I am delighted to join President Gutmann in congratulating Prof. Ted Ruger on his appointment as Dean of the Law School, effective July 1. Prof. Ruger, who currently serves as the School’s Deputy Dean, promises to be an inspiring and dynamic leader who will advance the School’s distinctive approach to legal education for years to come. We also congratulate Dr. Giang Nguyen on his appointment as Executive Director of the Student Health Service, beginning April 1. Dr. Nguyen has been a family physician and member of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health in the Perelman School of Medicine since 2003. He been served since 2009 as Medical Director of Penn Family Care, a practice with more than 45,000 outpatient visits each year. In this position, he has advanced clinical care, led invaluable service projects for medical and public health students, and spearheaded community outreach initiatives such as immunizations for non-English-speaking and uninsured families. Selected from a comprehensive national search, he brings an inspiring vision of the importance of health to our students and a strong commitment to the value of diverse experiences in clinical care. I am sure that you will join me in welcoming him to SHS in the months ahead.

Next month, we will mark a landmark in Penn history, with the launch of the Penn Wharton China Center in Beijing. Located in the heart of Beijing’s Central Business District, the Center is the first physical footprint in China since Penn’s founding. It creates a home for Penn in this essential part of the world, providing a vibrant hub for the exchange of knowledge with China, as well as a central location for members of the Penn community who work, travel, or live in the region. It includes a state-of-the-art technological classroom that opens new opportunities to share expertise with colleagues in China and bring more speakers, research, and culture from China into Penn classrooms than ever before.

During spring break, I will lead a delegation from Penn to launch the Center, including Vice Provost for Global Initiatives Zeke Emanuel, the deans of eight Penn Schools, and dozens of distinguished faculty and staff members. Together, we will engage in high-level symposia considering such critical issues as the nature of educational innovation around the world, the interdependence of the Chinese and American economies, and the impact of health care reforms on global populations. Following the launch, there will be several months of further seminars, conferences, and public events in China featuring the innovative, interdisciplinary work being done in all twelve of our dynamic Schools. In September, President Gutmann will then visit the Center to host a formal dedication and celebration marking this historic partnership. We look forward to engaging all the Penn community in the Center’s activities and encourage you to learn more about its work in the coming year.

I wish everyone a wonderful spring break and a productive start to the second half of the term.

Vincent Price
Provost