ENERGY RISING
The Kleinman Center
For Energy Policy
Sparks Campus Dialogue

COMMUNITY
OF ONE
Celebrating Penn
Anniversaries

GETTING ANIMATED
Meet the Student Creators of Digital Media Design
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Classroom Has Changed

COLLEGE CAMPUSES have always served as intellectual hubs, where dynamic spaces bring minds together for discourse and discovery. These spaces have evolved over time—physically, conceptually, and even virtually. Here at Penn, we are committed to pushing this innovation forward.

Each day, students and faculty come together to teach and learn in Penn’s state-of-the-art research labs, lecture halls, and seminar rooms. It also happens in spaces you might not expect—a hospital simulation room, a motion capture animation studio, an operational lot for flying drones. Penn abounds with innovative spaces for students to learn and explore.

Indeed, Penn students are creating, collaborating, and cultivating knowledge without walls. What they will do with this knowledge is boundless. Thank you for all that you do to support their journeys of discovery.

Sincerely,

Amy Gutmann, President
Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Political Science
Professor, Annenberg School for Communications
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Move-In marks the beginning of a new chapter for both students and parents.
How I Chose My Major

Growing up in Chicago, JESSICA DAVIS NUR’18 knew she wanted to work in healthcare. “My dad passed away from cancer when I was little,” Jessica says. “My mom would always talk about how nurses were there for her during the most difficult times.” Nursing became Jessica’s passion, and Penn became her pathway.

“Penn Nursing doesn’t just teach nursing,” Jessica says. “Policy, leadership, research... There are so many opportunities and avenues.”

Jessica just wrapped up a research assistantship at Penn Medicine’s Department of Anesthesia, and in the spring, she’ll be the first Nursing student to graduate with a minor in bioethics. Her initial exposure to bioethics came via Coursera, in an online course taught by Penn Professor Ezekiel J. Emanuel. “It all grew from there,” Jessica says. “In the future, I’d really like to serve on an ethics committee at a hospital.”

Penn Nursing is home to 7,000 square feet of simulation space, including the Helene Fuld Pavilion for Innovative Learning and Simulation.
Monument Lab: Public Art & Civic Research Praxis

WHAT’S AN APPROPRIATE MONUMENT for the current city of Philadelphia?

This fall, Monument Lab is posing this question to artists, students, educators, and... well... everyone. A public art and history project spanning 9 weeks, 10 sites, and 20+ artists, it’s a citywide conversation with major civic connections. Enter FNAR 305, Penn’s first-ever civic studio course. What’s that? In short: the city is the classroom and the art is driven by interaction. Throughout the course, students will participate as specialized research teams, collecting data and conducting on-the-ground interviews at art installations and interactive “labs” throughout the city. Combine that with weekly group dialogues and guest lecturing artists, and students are in for a pretty monumental semester.

Paul M. Farber, Lecturer and Managing Director, Penn Program in the Environmental Humanities, and Ken Lum, Professor and Director of the Fine Arts Undergraduate Program, lead the Monument Lab curatorial team, produced with Mural Arts Philadelphia. Dr. Farber and Fine Arts Lecturer Matt Neff are co-teaching FNAR 305 this fall.

PHILLY BY DRONE

CHRISTOPHER KAO ENG’18 W’18 bought his first drone from a Penn classmate. It was broken, it was finals week, and the last thing he should have been doing was watching YouTube videos at 4am on how to fix it. Five hours and some serious engineering skills later, he was up and running.

Fast forward a year and a half, and his campus hobby—“hey, it’s the drone guy!”—had turned into a buzzworthy start-up. In the spring of his junior year, Christopher founded Philly by Drone, an aerial photography and cinematography business. Some of his biggest clients are real estate companies and developers seeking sneak-peek views of Philly’s rising skyline. Christopher is an FAA Part 107 certified commercial drone pilot, and his Wharton marketing chops are as sharp as his photos.

“I’m definitely taking advantage of classes that will help me build my business,” Christopher says, noting coursework in real estate and database systems. In between classes, he’ll be exploring the horizon—quite literally. “Drone photography has really helped me discover Philadelphia, beyond campus,” he says. “I appreciate this city so much more now.”

Check out Christopher’s work at phillybydrone.com.
Top Study Spots

Campus has no shortage of lounges, lawns, and libraries for hitting the books. For every nook to be found there is a laptop-toting student not far behind... What’s your student’s go-to? Here are a few spots worthy of a bookmark:

**Huntsman GSRS**

No time to call them by their full name—Jon M. Huntsman Hall Group Study Rooms—the next big idea awaits! The whiteboard walls and glowing flat screens of Wharton GSRS are always in action. From business brainstorms to mentor meetings: there’s a GSR for that.

**Biopond**

It doesn’t get any more zen than this. Located on the biomedical side of campus, the Lynch BioPond’s babbling brooks and lush greens are perfect for a tranquil study session. Grab a bench and settle in for some “one with nature” vibes.
HUBBUB COFFEE

A beautiful blend of caffeine and collaboration, HubBub’s name says it all. From project planning to job interview prep, it’s a buzzing place to meet, talk, and work. Bonus: HubBub’s owner and founder is a Penn grad (DREW CROCKETT C’05). Hurrah for the red, the blue, and the mocha.

PENN MUSEUM

Did your student tell you they have free access to the Penn Museum? One of the world’s great archaeology and anthropology research museums, it’s also filled with beautiful stone courtyards and its very own library. The best part? Being able to stroll around the galleries for a break from the books.

MOELIS GRAND READING ROOM

Shhh. Located in Van Pelt-Dietrich Library, this new study space is soundproof and focus-friendly. The window-lined room is also anchored by a massive wool and silk sculpture—making it easy on the eyes and the ears.
Kleinman Center for Energy Policy At a Glance

RESEARCH: The Center supports faculty scholarship on a wide array of energy topics—leveraging Penn research strengths to improve policy outcomes.

CONTENT: Center staff, research assistants, faculty, and visiting scholars lead the conversation on energy policy. Their written work includes three core products: research papers, policy digests, and blog posts.

EVENTS: Meaningful discourse is central to the Kleinman Center’s evolving work. Public lectures, panel discussions, and faculty seminars bring together students, scholars, and industry professionals for important dialogue.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT: The Center’s doors are always open to curious undergrads: campus events, field trips, research funding, and travel grants are among the many opportunities awaiting them here.

SHAPING the Next Generation of ENERGY LEADERS
A DRILLING RIG in Pennsylvania, a solar farm in Delaware, a water irrigation system in the Netherlands... The Kleinman Center is sending students all over the map.

“The Center has expanded students’ horizons across the University,” says Faculty Director Mark Alan Hughes. “We ask them to look beyond their disciplines to see the impact of energy decisions on society.” Students involved in the Center’s programming come from all four Schools, and they often find themselves right in the action.

An Environmental Studies major and Kleinman Center grant recipient, ANYA GILROY C’18 spent her summer interning at the City of Philadelphia’s Energy Office. “I was in the office when the news on the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord came through. We had to address how this would be handled in Philadelphia,” Anya says, citing her extensive analysis of citywide data. “There are big things happening in energy policy, and I am part of those conversations at a local level.”

Young alum DILLON WEBER ENG’16 still makes his way back to campus for Kleinman events. “The speakers are a big draw,” Dillon says. “They’re the top experts—true global leaders in the field. And they’re right here at Penn.” Dillon served as a research assistant at the Center as an undergrad, where he realized his interests lie at the intersection of science, politics, and economics. He’s now a full-time engineer, but stays involved with the Center as research fellow. “The Kleinman Center is building a name for itself among big influencers. And we are a part of that.”

On the public front, the Center serves as a neutral forum where key players can work through thorny issues. “From industry executives to anti-fracking community groups, no one was talking to each other,” Dr. Hughes says. “We have actually made remarkable progress on defining the processes that will lead to tangible outcomes. It all starts with getting the right stakeholders in the room.”
IN A LARGE OPEN ROOM punctuated by flat screens and the hum of machines, almost everything appears to be operating on wheels: the mobile whiteboard, the rolling chairs, the rogue scooter in the corner. At table level, there’s a smattering of everything from books and coffee to storm trooper helmets and the entire cast of the Lion King (in figurine format, of course). But it’s the student creators moving about the space who truly bring it to life—whose wheels are turning fastest of all.
SCHOOLS AND CENTERS

Where Art Meets Science
The SIG Center for Computer Graphics (SIGLab) serves as quasi headquarters for Penn’s Digital Media Design program (DMD). Born in the 1990s under the direction of Dr. Norm Badler, the program fuses computer science, fine arts, and communications in an interdisciplinary mashup for the ages.

While DMD lives in the School of Engineering and Applied Science, its curriculum draws heavily on the humanities—particularly fine arts. “Our students are an interesting bunch,” Dr. Badler says. “They’re both computer scientists and imaginative artists.”

That type of creative combination has made the DMD community a force all its own—one its faculty and staff couldn’t have engineered if they tried. Ask any DMD student about their program and you’ll likely hear a variation of the same reply: supportive, collaborative, hard to define, diverse, inclusive, like a family...

DMD students have no shortage of words to share about the organic community they thrive in.

“I swear we don’t tell them to say that,” says Amy Calhoun, the program’s equally animated associate director. “One thing we do always say: the only consistency in our students is how different they are.” Calhoun also has plenty of ways to describe her DMDers: industry trailblazers, cross-discipline translators, and tech-savvy storytellers.

“This only consistency in our students is how different they are.”

- AMY CALHOUN, DMD ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

These descriptors readily apply to CHLOE SNYDER ENG’17 GEN’18. A born communicator and lover of language, Chloe came to Penn with no coding experience. Her DMD coursework allowed her to connect...
these natural talents to technical skills. “I’m really interested in how we can make a meaningful impact with technology,” Chloe says. “Healthcare and education are two areas with huge potential.”

As an undergrad, Chloe completed a number of internships. At PBS KIDS, she worked on *Arthur* and learned about storyboarding and script editing. At a later internship at Touch Surgery, she applied those same skills to explore computer graphics for “hands-on” surgical technologies. This year, she’ll be working on her graduate studies at Penn.

In fact, the careers alumni pursue are fascinatingly diverse. Among them: an Emmy-nominated visual journalist for *The New York Times*, a virtual reality filmmaker featured at Cannes, and a South by Southwest award winner for the conception of a live-data documentary. There is also the steady stream of graduates who head to Disney, Pixar, DreamWorks, and the like.

For each animated blockbuster that hits theaters, there’s almost always a Penn connection. So as SIGLab tradition would have it, the movie poster of every animated film a Penn alum contributes to is hung on the SIGLab walls—overlooking the wheels of imagination at work.

**William Ho ENG’18**

William interned at Pixar last spring, where he applied classroom concepts in industry context. He worked on the animated film *Coco*, due out this fall.

“DMD makes you conversational across disciplines. We become fluent on the creative side and the technical side. And we’re given the opportunity to explore all parts of that spectrum.”

**Hannah Bollar ENG’19**

Hannah spent her summer on campus doing hands-on research. One of her projects was under Professor Chenfanfu Jiang—an animation expert who helped crack the code on how to create snow for *Frozen*.

“I’m really interested in physics simulation, which is all about making things look as physically accurate as possible using computer science. This summer we worked a lot with water and snow.”
Strengthening Inclusion

Home to one of the first lesbian gay bisexual transgender (LGBT) programs in the country, the LGBT CENTER is celebrating its 35th anniversary at Penn. For three and half decades, the Center has actively supported sexual and gender minority students and their allies. Its peer mentorship program, 25+ student groups, and fully stacked events calendar are just some of the reasons BestColleges.com named Penn the “Best University for LGTB Students.”

First Gen: One Penn

This month marks the FIRST GENERATION LOW-INCOME (FGLI) PROGRAM’s first full year on campus. Among the first of its kind in the Ivy League, FGLI eases students’ academic, personal, and social transition to life on campus. This welcoming space offers a textbook lending library, a community kitchen and stocked pantry, personalized advising, and student referrals. At FGLI, it’s all about building community.

The Division of the Vice Provost for University Life (VPUL) is here to support your student. Its campus-wide centers and resources are extensive—so that each and every student can make the most of their time at Penn. Want to know more? Visit VPUL online at vpul.upenn.edu.
Parent FAQs

You’ve got questions, we’ve got answers.

Dining

Q: My student has a dietary restriction. What options are available on campus?
A: Each residential dining location offers multiple vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options. For a kosher meal, students can head to the Falk Dining Café located on the first floor of Hillel. For Halal, Kings Court English House offers lunch and dinner during the week. Penn Dining is here to serve the many needs of our students.

Mail

Q: How should I address mail to my student who lives on campus?
A: All you’ll need to know is the name of their College House, room number, and mailbox number. For example, if your student lives in Hill College House:

John/Jane Doe
RM 100 HILL MB 200
3333 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6193

Study Abroad

Q: Are there shorter options available if my student wants to study abroad, but not for an entire semester?
A: Any experience abroad can enrich your student’s undergraduate years. Here at Penn, there are plenty of options to choose from. Beyond the traditional semester or year abroad, shorter-term options include international internships, academic research, summer programs, and global modular courses. Penn Abroad provides a great starting point to explore these opportunities: global.upenn.edu/pennabroad.

Check out the Penn Parents website for more FAQs: URL_to_FAQ_page

Parent to one. Parent to all.
The Parents Fund supports the full undergraduate experience. Please join us for our annual Day of Giving on November 30th. The goal? To strengthen our Penn community. The impact? On your daughters, sons, and every student on campus.
Thanks for joining us for Move-In. The buzz of packed cars and moving carts wouldn’t be the same without our Penn parents. We hope you enjoyed this special moment on campus... Welcome to the Penn family.