In response to the ever-increasing scale of social, political and economic interaction across cultural and national boundaries, the School of Arts and Sciences identified cross-cultural contacts as a priority multidisciplinary initiative in its strategic plan. Now, funded by a $750,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the School is partnering with the University of Pennsylvania Press to develop a publication program that advances humanistic scholarship in this area.

“Penn is exceptional among its peers in the strength and breadth of its research and teaching on cross-cultural issues, and the School of Arts and Sciences is committed to further investment in this area,” says SAS Dean Rebecca Bushnell. “The Cross-Cultural Contacts Publication Program will energize humanities scholarship on the complex challenges facing today’s global society.”

The program comprises four major components: the cross-cultural contacts Distinguished Lecture Series, a human rights journal, books based on cross-cultural contacts courses, and a conference and publication fund. Scholars who participate in the lecture series will produce books based on their talks, and grant-funded University-wide conferences and seminars will also form the basis for a variety of publications.

The lecture series will kick off next April with Jonathan Spence, Yale’s famed scholar of interactions between China and Europe. The program’s first conference, called “Beyond Individual and Society: Mass Mediated Forms of Personhood,” is taking place this July.

A committee chaired by Ann Matter, Associate Dean for Arts and Letters and William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of Religious Studies, and consisting of faculty and Penn Press representatives oversees the grant. This collaboration aims to capitalize on the synergy of the School’s and the Press’s unique strengths. “The real excitement about the program,” says Matter, “is that it allows us to expand our offerings in topics having to do with cultural diversity, always with an eye to making some part of the exploration available in printed form. We could never have launched anything so ambitious without the help of the Penn Press.”

The Penn Press has a long history of collaborating with members of Penn’s academic community, starting with the publication of W.E.B. Du Bois’ The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study. Its extensive and growing involvement with the humanities at Penn include ongoing book series and journal projects with the University’s Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and the McNeil Center for Early American Studies.

“We’re fortunate to benefit from a Mellon grant,” says Penn Press director Eric Halpern, “that will deepen connections between Penn Press and the University’s academic core, that will make what we do even more relevant to Penn’s scholarly community, and that will do so in a way that promises to be sustained beyond the life of the grant. We’re grateful to the Mellon Foundation for giving us this welcome opportunity not only to serve scholarship in general but, especially, scholarship at Penn.”

—PR
The School of Arts and Sciences is Making History with its project to provide a fitting home for its top-ranked Department of Music. The $15.3 million renovation and expansion of Penn’s historic Music Building will ensure that the department has facilities that reflect its strength and integral role at the University.

Plans for the Music Building renovation include overhauling and redesigning the interior; restoring the exterior’s rich, orange terra cotta; building a new addition that will almost double the facility’s size; and creating light-filled, soundproofed and technology-ready teaching and performance spaces.

The new Music Building will better support the research activities of our renowned music faculty, facilitate learning for students across campus, and enrich the culture of performance at Penn.

Join us in Making History in the Arts and Sciences

Watch a video on the power of music performance at:
www.sas.upenn.edu/home/campaign/music/video.html

For more information about the Music Building renovation, contact Michael Baker at bakerm@sas.upenn.edu or 215-898-5262.
If you’ve ever had an MRI or a mammogram or even an old-fashioned x-ray, then you’ve benefited from the work of a medical physicist. Since the discovery of x-rays in 1895, the application of physics to the diagnosis and treatment of disease has led to crucial—if not astonishing—advances in such fields as medical imaging and radiation oncology. Increasingly, these complex technologies are used to treat patients with ever-increasing precision and success. The growth in demand for these innovative tools has led to a shortage of clinical medical physicists who have the necessary expertise.

In 2006, the School of Arts and Sciences set about to meet this demand. The Master of Medical Physics Program, housed within the College of General Studies, has been revamped under its new director, Kate Spillane, with a completely redesigned curriculum that will provide students with classroom and laboratory, as well as clinical experience. The program will enroll its first student cohort in the fall, consisting of 11 outstanding students selected from 75 applicants.

The revitalization was made possible by the support and shared vision of Daniel Dosoretz, a practicing radiation oncologist and parent of Amy Dosoretz, C’99, Abigail Dosoretz, C’09, W’09, and Arie Dosoretz, C’04, M’10. Spillane says, “Dr. Dosoretz not only understands the need for well-trained master’s-level medical physicists, but he also recognized that Penn, because of its unique assets and resources like the world-class Roberts Proton Therapy Center, could prepare exceptionally well-qualified professionals.”

In addition to tapping the University of Pennsylvania Health System’s state-of-the-art facilities and the School of Arts and Sciences distinguished Department of Physics and Astronomy, the program will stress communication, ethics and responsibility—in both clinical and research settings—to promote the highest standards in patient care.

There are only 11 accredited medical physics degree programs in the United States. The College hopes Penn’s MMP program will become the 12th. Spillane says, “It is our intention to attract and enroll the best and brightest applicants and to provide them with the best well-rounded medical physics education available.”

To learn more about the Master of Medical Physics Program, visit http://www.sas.upenn.edu/CGS/graduate/mmp/ or contact the College of General Studies at cgs@sas.upenn.edu or 215-898-7326.

—AC
Lorraine Carrady Quinn’s, CW’73, family has been involved in film since 1951, when her father, Victor Carrady, first came to Puerto Rico and built movie theaters. He created what is today the largest cinema chain in the Caribbean. When her middle son, Gregory, C’07, stepped onto Penn’s campus as a freshman, he brought with him a deep-seated interest in all aspects of the industry and made his way to the door of Timothy Corrigan, a professor of English and Cinema Studies. When Greg introduced his mother to Corrigan, they immediately hit it off, and Cinema Studies at Penn suddenly gained a valuable ally who was eager to offer her own hard-earned experience and develop meaningful opportunities for the program’s students.

Head of real estate for the family company, Caribbean Cinemas, Carrady Quinn is an industry pioneer and thus provides cinema students with a terrific role model. Karen Beckman, the Elliot and Roslyn Jaffe Endowed Associate Professor in Film Studies and director of Cinema Studies, says Carrady Quinn “has come up with innovative and unique ways in which she can support the vision of the program by making first-hand experiences with the film industry available to our students.” For the past three years, she has offered a paid summer internship for a student at her headquarters in San Juan, providing airfare and an apartment. And she works to customize the internship according to the student’s interest, whether it be art cinema or the business side of the industry. Carrady Quinn also sends a student and faculty member each year to ShoWest in Las Vegas, the most prestigious and longest running trade show devoted to cinema exhibition and distribution. Both of these opportunities provide students with substantial knowledge and real experience, not to mention the benefit of a mentor who generously shares her true passion for film.

In addition, she and her husband, Christopher Quinn, C’74, have donated funds to name the Cinema Studies director’s office in Fisher-Bennett Hall. Last year, she hosted a benefit for the Penn Club of Puerto Rico at her new Fine Arts Café and Cinema, featuring Corrigan as a speaker. Most recently, the family endowed a scholarship in the College to support an undergraduate majoring in film studies. “As a Penn graduate myself,” Carrady Quinn says, “as well as my husband and now my son, I feel a great connection to the University and am eager to promote the Cinema Studies major in any way I can.”

“We feel really privileged to know her and to have her support,” Beckman says. “The opportunities she offers help Cinema Studies participate in Penn’s serious commitment to moving between theory and practice, which we feel is invaluable for our students as we try to expose them to the history of global cinema and the key issues facing film and media professionals today.”

For more information about Cinema Studies at Penn, visit http://www.cinemastudies.upenn.edu

AC