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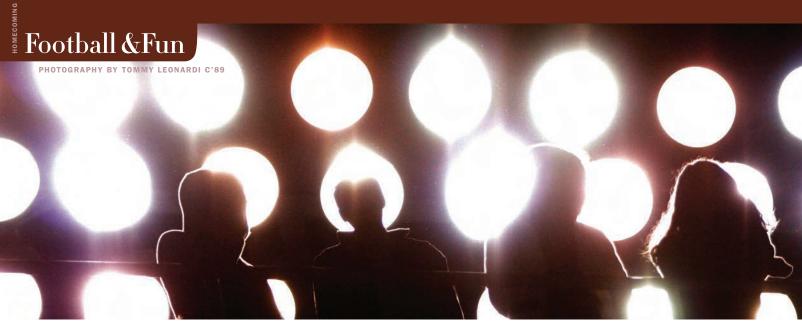
























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THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE JAN | FEB 2010 55

# Alumni Awards of Merit

#### Maria Chu Ho, W'81 | ALUMNI AWARD OF MERIT



A model Penn alumna, you are idealistic, dedicated, and always willing to do the hard work needed to make your vision a reality. With inclusiveness among your guiding principles, you pursue your goals with warmth and empathy, connecting with Penn staff, students, and alumni in a very special way.

Back in the days when you were a Dean's List student concentrating in Marketing Management, you spoke

out for your peers as an Undergraduate Assembly Representative. When you took on the Chairmanship of the Student Advisory Committee on Admissions Policy, you embarked on what turned out to be a life-long commitment.

So far, you have accumulated a total of 24 years of service as an alumni interviewer for Undergraduate Admissions in Northwestern New Jersey, where you continue to recruit the very best students to Penn. During the 21 years you have served as Chair of the Secondary School Committee of Hudson County, you have ensured that all applicants are offered an interview with an alumni volunteer and that Penn is well-represented at college fairs.

While bringing your neighbors to Penn, you also bring Penn to your alumni through your leadership of the Metro New Jersey Club. Serving as the Club's Vice President of Programming, Club Secretary, and then President, you helped make it the stand-out organization it is today. In fact, it was during your tenure as President that the club was recognized with the Alumni Club Award of Merit. You have since served as the Spring Dinner Co-Chair for two important events, one for President Amy Gutmann and the other for the Undergraduate Dean of Admissions. But your alumni reach extends far beyond New Jersey. As a mover and shaker of the Global Alumni Network Advisory Board which you helped to found and where you served as Chair, you are in touch with Penn clubs around the world.

Lucky for us, you also have many reasons to be on campus, including your triple-degree Penn alumnus husband and your two daughters—one a recent graduate and another soon to follow—as well as the Class of 1981 reunions for which you serve as Gift Co-Chair. To your fellow members of the Penn Alumni Board of Directors, you are most renowned for your contributions as a Vice President of the Board, Chair of the Programming Committee, and member of the Executive Committee—and for baking and generously sharing the world's most delicious cookies, brownies, and other treats.

Throughout Penn, you bring joy to others by paying attention, giving help, and bestowing your valuable time to Penn. Now it is our turn to shine the spotlight on you. We are proud to present you with the 2009 Alumni Award of Merit.

### William J. Constantine, C'66, WG'68 | ALUMNI AWARD OF MERIT



It has been said that you are as familiar a figure on campus as Ben on the Bench—and as ubiquitous a presence as the many representations of our Founder. This is fitting, since you epitomize Franklin's vision of an ideal alumnus—possessed with both the ability and the inclination to do good.

From the beginning, you responded eagerly to Franklin's prescription that Penn students be well-

exercised in mind and body. Standing out as a student leader—probably the only one who responded to the name "Donut"—you co-captained the Penn Hockey Team, were elected to the Friars Society, and joined the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. Later, while studying for your MBA, you coached freshman hockey.

During the past 40 years, you have metaphorically donned the three-cornered hat for the School of Arts and Sciences, Penn Athletics, and Alumni Relations, where you are widely admired as one of Penn's all-time great volunteers. Students, alumni, coaches, and administrators testify to your keen insight and "can-do" attitude. At SAS, where you have served as an Overseer for more than seven years, the dean noted that you have a near perfect attendance record at board meetings, always completed your volunteer reading assignments, and never missed an opportunity to take on "extra credit" work. In addition, as a member of the Athletics Overseers for more than a decade,

## **Class Awards**

Class of 1959 | CLASS AWARD OF MERIT | "Unsurpassed in individual achievement and loyalty, as well as in service and generosity" with "dedication to philanthropy on a local, national, and global scale," you have contributed "a combined total of more than \$100 million to the University" and for your 50th reunion, breaking "participation records, with well over 400 classmates making gifts to the class fund."

Class of 1974 | DAVID N. TYRE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLASS

**COMMUNICATIONS** | "Bridging the print and the electronic age," you have "stead-fastly connected with each other straight from the heart" and with "your highly evolved e-newsletter,... you garnered high attendance for your fabulous 35th reunion" maintaining "unity and school spirit through your "multifaceted communications network."

Penn Club of Philadelphia | ALUMNI CLUB AWARD OF MERIT | "Having crafted"



your mission statement around the ideals of President Gutmann's Penn Compact, The Penn Club of Philadelphia connects alumni to each other, to Penn, and to Philadelphia through social and educational programming to benefit the greater Penn community."

serving as Chair of the Penn Football Board and as a member of the Basketball Sports Board, youhave never once dropped the ball. In 2004, you were named Penn Football Champions Club Man of the Year. Wherever Penn athletes gather to perform and compete, you are there to cheer them on.

Your love of Penn runs deep. Despite a demanding business schedule and a host of other civic and philanthropic commitments, you are here for us through the seasons and across the University. Taking on the role of Class of 1966 Co-Gift chair, you led your class to a record gift for its 40th Reunion, spearheading a fundraising effort to name the student lounge in Fisher-Bennett Hall in honor of your classmate, Judith Rodin. You have also served on the Wharton Reunion Gift Committee for the MBA Class of 1968. Currently a member of the Campaign Major Gifts Committee, you are constantly engaged in connecting Penn people with each other. Your vast alumni network includes your two brothers, your daughter, and a nephew.

Whether in the role of sports enthusiast or sage counselor, you wear your Penn colors with pride. When asked what drives you to do so much, you responded—"it's lots of fun"—but we know that it is because you are passionate about Penn and dedicated to making a difference. It is with much gratitude that we present you with the 2009 Alumni Award of Merit.

### James A. Depreist, W'58, ASC'61, HON'76 | CREATIVE SPIRIT AWARD



At the University of Pennsylvania, we hope that each of our graduates will become master of his or her subject. We do not usually expect an internationally acclaimed maestro, particularly when his degrees are in business and communication. But you have been defying even your own expectations throughout your life.

You entered Wharton expecting to become a lawyer, separating what you saw as a practical career from what had always been your passion—music. While at Penn, you played piano, studied musicology, formed a jazz group, and even led the Penn Band at football games. A Master's degree from the Annenberg School followed.

What does a person with degrees in business and communication do? If you are James DePreist, you combine your Penn-taught skills with your natural talent to become one of America's finest orchestral conductors. As conductor of the Oregon Symphony for more than two decades, you transformed a part-time regional ensemble into a first-rate orchestra—not only communicating with your players, but also reaching out to the public with innovative marketing. More than a dozen recordings by the Orchestra have solidified its—and your—reputation.

Today, you are Laureate Music Director of the Oregon Symphony and Director of Conducting and Orchestral Studies at the Juilliard School, as well as guest conductor of orchestras throughout the world. Your list of awards—while not quite as long as your extensive list of recordings—is impressive, including the National Medal of Arts and ... an honorary degree from Penn.

Over the years, Penn has remained a part of your life. You were instrumental in persuading your aunt, Marian Anderson, to leave her papers to the Penn Libraries establishing the Marian Anderson Archive and leading

the fundraising efforts. You further strengthened our collections by donating your own papers. And, when the University celebrated its 250th anniversary, you led the Philadelphia Orchestra in a commemorative concert.

In keeping with the sonata form that has been an important part of your musical life, we like to think of Penn as the exposition, your conducting career as the development, and your return to Penn for the Creative Spirit Award as the recapitulation—with a little cadenza to include your poetry. In presenting its first Creative Spirit Award to you, James DePreist, we say Bravo, Maestro!

### Lela S. Jacobsohn, C'97, ASC'02, Gr'07 | YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD



Beginning your Penn life as a Benjamin Franklin Scholar, you made the Dean's List, the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society, and Phi Beta Kappa, and graduated Summa Cum Laude with both the Alumni Society Student Award of Merit and the Trustees' Council of Penn Women Leadership Award tucked under your arm. As it turned out, you were just getting started. Since then, you have been recognized

with the President and Provost's Citation for Exceptional Commitment to Graduate and Professional Student Life and the 2005 Alice Paul Award.

While working toward your Master's and Doctoral degrees at the Annenberg School for Communication, you led the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly. Former provost, Ron Daniels, commenting on your participation on his Planning and Budget Committee, called you the most effective student leader he had ever worked with. You also performed brilliantly as the Graduate Student Liaison for both the Trustees' Council of Penn Women and various Trustees' Committees, as well as for the University Council and the Graduate Student Center Advisory Board. These accomplishments occurred while you were also earning several fellowships and other awards and writing your dissertation. Dean Michael Delli Carpini of the Annenberg School, noting your breakthrough studies in health communication, says that in 30 years of working with graduate students, he has never met anyone who "combined academic strength and commitment to the institution with such skill and passion."

Even as you performed these student and University governance roles, you were a very active undergraduate alumna, serving on the Secondary School Committee and the Penn Alumni Committee on Communications, and—incredibly—as the Gift Chair for the Class of 1997 10th year reunion. Currently, you are a Graduate School Representative on the Penn Alumni Board of Directors, a member of the Penn Alumni Council, and a mentor and speaker for the Penn Alumni Career Network.

We are delighted that your career at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia as a Health Communication and Behavioral Scientist has kept you near Penn, and that your Wharton-alumnus husband is part of our medical school faculty. It is a statement of your family's dedication to Penn that also includes your father, sister, and brother-in-law who are all graduates of the University.

Your intelligence, integrity, compassion, and extraordinary dedication, make you one of Penn's treasures. We are proud to present you with the 2009 Young Alumni Award.

David P. Montgomery, C'68, WG'70 | ALUMNI AWARD OF MERIT



From your days as a scholar-athlete bouncing from baseball, basketball, and football—to your current position as General Partner, President and Chief Executive Officer of the World Champion Philadelphia Phillies—you have remained one of Penn's "most valuable players." As an undergraduate you were a member of Phi Sigma Kappa, served as Social Chairman of the Interfraternity Council,

joined Kite & Key, and were elected Abbot of the Friars Senior Society. After earning your MBA from Wharton you went directly to work in the Phillies Sales Department—which made you a pitcher of sorts—from where you rose steadily over the years to your current role.

Season after season, you have gone to bat for your alma mater, as an Alumni Trustee on the External Affairs Committee and the Neighborhood Initiatives Committee, on the Penn Alumni Council of Representatives'

Board of Directors, Nominations Committee, and Alumni Council on Admissions Advisory Board, where you are still remembered for giving discounted Phillies tickets to alumni children. In addition, you served as Vice President of the General Alumni Society, Co-Chair of the General Alumni Board and Co-Chair of the Task Force Sub-Group on Affinity Groups. You were named Friar of the Year in 1992 and served on the Class of 1968, 35th Reunion Gift Committee. Members of the Penn Club of Philadelphia cherish the special attention you give them at their annual Phillies event, where you take the time to highlight your favorite Penn organizations.

Among your greatest accomplishments at Penn has been your commitment to the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, where you apply your unique understanding of the audience-performance equation to your work as an Overseer. A great booster of the Philadelphia International Children's Festival, you donate food for the Penn Family Picnic, to which you bring a very popular guest each year—the Phillie Phanatic.

You have also put your expertise in communication and the media to excellent use as a member of the WXPN Policy Board, serving as chair for three years, helping with the move to the new building, now a well-known Philadelphia landmark on the edge of Penn's eastward expansion.

Widely cheered as a quintessential citizen of Philadelphia, you raise funds for a host of charitable causes throughout the area. Here at Penn, you cover all the bases, bringing boundless loyalty and energy to the roles of fan, publicist, manager, and all-round heavy hitter. No wonder your son was inspired to become, like you, a graduate of the College.

We at Penn think of you as our own special mascot and we are proud to present you with the 2009 Alumni Award of Merit.

### Lawrence J. Schoenberg, C'53, WG'57 | ALUMNI AWARD OF MERIT



If you were a book, you would be historically significant, digitized, coveted by collectors, and studied by scholars. And you would certainly reside in Penn's Rare Book & Manuscript Library, where the Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text and Image (SCETI) would share you with the world.

As a real-life member the Board of Overseers of the Penn Libraries, where you served as Chair and

are now Emeritus, you have presided over more than twenty years of the library's growth and transformation. Your impact results from your expertise in both modern electronics and medieval manuscripts, and in the spark you ignited between them. Along the way, you ensured the Board's ongoing strength through the recruitment of new members, including your wife, Barbara Brizdle, with whom you co-founded the annual Lawrence J. Schoenberg Symposium on Manuscript Studies.

You began sixteen years ago by funding the Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text and Image, initiating technological advances in the Penn Libraries and transforming the library system to one of the most modern of its kind, widely acclaimed for providing cost-effective, high-quality digital scans of rare books and manuscripts.

Because of you, manuscripts—the lifeblood for those studying the Middle Ages or Renaissance periods—have been made accessible to students and scholars at Penn and beyond. You not only provided the necessary funds, but also requested to have faculty placed on the acquisitions committee, and gave graduate and undergraduate students hands-on access to manuscripts. As a result, professors from art history, classics, English, history, music, religious studies, and Romance languages now hold classes in the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library, incorporating medieval and Renaissance texts into their teaching.

Finally, there is what you yourself have suggested may be your most lasting contribution to scholarship: the Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts. You devoted countless hours, over more than a decade, to create what may one day become the Universal Catalog of Manuscripts—something envisioned by many, but only now possible in the digital age. That you have entrusted this work to the Penn Libraries is further proof of your commitment to scholarship and your love for Penn.

Now, as your remarkable Penn narrative continues, we add an important footnote by proudly presenting you with the 2009 Alumni Award of Merit.