How does one take an enterprise as vast and distinguished as the School of Arts and Sciences and make it even better? That was the question facing Steve Fluharty when he became dean last year. As Steve notes in his column in the Fall/Winter *Penn Arts and Sciences Magazine*, his response was to engage the Penn Arts and Sciences community in identifying our future priorities and creating a strategic plan that builds on our foundation of excellence.

A defining characteristic of the School is the way in which our faculty members collaborate across traditional academic boundaries. We realize that innovation cannot happen in isolation—not when it comes to scholarly research and not when it comes to strategic planning. Dean Fluharty convened nearly one-third of the faculty in working groups to discuss future directions in knowledge and education and to consider how we can leverage the School’s strengths in order to advance in those areas. These conversations were lively and fruitful, but they alone were not enough. Knowing that our teaching and research impact life well beyond our campus, we engaged our Board of Overseers, a group of alumni and parent leaders who are experts in diverse fields, and we sought input from alumni and parents in a variety of settings, as well as students and staff.

The stories in this issue of *Partners and Progress* illustrate the benefits of such partnership. You will learn about Michael and Vikki Price’s transformative gift in support of the School’s digital humanities initiative. You’ll read about Bob and Penny Fox’s efforts to help us expand the Fox Leadership program internationally. You’ll discover how parents and alumni are increasing our ability to provide financial aid and internship support. And you’ll see how the Penn Arts and Sciences community is coming together—with the support of a new leadership gift from Fred and Robin Tedori—to make the Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics a reality.

Generosity such as this will be key in realizing our new strategic goals.

In the 19 years during which I’ve worked on behalf of the School, I’ve been involved in the creation of three strategic plans. It’s fascinating to see how each new plan builds on the strengths of the one before it, and it’s exhilarating to witness each element as it comes to fruition. Looking around the campus, I can readily see the results of these efforts. For example, our magnificent Carolyn Lynch Laboratories and the Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building that is currently in progress are a direct result of the decision to enhance our work in biology and psychology that was made by Dean Preston and reaffirmed by Dean Bushnell.

Now, Dean Fluharty is committed to invigorating our research and teaching in these areas in order to capitalize on all that these new buildings offer. If you haven’t been back to campus to see these changes, I hope you’ll visit soon.

I also invite you to partner with us in this process. You can read the full plan in the *Almanac* and on the School’s website *www.sas.upenn.edu*, and we welcome your comments and questions. We will continue to report to you on our progress, and we hope you will continue to take an active role in the future of your School.

Jean-Marie Kneeley  
*Vice Dean for Advancement*
Whether it was spring break in New Orleans, a summer fellowship in D.C., or a workshop with an industry leader, thousands of Penn students have called their experiences with the Fox Leadership Program the most significant of their undergraduate careers. Thanks to a new $5 million gift from Robert Fox, C’52, and Penny Grossman Fox, ED’53, the program is now going global in scope.

“Our students are going to be international students whether they spend most of their lives in the United States or any other country,” says John DiIulio, Frederic Fox Leadership Professor of Politics, Religion, and Civil Society, and faculty director of the program. “Now Fox Leadership International will add a global dimension to everything we do.”

Supporting Penn’s commitment to produce future leaders, the Robert A. Fox Leadership Program uses fellowships, service-learning programs, events, workshops, teaching, and advising to give students hands-on leadership experience and connect them with successful mentors. Fox Leadership International (FLI) will build on current global initiatives and create new programs to add a robust international component to every facet of Fox’s “study and serve” mission.

Fox has already tested one new program, working with the Fels Institute of Government this summer to organize a three-week leadership training and cultural exchange program that brought 46 students to Penn from Jiangsu Province in China. FLI China will make the program an annual event, and will craft other initiatives that send Penn staff and fellows to China. Through FLI European Union, Fox fellows will be placed with the presidents, prime ministers, or consul generals of EU nations. Fox has already piloted several service-learning programs in Africa, and these will be expanded and multiplied through FLI Africa. FLI will also add internationally focused content to Fox events, workshops, and teaching. DiIulio says, “Fox Leadership International is a big leap but we have the information, experience, and partnerships to make it work.”

Robert Fox has called the Fox Leadership Program his best investment. Coming from the successful venture capitalist and generous philanthropist, it’s a statement that makes DiIulio, proud: “We strive to live up to that.”
OPENING UP A VIRTUAL WORLD

OVERSEER’S GIFT CREATES A LAB FOR THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES AT PENN

We are at the brink of a transformation in the way we study the humanities. Now a gift from Arts and Sciences Overseer Michael J. Price, W’79, and his wife Vikki will give scholars at Penn a home for their excursions into the digital universe, as they use 21st-century technology to study the humanities in new ways. The Price Lab for the Digital Humanities is the centerpiece of a new Penn Arts and Sciences strategic initiative in digital humanities and will be a hub for collaborative work across the University.

“We’ll have a central place where we can explore exciting new areas of interdisciplinary convergence, using the digital humanities to widen the understanding of what the humanities are and why they matter,” says James English, John Welsh Centennial Professor of English, director of the Penn Humanities Forum, and creator of the Digital Humanities Forum.

Price sees the practical advantages to Penn’s students and faculty, as well: “Learning digital computer science techniques will give students skills that make them more employable and allow faculty to become better teachers and researchers.” Price also notes that by “allowing the humanities community to increase access to materials and resources, and encouraging integration of knowledge,” the digital humanities initiative reflects the spirit of the Penn Compact 2020.

Penn professors and students are already using digital technology for their research (see “Human and Machine” in the Fall/Winter 2014 issue of Penn Arts and Sciences Magazine). The Price Lab will provide the technological hardware and technical support staff necessary for a robust program that reaches across the University.

“This is a huge moment of change and opportunity in the humanities,” says Steven Fluharty, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. “With the digital humanities, we will not only produce new knowledge but new ways of knowing, and new forms to show the outcomes and results. The Price Lab will make us a leader in this revolution.”

Michael Price is Senior Managing Director of corporate advisory business and leader of the Technology and Telecom groups at Evercore Partners, a leading international investment banking advisory firm. An overseer since 2002, he and Vikki live in New York City. At Penn, the Prices have also contributed to the Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building, the Singh Center for Nanotechnology, the School of Arts and Sciences Board of Overseers chair currently held by Rebecca Bushnell, and the Arts and Sciences Annual Fund. Additionally, they are members of the Men and Women of Pennsylvania, a society for donors who give over $2 million to support undergraduate scholarships.
Scheduled for completion in 2018, the Ronald O. Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics represents Penn Arts and Sciences’ most ambitious capital project in support of the social sciences in decades. Launched with a leadership gift from alumnus and parent Ronald O. Perelman, the project will transform the former West Philadelphia Trust Building at 36th and Walnut Streets into a social sciences hub that will foster the teaching and research experiences required to facilitate direct contributions to pressing matters of national and international concern.

Now, a generous new commitment from parents Fred and Robin Tedori brings the project one step closer to reality.

“We supported this project because we were inspired by President Gutmann’s and Dean Fluharty’s passion for educating the next generation of political scientists and economists,” says Fred Tedori, PAR’08, PAR’10, PAR’16, PAR’18. “It is our hope that the new building will benefit the entire Penn community, as well as students majoring in economics and political science and the all-important interdisciplinary programs associated with them.”

In addition to the Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics, the Tedoris have provided leadership support for the Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building and the Krishna P. Singh Center for Nanotechnology.

“I am enormously grateful to Fred and Robin Tedori for the impact they are having on teaching and research at Penn,” says Penn President Amy Gutmann, “Their generous gift to the Perelman Center will help create a new home for political science and economics—two of Penn’s most popular undergraduate majors and areas of
study that have significant influence on our understanding of the world and the global economy.”

“The Tedoris’ generosity helps the School of Arts and Sciences achieve a key priority—reuniting the Department of Political Science under one roof and putting both economics and political science faculty members in close proximity to their related research centers, graduate students, and undergraduates,” says School of Arts and Sciences Dean Steven J. Fluharty. “At a time when great issues that intertwine politics and economics are central to research and teaching in both disciplines, a wide range of productive synergies is likely to result.”

ENHANCING THE UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE

Providing state-of-the-art space for teaching and learning, the Perelman Center will enhance Penn students’ capacity to pursue original research, draw on sophisticated computing resources, and develop strong mentoring relationships with faculty. The new center will include dedicated areas where students can study independently, plan and host events for some 12 undergraduate student groups in political science and economics, and receive advising support.

A HUB FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES

Envisioned as a campus nexus in the 24/7 digital world of fiscal cliffs, changing tax policy, the European Union crisis, and global struggles over human rights, the Perelman Center will be home to distinguished research centers and programs, including the Center for Advanced Study of India, the Program for Opinion Research and Election Studies, the Christopher H. Browne Center for International Politics, the Penn Institute for Economic Research, the Center for the Study of Contemporary China, and Penn’s Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism. Through public engagements, seminars, special workshops, and outreach, these centers will bring interdisciplinary scholarly expertise to bear on contemporary events both near and far.

“We are grateful for all of the generous support that is helping to make this project possible—including major gifts from alumna Laura J. Alber and Ned Klingelhofer; and alumnus Michael J. Halpern and Nancy J. Steiner, parents” said Dean Fluharty.

NBS BUILDING TOPPED OFF

Celebrating an important milestone for the Neural and Behavioral Sciences building are, from left, Steven Fluharty, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, with donors, from left, Bette and Robert Gromis, PAR’11, PAR’13, PAR’17, and Julie Seaman, C’86, PAR’14, PAR’17. The gathering at the construction site marked the “topping off,” when everyone who has made a new building possible—from the construction crew to major funders—signs a final steel beam and watches as it is hoisted into place at the top of the new structure. When it opens in 2016, the six-story NBS Building will serve as the new home for Biology, Psychology, the Biological Basis of Behavior, and the Roy and Diana Vagelos Program in Life Sciences and Management. The project was made possible by a group of visionary donors who banded together to help the School realize its vision.
“It’s a terrific way of saying thank you,” says Deborah Brand, C’87, of her yearly gifts to the Penn Arts and Sciences Annual Fund. “Penn is still very much a part of me, even though I graduated 27 years ago.”

Penn Arts and Sciences created its annual fund in 2009 to provide immediate, flexible funds for the top priorities and greatest needs of the School. Gifts to the Arts and Sciences Annual Fund can make the difference to a student who needs financial aid to come to the College, provide resources for young faculty to test brand-new ideas, or let the dean pilot innovative ways to teach.

Brand vividly remembers her own days in class, listening to Drew Gilpin Faust describing the role of women in the South during the Civil War, and Margreta de Grazia’s lectures on Othello. “Not only do I feel fortunate to have received a top-notch education,” she says, “but my experience at Penn was that much more special because I was surrounded by so many smart, hard-working, interesting, fabulous classmates.”

She gives Penn credit for not only preparing her for a career in law, but for many of her closest friendships and even meeting her husband, introduced by a Penn friend. They now have three children, and she says, “I often think that so much of my life as it is today is all thanks to Penn!”

Annual Fund donor Steven Lu, C’98, will also tell you he owes a lot to the College—especially for an opera appreciation course he took to expand his horizons. Flying to Asia after graduation, he met a classical musician and used everything he’d learned to talk to her. She eventually realized that he didn’t know much more about classical music, but she married him anyway.

The rest of his College experience was just as life-changing. Emigrating from China when he was 12, Lu traveled across the U.S. twice as his father looked for work. The experience made him want to become an economist. The financial aid he got from Penn made it possible. “In the lean years, I always remembered that I needed to contribute back because other students like me needed the financial aid.”

Lu sees a parallel between the breadth of choices Penn offers its students and supporting an unrestricted fund. He says, “Students at Penn have their pick of what they want to pursue. Because of that freedom, it makes complete sense to contribute to the general pool and let the decision-makers make the optimal decision” on how to use the money.

Brand feels the same way. “I have full faith that Penn Arts and Sciences will use our gifts for its most pressing needs to provide the best for its students and benefit the entire community,” she says. “I hope to give others the opportunity to have the same rewarding College experience I had.”
Edward L. Cohen, C’67, PAR’07, PAR’09, PAR’13 (center), principal owner of the Washington Nationals baseball team, hosted more than 125 students and alumni involved in the Penn in Washington Program (PIW) at Nationals Park for a pre-game picnic and Phillies vs. Nationals game. PIW supports and encourages students who are interested in pursuing public policy internships and careers in the nation’s capital and has benefited from the involvement of hundreds of alumni volunteers over the years.

The Fox Leadership program’s Lessons in Leadership series recently hosted two College alumnae. Johanna Vogel, C’85, (left) who majored in Russian language and literature at Penn, has held a variety of positions in public affairs, non-profit development, marketing, business development, and financial services. She is now senior vice president of retirement markets at Dividend Capital and writes a blog called “Point of Departure” (www.zvogel.com), which is a comical account of her experiences as a female corporate traveler. Vogel spoke to students about the power of having a strong mentor and stressed the importance of being able to think critically, write well, and, perhaps most importantly, be flexible.

When she graduated with a degree in theatre arts and economics, Samara E. Cohen, C’93 W’93, (right) didn’t know a career in investment banking would be a path she would grow to love, but she quickly climbed the ladder and is now a managing director in the Securities Division at Goldman Sachs. Cohen encouraged students to study what they are most passionate about, identify their priorities in life and stick to them, leverage the Penn network, and be open to new challenges. Having been involved in recruiting at Goldman Sachs, she also gave students an inside look at how to stand out from other candidates in a competitive field.

For more information about alumni engagement opportunities, contact Erinn Carey, Associate Director of Alumni Outreach, at erinnc@sas.upenn.edu or 215-898-8017.
Math major Peter “Bear” St. Michael came to the College all the way from Maui, drawn, he says, by the opportunity to live and learn in the University’s urban environment. He has loved his math courses, but what has taught him the most is his work at Penn’s Netter Center for Community Partnerships, where he is the Gershwind Family Foundation and Bennett Family Foundation Student Intern. At the center, he has had the chance to mentor West Philadelphia high school students, analyze their classroom space, and lead them in a campus beautification project based on research he helped them conduct, among other exciting opportunities.

St. Michael’s work with the Netter Center has become a real focal point of his education and even led him to declare a minor in urban education. Of the internship experience, he says, “With the learning opportunity of an internship, students have the chance to explore and create real products that actually can be implemented, that actually affect people. You’re not making widgets; you’re not looking at how people changed things in the past. You are changing things, for real, creatively, actively, right now—you have already begun to genuinely and meaningfully contribute to society, to humanity.”

Netter Center Board Member Stacey Bennett, C’95, and her brother, Library overseer Erik Gershwind, W’93, created the internship hoping for just that outcome. Bennett is impressed with the energy and commitment St. Michael brings to his role. “He has so many incredible qualities,” she says. “It’s exciting to see people with that kind of promise and that kind of future taking an interest in change in the community, not just focusing on themselves but on the larger society.”

Former Penn parents Louise and Peter Havens also support internships for College students. Their internships focus on the humanities and provide paid summer work experiences for students at places such as Kelly Writers House, Van Pelt Library, and the Penn Museum.

In making their gift, the couple recognized that many students must work over the summer to make ends meet, and wanted to give them a way to support themselves while still advancing their education. Peter Havens, a financial advisor with a particular interest in medical science, says he felt fortunate as a Harvard economics and pre-med
student to find summer work at a hospital. “It was good to be able to focus on something that was giving me practical knowledge about what I was learning in the labs at Harvard. I was on hospital floors; I was assisting people who were sick. It was a tremendous educational experience, a real-world experience.”

Like Bennett, Peter and Louise Havens have gotten to know the students who participate in the internships they support. Each year, they host a dinner with the interns to learn about their summer experiences. “We enjoy it a great deal,” Peter Havens says. “We’ve met very interesting people—they’re neat kids—and we’ve learned what they’ve done and what it meant to them.” The Havenses are pleased to be able to help them add an experience to their resumes that might give them an advantage in the job market, but they are even happier to know that they are helping them do something that is meaningful to them and to their education.
When Tom Elgar, C’65, and his wife Martha endowed a scholarship for College students in 2008, they created it with a preference for undergraduates from their Atlanta region. By supporting a local student whom they can invite to occasional lunches, they stay in touch with Penn between Tom’s reunions.

“It gives us a better understanding of Penn today, the advantages of the School, and what the student is getting out of it,” Tom Elgar says. “It gives us a chance to be close to it and be involved beyond just the contribution.”

As a varsity football player, Sphinx member, and Kite and Key president, Elgar was very involved in campus life. The former history major feels mixing the breadth of a liberal education with leadership experiences served him well in his career at General Electric, and he hopes it will do the same for their scholarship recipients. “A well-rounded education creates a well-rounded person,” he says.

He’s been impressed with the opportunities their students have enjoyed so far. The first was a soccer player who spoke three languages and interned at a consulting firm. The second is a leader in student government who’s studying political science and communication and wants a career in politics. “I hope their positive experiences at Penn lead to a successful and happy life, because that’s what counts,” Elgar says.

Recent scholarship donor Jenny Otto-Klein, C’89, is eager to meet her first recipient. The opportunity to interact with students was an important consideration behind her gift. “I interview
students for admissions and am always so impressed with the exceptional applicant pool," she says. “Interviewing has allowed me to stay connected, and now I look forward to taking it a step further with a scholarship.”

Otto-Klein also recognizes the permanent effect a College education can have on a student’s future. “Every class you take adds to your life experience,” she says. She found this to be true when she was a European history major, and she knows it will remain true for the College students whom the new Jennifer Otto-Klein, C’89 and John Klein Scholarship will support.

In addition to endowing this scholarship in honor of her 25th reunion, Otto-Klein was also instrumental in encouraging fellow classmates to contribute to a Class of 1989 Scholarship. “I feel I benefited so much from Penn, and my classmates did as well,” she says. “In supporting the Class of 1989 Scholarship, we wanted future students to share in the rich experience we enjoyed while undergraduates at Penn. The liberal arts curriculum provided a strong educational foundation and endowed us with the capability and confidence to successfully pursue our passions.”

At the reunion, Otto-Klein was struck by the variety of fields in which her classmates were working. Jenny herself has her law degree but worked in banking and then founded her own executive search firm. She enjoyed spending time with a journalist-turned-educator, a filmmaker, and a curator at an influential museum, as well as others who worked in fields such as law, medicine, real estate, and the arts. She credits her classmates’ ability to succeed in such a wide range of careers to the breadth of a College education. And she is glad that through her own scholarship gift, as well as the joint scholarship gift of the Class of 1989, future students will have the opportunity to take advantage of the same liberal arts education that she and her friends received. “A scholarship can impact someone’s life forever,” she says.
CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITIES

A LITTLE TIME SPENT PLANNING CAN GO A LONG WAY IN REALIZING A DREAM. A bequest to the School of Arts and Sciences allows the School to build upon its tradition of academic excellence, and remain as one of the preeminent venues for higher education in the world today. Including Penn Arts and Sciences in your estate plans makes a lasting contribution that strengthens the School and ensures it continues to do what Penn does best—educate extraordinary students who go out into the world and do extraordinary things.

BENEFITS OF A BEQUEST
✓ Allows you to make a significant contribution that may otherwise not have been possible during your lifetime
✓ The value of your gift is removed from your taxable estate
✓ When set up as a percentage, an estate intention allows for changes in the value of your assets
✓ Most importantly, your gift can provide much needed support for the School’s highest priorities

If you have included the School as part of your estate plan, or would like information on ways to do so, contact us today!

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