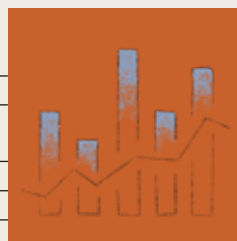
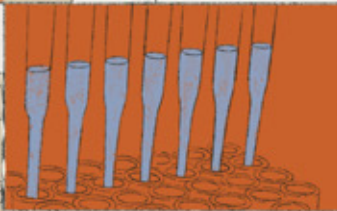
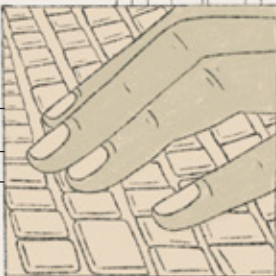
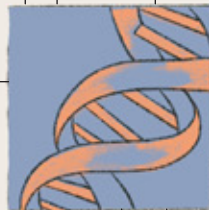
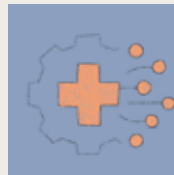
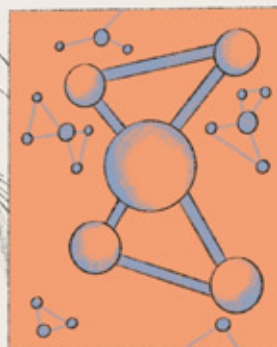


# EARLY DRUG DISCOVERY

MEETS

A

I



**Philanthropy is jump-starting new applications of AI across Penn Medicine**

**“As to diseases, make a habit of two things—to help, or at least to do no harm,” Hippocrates famously wrote. Today, medicine might add the lesser-known line that preceded it: “Declare the past, diagnose the present, foretell the future.”**

At Penn Medicine, foretelling the future comes with the territory.

As industry investment pursues private interests, Penn Medicine is providing a critical, parallel path for AI that is motivated by the public good. One of the world’s leading academic medical centers, it is championing advancements in everything from drug discovery to patient care, by design: “We’ve already thought long and hard about where Penn will have the greatest impact,” says Jonathan Epstein, MD, Dean of the Perelman School of Medicine. “Early drug discovery, computer vision, and patient-provider interactions are three areas where we already have a wealth of expertise, data, and capacity. They’re also areas that the pharmaceutical industry isn’t as well positioned to address. Philanthropy will be crucial as we forge these new paths.”

On at least one path, the rubber is already meeting the road, thanks to the Stephen J. Heyman Fund for AI Innovation, which is propelling the exploration of how AI can improve early drug discovery.

## IMPACT ON THE GROUND FLOOR: AI IN EARLY DRUG DISCOVERY

On paper, early drug discovery is a deceptively straightforward process. Researchers identify and validate a biological target, test a drug against it, measure the reaction between the two, and *presto!* the beginnings of a pharmaceutical breakthrough.

But—as in so many other areas of medical research—it’s not that simple. The process takes time, repetition, and revision. Few people understand this better than Sara Cherry, Scientific Director of the High-Throughput Institute for Discovery (HIT-ID) at Penn Medicine. “In a nutshell, high-throughput screening uses advanced robotics and specialized equipment to rapidly test thousands of biological samples,” she says. “It’s efficient, but it isn’t necessarily adapted to, say, working toward a cure for rare diseases.”

That’s why HIT-ID has partnered with Penn Medicine’s Institute for Biomedical Informatics to launch the AI Biomedical Research Accelerator, supported by the Stephen J. Heyman Fund for AI Innovation. The goal is not just to make early drug discovery more efficient, but to explore research that was previously too costly, complicated, or outright impossible without the use of AI.

“There are many people thinking about early drug discovery and others thinking about artificial intelligence, but they don’t necessarily interact,” notes Cherry. “One of the founding goals of the High-Throughput Institute was to bring ‘wet bench’ and ‘dry bench’ experts together and to leverage their combined knowledge. Being part of the AI Biomedical Research Accelerator extends that goal even further.”

**“Interdisciplinary research is crucial to advancing knowledge, and AI is an accelerant in that process. Penn Medicine is already known for breakthroughs, and with this work, we’ll be shaking up the world—for the better.”**

**Stephen J. Heyman, W’59**

## MEET THE PILOT PROJECTS

### TEAM 1

The first team is pursuing new treatment options for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a rare genetic mutation that destroys the body's supply of the protein dystrophin and leads to fatal muscle loss in patients. As part of the AI Accelerator program, three Penn researchers are exploring whether another naturally occurring protein, utrophin, could serve a similar purpose. With promising preliminary results, they're now using AI to help identify molecular designs that could increase utrophin expression.

It's the first step in development of a new therapy for DMD, one that could change the lives of more than 15,000 young Americans currently living with the disease.

### TEAM 2

The second team is applying AI to the challenge of addiction treatment, using computer models to design new peptide therapeutics that could one day improve recovery outcomes. Peptide therapeutics are notoriously difficult to design, and to be successful, the researchers are leveraging a custom AI platform to navigate an ocean of delicate variables.

The goal? A powerful new AI tool that can accurately generate new drug designs in mere minutes.

## A REAL SHOT AT IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES

These two teams, selected from a pool of 21 applications, represent just the beginning of how Penn Medicine is using cutting-edge AI to advance early drug design research. In the words of Sara Cherry, "I think this approach of 'model first, then test, then incorporate those findings back into the algorithm' is the type of approach where grants like the Heyman Fund will have a big impact. A year and \$100,000 is enough to give these teams a real shot at making important discoveries that will allow them to get more funding, start companies, and make a real difference."

As Penn Medicine raises funds for additional AI acceleration grants, that spirit of anticipation is palpable. Future pilot projects could reach beyond early drug discovery to include ambient intelligence, new approaches to population health, personalized health apps, and a wide range of research partnerships. In Jonathan Epstein's words, "The possibilities are profound."

*"If we do this right, AI will have a systemic, positive impact on health care. Stephen Heyman shares that belief, and we are deeply grateful for his visionary support. Through philanthropic partnerships, Penn will have the opportunity to explore possibilities that few would have ever thought possible. We couldn't be more excited to be driving that progress."*

**Jonathan Epstein, MD**  
Dean, Perelman School of Medicine



Watch the inaugural Penn Medicine AI Symposium, funded by the Stephen J. Heyman Fund for AI Innovation, at: [pennpri.de/ai-health](http://pennpri.de/ai-health)

To learn more about supporting this type of work, contact **Paul Mischler, Chief Philanthropic Advisor**, at [mischler@upenn.edu](mailto:mischler@upenn.edu).

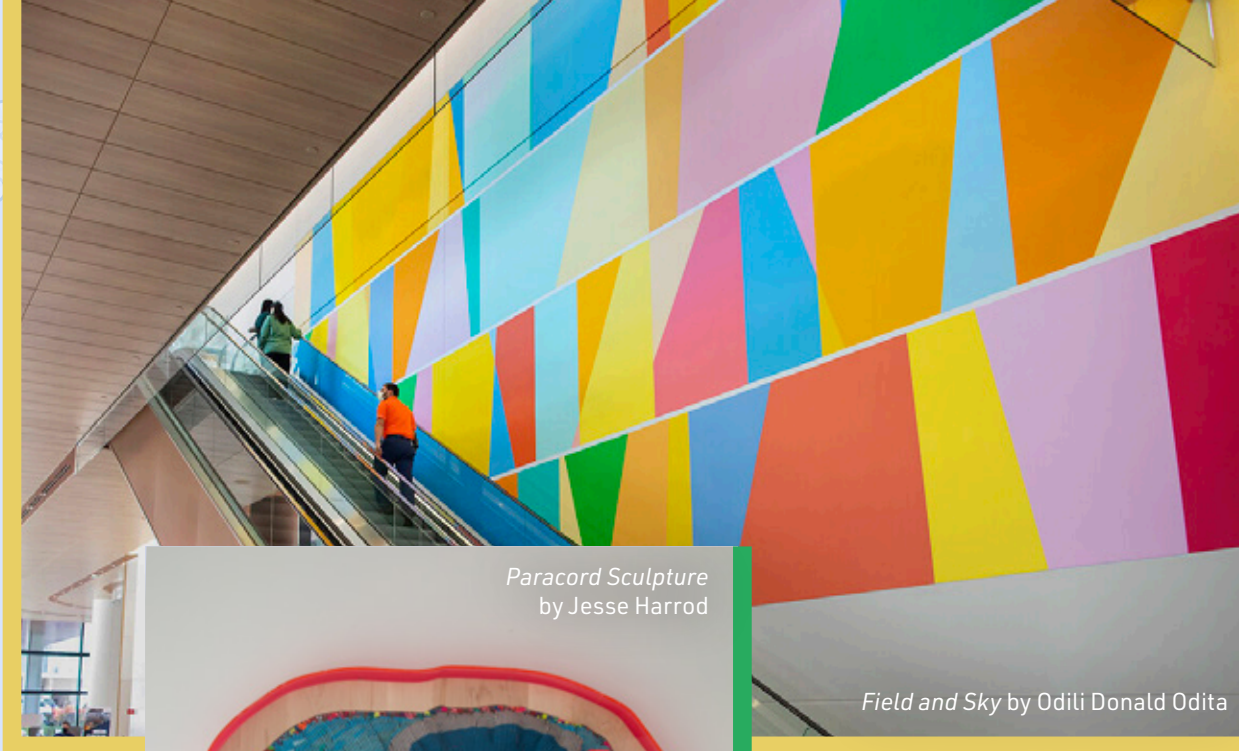
# The ART of CARE

At the Clifton Center for Medical Breakthroughs, art is an integral part of the healing process

This fall marked a significant milestone: the fourth anniversary of the Clifton Center for Medical Breakthroughs, located on the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania campus. In just a few short years, the Clifton Center has become a landmark for Penn Medicine and a national model for how innovation, compassion, and philanthropy can transform patient care.

This transformation was made possible thanks to a visionary investment from Penn Medicine Board member Catherine Clifton, CGS'72, GCP'74, and her husband Anthony—one of the largest gifts to a U.S. hospital system on record. It is now enabling Penn Medicine to accelerate research into lifesaving medical breakthroughs and, perhaps unexpectedly, to use art to redefine what healing can look like.

“From its inception, the Clifton Center embodied the idea that wellness is nurtured not only through medicine, but also through inspiration and humanity,” says Penn President J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD. “Thanks to Catherine and Anthony Clifton, this philosophy is present in every corner of the facility, where world-class medical care and world-class art converge to create an environment unlike any other hospital in the nation.”



Paracord Sculpture  
by Jesse Harrod

Field and Sky by Odili Donald Odita



Among the building’s most striking features is *Decoding the Tree of Life* by renowned architect and sculptor Maya Lin, who achieved national recognition for her design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. *Tree of Life* is an ethereal two-story sculpture of blown glass and stainless steel that is suspended from the atrium ceiling. As Lin herself expressed, “I wanted to do something wondrous and very life-affirming”—a sentiment that perfectly captures the Clifton Center’s mission.

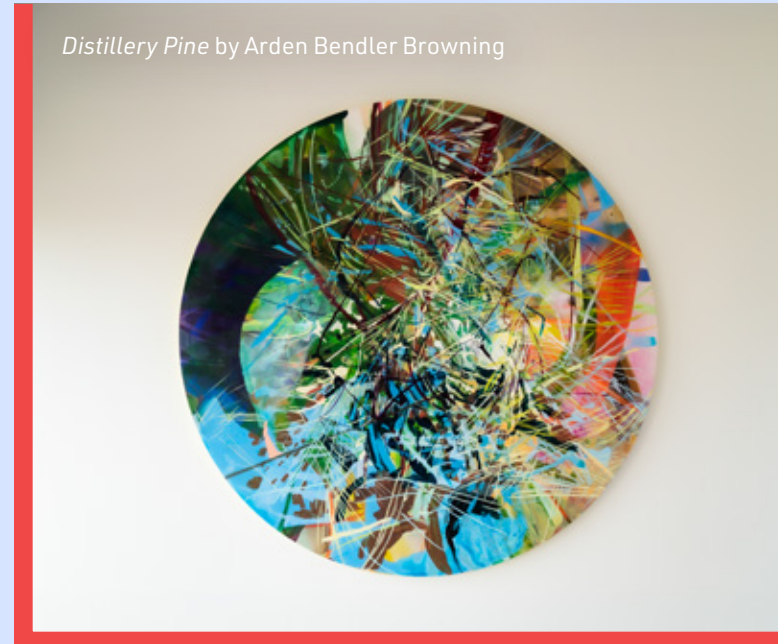


Chincoteague and Saint Michaels by Saskia Fleishman

Equally moving is *Field and Sky*, an expansive mural by Philadelphia-based artist Odili Donald Odita. Originally painted across two areas of the lobby, this vivid work transports viewers from the clinical setting to an outdoor scene bursting with color and possibility. In September, Odita completed the third and final segment of *Field and Sky*, bringing his full composition to life.

Thanks to an ongoing partnership with the Philadelphia Art Museum, even more new works are being installed throughout the Clifton Center. From evocative sculptures made from materials recovered from the Schuylkill River to works inspired by the sound of the forests of Puerto Rico, the selected pieces will invite quiet contemplation and offer patients and families a meditative experience during what may be the most challenging time of their lives.

As a result of the Cliftons’ extraordinary generosity, the Clifton Center now stands as a national model for how to transform patient care and reimagine the nature of healing spaces. 🌿



Distillery Pine by Arden Bendler Browning

“Art offers patients a moment of reflection, hope, and respite—the opportunity to see something beautiful and get recharged. In a hospital setting, these moments matter immeasurably.”

**Kevin B. Mahoney**, CEO of the University of Pennsylvania Health System



Decoding the Tree of Life by Maya Lin



Winter Greens and Golden Hour by Saleem Ahmed

# A HISTORIC GIFT FOR WHARTON

## WHARTON LAUNCHES MASTER OF SCIENCE IN QUANTITATIVE FINANCE WITH \$60 MILLION GIFT FROM DR. BRUCE I. JACOBS

### How does Wharton honor its legacy of excellence in finance while evolving in response to emerging needs?

In September 2025, the Wharton School announced the launch of the Dr. Bruce I. Jacobs Master of Science in Quantitative Finance (Jacobs MSQF) program, the School's first new degree offering in 50 years. The program is funded by a \$60 million gift from Dr. Bruce I. Jacobs, G'79, GrW'86, whose transformational commitment builds upon his longstanding support of quantitative finance initiatives at Wharton, now totaling more than \$80 million. Jacobs' latest gift creates a new pathway for students to develop critical skills and explore career opportunities in the rapidly growing quantitative asset management industry.

"Dr. Jacobs has long been a champion for Wharton's preeminence in this essential area, and we are deeply grateful for this historic gift," said Penn President J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD. "This new, innovative, hands-on graduate program will further advance our University's strategic focus on data and AI while preparing our quantitative finance students and scholars to lead in a rapidly changing world."

Erika James, Dean of the Wharton School, explained the program's impact: "This marks a new chapter of excellence in finance at Wharton and offers an unparalleled environment for students to explore this dynamic industry and emerge prepared to shape the future of finance."

Dr. Bruce I. Jacobs is principal and co-founder of Jacobs Levy Equity Management, where he serves as co-chief investment officer, portfolio manager, and co-director of research. He holds an MA in applied economics and a PhD in finance from Wharton.

**When I was at the Wharton School, quantitative finance was in its infancy. Now, it is an essential discipline in this data-driven world. By bridging theory and practice, the Jacobs MSQF program will have a lasting impact on the industry and many future generations of students."**

**Dr. Bruce I. Jacobs, G'79, GrW'86**



Wharton Dean Erika James and Dr. Bruce I. Jacobs



To learn more about the Jacobs MSQF program, visit: [jacobs-msqf.wharton.upenn.edu](https://jacobs-msqf.wharton.upenn.edu)

# 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.



◀ **Carolyn H. McGrory, Nu'57, and her late husband, Robert**, established the McGrory Family Endowed Fellowship at Penn Nursing in support of master's-level nurses. Their wish was to honor the nursing profession and her family's ongoing commitment to higher education, public service, and public health. This gift was generously matched by **Andrea Berry Laporte, Nu'69**, Trustee Emerita, emerita member of the Penn Nursing Board of Advisors, and current member of the ICA's Board of Advisors.

**Joshua Beer, C'00, WG'08**, made a \$400,000 gift to establish the Sue and Sandy Schwartz Economics Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to undergraduates in the College.

▶ In support of Penn GSE's strategic vision, *Together for Good*, **Andrea Pollack, C'83, L'87, GeD'17**, and **Adam Usdan** endowed the Usdan Family Professorship in Special Education.

**Jerry Rehm** committed \$750,000 to the Penn Libraries in memory of Dr. H. Michael Neiditch, C'68. His gift will establish a student-worker fellowship supporting hands-on learning for students interested in academic librarianship and an endowment in support of materials processing, advancing access to unique library collections.

**Nana Murugesan, WG'09**, has endowed the Narayanan Murugesan WG'09 Family Scholarship to support Penn undergraduates with a passion for innovation and entrepreneurship. His generous gift strengthens Penn's commitment to ensuring that the next generation of Penn students will shape the future through bold ideas and purpose-driven leadership.



# Giving Highlights

This year's 14th annual **Run for the Stripes** event at the Philadelphia Zoo rallied the community in support of neuroendocrine tumor research at Penn's Abramson Cancer Center, honoring the memory and vision of founder Jan Eisner. Thanks to the passion of participants and the steadfast leadership of the event board members, the event raised \$95,000 this year, bringing the lifetime total donations to \$805,000.



▲ **Jesse Shapiro, C'96, PAR'29, and Danielle Samulon, PAR'29**, gave \$150,000 to establish an endowed unrestricted fund for the Netter Center for Community Partnerships and \$12,500 to support the Class of 1996 Reunion Fund.

**Drs. Jane, FEL'70, and Abass Alavi, FEL'70**, pledged \$50,000 to the Morris Arboretum & Gardens in support of critical plant science research. Morris's new Plant Science Lab will advance important research efforts such as mitigating the impact of climate change on plants and other crucial matters undertaken by plant researchers at Morris, Penn, and other institutions.

In honor of their 20th reunions, **Sean Lambert, ENG'05, and Sarah Lambert, C'05**, made a \$3 million gift to name the Galleria in Amy Gutmann Hall, Penn Engineering's state-of-the-art hub for data science and AI. Penn holds special meaning for the couple—Sean and Sarah met during their sophomore year—and this gift reflects their enduring gratitude for the experiences and community that have shaped their lives.

**Matt Caltabiano, ENG'18, W'18**, made a \$25,000 gift to support the sprint football endowment and the Sprint Football Varsity Fund. His gift was designed to inspire endowment and annual fund support from younger alumni.

▼ **Melanie Nussdorf, CW'71**, gave \$216,000 to create the Nussdorf Fund for Anchor Initiatives at the Penn Institute for Urban Research in order to make cities around the world more livable and vibrant.



**Julie Beren Platt, C'79, and Marc E. Platt, C'79**, made a pair of leadership gifts to elevate Jewish Studies at Penn Arts & Sciences. The Julie Beren Platt and Marc E. Platt Professorship of Jewish Studies will provide support for eminent scholars in the field, facilitating trailblazing research and innovative educational opportunities that might have otherwise been out of reach, and the Julie Beren Platt and Marc E. Platt Jewish Studies Program Fund will strengthen graduate student connections and engagement with programming such as a biannual conference, seminars, and workshops.

► **Julie Beren Platt, C'79, and Marc E. Platt, C'79**, made a visionary gift to Penn Live Arts to name the Platt Student Performing Arts Center, currently under construction at the intersection of 33rd Street and Woodland Walk. The new building will include 38,700 square feet of performance, teaching, rehearsal, and practice spaces for use by the 2,000+ students involved in the performing arts on campus.

◀ **Lira Lee Cohen, C'90, W'90, and Jon Cohen, W'91**, made a \$250,000 gift to the School of Social Policy & Practice to support financial aid, the SP2 Annual Fund, and the Dean's Fund.

**Eric Brahin, ENG'00, GEng'01, and Jacqueline Brahin** made a \$75,000 gift to Penn Live Arts to support the Carnegie Student Performance Showcase.

**Andrea E. Utecht, G'72, L'75, WG'75**, made a \$50,000 unrestricted gift to Penn Carey Law in honor of her 50th law school reunion.

**Harrison Jo, D'10, and Hojung Cho, D'10**, gave \$175,000 to endow a scholarship at Penn Dental Medicine to honor how the School provided a strong foundation for their careers and inspired their passion for serving others.

▼ **The Kane Wallace Foundation** gave \$5 million to fund the Edward W. Kane Theatre in the new Platt Student Performing Arts Center. This new 325-seat theatre will serve the 2,000-plus undergraduate students on Penn's campus who participate in performance groups ranging from dance to musical theatre and beyond.



# Giving Highlights



◀ Penn Engineering received an \$11 million investment from the **A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation** to expand the institution's Clark Scholars Program, a holistic initiative that combines financial aid, mentorship, service, and entrepreneurship to prepare future engineers to lead, innovate, and give back.

Penn's Institute for Urban Research received a \$10 million **anonymous** gift to advance research, education, and policy solutions for the cities of today and tomorrow.

A \$21 million gift from **the estate of Louise A. Strauss, C'82**, will support multiple areas across the University, including Penn Arts & Sciences' Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, the Rare Judaica Acquisitions Endowment Fund in the Penn Libraries, and the Morris Arboretum & Gardens.

## A Creative Way to Support Penn



*(While Boosting Retirement Income)*

John Moore first became involved with Penn in the 1980s when his English Setter, George, was brought to Penn Vet's Ryan Hospital for care.

Moore and his wife, Billie Kay Spotts, have since become valued friends of Penn Vet as well as Penn Medicine.

Over time, the couple has established eight charitable gift annuities (CGAs) in support of Penn Vet's Working Dog Center and Penn's Memory Care Center. In exchange for a contribution of \$10,000 or more, a CGA provides income for life at an attractive rate of return. Payments may begin immediately or be deferred to a future date. For many donors, including Spotts and Moore, CGAs can be a strategic way to support the Penn programs that are meaningful to them.

Spotts and Moore staggered their CGAs, establishing annuities at different times, with different payout dates. This approach, known as "laddering," allows the donor to receive a predictable and steady flow of income while taking interest rate changes into account.

"For us, it was a win-win," Moore explains. "By establishing CGAs with deferred dates, we could supplement our retirement—and receive a higher rate of return—while supporting priorities we really care about now."

Moore is also supporting Penn Vet in another important way: by sponsoring Anka, a future working dog currently in training at Penn Vet's Working Dog Center. Once she "graduates," Anka will go on to a career in public health and safety. ☘

To learn more, contact Penn's Office of Gift Planning at **(215) 898-6171** or [giftplan@dev.upenn.edu](mailto:giftplan@dev.upenn.edu).



## New Art on the Block

Meet *Rui Rui* (\`rāy-rāy\`), the latest monumental addition to the Penn Art Collection. A gift from alumni Glenn, W'87, WG'88, and Amanda Fuhrman, C'95, *Rui Rui* is the work of Spanish sculptor Jaume Plensa, and it continues the artist's contemplation of the human head in awe-inspiring scale. With the installation of *Rui Rui* near the Penn Museum, in Harrison Garden, Philadelphia joins cities across Spain, France, Japan, England, Korea, Germany, and Canada as a home to one of the sculptor's internationally renowned public artworks.

"Penn is a place for cultural and creative vitality, for anyone who walks onto our campus," commented President J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD. "The sculptures across our grounds exemplify that ethos: they are for students, for Philadelphia—for all." ☘



