Summer 2024

INSPIRING IMPACT
MAGAZINE

INDELIBLE IMPACT

Celebrating Roy and Diana Vagelos

(Page 2)

Dear Friends,

Our beloved Penn has a remarkable history spanning almost three centuries. This has been a difficult year that has tested us in many ways. Yet the inspiring work of Penn continues every day and, I believe, every day the world is better because of Penn.

Our support as donors is a driving force for good at the University. Our new strategic framework, *In Principle and Practice*, describes Penn as an anchored, interwoven, inventive, and engaged institution. The stories in this edition of *Inspiring Impact* show us how our philanthropy is a critical ingredient in this framework, powering extraordinary outcomes in the hands of our faculty, researchers, and students—and strengthening this incredible university's ability to drive change for the betterment of society.

I hope you enjoy the magazine and that I see you soon at a Penn event. As always, I welcome your outreach if you'd like to be in touch directly at bandeen@upenn.edu.

Warmly,

Bonnie Miao Bandeen, *C'80, WG'85, PAR'16, PAR'22*
Chair, Trustee Development Committee

Learn more about Penn's new strategic framework, *In Principle and Practice.*

Inspiring Impact is published by University of Pennsylvania, Development and Alumni Relations. Printed May 31, 2024.

EDITORIAL OFFICES
Development and Alumni Relations
Marketing and Communications
University of Pennsylvania
2929 Walnut Street, Suite 300,
Philadelphia, PA 19104
DARcommunications@dev.upenn.edu
giving.upenn.edu

CHANGE OF ADDRESS
Alumni: Visit MyPenn, Penn's online community at mypenn.upenn.edu.
Non-alumni: Email Development and Alumni Records at record@ben.dev.upenn.edu or call (215) 898-8136.

EDITORIAL TEAM: Hannah Campbell, Joanna Guttridge, R.T. Teitman, Keren White
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Colleen Cannon, Sarah Punderson, R.T. Teitman, Helen Walsh
ART DIRECTION: Yuan Yao
DIGITAL CONTENT: Matt Cianfrani, Johanna Humphrey, Tom Stanley
COVER ILLUSTRATION: Sam Falconer
EDITORIAL ILLUSTRATION: Sam Falconer, Natasha Levandoski, Lauren Thomas

INSIDE

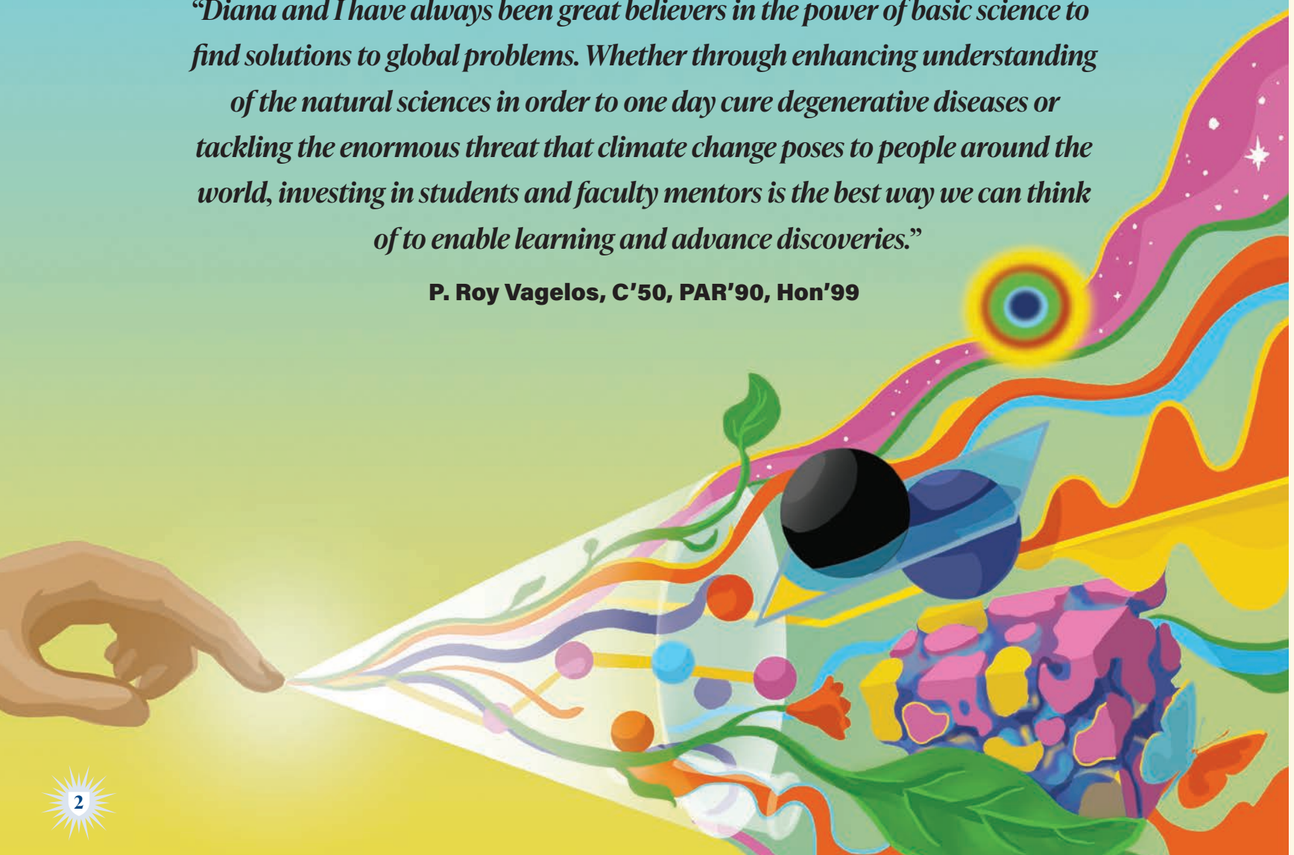
Throughout this issue, we've included QR codes that link to related videos and other digital content. Using your mobile phone or tablet, open the built-in camera app. Point the camera at the QR code, and tap the banner to access the content.

INDELIBLE

IMPACT

"Diana and I have always been great believers in the power of basic science to find solutions to global problems. Whether through enhancing understanding of the natural sciences in order to one day cure degenerative diseases or tackling the enormous threat that climate change poses to people around the world, investing in students and faculty mentors is the best way we can think of to enable learning and advance discoveries."

P. Roy Vagelos, C'50, PAR'90, Hon'99



Ever since he arrived at the Quad in 1947, Roy Vagelos has left his mark at Penn: first as a standout chemistry student and winning oarsman; then as the founder of the undergraduate financial aid program, member of the Penn Arts & Sciences Board of Advisors, trusted confidante to Penn presidents; and, later, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

But Roy's most indelible—and enduring—impact at Penn may be his inspired philanthropy.

Together, he and his wife Diana have had an incomparable impact on scientific research and education at Penn Arts & Sciences. They have supported scientists ranging from first-year chemistry students to the most distinguished members of the faculty. The Vagelos scholarships and awards have inspired young people to pursue careers in science. The two University buildings carrying the Vagelos name are synonymous with Penn's commitment to excellence in the sciences. And Roy and Diana have advanced pathbreaking research aimed at tackling some of the greatest challenges our world is facing.

This winter, Roy and Diana added to their decades of support with a transformative $83.9 million gift to Penn Arts & Sciences. It is the largest single gift ever made to the School and one of the largest gifts in Penn's history. With this gift, Roy and Diana's total support to Penn Arts & Sciences now stands at a remarkable $239 million.

Their most recent gift will enhance graduate education in the Department of Chemistry by establishing 20 new Vagelos Fellowships. It will also establish a permanent endowment for the Vagelos Institute for Energy Science and Technology, an endowed chair in chemistry, and student awards in the three undergraduate Vagelos programs.

The values that have driven Roy and Diana's philanthropy have shaped the work of the School of Arts and Sciences and continue to align with Penn's highest priorities. With this latest commitment, as always, Roy and Diana remain forward-looking. Their most recent gift will help advance pioneering work on the existential challenge of climate change—a pillar of the School of Arts and Sciences' strategic plan since 2014 and one of the top priorities of the University's new strategic framework, *In Principle and Practice*.

It is impossible to overstate how Roy and Diana have shaped what it means to be a scientist at Penn. The opportunities that they have created have benefitted students and faculty across the University, but their impact on the School of Arts and Sciences is particularly large. Their passion for science and belief in the work we do continually inspires people, from first-year students eager to begin a course of study to veteran researchers energized by new possibilities.

—Steven J. Fluharty
Dean, Penn Arts & Sciences
Thomas S. Gates, Jr. Professor of Psychology, Pharmacology, and Neuroscience

THE VAGELOS **LEGACY**

TRANSFORMING CAMPUS

THE VAGELOS NAME IS A COMMON SIGHT ON PENN'S CAMPUS, but it's in science education and research that Roy and Diana have made the greatest impact. The Roy and Diana Vagelos Laboratories of the Institute for Advanced Science and Technology signaled the University's renewed commitment to science and engineering, while the Vagelos Laboratory for Energy Science and Technology (VLEST) will power Penn's commitment to addressing climate change when it opens in 2025.

I came from a low-income background, and the Vagelos LSM program provided me with opportunities and resources that gave me the freedom to be curious. Without the program and its support, I wouldn't have been able to explore my diverse interests in global health, biomedical research, entrepreneurship, and so much more. But beyond that, the program's students, faculty, and Dr. Vagelos himself have nurtured a profound sense of purpose and continue to inspire me to drive meaningful change in science and medicine.

—Henry Le, C'23, W'23
Entering the Coordinated Doctoral Programs in Biomedical Sciences at Columbia University this fall

TRAINING TOMORROW'S SCIENTISTS

SUPPORT FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS IS A TOP PRIORITY for Penn Arts & Sciences. Responding to this need, Roy and Diana's latest gift will establish 20 new fellowships in the Department of Chemistry, helping to bring the most talented graduate students to Penn and supporting their education under top faculty so they can contribute to tomorrow's breakthroughs.

The Vagelos Professorship, together with the Vagelos Institute for Energy Science and Technology, has provided vital resources for us to develop new, out-of-the-box ideas in energy science. They have enabled interdisciplinary collaborations that have led to large federally funded research projects. Those projects would never have gotten off the ground without the interdisciplinary collaborations enabled by the Vagelos endowments.

—Thomas E. Mallouk
Vagelos Professor of Energy Research
Chair, Department of Chemistry

POWERING THE FUTURE OF ENERGY

ENERGY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION STAND AT THE CORE OF MANY OF THE VAGELOS GIFTS—a reflection of Roy's recognition of the critical importance of this issue. Most notably, Roy and Diana have helped fund VLEST, which will become the new hub for energy research at Penn when it opens next year (see Transforming Campus section). In addition, Roy and Diana have established not just one, but two endowed professorships in energy research, both filled by leading scientists in this field.

A physician-scientist, Roy pioneered major advances that have transformed human health. For more than four decades, Roy and Diana have expanded Penn's reach in the sciences, by investing in cutting-edge facilities for research and learning, promoting discoveries in the lab, and advancing sustainable energy solutions. Their inspired philanthropy has left an enduring legacy at Penn.

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

INSPIRING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

ROY AND DIANA HAVE CREATED UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITIES to support undergraduates and ignite their passion for science. That includes the establishment of three interdisciplinary programs that are preparing tomorrow's scientists and innovators: the Vagelos Scholars Program in the Molecular Life Sciences (MLS), the Roy and Diana Vagelos Program in Life Sciences and Management (LSM), and the Vagelos Integrated Program in Energy Research (VIPER).

A scholarship student himself, Roy championed financial aid and established endowed scholarships for students in the sciences. He and Diana also funded the Vagelos Prizes, which reward and encourage students by recognizing outstanding achievement. Just as important, Roy has been generous with his time, visiting campus often and offering words of advice and mentorship to promising young scientists.

Supporting talented graduate students and bringing them together with the best faculty is the most promising path to breakthrough discoveries addressing not only the challenges that are facing us today, but ones that we have not yet imagined. This monumental new gift caps off the incomparable impact that Roy and Diana have had on scientific research and education at Penn Arts & Sciences.

—Steven J. Fluharty
Dean, Penn Arts & Sciences
Thomas S. Gates, Jr. Professor of Psychology, Pharmacology, and Neuroscience

FUELING INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY

A DISTINGUISHED BIOCHEMIST, ROY HAS ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD THAT STELLAR FACULTY ARE KEY to fueling innovation in the research laboratory and training the next generation of scientists. He and Diana have funded six endowed positions that help Penn recruit and retain outstanding faculty and propel extraordinary research. Another endowed position, the P. Roy Vagelos Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was established by the Merck Company to honor Roy's retirement as Merck CEO and appointment as Chair of Penn's Board of Trustees.

This new gift from the Vageloses supercharges energy research at Penn. It also positions the University as a world leader in enabling the science solutions that will secure a sustainable energy future. Roy and Diana have facilitated new interdisciplinary collaborations, enabled the purchase and support of state-of-the art instrumentation, and provided fellowships to incredibly talented and ambitious students and postdoctoral researchers who will be the energy science leaders of tomorrow.

—Karen Goldberg
Vagelos Professor of Energy Research
Inaugural Director, Vagelos Institute for Energy Science and Technology

From Breakthrough *to* a New Frontier

Philanthropy is helping Penn researchers unlock novel treatments for diseases using mRNA technology

"We hope the institute will bring together researchers across Penn and the world to collaborate and advance basic science through therapeutic development."

–Drew Weissman

Roberts Family Professor in Vaccine Research and Director of the Institute for RNA Innovation

In science, the word "breakthrough" is often used to describe the field's most important advances. The word itself, however, can be a bit misleading. The breakthrough is almost never the result of a single moment of inspiration; nearly every innovation comes from years—or even decades—of methodical research that painstakingly uncovers new ways to understand the world.

Penn Medicine researchers Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman did that hard work. Since the late 1990s, Karikó and Weissman had been exploring how to safely use messenger RNA (mRNA) to create vaccines and new treatments for diseases. Their research didn't gain much traction until the COVID-19 pandemic. Suddenly, the world needed new vaccines—quickly. Karikó and Weissman's discoveries were the blueprint for creating the mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccines that were credited with saving millions of lives, and, in 2023, they were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Their decades of research changed the world when it was most needed. And now, from that seed of knowledge, mRNA is poised to continue changing the world.

In 2022, Penn launched the Institute for RNA Innovation and in November 2023 opened its facility at One uCity Square. Directed by Weissman, the Roberts Family Professor in Vaccine Research, and Co-Directed by James Hoxie, Emeritus Professor of Medicine and former Director of the Penn Center for AIDS Research, the Institute is a hub for researchers across different fields and from various institutions who are studying the myriad ways RNA can be used for new vaccines and treatments.

With over 1,000 members, it encourages meaningful interaction between faculty members who otherwise might never connect. While it took a chance encounter at a copy machine for Weissman and Karikó to meet and begin working together, the Institute brings scientists together with intention. And not just at Penn—the Institute has a truly global reach, collaborating with over 250 other labs around the world.

Philanthropy—including the support of Brian and Aileen Roberts—has been a key driver for mRNA research. In addition to endowing Weissman's professorship, the Aileen K. and Brian L. Roberts Family Foundation created the Roberts Family-Katalin Karikó Fellowship in Vaccine Development to provide support for early-career scientists in the field of immunology.

"The Penn Institute for RNA Innovation enables investigators on the Penn, CHOP, and Wistar campus to benefit from the advances and new tools that are becoming available in RNA science," says Hoxie. "We are excited by the impact this field will have for basic, clinical, and translational research, and our campus is the ideal place to develop collaborations and resources that will make new discoveries possible."

Learn more about the origins of mRNA vaccines in this short video.

The years of research on mRNA have yielded not only vital COVID-19 vaccines, but an entirely new therapeutic platform that is changing the field of medicine. Researchers are working quickly toward treatments for some of today's most prevalent diseases, such as cancer and heart disease. And scientists are looking for new uses for mRNA technology every day.

"RNA therapeutics represent a paradigm shift in disease treatment, providing unprecedented versatility and precision," says Sara Cherry, John W. Eckman Professor of Medical Science and Therapeutics Group Lead at the Institute. "The collaboration among diverse RNA-focused researchers at Penn fosters innovation, promising new avenues for impactful contributions in the field well into the future. It's a very exciting place to be."

"The Institute for RNA Innovation has already led to many impactful collaborations amongst Penn students and faculty and serves as a magnet to recruit new faculty to Penn who bring unique expertise to our campus to enable inventive new directions of research," adds Kristen Lynch, Benjamin Rush Professor of Biochemistry and Basic Science Group Lead at the Institute.

In addition, the Institute is working with the Annenberg School for Communication and other partners across campus to combat vaccine misinformation in the public and collaborate with governments around the world to help them affordably and sustainably manufacture their own vaccines.

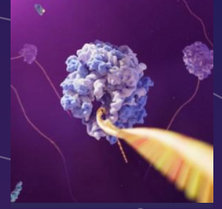
The blossoming of new mRNA treatments came from years of dedicated research by Karikó and Weissman. Their breakthrough became a foundation—one that will support decades of new advances in medical science. And at the same time, in a lab somewhere at Penn, other researchers are quietly working on the next great scientific discovery, one that we won't know about for years.

MALARIA

In collaboration with researchers across the world, the Institute is developing a new malaria vaccine using mRNA technology. According to the World Health Organization, there were an estimated 249 million cases of malaria globally in 2022, with most of the cases concentrated in Africa. Current vaccines must be given yearly and are only 40 percent effective; the mRNA vaccines developed by the Institute promise to be more robust and long-lasting.

SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

Patients with sickle cell anemia suffer numerous complications because their blood cells are stiff and misshapen. Around 300,000 people per year are born with this inherited condition, primarily in Africa and India, where most advanced treatments are not possible. Researchers at the Institute are developing a therapy that uses mRNA to instruct bone marrow cells to repair the genetic defect that causes sickle cell anemia. If successful, a single injection that can be delivered anywhere in the world could permanently cure the disease.



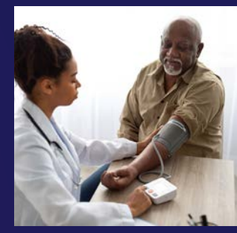
HEART FAILURE

When heart muscles begin to weaken and stiffen, they become fibrous. The body can no longer be supplied with the blood it needs, and the patient develops heart failure. Researchers have developed a technique that uses mRNA to instruct T cells to attack the fibrous material that stiffens the heart muscle, thereby reducing the risk of heart failure. This treatment could also be used to treat fibrosis of the kidneys, lungs, liver, skin, and joints.

PHILANTHROPY HAS BEEN A KEY DRIVER FOR mRNA RESEARCH.

RARE DISEASES

Researchers are developing mRNA treatments for rare genetic diseases—including diseases that specifically affect newborns. These treatments can replace genes or deliver therapeutic proteins that will treat and potentially cure these diseases. Meanwhile, researchers are making headway on the next generation of treatments for genetic diseases: lipid nanoparticle-targeted gene editing that can precisely correct mutations in our DNA and holds great promise even for the rarest diseases.

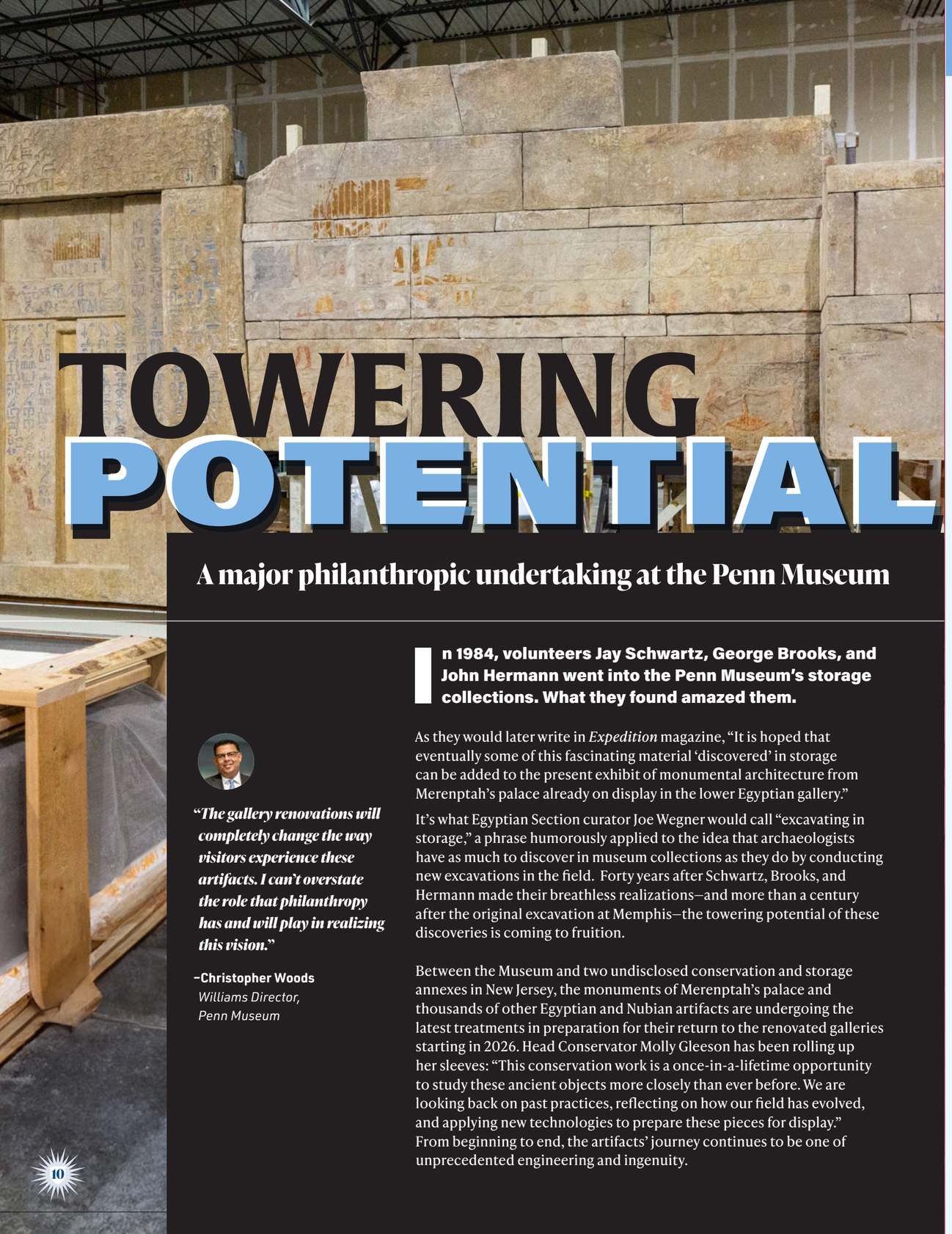


CANCER VACCINES

In addition to preventing diseases like COVID-19, vaccines with mRNA technology can fight diseases that develop within a patient. Researchers are exploring ways to use the mRNA platform to create cancer vaccines that activate a patient's immune system to fight cancerous cells inside their body. mRNA-based approaches are also being evaluated for prevention in individuals at high risk for cancer development.

Watch this short video to learn how mRNA technology works.

The groundbreaking advances at the Institute for RNA Innovation are powered by the support of Penn donors. To help researchers develop the next generation of mRNA therapeutics, contact Andrew Bellet at (215) 573-0548 or abellet@upenn.edu.



TOWERING POTENTIAL

A major philanthropic undertaking at the Penn Museum

In 1984, volunteers Jay Schwartz, George Brooks, and John Hermann went into the Penn Museum's storage collections. What they found amazed them.

As they would later write in *Expedition* magazine, "It is hoped that eventually some of this fascinating material 'discovered' in storage can be added to the present exhibit of monumental architecture from Merenptah's palace already on display in the lower Egyptian gallery."

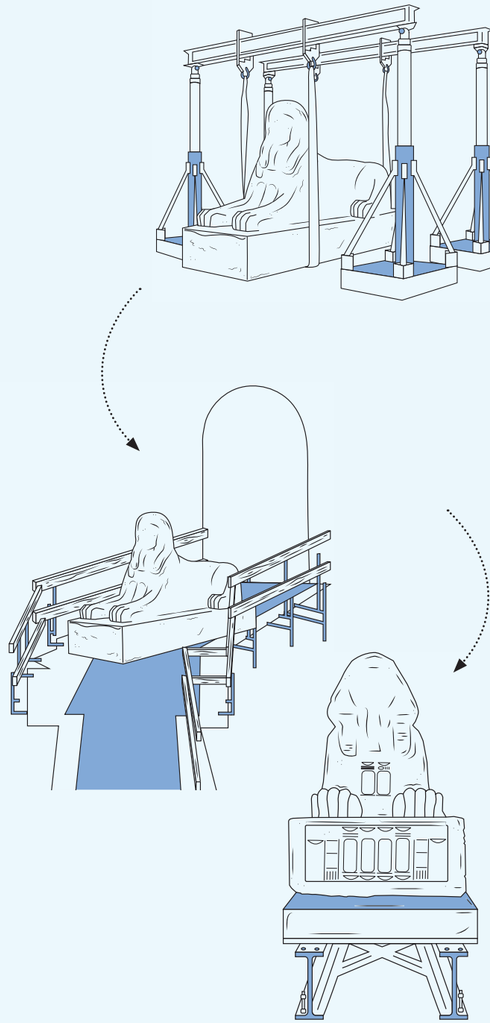
It's what Egyptian Section curator Joe Wegner would call "excavating in storage," a phrase humorously applied to the idea that archaeologists have as much to discover in museum collections as they do by conducting new excavations in the field. Forty years after Schwartz, Brooks, and Hermann made their breathless realizations—and more than a century after the original excavation at Memphis—the towering potential of these discoveries is coming to fruition.

Between the Museum and two undisclosed conservation and storage annexes in New Jersey, the monuments of Merenptah's palace and thousands of other Egyptian and Nubian artifacts are undergoing the latest treatments in preparation for their return to the renovated galleries starting in 2026. Head Conservator Molly Gleeson has been rolling up her sleeves: "This conservation work is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study these ancient objects more closely than ever before. We are looking back on past practices, reflecting on how our field has evolved, and applying new technologies to prepare these pieces for display." From beginning to end, the artifacts' journey continues to be one of unprecedented engineering and ingenuity.

"The gallery renovations will completely change the way visitors experience these artifacts. I can't overstate the role that philanthropy has and will play in realizing this vision."

–Christopher Woods
Williams Director,
Penn Museum

STARTING WITH A SPHINX



To create space for the planned Egyptian gallery on the main level, an important early step of the renovation was moving the Museum's beloved sphinx of Ramses II.

In June 2019, a gantry and two hydraulic jacks delicately lifted the 13-ton, red-granite sphinx, which was then floated on a half-inch pillow of air created by four square "air dollies" fueled by high-powered air compressors. Similar to a disc on an air hockey table, the sphinx was pushed by a team of four along a 300-foot course to its new destination in the Museum's entrance hall.

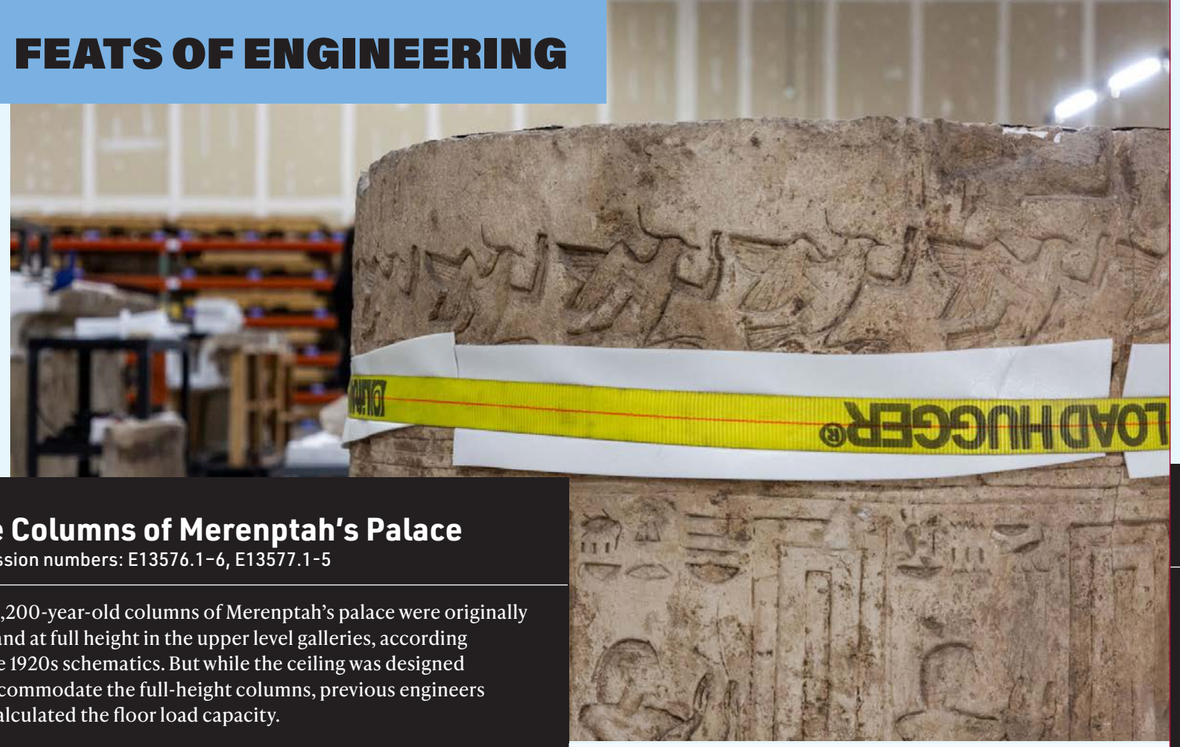
After the Egyptian galleries closed for renovations, the challenging process of moving thousands of pounds of monumental objects began.

Get Involved

Interested in more behind-the-scenes looks at the Museum's progress? Want to get involved? The Museum is continuing to raise funds for object conservation and exhibition installation, critical to its goal of achieving operational storerooms and main level galleries by the end of 2026, and the upper level galleries by the end of 2028. Funding will support:

- **Artifact conservation**
- **Exhibition development and installation**
- **Museum operations**
- **Educational programming**

Learn how you can support the Egyptian and Nubian galleries at www.penn.museum/join-give/give



The Columns of Merenptah's Palace

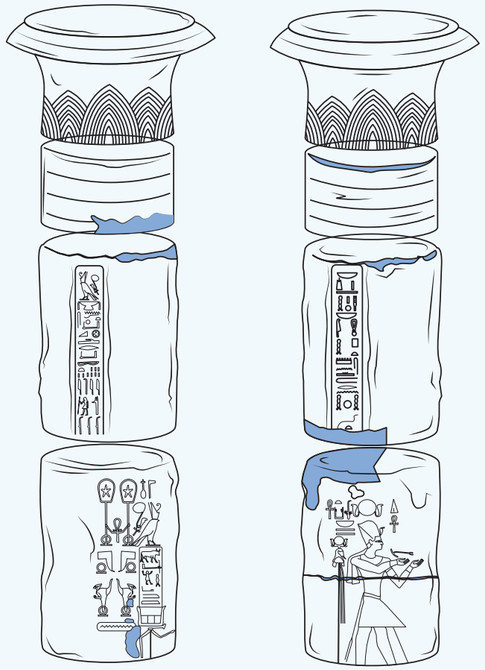
Accession numbers: E13576.1–6, E13577.1-5

The 3,200-year-old columns of Merenptah's palace were originally to stand at full height in the upper level galleries, according to the 1920s schematics. But while the ceiling was designed to accommodate the full-height columns, previous engineers miscalculated the floor load capacity.

Now, a vision of towering columns, lintels, and gateways is being realized.

Stacking the columns to full height requires a massive, custom-made compression fixture, which can center, level, raise, and lower each piece of cylindrical limestone by clamping it between dozens of rubber-tipped feet. And the approach to completely stacking each column will be fine-tuned in the annex through a series of practice sessions and the fabrication of leveling interfaces, in preparation for the final display in the upper level galleries. It will be just one of many simulations before the actual move.

Assembled, the columns will measure about 30 feet tall and weigh about 15 tons apiece—roughly the weight of a cruise ship anchor.



Material Benefits

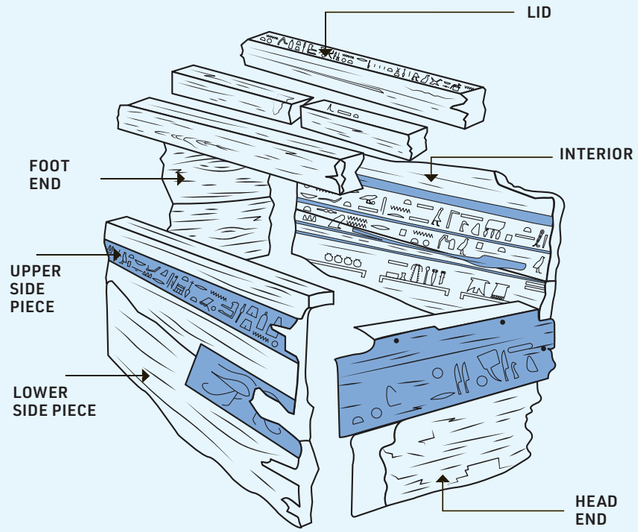
The columns are joined at the annex by a monumental throne room lintel and several palace doorways, which will debut at full scale in the renovated upper level galleries. To prepare them for display, conservators are addressing the effects of early interventions and rigorously testing materials to join and mount fragmented pieces in a non-invasive way. Says Senior Project Conservator Julia Commander, "Among other things, we've been thinking about our interventions with future conservators in mind. For example, to aesthetically complete missing areas on the doorways, we've magnetized high-density polyethylene inserts so they can be easily popped on and off. This is probably our last opportunity to do such extensive work for decades."

The Outer Coffin of Ahanakht

Accession number: E16218

This outer coffin is being carefully pieced together in one of the conservation annexes after being disassembled for over 100 years. At 4,000 years old, its cedar wood has naturally resisted insect damage and rot, and the coffin's exterior remains vibrantly decorated with a carved and painted band of large hieroglyphs.

Ahanakht's coffin presents a display challenge precisely because of its well-preserved state and extensive inscriptions. At about four feet high, the coffin would just allow a peek inside for some Museum visitors—but will it adequately display the coffin's rich interior? The curatorial team of Jennifer Wegner, Josef Wegner, Kevin Cahail, and David Silverman is considering every angle. The interior is also inscribed with spells in hieratic, a cursive form of hieroglyphs, from a collection of funerary literature known as the Coffin Texts. How might the coffin's lid be positioned in a way that allows its display without restricting the view? How could structural supports be positioned discreetly?



Philanthropy will be integral as the Egyptian and Nubian collections continue what will be a monumental journey—beyond the 40-mile return trip to the Museum, they will eventually be mounted and paired with specialized lighting, text panels, and interactive multimedia components. In the meantime? "It's not just a matter of choosing a statue, putting it on a little box, and sticking it in a case," jokes Jen Wegner. "It's much more involved than that."

Watch a behind-the-scenes tour of the ongoing renovations and interviews with the team.

A Lasting Legacy

Four donors share how creative gift planning strategies enabled them to make a long-term impact on programs close to their heart.

Karen Miura, CW'68, has seen the difference that world-class veterinary care has made for her cats, along with the dogs, birds, horses, snakes, and other animals that receive treatment at Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine (Penn Vet). When Dr. Miura heard about the School's Good Samaritan Fund, she was eager to help pet owners cover the cost of securing life-saving treatments for their beloved companions.

"I've spent a lot of time in the waiting room of the Ryan Veterinary Hospital intensive care unit," she says. "Fellow pet owners have shared their stories with me. The most heartbreaking are the stories of those who must choose what to do when they can't afford medical care for their cherished pets."

Karen Miura's cat, MacLeod, inspired her decision to use gift planning strategies to support Penn Vet.

The need for the Good Samaritan Fund is both immediate and ongoing. In recognizing this, Dr. Miura took a two-part approach to her giving by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from her traditional IRA for immediate impact. She then set up a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) that will provide her with annuity payments for life and ensure future support for Penn, a win-win for Dr. Miura and for the animals receiving care at Penn Vet.

Creatively using retirement plan assets to make outright gifts and set up a CGA puts Dr. Miura's savings to work in multiple ways to support what is most meaningful to her while making an enduring impact at Penn Vet. Dr. Miura's creative approach is just one of many ways to establish a planned gift that will make a difference at Penn.

> ***Planned gifts help push the boundaries of innovation and ensure that the University's mission of excellence continues. There are a variety of giving strategies available to meet personal planning and philanthropic goals while creating your Penn legacy.***
>
> **–Marcie Merz,** *Executive Director of Gift Planning*

Here, fellow members of the Harrison Society share how their planned gifts have made a meaningful difference for their families, their finances, and for Penn.

Nisha, W'96, PAR'25, and Brian Hurst, W'94, PAR'25

Gift planning isn't just for retirees. A timely planned giving presentation inspired Nisha and Brian Hurst to support the Social Justice Scholars Program at the School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2). Using highly appreciated securities, the couple created a Charitable Remainder Trust to help make graduate school more accessible for students with a passion for social justice. The couple—who are still in the workforce—turned an asset with a high tax burden into a powerful philanthropic tool.

Vicki Lachman, Nu'72, GNu'74, CGS'02

With a plan, assets can be turned into directed support that makes a difference. Vicki Lachman's decades-long nursing career culminated in multiple graduate degrees and a rewarding professional chapter in bioethics. By establishing a charitable bequest, she's planning to be remembered in a profoundly personal way through the Dr. Vicki D. Lachman Term Professorship in Bioethics at Penn Nursing. This professorship will enable the School to attract top talent in bioethics, support cutting-edge academic scholarship, advance the field of nursing, and benefit students for generations to come.

J. Paul Decker, MD

Gift planning doesn't necessitate choosing between family and philanthropy. Dr. Decker was a longtime member and eventual Chair of the Department of Pathology at Pennsylvania Hospital. A testamentary Charitable Remainder Trust enabled Decker, upon his death in 2008, to provide an annual income to his partner. When his partner passed in 2022, the remainder of the trust was divided between Pennsylvania Hospital and the church where Decker was a congregant.

Harrison Society
University of Pennsylvania

The Harrison Society exists to thank and acknowledge the generosity of all who have named the University of Pennsylvania as a beneficiary of a will, living trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy, or have set up a life income gift that benefits Penn in the future. The Society currently has over 5,900 members ranging in age from 21 to 105 years.

Gift planning offers a variety of ways for individuals to pair philanthropy with smart financial planning. To learn more, contact Penn's Office of Gift Planning at **(215) 898-6171** or **giftplan@dev.upenn.edu** or visit **giving.upenn.edu/gift-planning**.

Boundless Bonds

STRENGTHENING THE PENN COMMUNITY WORLDWIDE

We often say that wherever you go in the world, you'll find Penn people. This year was no exception in bringing together alumni, Penn parents, and friends across the globe. From happy hours and academic symposiums to board retreats and regional club gatherings, we welcomed every opportunity to strengthen ties with our Penn community.

▲Penn Arts & Sciences hosted a series of Ben Talks events around the country, including this one in New York City.

▲The Penn Alumni Board gathered on campus for its annual winter retreat.

"Gatherings like these serve as a heartwarming reminder of the incredible breadth and depth of our alumni network and reinforce the strength of our Penn bonds and the warmth of our shared experiences."

– Aalok Thakkar, Gr'23

▸A group of Penn Alumni traveled to Egypt with professors Josef and Jennifer Wegner.

▾Penn Alumni in Thailand celebrated their lifelong connection with the University.

"The Volunteer Leadership Retreat provides a rewarding opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue and advance the mission and ideals of a vibrant, diverse, and inclusive Penn community."

- Kevin Johnson, C'96

▲ A Young Alumni Happy Hour in Seattle was well attended this spring.

"To be standing in the shadow of the great pyramid, shaking paws with the sphinx, and experiencing the sheer scale of all the ancient and beautiful monuments was a deeply moving experience."

–Kirsten Chalfen, CGS'88, G'94

▲The Asian American Studies program hosted an event at the Penn Club of NYC featuring Professor David Eng.

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.

◂**Eric J. Schoenberg, GEN'93, WG'93**, made a $1 million gift to the Penn Museum to create the Schoenberg Family Fund, which supports archaeological field research across the globe through strategic projects selected by the Museum Director. It also completes an endowment for a new faculty-curator in Ancient Mesopotamian Archaeology, whose work will continue Penn's leadership in the field of ancient world studies in Iraq. Schoenberg's gift complements the lead gift from **Dr. Linda K. Jacobs and the Violet Jabara Charitable Trust, NAF** that created the Museum's new faculty-curator endowment.

The Bank of America Art Conservation Project gave to the Penn Museum for the conservation of pieces for the new North American Gallery related to Native American groups from four regions across the United States, as well as funding an Indigenous Conservation Fellow to work alongside the Penn Museum's conservation staff to treat Lenape materials.

The Wallace Family gave $50,000 to support both an endowment and a term fund for student performing arts summer internship awards, which include the Wallace Award and the Whinnery Award.

▸**Atul A. Ruia, EAS'93, W'93, PAR'25, PAR'27, and Gayatri Ruia, PAR'25, PAR'27**, made a generous gift to name the Penn Engineering Foundations Timeline in the Moore School Building. This installation celebrates the achievements of the past while the School works toward attracting a more diverse, inclusive student body that reflects and will help lead a changing world.

Dr. Robert Lanza, C'78, M'83, made a $100,000 gift to Penn Arts & Sciences to support the faculty, students, and priorities of the Department of Biology.

Giving Highlights

▾**Bob Hernandez, WG'68,** gave approximately $1.25 million to the Wharton School to establish two endowed funds to provide financial aid support to Wharton students. The Bill Hernandez, W'70 Endowed Scholarship Fund, in memory of Bob's late brother Bill, will support undergraduate students, and the Bob Hernandez, WG'68 Endowed Fellowship Fund, in honor of Bob's academic and professional careers, will support students pursuing their MBA.

▸**Jan Albaum, FA'84, GFA'87, and Harry Cerino** pledged $100,000 to the Morris Arboretum & Gardens to establish the Jan Albaum and Harry Cerino Native Plant Research Endowment in Memory of Martin Albaum, Jan's father. This endowment supports native plant research efforts at the Morris Arboretum & Gardens, where Jan is a member of the Advisory Board.

Pallavi Rao, WG'07, and Shyam Rao made a generous commitment of $700,000 to establish an endowed scholarship at Penn and support the Venture Lab's VIP-X program and The Wharton Fund. Their gift will impact undergraduate financial aid opportunities; foster innovation and entrepreneurial mindsets across Penn; and support the Wharton School's excellence across all educational facets.

Peter Byck, WG'90, and Dawn Valler have generously contributed $481,755 to establish an endowed Wharton undergraduate scholarship and support the Wharton Undergraduate Wellness Fund, along with the Wharton Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Initiative Fund. This impactful donation will strengthen financial support for students in need; fuel essential programs such as the Dolphin Tank, aimed at enhancing student mental well-being amidst today's challenges; and advance Wharton's leadership in analyzing the material impact of ESG factors on business strategies.

▸**Jordan Katz, W'96, and Dori Katz** made a gift of $400,000 to the Penn Libraries to support the Center for Global Collections, the Endowed Fund for Judaica and Special Collections, and the Penn Libraries Fund. This gift will name the Dori and Jordan Katz Office in the Center for Global Collections and create an endowed fund to support the acquisition and conservation of Judaica and Jewish Studies materials, as well as provide unrestricted support for the Penn Libraries.

Mary Ellen Laker and her family generously contributed $100,000 to name the Dr. Kenneth R. Laker Technology Integration Award, in loving memory of her late husband, Kenneth R. Laker, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering (ESE). Dr. Laker was a renowned and dedicated educator who was passionate about the Engineering School's Senior Design course. This gift honors his extraordinary legacy and provides an annual award recognizing Senior Design projects within ESE that best integrate emerging technologies from various engineering disciplines.

◂**Andrea Goldberg Edlow, MD, M'07, and Brian Edlow, MD, M'07**, made a recent gift of $150,000 to the Class of 2007 Scholarship, which was matched by an additional $100,000 for a total of $250,000. The gift made by the Edlows—to support a fund they established in honor of Walter and Anne Gamble—will make an immediate impact on financial aid at the Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Andrea Edlow is a member of the Perelman School's Medical Alumni Advisory Council.

Joseph B. Glossberg, W'63, WG'65, made a $50,000 gift to the Penn Libraries to establish an endowed fund to support the acquisition of jazz collections and ephemera. This fund will also support the processing of jazz collections and jazz exhibitions and programs.

Calvin Bland, W'72, made a $50,000 gift to the Social Justice Scholars Program at the School of Social Policy & Practice. Bland is the lead donor in creating an endowed scholarship named for Claire Lomax, C'84, a member of the Board of Trustees and longtime member of the SP2 Board of Advisors, who passed away in 2022.

Giving Highlights

▲**Webster Chua, W'04, and Deborah L. Chua, C'04**, gave $300,000 to the Dean's Discretionary Fund at the Graduate School of Education to support Dean Katharine Strunk's emerging priorities for the future of Penn GSE.

◀**Richard Miselis, V'73**, gave $100,000 to Penn Vet over five years to endow the Richard R. Miselis, VMD-PhD Scholarship Fund.

Haniel J. Lynn, ENG'91, WG'95, PAR'23, and Anita Lynn, ENG'91, PAR'23, established a fund to support the selection process, award, and recognition event for an annual book prize focused on climate and sustainability. The Penn Libraries Book Prize in Sustainability presented by the Lynn Family is the first of its kind at Penn and will have far-reaching impact by promoting academic excellence, supporting scholarly endeavors in this important field, and enhancing the overall reputation and intellectual vibrancy of the University community.

Jeffrey L. Seltzer, W'78, PAR'09, and Annie Seltzer, PAR'09, gave $25,000 to Penn Nursing and the Penn Libraries to create the Seltzer Family Curator's Fund for the Study of the History of Nursing and $5,000 to the Nursing Annual Fund.

PENN-O-RAMA

A CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS PENN

New Degrees for the Future

With artificial intelligence (AI) becoming an increasing presence in people's daily lives, Penn Engineering has announced the launch of two new AI degrees: a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Artificial Intelligence and an online Master of Science in Engineering in Artificial Intelligence. These new programs are each the first of their kind at an Ivy League university. The two new degrees were made possible by the generosity of Raj and Neera Singh, who are visionaries in technology and a force for innovation through their philanthropy. Their gift provides funding for the leadership, faculty, and infrastructure of these degree programs.

Celebrating Extraordinary Educators: Penn GSE's McGraw Prize in Education

Last fall, the three winners of the 2023 McGraw Prize in Education—David Wilson (third from left above), Debra Duardo (center), and Barbara Oakley (fourth from right)—were honored at a ceremony at the Morgan Library & Museum in New York City.

The McGraw Prize, which is housed at Penn's Graduate School of Education, recognizes educators who are propelling their field forward. It is widely considered the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for education. Most recently, support from the Harold W. McGraw Family Foundation is strengthening Penn GSE's partnership with the Prize and establishing a new center for educational leadership.

A Winning Legacy

Andy Ma, the Young Family Head Fencing Coach, has created a winning legacy for the Penn men's and women's fencing teams, accumulating more than 500 combined wins during his career. Endowed funds like the Young Family Head Fencing Coach are helping the programs flourish. In 2024, Coach Ma was selected as the Ivy League Women's Fencing Coach of the Year—his fifth such honor for either team.

"The Illuminated Body" Shines at the Arthur Ross Gallery

Opening to a crowd, the Philadelphia debut of multidisciplinary artist Barbara Earl Thomas was a glowing success. Suffused with light and vibrancy, Thomas's monumental cut-paper portraits evolve traditional styles of portraiture and offer intimate depictions of their subjects.

The exhibition was on view at the Arthur Ross Gallery through May 21 and was supported by the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage and the Sachs Program for Arts Innovation.