



Pennparents

2929 Walnut Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 19104-5099, 215.746.4646, www.pennparents.upenn.edu

Dear Proud Penn Parents,

With the new academic year underway, we are thrilled to see campus bustling once again. Fall is a particularly beautiful time at Penn, as the canopy of Locust Walk transforms from green to shades of autumn. It is also an especially exciting time, as students delve into classes and extracurriculars, and explore opportunities perhaps for the very first time.

Whether a freshman or a senior, your Penn student will be finding brand new doors open this year. The New College House, Stephen A. Levin Building for the neural and behavioral sciences, and Perry World House for global policy research are all officially open. They will serve as student hubs of living and learning, and each is an impressive addition to Penn's architectural landscape.

While these new buildings bring us state-of-the-art facilities and stunning designs, it is also important to reflect on what goes on inside of these freshly-painted walls. Students are sitting around tables, discussing new ideas, and discovering different ways of thinking. They are engaging with faculty and uncovering new knowledge. They are forming friendships with their peers from different homes around the world, and challenging themselves to construct new meanings. It is what our faculty and students are building inside of these buildings that truly enhances our great University.

So our construction continues. Pennovation Works, our premier center for innovation and entrepreneurship, will celebrate its grand opening later this month. We will see a newly refurbished Hill College House reopen for residence in 2017, as the Perelman Center for



President Gutmann and student volunteers welcome residents to the New College House.

Political Science and Economics takes shape for 2018, when it will serve as yet another undergraduate epicenter for education.

Join us for Family Weekend (October 14–16) to experience our thriving campus and the terrific fall buzz in the air. We look forward to seeing you here!

AMY GUTMANN, *President*
 Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor
 of Political Science and Professor,
 Annenberg School for Communication

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HEALTHY PENN

Student Health Service at the University of Pennsylvania

CAMPUS HEALTH

Campus Health is the public health branch of SHS. In addition to disease surveillance and health policy initiatives, the department's "Live Well" programs target a variety of areas of wellness:



BE WELL
Stress Reduction



BIKE WELL
Bicycle Safety



BREATHE WELL
Smoking Cessation



EAT WELL
Nutrition



MOVE WELL
Exercise & Fitness



SEX WELL
Sexual Wellness



SLEEP WELL
Sleep Hygiene

Home is often the first place students will call when they're sick. Student Health Service hopes to be the second. Located at 3535 Market Street, Student Health Service (SHS) provides leading primary care right on campus. Appointments are readily available and can be made by phone, online, or in person, and patients will find a full-service healthcare facility when they arrive. For many students, it will feel much like the doctor's office they're used to at home. But at SHS, there is a specialized network of support in place.

"It's primary care with the added knowledge of the college student population in mind," says Dr. Giang Nguyen, Executive Director of SHS. "Our providers know all that is available to Penn students, and can provide access to the immense resources that doctors in the community might not know about otherwise."

Equipped with information on academic policies related to illness, as well as relationships with other offices like Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and academic advising departments, SHS is able to approach treatment in a targeted way. "We can connect the dots for students," says Dr. Nguyen.

SHS providers are at the top of their field, continually examining new areas of medicine pertinent to their college-age patients. Full-time students are not charged a fee when they see a provider, and will simply need their Penn ID to check-in for an appointment. All visits, with the exclusion of acupuncture and massage, are covered by the clinical fee as part of their tuition. If further treatment is needed, such as prescriptions, vaccines, or lab work, that's when the student's insurance kicks in.

Partnering with the SHS clinical staff is Campus Health, a team of public health professionals who proactively monitor health trends at Penn. "For example, if influenza is on campus, we're tracking it and taking preventive measures," says Ashlee Halbritter, Director of Campus Health. They work with residence halls and facilities staff to prevent and mitigate outbreaks and stay on the pulse of student health and wellness. Campus Health also provides a variety of educational and outreach programs that serve as critical resources for the entire campus community.

Campus Health and SHS are continually innovating and adapting to fully support Penn's diverse student population. "This is not the student health we had when I was in college," Dr. Nguyen says about the comprehensive care and services offered. "This is Penn. Our students deserve the very best."

SERVICES

SHS provides quality health care that is accessible, affordable, and student-focused. Areas of care include:

Acupuncture	Primary Care
Allergies	Sexual Health
Immunizations	Sports Medicine
Massage	Stress Reduction
Men's Health	Transgender Health
Nutrition	Travel Health
Podiatry	Women's Health

The 2016 Flu Clinic will be October 25, 26, and 27 at Bodek Lounge in Houston Hall, from 11:00am–7:30pm. Students are encouraged to stop by with their Penn ID for a quick and easy vaccination. >>

For more information on these services, visit www.vpul.upenn.edu/shs.



FACULTY FOCUS

Karen Redrobe

Penn Arts & Sciences



KAREN REDROBE is the Elliot and Roslyn Jaffe Professor of Cinema and Modern Media and chair of the department of the History of Art. She has published and edited books on a variety of film genres, including experimental, industrial, political, and art cinemas. As a faculty member, her top priorities include increasing access to and success in higher education for students from all backgrounds, participating in the life of the city of Philadelphia, and supporting the arts and humanities on campus. She is also the proud parent of three children, ages 18, 16, and 7.

How would you describe your teaching philosophy?

I believe that students need to be active and critical participants in their own educational process if we are to instill in them a sense of learning as a lifelong and passionate quest. I far prefer seminar-style discussion to lecturing, and consider every class to be an experimental space. My notion of “success” in the classroom has less to do with any final product than with students’ willingness to experiment with ideas, identify where the limits of their own thinking lie, and find ways to travel beyond those limits.

What do you enjoy most about working with undergraduates?

Teaching undergraduates often gives you the chance to see students at the moment when they first become passionate about pursuing a deeper grasp of the world through research. I love talking one-on-one with students during office hours because you get to hear about their intellectual passions, their aspirations and anxieties, and the challenges they face at home and here on campus. If I had one piece of advice for students, it would be to make better use of in-person conversations with Penn faculty.

This was the first time in the history of the Penn Reading Project that the material was a film. What do you think about the selection of *Citizen Kane* for the freshman class?

Citizen Kane (1941) attempts to tell the life story of a newspaper magnate, and because of that, the narrative invites students to reflect on where they get their news, how it is constructed, and how they evaluate its content in the social media landscape. I’ve also become increasingly interested in director Orson Welles’s own struggle—

a struggle that runs throughout many of his films—with the relationship between success and failure, greatness and oppression, power and impotence. Students often feel under pressure to succeed, but often the criteria for success come from outside themselves. I hope this film encourages students to think about what both success and failure mean to them personally. One thing I like about Welles is his willingness to risk failure as part of his constant experimentation with possibilities.

As a mother of a college freshman yourself, how does this influence your work as a professor?

As my daughter, Siduri, prepared to go off to college, I became attuned in a whole new way to the excitement, intellectual hunger, and concerns that first-year students bring to campus. And as I think about what to put on my syllabi, I find I’m thinking less about an abstract idea of a “good syllabus,” and more about what I would want to share with the teenagers who have been hanging out in our family’s kitchen for the last few years.

What can parents do to help their children succeed?

I think it’s vital that each of us be given space to reflect on what “success” looks like, and I don’t believe that one model can fit everyone. I think students need their parents to be a sounding board for them as they work out their path through college, but without parents taking over decisions. Parents can encourage students to take risks and explore less familiar areas of the curriculum, and to make the most of the vast resources of this amazing research university; and by being there unconditionally for their kids if and when things don’t go as planned.



This is the first-ever residential building specifically designed to serve as a College House, combining form and function.

New College House

Modern Campus Living



Transforming the corner of 34th and Chestnut Streets, the New College House is open and active as first-year residents settle in to their new home. And what a home it is.

Featuring green roofs, a private enclosed courtyard, an in-house dining cafe, a multimedia room, seminar rooms with the latest in instructional and collaborative technology, music practice and performance rooms, community kitchens, and collective lounges on every floor, the New College House is nothing short of impressive. Its many amenities contribute to a holistic living experience for undergraduates, while facilitating the academic and social connections every College House is built on.

“There are wonderful views of green space, campus landmarks like Franklin Field, and the Philadelphia cityscape in unexpected places throughout the House,” says Trina Nocerino, House Dean. Nocerino works with faculty-in-residence and a staff of Graduate Associates and Resident Advisors, who create a close-knit community within the living space, while connecting students to the University and urban campus just outside its doors.

This is the first-ever residential building specifically designed to serve as a College House, combining form and function. All of the College Houses (12 in all now) provide learning opportunities beyond the conventional classroom, with a thematic focus and traditions specific to each house. For the residents of the New College House, they’ll be building these new hallmarks from the ground up.

“Being the first-ever residents, we have this amazing opportunity to explore and define what it means to be a part of New College House,” says Nocerino. Students and in-house staff are in the process of designing the house crest, crafting the house motto, and planning initiatives that are important to them as a community. “We’re working together to create our own values and traditions.”

The New College House will also host activities that highlight Penn’s position within a greater global community. Programming will create experiences that help students engage with the world, including a multidisciplinary exploration of what city life encompasses, service learning projects through which residents will contribute to Philadelphia’s larger community, and events that focus on helping students consider what it means to be a citizen of the world, prepared for global engagement.

This year, the 340 or so residents are freshmen, with the remaining rooms occupied by residential staff. It will serve as a four-year College House during the next academic year, once renovations of the adjacent Hill College House are complete. Suites are located across seven floors, each housing two to six bedrooms with a shared living room and one to two bathrooms. Ample windows, an internal plaza, and a “lifted lawn” eco-roof connect the interior to the outdoors. The building is also LEED Silver certified.

“The space brings together all elements of the College House experience,” Nocerino says. “It truly is a unique place to call home.”

Trisha Kothari, ENG'14



Recently named one of *Business Insider's* “Most Powerful Women Engineers” of 2016, Trisha Kothari, ENG'14, has gone from Penn undergrad to tech powerhouse at the age of 24. She is currently a software engineer at Affirm, a financial-technology startup based in San Francisco and led by PayPal cofounder Max Levchin. Trisha's work on their financial platform has earned her a reputation as one of the most talented up-and-coming coders in the country, and she tells us about her journey from campus to career.

HOMETOWN:

Originally from Mumbai, India, and currently living in San Francisco.

PENN MAJOR AND MINOR:

Computer Science and Mathematics.

What's the most useful thing you did at Penn to prepare for life after college?

Before college, I had never taken a programming class. My freshman year, I took Introduction to Computer Programming, and after a few semesters of exploring different courses, I decided to major in Computer Science. Gaining exposure to so many possibilities is what made all the difference. The fact that you can major in anything, try out any class you want, check out any activity you are interested in—that's the reason Penn is such an amazing school.

Did you do any internships?

I interned my freshman year at a startup in New York City through the hackNY Summer Fellows program, my sophomore year at LinkedIn on its mobile team, and my junior year at Google on Maps. After my senior year, I also did another internship in Google's Advanced Projects and Technologies team to dabble in Computer Vision and Robotics.

How did you spend your time at Penn outside of class?

I was pretty involved with the Computer Science community at Penn—the Dining Philosophers, Women in Computer Science,

and PennApps. I was also a Residential Advisor and Teaching Assistant, which were really good experiences.

What was your favorite class at Penn?

I loved Embedded Systems. It was essentially a hardware hacking class. My lab partner and I created a shoe that tracks the pace you are running at and changes the music you are listening to accordingly. We slept in the lab for days to get it working, living on caffeine. That's probably my favorite memory from college.

What advice would you offer current students?

Penn has awesome professors who really care about their students. They are also really cool, but you might not know it unless you look at their research. Definitely look at what your professors have done and ask them about it!

Has your family played a role in your pursuit of success?

Incredibly so! I lucked out in the lottery of birth to have parents and siblings who have encouraged me to be unapologetically ambitious.

Where do you hope to be in five years?

Hopefully I will have started my own tech company to simplify industries that are wrought with unnecessary complexities and fine print. I am excited to see a world where data and technology infiltrate into every echelon of society, truly improving the way we all work and live.

Neil Perucho, PAR'17



When his son joined the ranks of the Red and Blue, Neil Perucho found himself meeting the University of Pennsylvania for the very first time. And just as his son Christian (NUR'17) readily embraced his newfound Penn family, Neil was quick to do the same.

From his home in Neptune, New Jersey, Neil has participated in the Welcome Calling Program for the last two years, phoning and welcoming newly-accepted students and their families, from both the U.S. and abroad. Neil was originally from the Philippines, before settling in New Jersey with his wife Maria Fe and having their two sons, Christian and James. Being bilingual, Neil was able to reach out to parents from his home country in his own friendly and personalized way.

At New Parent and Family Orientation in the fall, Neil met many of the families he had spoken with on the phone. He has also volunteered at admitted student events and welcome receptions on campus and in the Philadelphia area.

“My experience as a volunteer has been incredibly valuable,” Neil says. “It has allowed me to connect with other Penn parents. We’ve talked about how to let go of apprehensions and concerns that all of us feel about our kids going to college.”

Neil also reflects on other conversations he's had with fellow parents, about how to start trusting their children as young adults, advising them on how to cope with everyday stresses, and the importance of a well-balanced life for students. “Being a Penn Parents volunteer has been rewarding in so many ways.”

Thank You to Our FY16 Penn Parents Volunteers!

www.pennparents.upenn.edu

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Update

THANK YOU, PENN PARENTS, for your generous support of The Parents Fund. More than 2,700 families gave over \$1.3M last year, setting a new record! For the first time, the Fund's annual goal has been surpassed, further strengthening academic, social, and cultural initiatives across campus.

Gifts to The Parents Fund enhance every aspect of the undergraduate experience, including world-class curricula, undergraduate financial aid, student life programming, and technology upgrades in our classrooms.

DON'T FORGET: On **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17**, Penn Parents hosts its **DAY OF GIVING**. Join other Penn parents from around the world in their continued commitment to the undergraduate experience at Penn by making a gift during this 24-hour period.

We appreciate the dedicated support of our Proud Penn Parents!

LEARN MORE AT: www.pennparents.upenn.edu/the-parents-fund

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Thank You!

Welcome Receptions



Move-In



SAVE THE DATE: DAY OF GIVING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17