

## Interns Invade Philly

When the summer research internship program began in 2004, the plan was to expose College students to the ways and means of research by partnering with campus cultural institutions. The program was so successful that it was expanded in its second year to include premier artistic and historical organizations across Philadelphia.

Several interns were selected to build their research skills at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, National Constitution Center and Library Company of Philadelphia. As a research intern in the PMA's education department, senior **Alexis Orenstein** was responsible for creating and augmenting object files that chronicle the history of some of the museum's most revered pieces. Orenstein says the experience turned her into a detective of sorts, leading her to art libraries and archives all over the city in her search for details about each piece of art.

"I took an art appreciation class at Penn before my internship," Orenstein says. "The research I've done here has allowed me to take the tools I learned in class and apply them to some of the world's greatest pieces of art." In addition, she learned about all aspects of the museum's operation through explanatory seminars and was called on to deliver a spotlight talk about a piece from the museum's collection.



Alexis Orenstein

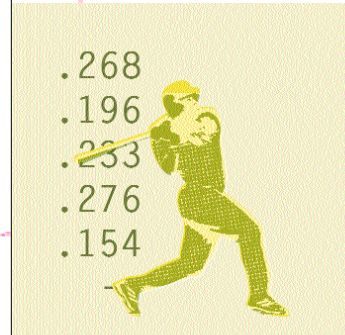
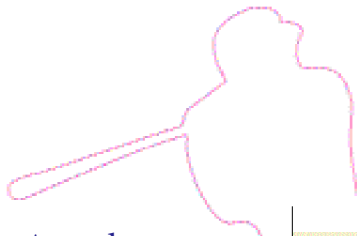
## Civil Rights Award

**Thomas Sugrue**, the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Endowed Term Professor of History, is one of 12 artists, writers and scholars to win the inaugural Fletcher Foundation Fellowship. The \$50 million foundation, created by financier Alphonse Fletcher Jr. advances the cause of racial equality as outlined in the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The \$50,000 award fetes those whose work improves race relations and illuminates civil rights issues.

Other honorees include Brandeis professor Anita Hill, who is known for accusing then-Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment, and Kathleen Cleaver, a former Black Panther Party activist. "I was blown away when I saw the list of recipients," Sugrue says. "It's a who's who of major figures in the world of race and the arts, civil rights and black activism. I was very happy to be in their company."

With the stipend from his award, Sugrue will finish writing *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Unfinished Struggle for Racial Equality in the North*, which is scheduled for publication by Random House next year. "Most of our scholarship in civil rights focuses on the South – the classic period between the Brown decision and the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968," Sugrue says. "The story of civil rights in the North has been told in little bits and pieces – like the struggle over busing in Boston – but no one has really put it all together."

Joseph McLaughlin



Elizabeth Trost

## Swing, Batter!

Baseball fans have long admired players who can produce a hit when their teams need it most and are quick to scorn those who fail. But do some players really rise to the occasion as much as the fans like to believe, while others fall short? As it turns out, the answer is yes. That's according to a study by senior **Elan Fuld**, who took it upon himself to determine whether such lofty praise – or universal derision – is truly warranted.

Fuld's calculations provide statistical evidence that players such as Eddie Murray, Frank Duffy and Luis Gomez were all clutch hitters. Fuld, a baseball aficionado as well as a dual major in math and economics, devised a method of analyzing 1,075 Major League players from 1974 through 1992. He modeled players' at-bat outcomes using the importance of the game situation to make his determination.

"Once situational importance rose to ... a certain level, the player would start to think this is very important and do something that makes him hit better, if he's clutch, or panic and do something that makes him hit worse, if he's a choke hitter," Fuld says.

He was surprised to find that some players who had reputations as choke artists were actually quite clutch. Bill Buckner, the ill-fated Boston Red Sox first baseman who famously missed a routine ground ball in the 1986 World Series, was statistically proven to be an above-average clutch hitter.

## Advising.com

College Dean **Dennis DeTurck** and a team of four advising experts gathered in a Towne Building classroom on June 29 to discuss freshman year at Penn with incoming first-year students. But instead of seeing fresh young faces, DeTurck and company were met with a makeshift television studio and computer equipment. That's because the students-to-be were home – sitting in front of their computers – waiting to begin the College's first live advising webcast. Over the next hour or so, the Penn experts fielded such common questions as "How does advance registration work?" and "How can I be sure to get the classes I want?" posed to them from all over the world.

"Because you are now or will be 18, your grades are sent to you, and who else you let see them is entirely up to you," DeTurck said when asked whether parents received student grade reports. "People at Penn will not reveal your grades to your parents unless you give us permission."

The three advising webcasts held this past summer occurred at three different times of day to accommodate a global audience. DeTurck began the first webcast at 9 p.m. and started the final one at 8 a.m. Although their purpose was to help incoming freshmen arrange their schedules, the conversations were wide ranging. Much of the information covered in the webcasts remains useful even though classes already have begun. You can watch Dean DeTurck lead the sessions by going to <http://www.college.upenn.edu> and click on the "webcast archive" link.



Ray Eames with prototype of *The Toy*

## Whimsical Works

A little-known legacy of furniture manufacturers Charles and Ray Eames found a home this past summer at the Arthur Ross Gallery. Staged by students in the Halpern-Rogath Curatorial Seminar – part of the Master of Liberal Arts program in the College of General Studies – the exhibition featured toys, children's furniture and fanciful films by the husband-and-wife design team.

"Whimsical Works: The Playful Designs of Charles and Ray Eames" focused on the couple's lighthearted approach to serious things and earnest take on playful things. "Toys are not really as innocent as they look," Charles Eames once said. "Toys and games are the preludes to serious ideas."

On display were two structural building toys, several examples of plywood furniture and three short films: "Tops," "Toccata for Toy Trains" and "Kaleidoscope Jazz Chair." In addition, the presentation featured photographs taken by the office of Charles Eames that chronicled the creation of these objects.

Charles and Ray Eames are mostly known for introducing molded-plywood and plastic furniture to America. They are credited with helping to modernize the country after World War II by partnering with the federal government and top businesses. Charles became one of the country's leading cultural diplomats, helping to shape arts-related programs through his service on various councils.