At the end of last month, we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships. CURF greatly enriches undergraduate education at Penn, with invaluable opportunities for students to pursue advanced study and research, collaborate with faculty mentors on high-level research projects, and participate in such rigorous programs as Benjamin Franklin Scholars and University Scholars. As the Center looks ahead to its next decade (in a beautifully renovated new ARCH), it will be doing even more to identify the most promising undergraduate scholars and match them with the most exciting fellowships and research opportunities. More recently, we marked the tenth anniversary of Penn’s program in Botswana, with a stimulating symposium sponsored by the Perelman School of Medicine. This program has made a tangible difference in health care and education in Botswana, while also providing life-changing experiences abroad for Penn students.

We continue to advance such international activities through the Global Engagement Fund, which supports a wide range of ambitious and interdisciplinary faculty initiatives, especially those that collaborate across Schools and disciplines, involve multiple faculty members, or represent regions of the world in which Penn has active academic partnerships and collaborative ventures, such as China and India. The deadline for this year’s proposals is October 28. I also encourage you to note the November 11 deadline for nominations for the Provost/Trustees Council of Penn Women Award of Recognition, awarded for significant contributions by Penn faculty to advancing the role of women in higher education and research at Penn. Information about both of these programs can be found in recent issues of Almanac.

Finally, I hope that you will join me in congratulating our outstanding faculty members on some of their recent honors. Prof. Ralph Brinster of the School of Veterinary Medicine received a richly deserved National Medal of Science this month. His work is a vibrant model of the power of fundamental research, over a career of five decades, to address the most profound questions of human life and define entire new fields of inquiry. Also honored at the White House, in late September, was Prof. Claudia Valeggia of the School of Arts and Sciences, who received a Presidential Early Career Award. Finally, I am pleased to congratulate Profs. Vivian Cheung and Daniel Rader of the Perelman School of Medicine on their election to the prestigious Institute of Medicine and Prof. Barbra Mann Wall of the School of Nursing on her appointment as the third Evan C Thompson Professor for Excellence in Teaching.

I look forward to working together as we head into the second half of the semester.

Vincent Price
Provost