



The President

June 11, 2019

Dear Students,

Get set!

In just a few weeks, you will begin a journey that will lead to places, people, and ideas that will forever change your life. The University of Pennsylvania will quickly become your new home. We are excited to welcome you and help you succeed. You will quickly discover that Penn is an educational experience without equal. It is truly a place like no other.

Later in the month, you will receive information about the Penn Reading Project, which will start you on your journey. This will be an opportunity to join your classmates in the Class of 2023 exploring the theme of your first year at Penn: The Year of Data. Your Penn Reading Project book is *Weapons of Math Destruction* by Cathy O’Neil. As you read, you’ll be able to share comments with other students and Penn faculty and academic staff. During New Student Orientation in August, you’ll continue the discussion in a small group conversation. Events around the theme will continue on campus throughout this academic year.

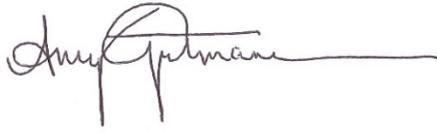
Inquiry, exploration, and original thinking are core values in a Penn education. I encourage you to embrace the unexpected. Pursue discovery at every opportunity. Take courses in unfamiliar fields that intrigue you. Learn from our exceptional faculty – they are path-breaking scholars who excel in the classroom. Engage with your fellow students who come from across the country and around the world. Experience our vibrant city and get involved in civic service in our West Philadelphia community. At Penn, the opportunities for education, exploration, and service are nearly endless.

Be sure as well to take full advantage of Penn’s multitude of resources to help you feel at home away from home. Reach out whenever you feel in need of someone to lean on. Caring and expert staff and faculty are eager to listen and advise you when you have questions and concerns.

As you get started, take a moment to visit our special New Student Orientation webpage, www.nso.upenn.edu. And www.penn2023.com – the Class of 2023 Facebook page, is another useful resource. You will soon hear more about Thrive at Penn (TAP), an online program about living and learning at a world-class research university. It will help you make the most of both your student orientation in August as well as all the amazing Penn experiences that are to come.

Have a wonderful summer. I look forward to welcoming you officially to Penn at Convocation!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Gutmann", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Amy Gutmann

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