It is a pleasure to join President Gutmann in welcoming three of our outstanding new campus leaders – all of them, in fact, familiar to us as current or former members of the Penn community. John Jackson, the newly named Dean of the School of Social Policy and Practice, has been an extraordinary citizen of Penn since he was appointed as the first Penn Integrates Knowledge University Professor in 2006. He currently serves as Associate Dean of the Annenberg School and as my Senior Advisor for Diversity and was an energetic former Chair of the University Council Committee on Diversity and Equity. Trained as a cultural anthropologist, he has worked closely with diverse communities around the world to understand such vital issues as the impact of mass media on urban life and the making and remaking of ethnic and racial diasporas. His passion for social justice and deep commitment to research and teaching will make him a great Dean for this School’s invaluable mission.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome back to Penn two former faculty members who will return this summer as new Deans. Geoffrey Garrett, the incoming Dean of the Wharton School, is a distinguished political economist and former Wharton professor who is one of the world’s leading experts on the globalization of business. An Australian who did his graduate work in political science at Duke, he has particular expertise in integrating disciplines to understand the forces that animate economies and businesses around the world. He comes to us from the Australian School of Business at the University of New South Wales and has held a wide range of leadership positions in the US, including President of the Pacific Council on International Policy, Vice Provost for International Studies and Dean of the International Institute at UCLA, and founding Director of the Leitner Program in International Political Economy at Yale.

Antonia Villarruel, who will become our new Dean of the School of Nursing, is not only a former faculty member of the School but also an alumna of its MSN program. Currently Associate Dean for Research and Global Affairs at the University of Michigan School of Nursing, she is an expert on public health, with major grants from the NIH and the CDC, whose research focuses on health promotion and risk prevention among Latino, Mexican, and Puerto Rican populations. She has been a longtime leader of the nursing profession, serving as president of both the National Association of Hispanic Nurses and the National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations and on the inaugural Advisory Council for Minority Health and Health Disparities of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

I also join President Gutmann in expressing our gratitude to Rich Gelles, Afaf Meleis, and Tom Robertson for their extraordinary service to Penn and the academic community around the world. We will have more formal opportunities to thank them in the months ahead, as we look forward to their continuing contributions to Penn for years to come.

Vincent Price
Provost