Our thoughts are with all the members of the Penn community affected by the recent events in Japan. We are grateful for the safety of our colleagues and students, even as we are heartened by the responses of students, faculty, and staff across the University. In particular, we are indebted to the leadership of the Offices of International Programs, Risk Management, and the Vice Provost for University Life, for their extraordinary endeavors in the hours after the disaster first occurred. This is an important, if sobering, reminder of the value of Penn’s Global Activities Registry, which facilitates assistance to those traveling abroad on Penn-related activities and coordinates closely with International SOS. If you are a member of the Penn community planning an international activity, I strongly urge you to register with the Global Activities Registry at: http://www.upenn.edu/globalactivities.

I encourage every undergraduate student to complete the Enrolled Student Survey, which will be available until April 10. This is a vitally important way to tell us more about your Penn experience and help generate changes for the future. All four undergraduate Schools use the survey results to plan improvements and innovations; the UA, SCUE, and numerous other campus offices rely on them to learn more about students’ views and priorities. Maximal participation makes the surveys more accurate and representative, so please fill out your individualized Survey and encourage all other students to do so.

Finally, as we near the end of the year, I would like to remind everyone about approaching deadlines for three funding programs.

The Provost’s Interdisciplinary Arts Fund, which supports collaborative, interdisciplinary arts & culture projects that directly engage students, is accepting applications until April 1. You can learn more at: http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v57/n22/artsfund.html.

The Diversity Fund, which supports projects to diversify the Penn community and advance research on diversity in higher education, welcomes proposals until April 8. You will find more information at: http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v57/n22/diversity.html.

And the upcoming Year of Games is now accepting proposals for its Grants Program, on a rolling deadline, for projects funded up to $750. You can learn more at: http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v57/n26/prp.html.

I look forward to working together across the wonderful Commencement season ahead.

Vincent Price
Provost