Provost Price and I were delighted to announce the successful conclusion to four of Penn’s dean searches:

- Antonia Villarruel, Associate Dean for Research and Global Affairs at the University of Michigan School of Nursing, will be the next Dean of Penn’s School of Nursing, effective July 1, 2014. She is a strong, collaborative leader and an eminent interdisciplinary researcher who is committed to academic diversity and excellence. A Penn Nursing alumna and former faculty member, Toni Villarruel is the ideal successor to Dean Afaf Meleis’ enormously successful leadership of the School of Nursing.

- Geoffrey Garrett, Dean and professor of business in the Australian School of Business at the University of New South Wales, will be the next Dean of the Wharton School, also effective July 1, 2014. He understands Wharton’s distinctive mission and articulates a compelling vision of the role of business schools in the 21st century. A former Wharton faculty member, Geoff Garrett has a proven track record in international business education. He is absolutely the right person to lead the School after Dean Tom Robertson, who has strengthened Wharton as one of the world’s preeminent business schools with an MBA program rated #1 by U.S. News and World Report.

- PIK Professor John L. Jackson, Jr., will be the next Dean of Penn’s School of Social Policy & Practice, effective July 1, 2014. John is the Richard Perry University Professor in the Annenberg School and SAS, with a secondary appointment in SP2, as well as Associate Dean for Administration at Annenberg and Senior Advisor for Diversity in the Office of the Provost. He is a distinguished teacher and scholar, and his visionary leadership spans academic boundaries and community partnerships to address national and international societal challenges. Dean Rich Gelles has done an excellent job advancing SP2’s standing as an interdisciplinary teaching and research leader, and John Jackson will continue SP2’s rise.

- Finally, we are pleased to announce that Pam Grossman, Faculty Director of Stanford’s Center to Support Excellence in Teaching, will be the next Dean of Penn’s Graduate School of Education, effective July 1, 2014. An internationally regarded scholar in the field of teaching and teacher education and a member of the National Academy of Education, she is dedicated to demonstrating how schools of education at research universities can improve teaching and learning at all levels. Thanks to Dean Andy Porter’s leadership, GSE is well situated for continued success and advancement with Pam as GSE’s next dean.
Provost Price and I are also pleased that M. Grace Calhoun will be Penn’s new Athletic Director, also effective July 1, 2014. Her experience with Ivy League athletics ranges from serving as athletics administrator at Dartmouth to being a student-athlete herself at Brown. She most recently served as director of athletics and assistant vice president at Loyola. She has also served in leadership positions at Indiana University, Saint Francis University, and the University of Florida.

To build on Penn’s great momentum from the Making History campaign, we are embarking on a new set of Penn Compact 2020 Presidential Initiatives, which will leverage fundraising in key areas across the University. This plan will stir excitement, attract donors, and strengthen focus on our core priorities—including undergraduate financial aid and faculty support. To that end, I was pleased to announce two exciting new initiatives: the President’s Men and Women of Pennsylvania Challenge Fund and the President’s Distinguished Professorship Fund. Both provide matching funds for generous gifts, with the aim of raising an additional $240 million for undergraduate financial aid and of establishing 50 new endowed professorships. These initiatives represent a major commitment to sustaining Penn’s extraordinary momentum, and they reaffirm our vision for Penn’s future.

Three of our excellent faculty were recently named Sloan Fellows by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The Foundation grants this prestigious honor to high-achieving young scientists and scholars who are already shaping the future of their respective fields. Congratulations to Penn’s 2014 Sloan Fellows:

- Dr. Danielle Bassett, assistant professor of bioengineering in SEAS.
- Dr. Chris Callison-Burch, assistant professor of computer and information science in SEAS.
- Dr. Alison Sweeney, assistant professor of physics in SAS.

Finally, I congratulate the Penn Women’s Basketball team on their win over Princeton, dethroning the reigning champions and earning the Ivy League Championship title for the first time in a decade. Despite our loss to Texas on Sunday, taking back the Ivy League title was a fantastic accomplishment for Penn Women’s Basketball. Well done, Quakers!