

## Hello McKay!

As Thanksgiving approaches, we're incredibly thankful for all the ways our community supports each other. And we're always impressed by how willing our community is to lend a helping hand around lab when others need it. Big shout out to the volunteers in our department continually sharing the wonders of orthopaedics with high schoolers and undergraduates throughout Philadelphia as detailed below. What are you thankful for this year?

## Do you need support?

We'd like to remind our department that the past month has been very difficult for many members of our community. In these challenging times, we'd like to reiterate that Penn has an array of resources meant to support all members of our community.

If anyone in our community experiences an act of bias or discrimination, please report it through Penn's [Bias Incident Reporting process](#). If there is any threat to your physical safety, or you are being [harassed online](#), please contact our 24/7 PennComm Emergency Call Center at 215-573-3333 immediately. Additional information on University resources for safety and support can also be found on [Penn's website](#).

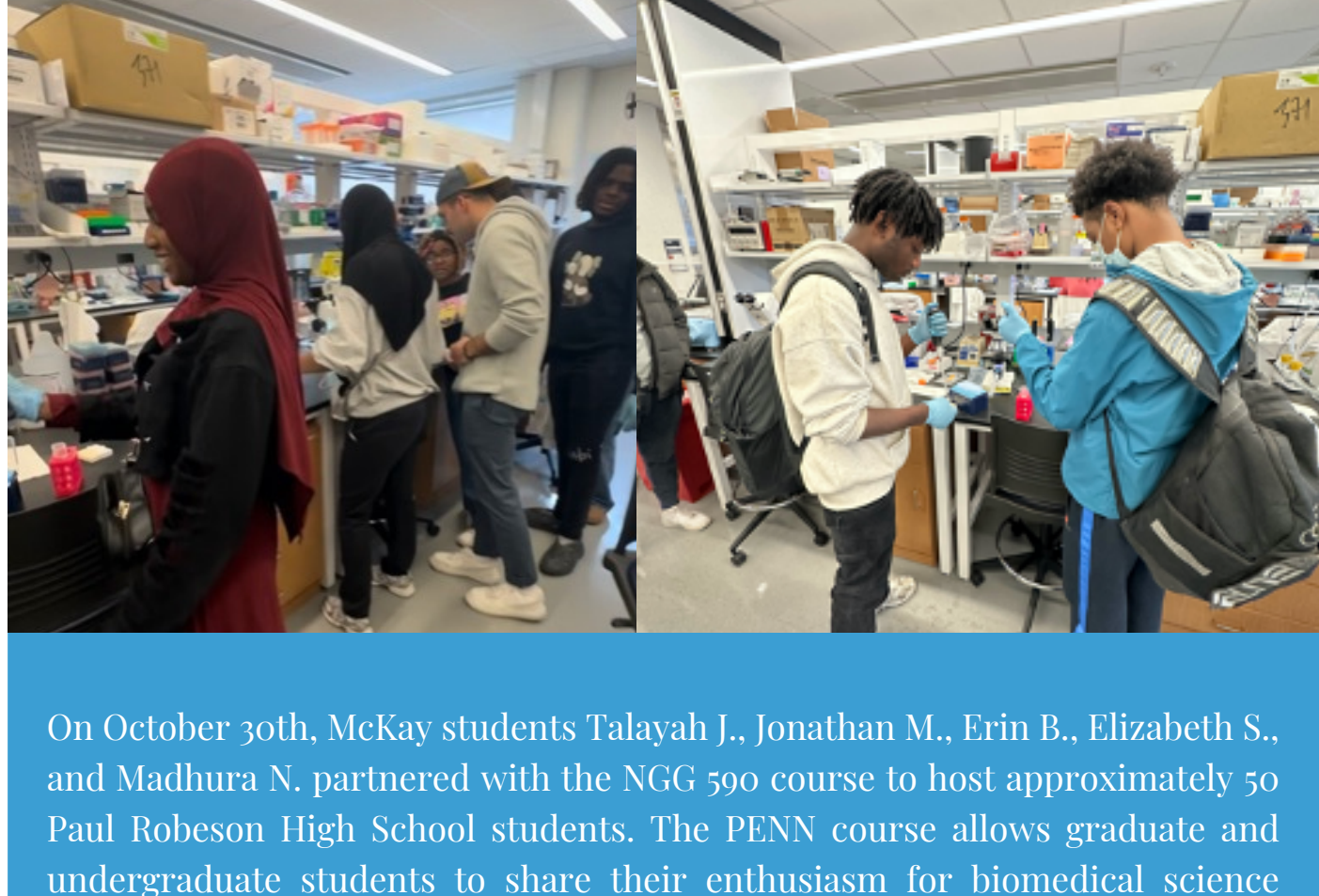
In addition, if there is anything the DEI committee can do to support you during this time, please let us know via this [Google form](#). (Your response will be anonymous unless you identify yourself.)



# 134 Students

The DEI Committee engaged with 134 Philadelphia undergrads during our fall seminar circuit, sharing the many opportunities for impact in orthopaedic research during in-person seminars at LaSalle University, Ursinus College, Rutgers University-Camden, Cheyney University, and Lincoln University.

## McKay Volunteers Share the Value of Orthopaedics with Robeson High School Students



On October 30th, McKay students Talayah J., Jonathan M., Erin B., Elizabeth S., and Madhura N. partnered with the NGG 590 course to host approximately 50 Paul Robeson High School students. The PENN course allows graduate and undergraduate students to share their enthusiasm for biomedical science with high school students from a nearby public high school in West Philadelphia. Robeson HS has historically been under-resourced; however, with the help of the Netter Center and this course, Paul Robeson was able to go from the brink of closure in 2013 to a 95% graduation rate.

Having previously taken this course, Talayah Johnson and Jonathan Marcellin coordinated with the professor, Dr. Flanagan, to have students tour McKay Lab while also engaging in hands-on activities such as staining and viewing tissues under the microscope. For many of the participating students, this was their first exposure to what a career as a scientist may look like. Our hope is that by continuing to host Robeson students, we can help close the education gap between wealthy and under-resourced schools.

## Happy Halloween!



Thanks to Donna, our Halloween Queen, for judging the costume contest at the DEI-sponsored Halloween party! Congratulations to the Boerckel Lab for winning Best Group Costume as the "Boerckel Lab Dance Company," Big congrats to Rebecca Betts and Eve Gibson for winning Best Costume as Aang from *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and a very spooky Roman Witch, respectively. Heaps of accolades to Brendan Stoeckl for winning Worst Costume and for showing us it really only takes two leaves to be a tree.

## Opportunities



### Office of DEI Opportunities Database

Penn's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion maintains a database of opportunities for members of our community at all levels, from undergraduates to postdocs. We encourage you to periodically take a look through their database for any opportunities that may be right for you! While you're there, scroll through the ODEI's other resources.

### Graduate Emergency Fund

The Graduate Emergency Fund provides grants to assist currently enrolled graduate and professional students with urgent financial needs and acute financial hardship due to unanticipated one-time expenses. The fund is intended to support the continued academic progress and well-being of students experiencing short term financial hardship who cannot reasonably resolve their immediate financial needs through loans, aid programs, or personal resources.

## What we're...



Reading: ['I Love You, I Am Sorry': One Jew, One Muslim and a Friendship Tested by War](#) by Kurt Streecher



Do you have something you're reading, watching, or listening to that you want to share with McKay? [Let us know](#), and we'll send it out with next month's newsletter!

Cheers,

Your McKay DEI Committee

[Read previous DEI newsletters loaded with relevant resources](#)

Do you have suggestions for the DEI committee? Send your resources, comments, and concerns directly to us: [McKayDEI@penmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:McKayDEI@penmedicine.upenn.edu)

McKay DEI Committee  
[McKayDEI@penmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:McKayDEI@penmedicine.upenn.edu)  
<https://www.med.upenn.edu/orl/mckay-dei-committee/>