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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder: Expanded Bus Shuttle Service to End Feb. 12th

As you may recall [during the fall](#), PSOM partnered with Penn Transit Services to offer expanded bus shuttle service during the work week until mid-February, based on usage. As a reminder, the program is set to complete its trial run on Friday, February 12, with the last special PSOM shuttle running at 11pm on 2/12.

Please note the services that remain in place to support a safe commute home:

- [Penn Transit](#) offers shuttle service through University City and parts of Center City, covering "East" and "West" from Monday to Friday, 5pm to 12am. Routes are posted [here](#).
- Faculty, personnel, trainees, and students also have access to [PennRides](#) (evening and on-demand shuttle service from 6pm to 3am, available seven days a week). This option provides service to Spring Garden Street (north), 50th Street (west), and 20th Street (east). In addition,

this [link](#) for PennRides En Route (PRER) will allow riders to track and receive real-time ETAs for Penn Bus East and West.

- Septa's newest route, "[Route 49 | 33rd-Dauphin to 29th-Snyder](#)," which covers some of the southern and northern locations of the expiring bus shuttle, and makes frequent stops at Civic Center Blvd. and Health Sciences Dr.
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COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations

Testing. Graduate students who live on campus or come to campus each week must be tested. You may enroll in [Penn Cares Testing](#) or in [COVID SAFE](#) – but you should not be enrolled in both simultaneously. If you are working in a lab in CHOP, Wistar, or another affiliate and are NOT entering Penn/PSOM buildings, you should follow those entities' testing protocols and do NOT need to enroll in University testing.

Red PennOpen Pass? If you signed up for Penn Cares testing but are not scheduled for a weekly test, you may get a red PennOpen pass. You will need to schedule your weekly test in order to be given a green pass. If you are no longer coming to campus weekly or have switched to COVID SAFE, please email Judy Jackson, jajackso@penmedicine.upenn.edu to arrange to be un-enrolled from Penn Cares. Please refer to Perelman School of Medicine email of 1/25/21 4:24pm for more details about testing.

Vaccinations. Penn does not yet have a general scheduling process for vaccinations. Medical students are being scheduled for vaccinations through UPHS. PhD students who work in labs connected to clinical facilities, such as CHOP, VET, or UPHS, **may** be scheduled for vaccinations through those entities. Students who are working SARS-CoV-2 in BSL3 labs or processing specimens from COVID patients may be prioritized for vaccination through Penn Medicine regardless of lab location (contact your PI and/or departmental BA, or Judy Jackson in BGS if in a non-PSOM lab). Subsequent prioritization groups will follow state guidelines and will occur as quickly as possible, depending upon availability of vaccine doses, which remains fluid and difficult to predict. We will continue to share updates as we receive them from our University and Health System colleagues. We ask that our students be patient and understanding as we navigate this process as a community. The institutions are doing their best to vaccinate the exposed and vulnerable first. Ultimately, we want to vaccinate everyone, so [if you are offered the opportunity to get vaccinated and want to do so, we ask that you get vaccinated](#). Every individual who is vaccinated is one less person who can spread the disease. This will allow more efficient distribution to the whole community if we don't have to circle back for people who deferred. We thank you for all your efforts to keep our community safe during these challenging times.

Pass/Fail Petition

BGS is allowing students to petition to have unlimited pass/fail grading options should their personal circumstances present the need. The types of petitions that will be considered for approval based on circumstances presented by the pandemic include:

- Students with additional family responsibilities due to the pandemic
- Students who are ill or caring for ill family members
- Students with limited access to internet or necessary technology for remote participation
- Students unable to participate in required synchronous sessions (due to time zone differences, etc.)
- Students experiencing housing insecurity

The petition form is located at https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2rZtqqI6T143Q9L and will be available until **March 19**, the grade type change deadline.

Reminder: Accessing Your W2 Forms

For help accessing your W2 via Workday, please see the following instructions:
<https://www.med.upenn.edu/bgs/assets/user-content/finance-forms/accessing-w2.pdf>

Counseling and Wellness

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#) has a variety of virtual options and some in-person options. Call 215-898-7021 anytime (24/7) to make an appointment or talk with a licensed counselor.

On campus appointments are available 9am-5pm Monday-Friday. Virtual appointments are available Mon-Thurs, 9am-6pm, Fri, 9am-5pm, and Saturday, 10am-2pm. Press 2 to make an in-person or virtual appointment.

You may also use [Let's Talk](#) virtual hours: <https://caps.wellness.upenn.edu/ltplohours/>
Use 215-898-7021, press 2, to schedule a Let's Talk session.

Dr. Tiffany Brown is the embedded CAPS counselor for BGS. You may schedule appointments with her directly [nicobr@upenn.edu] or by calling 215-898-7021 (press 2). You may also arrange to work with other CAPS counselors by calling the main CAPS number.

For peer support networking, please feel free to reach out to one of the BGS student volunteers of [Peer Support Network](#).

Penn TA Prize Nominations Open through February 19

Nominations for the Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Students are now open, with a deadline of **February 19, 2021**. Nominations come directly from undergraduate and graduate students, and ten prizes are awarded annually. More information about the prize and a link to the nomination form are found here: <https://provost.upenn.edu/teaching-at-penn/penn-ta-prize>.

Please reach out to Ian Petrie (petrie@upenn.edu) in the Center for Teaching and Learning with any questions.

Penn Graduate Leadership Awards: Nominations Open through March 1

Please nominate graduating students for University's two leadership awards for graduate and professional students: The President's & Provost's Honor for Developing New Initiatives in Graduate & Professional Student Life and the Dr. Andy Binns Award for Outstanding Service to Graduate & Professional Student Life.

December 2020, May 2021, and August 2021 graduates are eligible for these awards. The deadline to nominate students is March 1. Nominations are accepted from students, faculty and staff. Self-nominations are accepted. Read more about the award criteria and how to nominate students at <https://gsc.upenn.edu/graduate-life/grad-life-awards>.

Penn Libraries Publishing Resources

Navigating the publishing world can be a daunting process for established and emerging scholars alike. Whether you're preparing to publish a book or review, or working on journal articles or dissertations, Penn Libraries can help you make informed decisions about where and how to publish. Learn more about the Penn Libraries' resources and upcoming publishing workshops [here](#).

Project Meow Accepting Donations

Project Meow builds winter shelters for the stray cats of West Philadelphia. More than 500 shelters were constructed last season! They are once again accepting donations of large styrofoam boxes (Illumina boxes are ideal). See flyer [here](#); contact [Anne Froehling](#) (215)-485-6121 to arrange pick up outside the building.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IGG Diversity Committee - Black History Month Film Series

In celebration of Black History Month, the IGG Diversity Committee will be hosting a weekly film series at 7:30 pm EST on Tuesdays, starting this week (February 9th, 16th, and 23rd). See flyer for movie [details](#).

The films chosen highlight several periods of Black History in America and the viewings will be followed by discussion. The zoom link for the event can be found below.

Link: [here](#)

Meeting ID: 938 9186 8830

Passcode: 109402

Know Your Rights: Support for Students Regardless of Your Immigration Status

Friday, February 12, 2021 | 3:00 p.m. EST

Register: <http://bit.ly/PennDACA>

Qualtrics Pre-Survey: https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0jICuHqfgXaIK50

This event specifically focuses on undocumented, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) students. This event is open to everyone wanting to learn more about immigration and/or whose families are impacted by immigration restrictions. See the flyer [here](#).

**This event is organized by La Casa Latina, Penn Law, Greenfield Intercultural Center, PennFirstPlus, and Counseling and Psychological Services.*

PennGGHE and Genetics Symposium on February 24 and 25, 2021

Register: <https://globalgenomics.med.upenn.edu/symposium.html>

On behalf of Drs. Daniel Rader and Sarah Tishkoff, the Center for Global Genomics & Health Equity and the Department of Genetics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine are jointly hosting a virtual symposium entitled, "*Importance and Challenges of Increasing Ethnic Diversity in Human Genomics Research*".

The two-day virtual symposium includes invited speakers of diverse backgrounds discussing their research and experiences in increasing diversity in human genomics and the ethical issues to be considered. The symposium will be held on Wednesday, February 24 and Thursday, February 25, 2021 from 12:00PM to 4:00PM(EST). The topics of discussion for the two-day virtual symposium are:

Day 1: "*Importance and Value of Increasing Ethnic Diversity in Human Genomics Research*"

Day 2: "*Challenges with Conducting Genomic Studies in Minority Populations*"

The symposium is free and faculty, postdocs, students, and staff are all welcome to attend. See flyer [here](#).

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital – Weekly Lecture Series

Thursdays at 1 PM

The Academic Programs Office in Biomedical Sciences St. Jude Children's Research Hospital invite you to join them for the spring session of, "The Science of Childhood Cancer," a weekly virtual lecture series hosted by the St. Jude Comprehensive Cancer Center. The series is designed to engage the scientific community on key questions in pediatric cancer research. Learn more [here](#).

THESIS DEFENSES

Feb. 8, 1 – 2 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/798290369>): **Qiaosi Tang (CAMB), “Mutant p53 mechanisms and functions in esophageal cancer.”** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

Feb. 11, 1 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/887450837>): **Sophia Reeder (IGG).** Contact [Thalia Mangan](#).

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

Feb. 11, 12 – 1 PM: **CAMB Vice Chair Craig Bassing's Virtual Office Hours.** Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Craig Bassing](#).

Feb. 11, 12 – 1 PM: **GTV Trainee Seminar: Max Chappell (Rivella lab) presenting.** Contact [Anna Kline](#) for the virtual link.

Feb. 12, 12 – 1 PM: **DSRB Program Lunch: Aaron Weiner (Vaughan lab) and Kamen Simeonov (Lengner lab) presenting.** Contact [Meagan Schofer](#) for the virtual link.

Feb. 12, 12:15 – 1:30 PM: **CPM Research in Progress: Yuwei Qi (Minn Lab), Quentin McAfee (Arany/Prosser Labs), and Clark Fritsch (Goldman Lab) presenting.** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#) for the virtual link.

NGG

CALENDARS

[NGG and GLIA](#)

[MINS](#)

[BGSA](#)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Events this Week

- Feb. 11, 12 – 1 PM ([Register](#)): **Penn I-Corps Info Session.** Penn I-Corps is looking for entrepreneurs to apply to their spring training! Participants will learn how to test their ideas with potential customers and receive grants up to \$2,000 for their startup. Additional information sessions will take place 2/19 and 3/1, each from 12-1 PM. Learn more about the I-Corps program [here](#); the final application deadline for the Spring is **February 24, 2021.**
- **2021 Love Data Week**

The Penn Libraries present a series of workshops on data analysis and visualization. Learn more at <https://guides.library.upenn.edu/lovedata/2021>.

- [Excel Basics: Getting Started with Excel](#) - Monday February 8, 3-4pm
- [R Basics: Prepare Data for Modeling and Analysis](#) - Tuesday February 9, 1:30-3pm
- [Introduction to Data Visualization](#) - Tuesday February 9, 2-3pm
- [Panel on Kislak Data Projects](#) - Wednesday February 10, 10-11am

- **Managing and Visualizing Your Research Workshop Series**

The Graduate Student Center and Penn Libraries are bringing you a series of workshops focused on managing and visualizing your research. Learn more at gsc.upenn.edu/events.

- [Introduction to Zotero](#) | Monday, February 8, 4:00-4:45 PM
- [Introduction to Mendeley](#) | Tuesday, February 9, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- [Introduction to Data Visualization](#) | Tuesday, February 9, 2:00-3:00 PM
- [Collaborating with Mendeley](#) | Wednesday, February 10, 1:00-2:00 PM
- [Organizing Your Research Practice](#) | Monday, February 15, 4:00-4:45 PM

Future Events

- Feb. 16, 3 – 4:30 PM: **PGWISE Career Services Workshop with Dr. Joseph Barber**, Senior Associate Director, Career Services. In this workshop we will cover some of the best practices you can use to network effectively with your future careers in mind, and discuss how to confidently showcase your skills, experiences, and accomplishments as part of your personal and professional brand in a virtual setting. You will learn about some online resources to help you develop an optimistic narrative about yourself, and I'll encourage you to put some of these steps into practice by enthusiastically networking at some of our upcoming [career fairs](#).
 - To put you in the mindset of celebrating your professional skills and abilities, please complete this survey prior to the workshop: https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e fh0VOix5jQMzm6. You will find this helpful as we briefly practice effective introductions.
 - Following the workshop, there will be a chance to WIN one of two Starbucks gift cards!
 - Please register ahead of time by completing this form: <https://forms.gle/1gEfGecqNgk3D4dd6>

Perelman School of Medicine – NYAS Membership

BGS students are entitled to a Perelman-sponsored Membership to the New York Academy of Sciences! Please use the [enrollment link](#) to join.

The benefits of Science Alliance Members include:

- Discounts of 50% or more on registration for our scientific symposia, webinars, and public lectures annually
- Effective career planning workshops that include skill-building, grant-writing, securing research funding, & communications

- Online Courses enabling students to earn career-strengthening credentials in areas such as Teaching, Clinical Research Management, and more.
-

BGS Career Development Calendar

Want to stay up-to-date on upcoming career development events and application deadlines? Subscribe to the BGS Career Development Calendar [here](#).

Philadelphia Chapter of Graduate Women in Science

The Philadelphia Chapter of Graduate Women in Science is recruiting new members. See their announcement for details:

We are the Philadelphia Chapter of Graduate Women in Science. Our mission is to support any scientists who identify as women residing in the City of Brotherly Love through three goals:

- (1) **Connecting**/building a powerful, international network of women scientists;
- (2) **Leading** researchers to inspire the leaders of tomorrow; and
- (3) **Empowering** women scientists to excel in their careers.

We welcome anyone, including non-women scientists, from all tiers and STEM(M) fields to join us in this mission. We host a variety of events to include outreach opportunities, professional development, and social gatherings (though virtual) and invite you to come join us for whichever you wish to participate in.

Further information about our Chapter can be found through multiple online platforms:

Website- www.gwisphiladelphia.com

Facebook- [GWIS Philadelphia](#)

Twitter- [@gwis_philly](#)

Instagram- [@gwis_philly](#).

You can also email us- philadelphia@gwis.org for more info about the group and to sign up for the listserv.

iBiology Share Your Research Competition 2021

Application Deadline: February 15, 2021 (11:59pm PT)

More info and Application Details: <https://www.ibiology.org/syr-competition/>

This competition is a unique opportunity for early-career scientists to improve their communication skills, become part of the iBiology community, and showcase their work as part of the [Share Your Research series](#)! Eight winners will receive virtual science communication training from iBiology's team of expert science communication trainers.

Job Openings

- **New Jersey Public Health and Environmental Laboratories – Postdoc Fellowship Opportunities** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Immunotherapy Listing – Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Duke University** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital – Open Postdoc Positions** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **McNeill Baur PLLC seeking Technical Specialist (Patent law)** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Post-Doctoral Scientist Opportunity at GW** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Postdoctoral Research Opportunities in Science (PROS) – Applications due 2/12/2021** – See full announcement [here](#).
- [Archive of other Job Listings](#)

Request to join the [BGS Alumni and Current Students LinkedIn](#) to stay updated on job opportunities.

RESOURCES

[BGS Career Development Calendar](#)

[BGS Career Development Site](#)

[BGS Career Twitter](#)

[BGS Alumni & Current Students LinkedIn](#)

[Black Women in Computational Biology Network](#)

[Penn Career Services - Ph.D./Postdoc Careers Page](#)

[Handshake](#)

[Request a sponsored Membership to the New York Academy of Sciences](#)

STUDENT GROUP EVENTS/RESOURCES

LTBGS Self-Love Events

Valentine’s (or Galentines!) Day is almost upon us. No matter how you feel about the day, it’s important to promote some self-love during these extra hard times! If a global pandemic is barring you from finding some love or if you just find the idea of a romantic partner as “gross” right now, then heck.... Give some love to yourself!!

LTBGS is hyped to announce we’re having a few string of exciting events to help us all do just that! We’re having three separate self-love and wellness events next week:

- 1) **Monday, Feb 8th**: CAPS-led session on Meditation and Self-Care
- 2) **Wednesday, Feb 10th**: Yoga session lead by the wonderful Studio 34 Yoga

- 3) **Friday, Feb 12th**: Social hour with LTBSG, featuring special gifts from a ~wonderfully~ curated care package! (<https://signup.com/go/jrrigBi>). Pickups will be started next week!

Here's the zoom link for ALL three events for your convenience:

<https://penmedicine.zoom.us/j/97379967705>

Even if you can't make the events, don't forget to take some time out of your week to celebrate YOU and do some things that you enjoy.

Sending cheers, love, and virtual hugs to all y'all.

Peer Support Network General Body Meeting | February 9th 5:00PM

The Peer Support Network is recruiting volunteers! If interested in mentoring your peers and offering them support through challenging times, then consider joining PSN!

As a volunteer, you can act as a one-on-one peer-mentor or work to develop connectedness within BGS by leading group discussions. Volunteers will have the opportunity to complete CAPS I CARE training in order to develop their active listening and mentoring skills.

Sign up to become a volunteer [here](#)! And to learn more about PSN, attend our General Body Meeting this **Tuesday, February 9th**, at **5:00PM** (<https://bluejeans.com/3984200643>).

Additional information about PSN and volunteer expectations can be found on our [website](#).

SACNAS Celebrating the International Day of Women and Girls in Science!

The Penn SACNAS Chapter will be virtually celebrating the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on **February 11**. **We want like to highlight the great women in science at Penn on our social media platforms**. Ultimately we would like professors, postdocs, graduate students, staff, and undergraduate researchers to submit a photo of yourself in lab or outside of lab, whichever you prefer! We will make a collage of all the pictures and feature every single one of you on the Penn SACNAS Chapter social media pages to celebrate you, the great women in science at Penn.

Please take a moment to fill the survey below to submit your photo. Thank you so much!

<https://forms.gle/cfhbarZdmwrcCYAt6>

For more information, please email our outreach co-chairs Erick Mitchell-Velasquez (em639716@penmedicine.upenn.edu) and Derick Rosario (dnr13@penmedicine.upenn.edu).

BGSA Coloring and Cocoa Event | February 25, 7 PM

Grad school can be stressful, especially during a pandemic... Enjoy a bit of screen-free time with this little coloring book and a nice hot cup of cocoa! Each Coloring & Cocoa care package includes a coloring book, colored pencils, and hot chocolate mix. The packages will be shipped by USPS.

An optional virtual get-together will take place on **Thursday, February 25th at 7pm.**

Can't wait until then to show off your art skills? Find us on Instagram / Twitter / Facebook. Tag us @PennBGSA and use the hashtag #BGSstayshome

Request your coloring & cocoa package here: <https://penn-bgsa.ticketleap.com/coloring-cocoa/>
(*Please use your Penn email when signing-up!*)

[Peer Support Network \(PSN\)](#)

[Slack for BGS Students](#)

[Roommate Ads – Google Doc](#)

[BGSA Website](#)

[Grad Center at Penn](#)

[Family Center at Penn](#)

[Ask Isaac: Your Personal IS Guru](#)

[Request a sponsored Membership to the New York Academy of Sciences](#)

[Request a University-sponsored MATLAB license](#)

For information about upcoming events or to advertise in next week's bulletin, contact [Rebecca Lopez](#).