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Difference

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Creative Practice  
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# INSPIRING IMPACT

## MAGAZINE

Winter 2024

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*A New Frontier for Health*

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Dear Friends,

As you know, the last few months have been challenging for the Penn community. With the recent appointment of Interim President J. Larry Jameson, I am confident that the University is on a path to healing, with a focus on the important work we know we have to do. As Dr. Jameson said in a message to students, faculty, and staff shortly after his appointment, “With respect for one another, support for one another, and adaption to our changing world, Penn can truly lead in this moment, and emerge better and stronger than before.”

Even as recent events have tested us, Penn stands strong as an institution of academic and research excellence. I see evidence of this in our students, faculty, and staff, the vast majority of whom have been steadfast in the pursuit of their important work and focused on nurturing relationships that fortify our Penn community. This is the spirit of Penn that so many of us know and love so deeply.

It is in this spirit that I share this newest issue of the *Inspiring Impact* magazine with you. The featured stories and campus updates are inspiring examples of our enduring strength and the extraordinary work that goes on at Penn, and the philanthropy that fuels it.

I hope you enjoy reading these stories. For me, they are important reminders of the leading-edge discovery and learning taking place at the University and why my support as a volunteer and donor matters.

As always, I welcome hearing from you if you would like to be in touch. I can be reached at [bandeen@upenn.edu](mailto:bandeen@upenn.edu).

Warmly,

**Bonnie Miao Bandeen, C’80, WG’85, PAR’16, PAR’22**  
*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.





# **PRECISION ENGINEERING**

**A NEW FRONTIER FOR HEALTH**





## IMAGINE A WORLD...

*where treatments for illness or injury are customized not just to the disease but to the individual...*

*where we cure cancer by killing cancer cells before symptoms even appear...*

*where microscopic robots deliver drugs to the precise location where they can do the most good...*

*and where we no longer have to worry about Alzheimer's disease and other age-related diseases because we have trained the body to fight them.*

## SOUND LIKE THE STUFF OF SCIENCE FICTION? IT'S NOT.

The groundwork for this new world is being laid right now in Penn's Center for Precision Engineering for Health. Established in 2021, the Center brings engineering solutions to understanding, detecting, and treating disease. "It's an investment in technology for improving human health," explains Daniel A. Hammer, the inaugural Director of the Center and the Alfred G. and Meta A. Ennis Professor in Penn Engineering's Departments of Bioengineering and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

The Center's work is possible thanks to discoveries made in the past few decades, including the mapping of the human genome. Scientists have been learning more about which genes cause disease, how they work together, and how we can manipulate them to produce better outcomes. Other important advances have led to a better understanding of the immune system and the interplay between the immune system and conditions such as cardiovascular disease.

Taking advantage of the extraordinary potential of such discoveries is possible only through an interdisciplinary approach that brings engineering and medical science together.

For example, engineers are uniquely well qualified to find ways to carry agents such as drugs to targeted locations in the body with great precision. They also can develop devices, some as small as a human cell, that can work inside the human body, revolutionizing treatment and diagnosis. "Engineering plays a central role in making these technologies work and maximizing their impact," continues Hammer.

Among the nation's universities, Penn is especially well positioned to take advantage of this emerging opportunity. The School of Engineering and Applied Science is just minutes away from the Perelman School of Medicine, and the infrastructure and culture are already in place to build on existing strengths and collaborations. Another plus: Penn has an established track record in turning discoveries in the lab into practical applications.





**“PENN’S UNIQUE STRENGTH LIES IN THE PERFECT BLEND OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY, AN ESTEEMED MEDICAL SCHOOL, A WORLD-CLASS HEALTH SYSTEM, AND A TOP-TIER ENGINEERING SCHOOL. IT’S THE SEAMLESS ALIGNMENT OF THESE COMPONENTS THAT SETS US APART. EVERYTHING IS ALIGNED.”**

**—DAVID F. MEANEY**

Solomon R. Pollack Professor of Bioengineering  
and Senior Associate Dean, Penn Engineering

The Center is moving forward on three fronts, explains David F. Meaney, Solomon R. Pollack Professor of Bioengineering and Senior Associate Dean of Penn Engineering. The first is recruiting talented faculty members who work at the convergence of engineering and medicine. Penn Engineering has already hired five new professors for this initiative and hopes to add at least five more.

The second thrust, which is critical in recruiting, is providing these faculty with the space to do their work. But what is needed is not just any space—it’s a different kind of space, one that fosters interdisciplinary work.

Next June, Center faculty will move into new labs at One uCity Square, at 37th and Filbert Streets, part of a corridor that is becoming known as the Avenue of Technology. To encourage synergy and collaboration, the One uCity building will include investigators not just from Penn Engineering but also from Penn Medicine, together with private companies working in this same sector.

The third necessary ingredient is seed funding for high-risk, high-reward projects with the potential to improve human health. Most funders, including key government agencies, provide little support for early-stage work of the kind now being done at the Center. Investigators need seed money that will allow them to test out their ideas and secure the preliminary results necessary to compete for additional support from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and other major funders.

An entrepreneurial mindset is at the heart of the Center’s work. “If you do the fundamental science the right way, you lay the groundwork for an application that is unforeseen, and you have the perfect combination of technologies to solve your problems,” says Hammer. “The nature of basic science is that you don’t know where your discovery will go, but long-term, our goal is to have an impact on human health.”

## MOVING THE CENTER FORWARD

To realize the transformative potential of these new technologies, the Center needs support in three critical areas: people, space, and ideas. Penn Engineering seeks funding to attract and hire the most talented faculty, provide them with lab space that fosters creativity and collaboration with partners in Penn Medicine, and offer seed money to pursue breakthrough ideas.

To learn more, contact Ellie Davis, Vice Dean, Development and Alumni Relations, at [ebdavis@seas.upenn.edu](mailto:ebdavis@seas.upenn.edu) or (215) 898-6564.





## TINY ROBOTS

Imagine a tiny robot, the width of a strand of human hair. Then imagine engineering that robot so it can move—inside the human body. Members of the research team led by Marc Miskin are harnessing new nanofabrication techniques to create tiny robots that operate on the same scale as cells and can be made to move using onboard electronics. These microscale robots offer a whole new world of potential for diagnosing and treating disease. For example, one application now being tested focuses on using microrobots to repair nerve damage, an injury where currently half of all surgeries end in failure.



Hear Marc Miskin talk about his work with tiny robots  
<https://pennpri.de/nanobots>



## BEYOND COVID: THE NEXT CHAPTER FOR mRNA VACCINES

The modified RNA (mRNA) technology invented by Penn Medicine researchers and recent Nobel laureates Drew Weissman and Katalin Karikó was the foundation for the vaccines that helped combat COVID-19 and save millions of lives worldwide. Now, researchers at Penn Engineering and Penn Medicine are working together to refine the COVID-19 vaccine, creating an innovative delivery system for even better protection against the virus. This work also has the potential to expand the scope and use of mRNA vaccines so they could be used to prevent and treat a range of different illnesses. Furthermore, researchers at the Center are examining other ways to use mRNA to engineer cells for novel functions in treating disease.



## A SAFER WAY TO DELIVER A BREAKTHROUGH CANCER THERAPY

CAR T cell therapy has transformed the fight against previously intractable forms of cancer. Invented at Penn Medicine by Carl June, CAR T cell therapy works by collecting T cells from the patient, modifying those cells in the lab so they are designed to destroy cancerous cells, and then reinfusing them into the patient. The therapy has already received several FDA approvals, with more on the way.

Unfortunately, this breakthrough therapy sometimes comes with potentially severe side effects. Now, a research team led by Michael Mitchell from Penn Engineering has found a solution that could minimize those side effects. He is using a materials-engineering-based strategy to create a “suit of armor” around the CAR T cells, preventing dangerous interactions and side effects—and potentially helping this therapy reach its fullest potential.





# BRIDGING DIVIDES

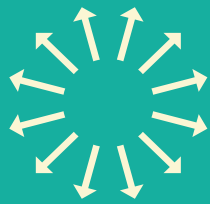
**Established in 2019, the SNF Paideia Program teaches students how to participate in civil discourse and become engaged citizens.**







Photos: Eric Sucar



## DIALOGUE IS A POWERFUL THING. IT FORGES CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE, BUILDS BRIDGES ACROSS DIFFERENCE, AND LAYS THE FOUNDATION FOR UNDERSTANDING.

But connecting with each other in the public sphere has become more difficult—particularly on college campuses around the country, which have dealt with incidents of antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of hate. Daily civic discourse is becoming less effective, partisan divides are growing wider, and the idea of compromise is getting further and further away.

As people struggle to communicate, cultivating effective contexts where those with different views can thoughtfully engage with each other is more important than ever. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) Paideia Program is teaching students how to engage in productive dialogue despite differences in ideology, background, or experience.





Sydney Nixon, C'23, recently graduated from Penn with a degree in political communication and was part of the first cohort of SNF Paideia Fellows. The focus of her academic study was civic and political dialogue, but she explains that SNF Paideia provided more than just knowledge—it taught her a way to productively converse with people who have different political and ideological viewpoints.

Rather than just teaching students about discourse, the Program taught them how to participate in and gain value from effective, civil discourse. “SNF Paideia was one of the few spaces that focused on politics as conversations in our daily lives,” she says.

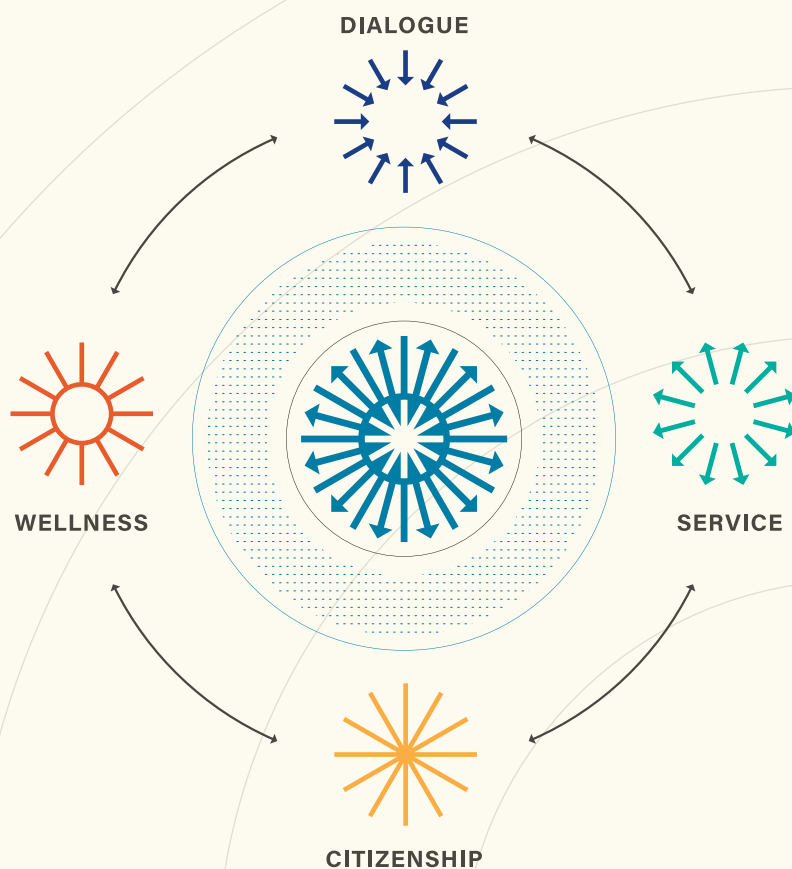
The Program was established in 2019 through a \$6 million grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF). It draws its name from the ancient Greek idea of *paideia*, which translates to “education of the whole person” and “educating citizens,” and strives to embody a 21st-century version of those ideals.

The initial five-year program began with events, activities, and 12 interdisciplinary courses taught by Penn faculty members. The pilot program also included a small cohort of SNF Paideia Fellows who took a special series of classes and participated in a capstone project.



**“One of the most valuable skills we can learn as young people is how to engage productively across divides. The culture of civic engagement and civil discourse blossoming in the Penn community makes a strong case for optimism in the future of our democracy and civil societies at large.”**

—ANDREAS DRACOPOULOS, W'86  
Co-President of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF)



After three years, SNF increased its support, and SNF Paideia aimed to expand its class of fellows to 25 each year and reach 1,000 students annually through its course offerings. Today, the Program has reached those goals, and in response to the student and faculty demand for programming, SNF has recently committed to a \$13 million grant that will extend SNF Paideia for another five years.

Faculty director Sigal Ben-Porath sees the benefits of SNF Paideia in her academic research on dialogue and discourse in higher education. She’s found that young people are not always invited to share their opinions, experiences, identities, and other things they care about. But that sharing is vital to education.

“The inability to listen to each other and share our views is part of what’s ailing our democratic society,” says Ben-Porath. “We need that ability to live in a self-governing society.

“Paideia is a hub for democratic opportunity, and more important than ever in times of conflict,” she adds. “The opportunities it creates infuse the campus.”

For Sydney Nixon, the techniques she learned about dialogue across difference were useful throughout her entire academic career.





**“In other classes, the goal was often to be right. But I learned in my Paideia courses that you should always be having a dialogue—not just a debate. Using what I learned, I had more fruitful conversations in all of my classes and a fuller academic experience.”**

**—SYDNEY NIXON, C’23**

She even found that what she learned about dialogue helped her in her summer employment at McKinsey & Company. While those conversations weren’t inherently political, communicating across differences helped her better navigate her workplace and have productive dialogues with her new colleagues.

Michael Delli Carpini, Oscar H. Gandy Emeritus Professor of Communication & Democracy at the Annenberg School for Communication, was the founding faculty director of the SNF Paideia Program and has seen how students benefit from it, no matter what school at Penn they belong to.



▲ As a culmination to their SNF Paideia experience, the graduating cohort of SNF Paideia Fellows traveled to Greece last summer to participate in the SNF Nostos Conference, where they attended talks by noted speakers such as President Barack Obama and SNF Co-President Andreas Dracopoulos.

“Whatever a student’s major, they are able to take a course through the Paideia Program that helps them think about how their personal interests are related to their public interests,” he explains. “The aim of the program isn’t just to impart knowledge, it’s to educate the whole person.”

For Salvador Galvez, Nu’25, his SNF Paideia courses put him in conversation with fellow students across disciplines. He took a course called Biology and Society, which covered some controversial topics, like cloning. While his peers in majors like biology and chemistry often approached discussions by focusing on scientific ideas, Galvez thought about the application of technologies and what their effects would be on patients.

“It was important to put the ideas back into the real world,” he says. “Because of my perspective as a nursing student, I was able to add the important fact that every treatment includes a patient with emotions and feelings who doesn’t make it into the scientific literature.

“It’s easy to want to defend your position and respond in a discussion,” says Galvez. “But what I’ve learned from my Paideia courses is that if we listened more, our society would have fewer problems.” 🌱





# THE Great CONNECTOR

Thanks to visionary philanthropic support, The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation offers creative opportunities that bring campus and community together.



The Robeson House offers lectures, concerts, and exhibits that highlight the legacy of Paul Robeson, the internationally renowned American singer, actor, athlete, and activist.



*At the intersection of the arts, sciences, and the humanities, The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation provides financial and programmatic support for a diverse range of creative endeavors at the University of Pennsylvania.*

This innovative program has been awarding grants to support creative practice and to deepen engagement with the arts across Penn's communities for over six years. Recipients range from students, staff, and faculty to departments and centers, and include partnerships with community artists and organizations. To date, The Sachs Program has distributed over \$1.5 million to more than 250 projects across a wide range of disciplines and practices. Notable examples include a staff-written comic about the paradoxes of parenting; a citywide trans oral history project; a student animation studio based on global climate change research; a Penn Museum/Sayre High School partnership on food, nutrition, and urban gardening; and an MFA multimedia project on an iconic historical Philadelphia Jewish basketball team.

The Sachs Program has been making an impact on the arts community at Penn and in West Philadelphia since its launch in 2017, made possible by a \$15 million founding gift from Katherine (Kathy) Sachs, CW'69, PAR'95, and her late husband, Keith L. Sachs, W'67, PAR'95.

Now, a \$400,000 lead grant from the William Penn Foundation will enable The Sachs Program to further deepen its community involvement through a new partnership with the Paul Robeson House and Museum in West Philadelphia. This infusion of support will create the West Philadelphia Arts Council, provide grants for West Philadelphia artists, and establish an artist residency at the Robeson House.



**The Sachs Program has become an essential hub for creativity and community at Penn in just six years. Now, with the generous gift from the William Penn Foundation, it is extending its scope and impact into our Philadelphia community, with the exciting new West Philadelphia Arts Council and partnerships with the Robeson House. We are also deeply grateful to Keith and Kathy Sachs for their visionary gift, which enables us to catalyze these many opportunities for artists and community members across our campus and our city.**

**—JOHN L. JACKSON JR.**

Provost,  
Richard Perry University Professor

“This collaboration allows us to deepen our commitment to creative expression, social justice, and the legacy of Paul Robeson through a direct investment in the artistic community of West Philadelphia,” says Janice Sykes-Ross, Executive Director at the Robeson House. Opportunities for dialogue and engagement are already underway. Arts-based community engagement leaders on campus have been meeting to share ideas and propose collaborations, and the Robeson Arts Council and Penn community leaders will convene twice a year starting in 2024. The Sachs Program has also established a programming and grantmaking fund to support community programs happening in the arts across the University.

This isn't the first time The Sachs Program has engaged with the Robeson House and Museum. Earlier this year, a group of ninth-grade students from Paul Robeson High School were training with Robeson House staff to become youth docents, in a partnership with the Netter Center that was funded by The Sachs Program.





◀The West Philadelphia Orchestra performed at a Sachs Program for Arts Innovation grant awards ceremony. Photo credit: Dominic Mercier

▼Attendees at the Paul Robeson House and Museum's 125th anniversary gather around a portrait of Paul Robeson. Photo credit: Live Lens Photography



▲Screen printing at a grant awards ceremony, held at Penn's LGBT Center. Photo credit: Dominic Mercier



Meaningful partnerships with community groups like the Robeson House are core to Kathy Sachs's belief in the importance of supporting arts and culture at Penn and beyond. "Art is the greatest connector," says Sachs. "Keith and I had the idea to integrate the arts into the curriculum and life of the University by highlighting the creation, study, and exhibition of art. I believe in the power of art to spark creativity and imagination, empowering students to think in new ways—a critical skill in our ever-changing world. Every year, I'm so impressed by the creativity and ingenuity of our students and faculty."

"We are so grateful to Kathy and Keith for their generosity and vision, particularly for their focus on supporting the arts at Penn across campus and extending into our immediate communities," says John McNerney, Executive Director of The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation. "It has been humbling to implement this shared vision and to see the impact this holistic approach has had over our first six years. Looking to the future, we hope that others see the spark that Keith and Kathy ignited and want to build on that." 🌟



▲Kathy Sachs, pictured here with John McNerney, is an emeritus member of the University's Board of Trustees and the former Chair of the ICA Board of Advisors. Today, she serves on the Penn Live Arts Board of Advisors. She was awarded the 2023 Penn Alumni Creative Spirit Award at Homecoming. Photo credit: Dominic Mercier



**To learn how you can support The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation, contact John McNerney, Executive Director, at [mcinernj@upenn.edu](mailto:mcinernj@upenn.edu) or (215) 573-0874.**



# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP *Grants*

In 2022 and 2023, The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation awarded Community Partnership Grants that include up to \$15,000 to support collaborations between the University and community arts and civic organizations or organizers. Here are two of those awardees:



Photo credit: Eric Sucar

## **YOUR FOOD STORY PROGRAM (2023 WINNER)**

*Penn Museum, The Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships, and Sayre High School*

Your Food Story introduced Sayre High School students to ways that food, nutrition, urban gardening, and museum research are connected to ancient culture, and helped them highlight food stories from their families and local communities.

*Support from The Sachs Program was instrumental in our success. It allowed us to have the full number of students, to employ a full-time teaching artist to share photography techniques, to build out a nice, professional exhibit, and to provide participants with camera equipment and any other supplies they needed throughout the summer. The students had a true, well-rounded experience. They connected their personal food stories to ancient food practices and taught us so much along the way. And that was always the goal.*

–Tia Jackson-Truitt, SW'03  
Chief Diversity Officer, Penn Museum



*Great Day in Philadelphia 1995 by Elena Bouvier. (In front of the Coltrane House)*

## **PHILADELPHIA JAZZ LEGACY MAP (2022 WINNER)**

*Jay I. Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts with Philadelphia Jazz Legacy Project and the local jazz community*

The Philadelphia Jazz Legacy Map, which is still ongoing, will be a digital interactive map of Philadelphia jazz locations built with archival contributions from the local jazz community, including oral histories, historical photographs, and jazz ephemera. This project is a partnership between the Kislak Center for Special Collections and the Philadelphia Jazz Legacy Project, which is a consortium of five jazz organizations whose mission is to explore ways to preserve and share Philadelphia jazz history. For more information about the Philadelphia Jazz Legacy Project, please visit: [phillyjazzhistory.org](http://phillyjazzhistory.org)

*One of the wonderful things about The Sachs Program is that it supports innovative and collaborative cultural heritage projects with Philadelphia communities. The Community Partnership Grant administers funding to obtain essential project resources while providing opportunities to develop equitable community partnerships for sharing stories about Philadelphia's vibrant jazz history.*

–Samantha Hill, Curator of Civic Engagement  
Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Penn Libraries

# Welcoming New Academic Leadership

Penn began the academic year with a new Provost, a new Vice Provost for University Life, and three new Deans. Meet these exciting new leaders at the University and learn more about their plans for charting a bold path forward for their units.



**John L. Jackson Jr.**

**PROVOST**  
**RICHARD PERRY UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR**

John L. Jackson Jr. became the University's 31st Provost in June, following a storied career that includes service as the Dean of two Penn schools, the Annenberg School for Communication and the School of Social Policy & Practice, and his appointment as the University's first Penn Integrates Knowledge professor. As the University's new chief academic officer, Jackson oversees teaching, learning, research, and student life and continues to encourage and support innovative research and scholarship on campus, especially the interdisciplinary and community-based research for which Penn is well known. Jackson is also committed to sustaining Penn's place at the forefront of best practices in education and campus life, including new kinds of teaching and learning, new resources for health and wellness, and new ways of connecting Penn-generated knowledge with the public and our Philadelphia community.



**Hikaru "Karu" Kozuma, GEd'15**

**VICE PROVOST FOR UNIVERSITY LIFE**

Hikaru "Karu" Kozuma became Vice Provost for University Life in May, after serving Penn as Executive Director of College Houses, Associate Vice Provost for University Life, and Executive Director of the Office of Student Affairs. His vision is to enhance and expand the ways that Penn supports the academic, professional, and personal journeys of its undergraduate and graduate students. To that end, the new Vice Provost is establishing partnerships across campus to create pathways for all students to shape their community, including a new collaboration to enhance student belonging. He also plans to further his understanding of the diversity of student needs by engaging with and centering student voices. Kozuma encourages all students to explore the programs and services provided by University Life, which range from the performing arts and intercultural education to academic advising and career exploration.





## **Sarah Banet-Weiser**

**WALTER H. ANNENBERG DEAN, ANNENBERG SCHOOL FOR COMMUNICATION  
LAUREN BERLANT PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION**

Sarah Banet-Weiser became the sixth Dean of the Annenberg School for Communication in August, following two years on the School's faculty. She was the first person to be appointed to the faculty at Penn's Annenberg School while also serving as a Professor at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. Banet-Weiser is committed to telling the Annenberg School's story in a new way—one that recognizes the brilliant historical foundation work that created the institution, but also looks forward—redefining and reimagining what the field of communication is and should be. This new direction will require a renewed focus on collaboration, especially with other units and institutions at Penn, with the goal of better realizing the School's commitment to interdisciplinary communication.



## **Sophia Z. Lee**

**DEAN, PENN CAREY LAW  
BERNARD G. SEGAL PROFESSOR OF LAW**

A member of the Penn Carey Law faculty since 2009 (with a secondary appointment in History), Sophia Z. Lee stepped into her new role as Dean in July 2023. As a long-standing member of the Law School community, Lee is committed to preserving the Law School's core strengths while pursuing new opportunities for growth. Through this lens, Lee will work with the Penn Carey Law community to focus on several key goals: providing a broadly accessible, innovative, and interdisciplinary legal education; investing in the School's collegial and inclusive community; and building on Penn Carey Law's ethos of service, leadership, and civic engagement. Together, these efforts will advance the Law School's mission of preparing graduates and alumni to practice, lead, and serve at the highest levels in their careers and communities.



## **Katharine O. Strunk**

**DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
GEORGE AND DIANE WEISS PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION**

Katharine O. Strunk became the new Dean of the Graduate School of Education (GSE) in July, joining Penn from Michigan State University. Strunk is embarking on her deanship with a commitment to the hallmarks of Penn GSE's mission, as well as identifying new areas of impact for the School. First, she hopes to apply her past experience with local school districts to advancing Penn GSE's partnerships across Philadelphia and the broader region, with a focus on engaging meaningfully, intentionally, and with measurable impact in the City's public school district. Second, she will cultivate the pipeline for the next generation of teachers and educational leaders who can effect change, overcome complex challenges, and chart a bold course for the future of education. And third, Strunk looks forward to furthering the School's long-standing mission of expanding access to high-quality educational opportunities across the learning life-span. 🌱



# Stop and Smell

THE

# Roses

## New renovations increase accessibility at the Rose Garden

*In* June of this year, the Rose Garden at the Morris Arboretum & Gardens reopened after renovations to lay down eye-catching new bluestone hardscaping. While these renovations—made possible by generous donors—enhanced the look of the Garden, they also made it more accessible, so even more visitors can enjoy the flowers in bloom. 🌹



To learn how you can support the Morris Arboretum & Gardens, visit:  
<https://www.morrisarboretum.org/join-give>



Photo credit: Rob Cardillo



# 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.



• **Jonathan Flitter, L'73; Paul Haaga, L'74, WG'74; and George Westervelt, L'73,** gave \$350,000 to establish a scholarship at Penn Carey Law in honor of the Class of 1973's 50th Reunion.

• **Victor Limjoco, WG'18,** gave \$8,250 as part of a three-year commitment to the Penn Performing Arts Initiative at Penn Live Arts, supporting performing arts activities across campus. With this gift, Limjoco also joined the Penn Performing Arts Regional Council of New York.

• **Neil Steven Silverman, M'84, and Jeffrey Scott Rapp, M'88,** committed \$70,000 to support their named fellowship fund—for OB/GYN and Internal Medicine residents doing work in Africa—and the Penn Access Summer Scholars (PASS) Program at the Perelman School of Medicine. This builds upon their previous commitment to the School through an endowed named scholarship: the first established at PSOM by an LGBTQ+ couple.

• **Wendy Blank Chaikin, C'98, and Lee D. Chaikin, W'95,** made a gift of \$250,000 to the Wendy and Lee Chaikin Netter Center Term Fund and a gift of \$5,000 to the Penn Arts & Sciences Annual Fund.





# Giving Highlights



The **Panda CommUnity Fund**, a corporate giving fund of Panda Express, has made a generous gift to name the Panda Express Postdoctoral Fellowship in Asian American Studies at Penn Arts & Sciences.

**Suzanne McGraw** gave \$5 million to create a concentration in early childhood education and family studies at Penn GSE and to provide scholarships for students who pursue the new concentration.

♦ **Janet S. Klein, ED'51, PAR'77**, gave \$75,000 to support the Morris Arboretum & Garden's Hill and Cloud Garden, an elegant, contemplative, and historic feature at the Morris that dates back to the garden's Victorian era.

♦ **Ayana Colbert Machen, WG'99, PAR'26**, and **Ronald C. Machen, Jr., PAR'26**, made a \$100,000 gift to support the Wharton Coalition for Equity and Opportunity (CEO) and the Wharton Fund. The mission of Wharton CEO is to equip current and future leaders with the critical skills needed—through the lenses of race, gender, and socioeconomic—to design equitable organizations, create positive outcomes in the business sector, grow wealth creation opportunities, and impact broader society.

♦ **More than 20 donors** collectively pledged \$1.4 million to establish the Verle and Moses Grossman Endowed Scholarship Fund and to name a space in Penn GSE's new capital expansion in honor of departing dean Pam Grossman. The scholarship is named for Dean Grossman's parents, who she says were her first teachers.





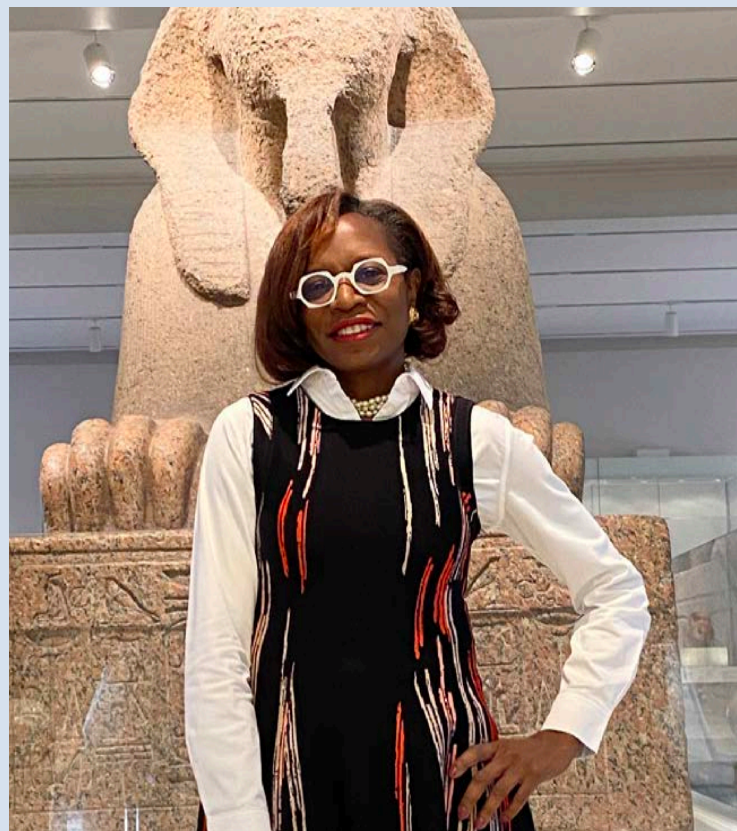
**Nicole Davison Fox, W'01**, and **Michael C. Fox, W'02**, gave \$220,000 to support the Wharton Undergraduate Wellness Fund to make mental health services and overall wellness more accessible to students.

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► **Jacqueline Maurice Jenkins, WG'96**, made the first gift to the Penn Museum's Community Collaborations Fund, which was created to provide financial support to the Museum's programs and initiatives focused on culturally responsive engagement with diverse audiences. She also made a commitment to the Museum's Annual Fund.

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**Sanjiv H. Naidu, M'88, GR'99, PAR'17, PAR'18**, generously established a scholarship in honor of his thesis advisor and mentor, Campbell Laird, Professor Emeritus of Materials Science and Engineering. The gift is in recognition of the lasting impact Professor Laird had on the countless students he inspired.



◄ **Paul Shih, W'00**, and **Catherine Shih** made a generous gift to the President's Men and Women of Pennsylvania Challenge Fund. Their fund will provide matching gifts to inspire increased support for undergraduate financial aid.

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**Mark L. Gardner, GAr'00**, made a gift of \$20,600 to the Julian Abele Fellowship Fund, which provides financial support to a graduate student in the architecture department at the Stuart Weitzman School of Design and supports the University's educational policy of promoting student body diversity. The fund is in honor of Julian Abele, the first African American graduate of the School.

.....

**David Shen, D'79, GD'81**, made a \$150,000 gift to create an endowment fund that will support loan repayment resources for junior faculty in the Department of Orthodontics at Penn Dental Medicine.





# Giving Highlights



► **Beth-Ann Blatnick, L'79, WG'79**, has made additional gifts to the Penn Libraries to support the continued growth of an endowed fund in honor of her parents, which helps the Libraries acquire rare and special materials. Recent acquisitions from this endowed fund include 14 manuscripts from the Himalayas, *Summary of Income and Expenditure of the Famous Roman People* from 1604, and the Japanese *Sūtra of Perfect Wisdom* from 1410—the oldest printed book in the collection.

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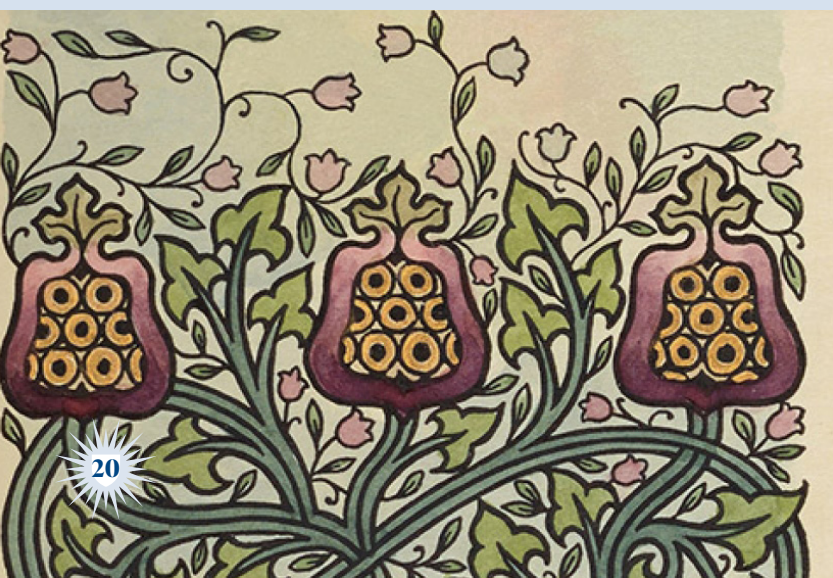
**Kennard Hirsch, W'50**, and **Janis Hirsch** funded a Charitable Gift Annuity and made a bequest to endow a named scholarship.

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► **Karen Miura, CW'68**, made a gift of a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from her IRA to support the Penn Vet Good Samaritan Fund and funded a Charitable Gift Annuity with a QCD, which will support Ryan Veterinary Hospital.



► **Caroline Fearey Schimmel, CW'67**, gave \$300,000 to support the processing of the Caroline Schimmel Collection of Women in the American Wilderness and the Jean-François Vilain and Roger S. Wieck Collection of Private Presses, Ephemera & Related References. The Schimmel Collection includes 1,700 reference books and over 9,000 works of fiction: novels, short stories, folklore, and poetry by white, Black, and Indigenous women, for adults and children, set on uncharted lands—the deserts, forests, jungles, and ice-clad poles of the Americas. Schimmel donated the fiction portion of her collection to Penn Libraries in 2014 and has continued to supplement it ever since.





# PENN-O-RAMA

A CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS PENN



## A Bright Future for the Performing Arts

Rendering courtesy of  
Steven Holl Architects

Construction is slated to begin in the summer of 2024 for a \$75 million Student Performing Arts Center that will form a beacon of light and activity along Woodland Walk and 33rd Street. The 37,300-square-foot building will enable even more students to find creative outlets on campus thanks to its flexible, state-of-the-art spaces for teaching, rehearsals, and performances. This, along with the forthcoming Weitzman Theatre at the Annenberg Center, will bring the first new theatres to campus in over 50 years, offering new and expanded resources for the thousands of Penn students who participate in and enjoy the performing arts.

Read more about plans for the Student Performing Arts Center:  
[pennpri.de/SPAC](https://pennpri.de/SPAC)

## An Age of Discovery

For more than 70 years, Penn archeologists have been making remarkable discoveries—including the oldest standing wooden building in the world—in Gordion, Turkey. In the fall of 2023, Gordion was named a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site—the first site to be added to the list while under active excavation by the Penn Museum. Supported by philanthropy, Penn researchers at Gordion and their Turkish partners have uncovered the first decorated stone mosaics ever found, extraordinary achievements in carpentry, and much more. Research at Gordion has even revealed that King Midas, plagued in mythology by the “golden touch,” was an actual historical figure who ruled Gordion in the eighth century BCE.



## Strike Up the Band

Five years ago, Chris Mario, C’85, and The Mario Family Foundation made a generous \$500,000 challenge gift to kick off a \$1 million campaign to boost the Penn Band’s endowment, so it could provide a permanent source of support for the Band’s ongoing operations. Mario’s gift would match all donor commitments dollar-for-dollar up to \$500,000.

More than 200 alumni, family, and friends of the Penn Band rallied to the challenge. But that was not the end of the good news: Thanks to the success of the endowment challenge, the position of Penn Band Director has been named the R. Greer Cheeseman III, EE’77 Director of Penn Band, in honor of the group’s long-time director, who has been involved with the Penn Band for more than 50 years. Much to Cheeseman’s surprise, the naming was announced at a gala celebrating 125 years of the Penn Band.





