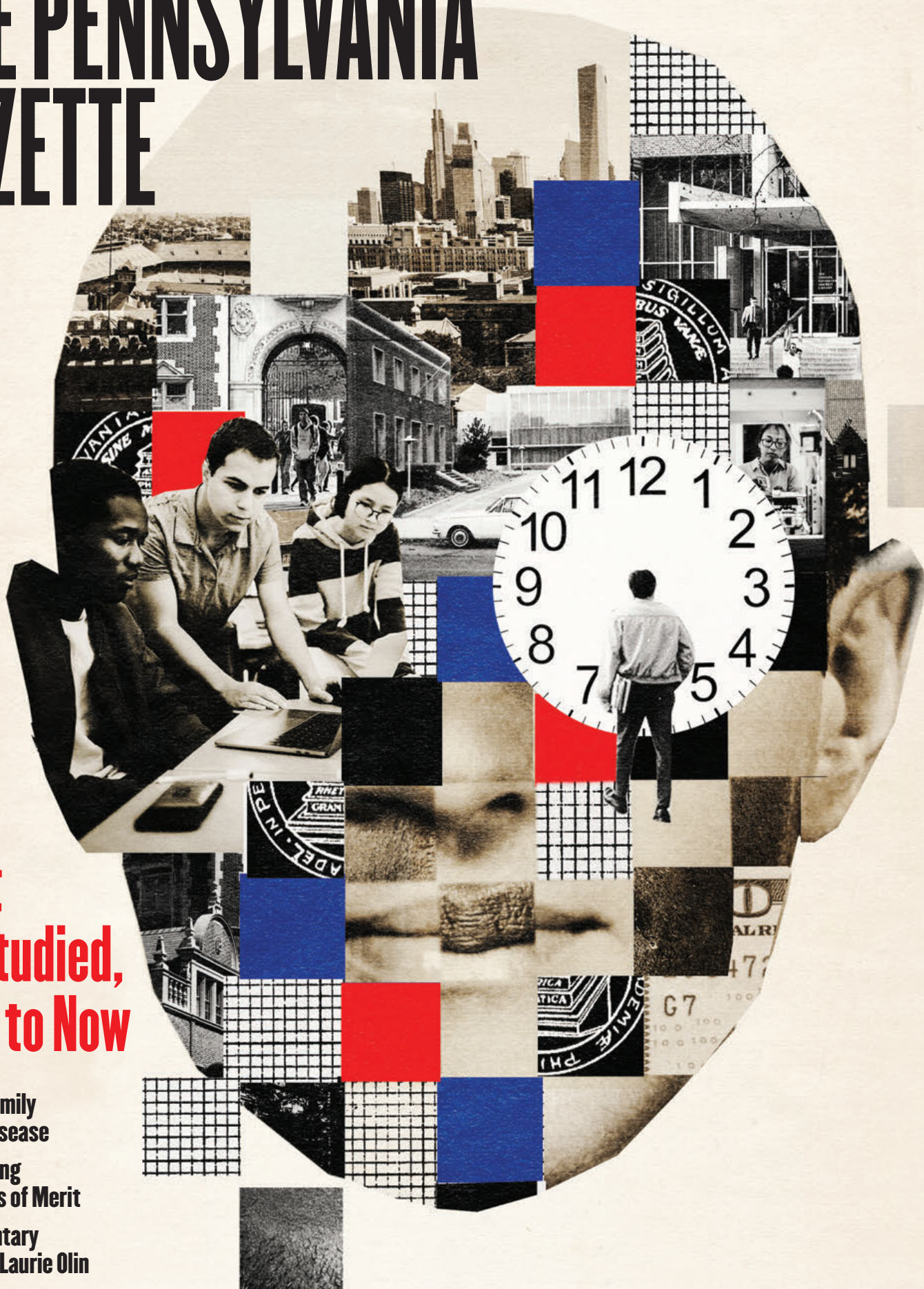


# THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

JAN | FEB  
2025



## What We Studied, 1960 to Now

The Bari Family  
v. Celiac Disease

Homecoming  
and Awards of Merit

A Documentary  
Draws Out Laurie Olin



# Seeking leaders who want to change the world.

A photograph of Anne Punzak Marcus, a woman with short blonde hair, wearing a dark patterned jacket. She is speaking into a microphone at a podium. A name tag is visible on her chest. In the background, another person is partially visible, and a water bottle sits on the table in front of her.

Anne Punzak Marcus  
Wharton '84  
Harvard '12

The Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative aims to unleash the potential of experienced leaders to help solve society's most pressing challenges.

Learn more at [advancedleadership.harvard.edu](https://advancedleadership.harvard.edu) or 617-496-5479.



**HARVARD**

Advanced Leadership Initiative

# THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

JAN | FEB  
2025



## Features

### Course Corrections

**24** On the 65th anniversary of the *Penn Course Guide*, a deep dive into what contemporary Penn undergraduates actually study—and how their choices have changed over time.

By **Trey Popp**

### Every Bite, Every Day

**36** What one Penn family is doing to raise awareness and research funds for celiac disease—and pursue a cure using mRNA technology pioneered by Drew Weissman.

By **Dave Zeitlin**

### Homecoming 2024

**42** Our annual photo gallery. Plus: Alumni Awards of Merit and citations.

Photos by **Tommy Leonardi**

## Departments

- 2 From the Editor** | Course guides, a family's fight, meritorious alumni.
- 3 From College Hall** | Values in action.
- 5 Letters** | The upside of population decline, and more.

### Views

- 7 Alumni Voices** | Orphaned in America.
- 9 Elsewhere** | "Great idea. I'll go to Knock."
- 12 Expert Opinion** | Punctuation, logical and otherwise.

### Gazetteer

- 14 Seen on Campus** | Introducing Gutmann Hall, VLEST, and the Ott Center.
- 17 Homecoming Panel** | Association of Alumnae sponsors discussion on beating burnout.
- 18 Diplomacy** | Silfen Forum looks at prospects for "Waging Peace" in the Middle East.
- 19 Climate Change** | CSAP 4.0 tells how Penn will cut emissions in 2025–2029.
- 20 Leadership** | New vice provosts for arts and climate named.
- 21 Student Honor** | College senior Om Gandhi is a 2025 Rhodes Scholar.
- 21 Honors** | PIK Professor Dorothy Roberts is a 2024 MacArthur Fellow.
- 22 Sports** | Men's soccer's frustrating finish; Bert Bell C1920 statue unveiled.

### Arts

- 49 Calendar**
- 50 Landscape Architecture** | *Sitting Still* traces Laurie Olin's life and work.
- 52 History** | Ben Nathans on the "many lives" of the Soviet dissident movement.
- 54 Music** | How Benjamin Korstvedt Gr'95 solved "the Bruckner problem."
- 55 Briefly Noted**

### Alumni

- 57 Josette Bonafino C'89** has remade—and preserved—the Trestle Inn.
- 59 Douglas Arbittier C'87 M'91 GM'95** is a sharp collector of medical artifacts.
- 61 Jake Cousins C'17** pitched for the Yankees in the World Series.
- 62 Robert K. Ross C'76 M'80 G'92** transformed healthcare for underserved communities.
- 66 Events**
- 66 Notes**
- 71 Obituaries**

- 80 Old Penn** | Remembering the first woman to win an Alumni Award of Merit.

Vol. 123, No. 3

©2025 The Pennsylvania Gazette

Published by Benjamin Franklin from 1729 to 1748.

Cover | Illustration by Lincoln Agnew

[thepenngazette.com](http://thepenngazette.com)

# Close Study

**I** was a committed English major by the time I set foot on Penn's campus, so my main focus when it came to course selection—contrary to all advice given to new college students, then and now—was working the system to maximize those classes while still meeting the minimum requirements for graduation, very much preferably while also avoiding all courses that involved any kind of math.

Back in those days, in what was known as the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), we had what I believe were called “clusters.” If your major was in the humanities, you needed to take three courses each in the social sciences and natural sciences to graduate. Three Anthro courses—heavy on the ethnographies!—met the former requirement; for the latter, I managed to cobble together a trio of Psych courses, only one of which—the one I took pass/fail—required numeracy. (I passed, I assume barely.)

I hadn't thought about this in many years until reading an early version of senior editor Trey Popp's cover story in this issue, “Course Corrections.” Using the 65th anniversary of the *Penn Course Guide* as a jumping off point, Trey has pulled together a fascinating account of the classes that Penn students have sought out (and been shunted into under different curricular regimes) since the mid-20th century and how those have changed over the years.

While one element in the piece involves an interrogation of some recent misconceptions about “woke” curricula, the main pleasure for me at least, and I suspect, for many readers, will be in bringing back memories of lastingly meaningful classes, a few stinkers, and some missed opportunities. (Not for the first time, I wondered

at my failure to enter the fierce competition for a seat in Riasanovsky's Russian history course!)

Also in this issue, in “Every Bite, Every Day,” associate editor Dave Zeitlin C'03 chronicles the efforts of one Penn family to raise awareness about celiac disease, improve US policy on food labeling, and possibly effect a treatment or cure to allow gluten-sensitive people to eat safely.

This story had its start on the sidelines of a kids' soccer game, where Dave got to talking with Jon Bari C'89, whose 11-year-old son Jax has been living with a diagnosis of celiac disease since he was a kindergartener. Jax has also become the amazingly articulate chief spokesperson for Celiac Journey, the foundation the Baris started—Leslie, Jax's mother, and Lexi, his sister and a sophomore at Penn, are also involved—to share his story and increase funding for research on the disease.

As Dave details, some of that research is ongoing at a lab headed by Nobelist Drew Weissman, which is one cause of hope for the future. For now, the story ends at Penn's Homecoming football game, where the use of gluten-free toast allowed Jax to participate for the first time without fear in the famous (or, for some, infamous) toast-throwing ritual at the end of the third quarter when the Penn Band strikes up “Drink a Highball.”

We also celebrate Homecoming in this issue, with our annual photo gallery of the festivities and the Alumni Award of Merit citations. As always, congratulations to all the winners!

**Trey has pulled together a fascinating account of the classes that Penn students have sought out since the mid-20th century.**



## THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

VOL. 123, NO. 3

EDITOR John Prendergast C'80

SENIOR EDITOR Trey Popp

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Dave Zeitlin C'03

ASSISTANT EDITOR Nicole Perry

ART DIRECTOR Catherine Gontarek

PUBLISHER F. Hoopes Wampler GrEd'13

215-898-7811 fhoopes@upenn.edu

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR Linda Caiazzo

215-898-6811 caiazzo@upenn.edu

### EDITORIAL OFFICES

The Pennsylvania Gazette

3910 Chestnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104-3111

PHONE 215-898-5555 FAX 215-573-4812

EMAIL gazette@ben.dev.upenn.edu

WEB thepenngazette.com

### ALUMNI RELATIONS

215-898-7811

EMAIL alumni@ben.dev.upenn.edu

WEB www.alumni.upenn.edu

### UNIVERSITY SWITCHBOARD

215-898-5000

### NATIONAL ADVERTISING

IVY LEAGUE MAGAZINE NETWORK Heather Wedlake

EMAIL heatherwedlake@ivytags.com

PHONE 617-319-0995

WEB www.ivytags.com

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS?** Go to MyPenn, Penn's Online Community, at [mypenn.upenn.edu](http://mypenn.upenn.edu) to access and update your own information. Or contact Alumni Records, University of Pennsylvania, Suite 300, 2929 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-5099; [record@ben.dev.upenn.edu](mailto:record@ben.dev.upenn.edu); Phone: 215-898-8136; Fax: 215-573-5118.

**THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE** (ISSN 1520-4650) is published bimonthly in September, November, January, March, May, and July by Penn Alumni, E. Craig Sweeten Alumni House, 3533 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6226. Periodicals postage paid at Philadelphia, PA, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pennsylvania Gazette, Alumni Records, Suite 300, 2929 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-5099.

**PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE COMMITTEE:** David S. Graff C'79 WG'84 (Chair); Miriam Arond C'77; Jean Chatzky C'86; Dr. Alan Filreis, Faculty; Eliot J. Kaplan C'78; Randall Lane C'90; Michael R. Levy W'68; James L. Miller W'97; Sameer Mithal WG'95; Steven L. Roth W'66; Robert E. Shepard C'83 G'83; Joel Siegel C'79; Michael L. Barrett EAS'89, President, Penn Alumni.

The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected class status in the administration of its admissions, financial aid, educational or athletic programs, or other University-administered programs or in its employment practices. Questions or complaints regarding this policy should be directed to the Executive Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, Franklin Building, 3451 Walnut Street, Suite 421, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106; or (215) 898-6993 (Voice).





# The Values Proposition

Espousing—and acting on—Penn’s highest ideals.

By Interim President J. Larry Jameson

There is a distinctive sound that occurs around campus with some regularity. I hear it from my College Hall office, just as I did throughout my years leading Penn Medicine. For most people, this noise hums in the background, registering as little more than a momentary interruption in conversation on Locust Walk or causing a brief pause during Commencement celebrations on Franklin Field. You may even recall hearing it during your own time at Penn.

It is the overhead roar of a PennSTAR Flight helicopter taking off or touching down at the Hospital of the University Pennsylvania. Every hour of every day and every day of the year, the PennSTAR team is on call for critical care flights that have made a life-or-death difference for tens of thousands of patients.

That Penn and society would develop and devote such resources toward preserving an individual life is, on reflection, a remarkable evolution. When Penn was still a young institution, there were those devoted to healing the ill and injured, laying the foundation for this profound commitment. After all, we are deeply proud to claim the nation’s first medical school and its first hospital, home to significant leaps forward in medical science and healthcare.

Yet, at that point in the late 18th century, the idea that an individual’s life and wellbeing were moral ends unto themselves was still something of a novel theory. It had been articulated in documents like the Declaration of Independence and the writings of Immanuel Kant but not at all universally applied.

The values were there, but the technical means for achieving them and their broadening adoption—these tools and aspirations advanced over centuries.

Today, we place historically unprecedented emphasis on saving a life, educating a student, and excellence across a staggering range of life-improving research and service. Each time that helicopter soars overhead, it is a modern incarnation of Penn’s longstanding values, manifestly in action.

In our rapidly changing world, there comes a time when institutions must freshly articulate their values, even if those values have been widely, if implicitly, understood and embraced for hundreds of years. Such was the case for Penn, and early last fall we did just that, with our statement of University Values, which reads in part:

*We embrace excellence, freedom of inquiry and expression, and respect. Penn’s culture is inspired by its founder, Benjamin Franklin—open-minded and curious, inventive and practical, exhibiting brilliance across fields, imperfect but self-improving, and relentlessly focused on enhancing social good.*

Advancing discovery and opportunity toward a better future for all. Excellence, freedom of inquiry and expression, and respect. Inspired by our founder’s example of being open-minded and curious, inventive and practical, brilliant across fields, self-improving and focused on enhancing social good.

These values capture in words the ethos that has animated Penn throughout its long history. We wrote them down so that the world knows what Penn strives to achieve and how we strive to achieve it. But, as our people demonstrate every day across campus, there is the act of espousing our values, and then there is the work of living

them. A selection of milestones and achievements this academic year exemplify our values in action.

We officially dedicated critical capital projects such as Amy Gutmann Hall, Penn’s interdisciplinary home for data science, and the Jane and David Ott Center for Track & Field, a state-of-the-art indoor facility that is the first of its kind in Philadelphia, and which provides another gateway to access our campus. These enhancements reflect Penn’s investment in cutting-edge spaces that enable bold ideas, creative collaboration, and community.

We were pleased to announce appointments for two new leadership roles: celebrated climate expert Michael Mann has been named Penn’s inaugural Vice Provost for Climate Science, Policy, and Action; and leading music professor Timothy Rommen is our University’s inaugural Vice Provost for the Arts. They will lead, coordinate, and elevate the visibility of these strategic goals at Penn. We also announced the Penn AI Council, a group of five faculty who will lead the effort to coordinate and strengthen Penn’s breadth of AI expertise. Together with the new Draw Down the Lightning Grants and expanded nonpartisan engagement through Penn Washington, we are furthering Penn’s highest strategic priorities.

The 2024 David and Lyn Silfen University Forum, “Waging Peace’: Dialogue and Diplomacy in the Middle East,” showcased how Penn engages with challenging and complex issues through the lens of our academic missions. We enjoyed an engaging discussion with former Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and former Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, and attendance for the event was robust.

The launch of the Office of Religious and Ethnic Inclusion—the first of its kind nationally—along with enhanced campus-wide training initiatives, has significantly advanced our commitment to countering hate, deepening understanding, and cultivating a truly inclusive and welcoming community. It will further strengthen our commitment to the principles embodied in the Office of Civil Rights Title VI legislation.

We were also deeply proud to announce the expansion of financial aid for middle-income families, a continuation of Penn's leadership in opening doors to outstanding educational opportunities for the most talented students from all backgrounds.

As Penn marked these milestones, we celebrated exceptional honors for faculty and students. We are thrilled that Dorothy Roberts, the George A. Weiss Professor of Law and Raymond Pace & Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil

**These values capture in words the ethos that has animated Penn throughout its long history. We wrote them down so that the world knows what Penn strives to achieve and how we strive to achieve it.**

Rights, was named a 2024 MacArthur Fellow, a well-deserved global recognition. We are also elated that Penn Engineering fourth-year student Om Gandhi was awarded a 2025 Rhodes Scholarship.

Early in the new year, I will be on the road and traveling abroad to meet with

alumni in a number of countries and cities. I look forward to hearing from our global alumni community, strengthening ties, and sharing how Penn's values and actions align.

At any given moment, tens of thousands of people throughout the University and health system are living Penn's highest ideals. We are educating future generations, making paradigm-changing discoveries and contributions to knowledge, and caring for and saving patients' lives. When you hear a hum around campus, it may be a PennSTAR helicopter, or an AI server, or an orchestra tuning their instruments—these, and many others, are the sounds and signs of Penn living its values.

Following the example of our founder, we articulate and act on our values not only for individual improvement. We do so toward a better future for all. I call this our “values proposition,” and Penn is leading the way.

# THE PENN CLUB OF NEW YORK

**YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME**



For membership information or to schedule a tour please e-mail

[membership@pennclubny.org](mailto:membership@pennclubny.org)  
or call 212.403.6627.



# Caretaking and creativity, welcoming “demographic winter,” words over speech, and more.

## Motherhood and Art, a Fascinating Dyad

Molly Petrilla C’06’s article “The Art of Mothering” [Nov|Dec 2024] is wonderful! As the husband of an artist and the father of a daughter who is an artist and designer, I appreciate her insight in writing about motherhood and art, a fascinating dyad! The main subject of the story, *The Mother Artist* author Catherine Ricketts C’09, is a formidable lady in a mode familiar to me. My wife had a work-life balancing creativity, mothering two children, and practicing medicine. Though a gentle lady dedicated to her profession and her creative passions, she could be a fierce mom in guiding our kids through childhood, protecting them, and ensuring they were on the right path.

Fathers also practice parenting while balancing creative efforts and work life, but we are spared the misogyny that women sometimes face. In my retirement from the practice of pediatrics, I have become a caregiver again, not parenting kids but caring for my wife who has Alzheimer’s. Solo caregiving is the toughest gig—after loving family and friends, writing sustains me. I have written two books of poetry and been published in 20 multi-author poetry and prose anthologies while caregiving. Other creative endeavors besides art, including writing, may coexist with parenting!

*Mark Tochen C’66, Camas, WA*

## More Like Spring

Penn economics professor Jesus Fernandez-Villaverde may be right in that the global fertility rate may already be at or below replacement level, as described in Andrew Carr’s article, “Demographic Winter Is Coming” [“Gazetteer,” Nov|Dec



**“If several generations of humans struggle due to declining birthrates, it will be a small price to pay to save the planet.”**

2024], but his assertion that this shift represents a fast approaching dark future for humanity is completely baseless.

In an October 30 opinion piece from *Inter Press Service*, titled “The World’s Demographic Sky Is Not Collapsing,” Joseph Chamie, demographer and former director of the United Nations Population Division and author of numerous publications on population issues, stated that even with below replacement fertility, the United Nations projects population levels to continue growing, likely peaking at 10.3 billion in about 60 years. After reaching that level, the world’s population is expected to decline slowly to 10.2 billion by the close of the 21st century.

So 75 years from now, and long after practically every reader of this magazine will be alive, barring any catastrophic event, the planet will still have two billion more people than it has today, hardly a collapse.

## We Welcome Letters

Please email us at [gazette@ben.dev.upenn.edu](mailto:gazette@ben.dev.upenn.edu). Letters should refer to material published in the magazine and may be edited for clarity, civility, and length. For more letters, visit [thepenngazette.com](http://thepenngazette.com).

Furthermore, a peer reviewed study published last year in *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* and featured on Nature.com examined the impact to countries currently undergoing population declines. Every country except one experienced positive economic trends of reduced unemployment, higher than average wage growth, and increasing real GDP per capita.

Why? Because declining populations put less demand on limited resources, easing prices and making life affordable. It has the added benefit of restoring the environment, lessening the destruction of habitat and reducing emissions of all kinds of pollutants, including climate-changing greenhouse gases.

This anticipated gradual decline of human population should be a much desired and long-overdue salutary relief for people and the planet and recharacterized by economists as a Demographic Spring.

*Terry Spahr C’88, Hanover, NH*

## Look at the Big Picture

I feel an urge to comment upon the article “Demographic Winter Is Coming” because, like many other articles, it suggests that an abruptly declining world population is undesirable. I understand the potential economic and social problems that a significant decline in the birthrate will cause; however, let’s look at the big picture. Mankind in a very short time has caused a rapid major loss of insects, birds, amphibians, and mammals. We are causing a mass extinction of species. We have despoiled the oceans, ravaged the land, ruined the climate, decimated habitat, polluted fresh water, caused desertification, and damaged our

biosphere nearly beyond repair. If several generations of humans struggle due to declining birthrates, it will be a small price to pay to save the planet.

*Beverley Spears GAR'70, Santa Fe, NM*

### Right Sizing Our World Population

Writer Andrew Carr raises important points about short-term consequences of a shrinking population in “Demographic Winter Is Coming.” In contrast, longer-term thinking takes into account the shrinking amount of habitable land that will likely become available for human survival as climate change progresses. Melting arctic ice will raise sea levels, flooding coastlines and submerging islands throughout the world. Wildfires will reduce housing sites. Droughts will reduce agricultural acreage.

Gradually declining populations could theoretically match gradually declining earth resources, as people migrate to occupy the remaining optimal geography. The alternative may be episodic death tolls on a massive scale.

*Jaqueline Crawley CW'71, Chevy Chase, MD*

### Challenge the Legacy View

We have been in an expanding population “summer” for far too long. From a natural resources perspective, the human population is pushing this planet to the brink. As it is, we can't seem to keep up with affordable housing or human rights for the existing population.

It was actually quite telling that the article predicting “Demographic Winter” was nearly adjacent to an article about how climate change is impacting our insurance system, “Denial of Coverage” [“Expert Opinion,” Nov|Dec 2024]. The “demographic winter” may also resolve that issue.

Perhaps it is time to challenge the legacy view that economic sustainability and prosperity requires population growth. We don't need more policies to try and increase population—we need policies to change mindsets and economic models.

*Stephen Golden EAS'93, Rancho Mirage, CA*

### Real Problems, But Regulation Isn't the Answer

I read the article “Denial of Coverage” [“Expert Opinion,” Nov|Dec 2024] with great interest, since it addresses a subject in which I possess some expertise. The problems which Katherine Hempstead C'85 Gr'94 described are real and intensifying, but are not, in my opinion, likely to be resolved by federal regulatory usurpation of the property-casualty insurance industry nor by increased taxpayer subsidies to perceived victims. The situation we find ourselves in is largely, I believe, the result of not permitting market pricing mechanisms from doing their job of allocating finite resources.

Hempstead's article focuses solely on the issues impacting the pricing and availability of homeowners' coverage. Such personal-lines coverages operate in a highly regulated environment where prices generally must be actuarially justified and preapproved by state regulators before being implemented, and this usually occurs with significant delays. In the commercial-lines property-casualty sector, prices and coverage forms are typically established with much greater freedom (especially in the so-called non-admitted market) and the ability to obtain desirable insurance is much less of a problem. That being said, I'm not naive enough to believe that state politicians will easily abandon their prerogatives and let the competitive market perform its magic.

*Norman L. Rosenthal W'73 G'76 Gr'78,  
Philadelphia*

### We Could Talk About Anything

I respond to “The Campus Controversy Complex” [Salvo, Nov|Dec 2024] by Stanford University professor Adrian Daub G'04 Gr'08. According to him, free speech is alive and well in the US academy. This is great news, except that it is far from true. Perhaps better than being forced to listen to the Bible in 1891, but untrue according to repeated surveys and statements from actual students and

study of college speech codes and treatment of speakers viewed as unacceptable.

An excellent measure is the annual survey and ranking of 251 colleges and universities conducted by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. Penn usually ranks below the middle but was *last* in 2023. Penn was beaten out for last in the latest rankings by Harvard, Columbia, and NYU. We are proudly ranked #248!

We now have (yet another) bias watchdog administrative department, and a belated realization that it's not Penn's place to take a stand on most public issues [“Gazetteer,” Nov|Dec 2024]. Where is the concern about allowing issues to be discussed and questioned? We could talk about anything when I was there.

*Richard A. Furniss ME'60 WG'62, Litchfield, CT*

### Little Understanding

“The Campus Controversy Complex” is an astonishingly weak defense of Penn's current ranking near the bottom of all US universities with respect to free speech and diversity of thought. There appears to be little understanding of how we are perceived throughout the country and essentially no remorse.

Two other articles in the same edition don't provide much comfort on the issues involved. The article on Amy Wax [“Gazetteer,” Nov|Dec 2024] seems to conclude that she has been punished for incorrect words with no obvious indication that Penn cares whether the words are accurate or not (I have no idea whether Black Penn Law students are rarely in the upper half of their class, but it seems like it would matter).

Another article announces a new Office of Religious and Ethnic Inclusion [“Gazetteer,” Nov|Dec 2024]. This is not an unimportant concern, but the overriding issue is free speech and diversity of thought, which seems to be completely missing. If Penn were a more open community, there would be far better discourse and fewer eruptions of prejudice.

*Tom Hardy WG'65, Montgomery, OH*





# The Orphan Trap

Losing my parents as a teenager saddled me with an identity I felt powerless to shape—until now. ▶

By Kristen Martin

Illustration by Gracia Lam

**On a bright day in July 2006, just before I turned 17,** I realized just how little control I had over how others saw the part of my identity I most wanted to hide. It was the final afternoon of a journalism program for high school students at Northwestern University—five weeks gloriously spent reporting stories, taking pop quizzes on the news (I’ll never forget how to spell Rod Blagojevich), and swimming in Lake Michigan with new friends until my muscles felt like frozen chicken cutlets. Two of my aunts had come to help me pack up my dorm room and fly back to New Jersey. I was steering them to the dining hall for a farewell lunch with other families when I heard a yell go up from two Californian kids whose folks hadn’t made the trip: “We’re the orphans!” they exclaimed, as they mimed begging for more gruel like *Oliver Twist*.

Those kids didn’t know that both of my parents had recently died. I had only divulged the story of my back-to-back losses to the two girls I’d grown closest to—and even then only after we’d already spent every waking hour together for the better part of a month. That summer at Northwestern was my first taste of what it was like to introduce myself to people who had no idea of what I had recently been through, and figuring out the most natural time to slip in such devastating information had proven impossible.

In the middle-class Long Island community where I’d grown up, everyone knew my parents. My mom had been the PTA president. My dad had coached my brother’s basketball and baseball teams. My peers were there when my mom died of lung cancer at age 49 in January 2002, and when my dad died of prostate cancer at age 50 in January 2004. They also knew me—a smarty-pants who loved to dance and had an entire wardrobe of Chuck Taylors—and they knew that even after my losses, I was still that girl. When I moved to New Jersey to live with my aunt Alice the summer after my dad died, and had to start sophomore year

at a new high school, my cousin Matt helped make the transition as smooth as possible by linking me in with his friend group before orientation. He explained why I was now living with his family, but also introduced me as a person well beyond my tragedy.

When I started that summer at Northwestern, I didn’t want to talk about my parents because I couldn’t do so without bursting into tears. My grief was so raw, so bottomless, that to even allude to it by explaining the bare facts of my life to people I had just met was unbearable. But after the “orphan” incident, I had a new reason to keep quiet about my parents’ deaths: I feared being reduced to a pitiful archetype.

## **The cultural baggage surrounding orphanhood made my personal trauma even worse. It threatened to flatten my entire identity.**

Until that moment, I hadn’t connected my experience of losing both my parents to the stories about orphans I had grown up consuming, from Little Orphan Annie pining for a sunnier tomorrow where she’d be adopted, to Harry Potter sleeping in a spider-infested cupboard under the stairs at his aunt and uncle’s house. My brother and I didn’t languish away in an orphanage—those were long shuttered in the United States—nor were we wishing to be adopted by strangers. No one could ever replace our parents, who had raised us to teen-hood. And rather than neglect us, our extended family embraced us and tried their best to approximate normalcy.

It was hard enough to share my personal traumatic baggage—but the cultural baggage surrounding orphanhood

made it even worse. It threatened to flatten my entire identity.

I took this lesson with me to Penn, where my inelegant solution to avoiding the pity of my peers was to wait to drop the bomb of my parents’ deaths until well after I had already grown close to them. Of course, this meant holding an essential part of myself at a remove for months, which—shocker—made it difficult to forge meaningful friendships.

Harder still was navigating the creative nonfiction workshops that I adored. By my junior year—eight years after my mom’s death and six years after my dad’s—I wanted to start writing about my parents, to be with them again on the page. But I worried that if I wrote about losing my parents, the feedback I would receive would be “I’m so sorry” and “I couldn’t imagine,” words that had long ago ceased to provide comfort and only served to highlight how isolating my experience actually was.

And it was indeed isolating. The only other person I knew who had lost both of their parents as a child was my own brother. Why, then, were there so many orphans in American popular culture?

I didn’t think to ask this question until more than a decade after that moment at Northwestern, when I was in my late 20s. I had long since surmounted my discomfort around sharing writing about my parents with an audience, thanks in no small part to Professor Paul Hendrickson at Penn, who ensured that my classmates gave me substantive comments during workshop. I pursued an MFA in nonfiction writing at Columbia University, where I wrote essays that plumbed my grief and sought to understand the people my parents had been before they became my parents. I even wrote an essay about why I hated being thought of as an orphan—even though that’s what I literally was—reviving an idea that I first tried to wrestle with in my Common App personal essay for college years earlier.

After I graduated from Columbia, I began focusing my writing career on



cultural criticism. I returned again to that orphan essay and refocused my lens from inward to outward, picking apart the tropes that dominate representations of orphans in literature, from adventurous Huckleberry Finn to resilient and optimistic Little Orphan Annie. The more I researched, the more I realized that not only did popular fictional orphan stories fail to represent my personal experience of losing my parents, but our cultural obsession with orphans has long been unhinged from reality.

I couldn't have known it then, but that day at Northwestern planted the seed of discomfort that grew into the curiosity that would fuel my first book, *The Sun Won't Come Out Tomorrow: The Dark History of American Orphanhood*. Over the past few years, as I researched, reported, and wrote this book, unraveling how badly our culture's symbolic orphans have led us astray from the harsh reality of how the United States has long treated its most vulnerable children, I have realized just how lucky my brother and I were despite our losses. We lived in an era when we never had to worry about suffering in a regimented orphanage, or being used as pawns in the social experiment of orphan trains, where religious charities sent poor children from northeastern cities to new farm towns in the Midwest and beyond. Our class and race protected us from the trauma of foster care, which disproportionately separates poor families of color.

Writing my book helped me reclaim the identity of "orphan," in that it allowed me to counter our country's myths and illuminate a path for a better future for children and families. But I still mourn for the teenager I was, and the way she felt she had to hide her grief and erase her parents.

---

Kristin Martin C'11 is the author of *The Sun Won't Come Out Tomorrow: The Dark History of American Orphanhood*, forthcoming from Bold Type Books in January.

# Lying to the Irish

But failing to pull the wool over anyone's eyes.

By Martha Cooney

**I was living in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on a six-month tourist visa, working under the table as a nanny.** I made enough cash to rent a room and go to pubs on the weekends. It was a good time.

I loved the Irish. My accent was a conversation starter and everyone was friendly. Bus drivers acted personally delighted for me to join them. When I dumped about 50 small coins into the fare box, the driver laughed and said, "Ach, were ye up all night countin' that?" If I pulled that in Philly someone would push me down the steps while the bus drove away. The last time I took the subway in New York, a stranger sat down next to me, smiled, and exposed himself. Belfast passengers lined up in a civilized manner and thanked the driver. Delightful.

My six months started winding down, and I was unhappy about it. I didn't want to leave. Spring in Belfast was so beautiful. The days were long and pink light fell over the brick houses in the evening. My friend Lisa and I had just chipped in to buy the entire *Sex and the City* box set and we were working our way through it. I'd recently joined a coed tag rugby team and not to brag, but I was a natural. I would go home, sit on the edge of the bathtub with my legs covered in dirt, and think about how satisfied I was with life at that moment.

I'd also started seeing this Irish guy, Ryan McConnell. He was a ginger from County Cavan, and his accent was particularly musical and enchanting. His stories of growing up in the countryside sounded like old documentaries watched on VHS after your teacher rolled in the audio visual cart. "We had this row of trees going all the way down the lane, and we would climb from tree to tree to

tree to tree," he told me as my pupils dilated. One night, after riding bicycles back over the bridge to my house from a pub quiz, I told Ryan McConnell about my scheme to stay in Belfast past my visa.

Northern Ireland is technically part of the United Kingdom, even though it's on the island of Ireland, and shares a border with the Republic. (For more information, please see *Derry Girls*.) This was after the peace agreement and before Brexit, and you could drive back and forth over the border without showing your passport or stating your business.

So if I left Belfast by plane and flew into Dublin in Ireland, I could get my passport stamped by Dublin immigration and take a bus over the border into Belfast with no immigration checks and the official record stating I was in Ireland. I could then organize another decoy flight to "return" to Belfast from Dublin after the required three months away. (Was it wrong to be pleased with a silver lining of centuries of political strife? I had done my part for the peace process; I was a Catholic with Protestant friends. I'd earned this!)

Ryan McConnell listened to my idea. He said, "Ach, Marta. Don't fly into Dublin. There's too much immigration security. It'll be crawlin' wit' police. I tell you what to do. You want to fly into Knock airport. Knock, in the west of Ireland, it's a wee little airport. You'll walk right through; they won't even look twice at you."

In the accent, his plan sounded flawless. I said, great idea. I'll go to Knock.

The cheapest plane ticket to Knock took me through East Midlands in England, halfway between Nottingham (Robin Hood!) and Leicester (cheese?). I booked the flight for the day before my six-month stay was up and got on the plane with my



laptop bag and a book. I was impressed with myself; I'd be back in time for dinner.

The plane landed in a windy rain. I walked down the rickety steps and into Knock airport, an empty room smaller than my high school gym. There were two lines: European passports or non-European passports. No one else from my plane got into the second line. I walked forward.

The immigration officer, a beefy man with dark hair and blue eyes, did not look like someone who watched videos for advice on practicing a power pose. He looked at my passport, then looked at me.

Our eyes met. I knew, and I knew that he knew, and I knew that he knew that I knew, that I was fucked.

"Where are you going?" he started. "Where are you coming from? What's your business here? What do you do for a living? If you're traveling all over Ireland, why haven't you got a bigger bag?"

I recited my lies, but perhaps not with the confidence required. Then he asked, "How much money do you have?" It was a dirty move.

"Who are you staying with in Dublin?" he asked.

This was the first positive sign. I pulled out a piece of paper with my Dubliner friend Kelsey's phone number and address. Now he would copy it down and wave me through, like they always did. I had used Kelsey's real information for authenticity, but I hadn't alerted her to the scheme because I was so sure that they wouldn't bother to call.

"Wait here," the officer said. He took the piece of paper and went over to a glass booth with a telephone. Kelsey told me later the mystery caller growled, "Are you expecting any visitors?" when she picked up. Caught off guard, she said, "What? No..." He hung up.

## How could I have been led so astray by a magical redhead?

The officer came back out and looked into my eyes again. "She's not expecting you," he said. "That's deception. Go stand against the wall, you're getting back on the plane you came on."

I tend to be a planner, so I said, "What's going to happen when I get off that plane?"

He said, "I don't know, they'll probably deport you. It's not my concern, I'm not letting you in. Go stand against the wall."

I went and stood against the wall in a stupor. *Deception*. A breach of the sacred trust I'd once shared with the country I loved. Could I go back and deliver a speech? *Hold on, you don't understand,*



*I don't mean any harm. You guys know me! I'm a big fan! Let me sing you all the lyrics to "Whiskey in the Jar." Please!*

As the reality of the situation dawned on me, I felt like kicking myself. How could I have been led so astray by a magical redhead? Everybody knows if you're going to execute a scheme, you have to plan for all eventualities. Why did I expect it to be so easy? "*Oh, hello boys! Just breezing through!*" The officer really had me with the bag thing. I could tell that even if he had let me through immigration, he would have gotten me somehow. I'd have gone to buy my bus ticket and said, "One way to Belfast, please," and he would've popped up in the window wearing a green eyeshade, rubbing his hands together. "Thought you said you were going to Dublin! FOILED!"

Still standing against the wall, the beefy officer eyeing me from his station, I was getting more and more scared when a flight landed. Fifty white-haired elders shuffled by, clutching rosary beads and looking over at me with concern. I suddenly remembered. Knock was the site of a holy shrine that attracted pilgrims from around the world. It was the only reason anyone ever traveled to Knock. It was the only reason they had an airport. I stared straight ahead as the parade of believers passed by, mumbling to each other, "What's she done?" and shaking their heads at the shame of it. Sin! Lies! *DECEPTION!*

My officer personally escorted me to my plane. He pointed to me as he spoke with the flight attendant, and I looked away, focusing on the buttons of my red pea coat. I looked way too mousy for what was going down right now. It was embarrassing. If I had known everyone was going to be thinking I was a mysterious international criminal, I would have done something with my hair. I could have found a trench coat with a fur collar at a second-hand store. Maybe some leather gloves.

The whole way back to East Midlands, I leaned forward in my seat, a sinking

## **If I'd known everyone was going to be thinking I was a mysterious international criminal, I would have done something with my hair.**

feeling in my stomach, preparing myself for the jail cell. It would probably be really cold. I can't sleep when it's cold, and that would throw off the whole next day. I assumed I would get a sandwich. But they put mayonnaise on all their sandwiches there, and I hate mayonnaise. So I wouldn't be able to eat the sandwich. What if they rationed toilet paper? I was sure it wouldn't be enough.

The plane landed, and as I approached the front of the line I saw why it had been crawling so slowly. There was an officer checking everyone's passport against a printout of my photo. No point making him work any harder. I volunteered, "It's me," as if claiming a raffle prize. He took me out of the line and delivered me to an interrogation room. A new officer sat on one side of the desk, and I sat down on the other side. How was I going to play this? "*Bless me Father for I have sinned*" ... or "*Let me walk you through my resume*"?

This officer was quite young and seemed to be thinking hard about how to proceed. *I know, right?* I wanted to say. *I don't want to be here ... you don't want to be here ... let's just call it.* He started asking questions. To be honest, he was really nice. He asked about my work, my finances; my future plans. It was basically a date.

I admitted I had been planning to return to Belfast. The gentleman officer considered everything and told me I had to leave by tomorrow. "We'll be alerting the authorities in Belfast, and if you don't leave within 24 hours, they'll de-

port you," he said, but not unkindly. Relieved, I assured him I would sort out a flight and leave tomorrow. He wrote down his name and phone number and said that I should call him once my flight information was confirmed. Maybe so they could close the case—or was it so we could keep in touch?

I got back to Belfast, called all my friends and packed up my things. Ryan McConnell said, "Ach, Marta! I feel terrible! It's my fault. I'm the one who told you to go to Knock, it's my fault. Marta, I'm so sorry!" My jaw went slack and all the resentment left me. No, I said. I wasn't worthy of the scheme. It was my time to go.

When I got back to the States, I called the gentleman officer with my flight information and left a voicemail. It's been quite a few years. I haven't heard back.

---

Martha Cooney C'05 is the author of *Walk Me Through Your Resume*, from which this essay has been adapted.



**COLLECTIBLE COVERS**

Matted and framed: \$125  
Matted only: \$75.00  
(Price includes shipping and handling). Looking for a specific cover? We take special orders.  
Email [caizzo@upenn.edu](mailto:caizzo@upenn.edu)

**THEPENNGAZETTE.COM/COVERS**

# Point, Counterpoint

Are American commas and periods destined to be on the outside, looking in?

By Ben Yagoda



## Consider two sentences:

Anna said updating the guide was  
“a difficult and time-consuming task.”

Anna said updating the guide was  
“a difficult and time-consuming task”.

Their meaning is obviously the same. The subtle difference is in the punctuation at the end. The first, in which the period comes before the closing quotation marks, is American style. The second, in which the period comes at the end, is British and is sometimes referred to as “logical punctuation.” In fact, the example comes from *The Guardian’s* style guide, which states, “Place full points and commas inside the quotes for a complete quoted sentence; otherwise the point comes outside.”

Here’s another example of the British way, from Evelyn Waugh’s novel *Put Out More Flags* (1942):

They began singing ‘Roll out the Barrel’,  
‘We’ll hang out the Washing on the Siegfried  
Line’, and ‘The Quartermaster’s Store’.

(British style also tends to use inverted commas for quotation marks, like ‘this,’ while Americans “double” the marks, but that subject is well beyond the scope of this essay.)

Before the end of the 19th century, the conventions on both sides of the Atlantic were a bit fast and loose. Writing in 1859, Henry Beadnell, an English printer and typographer, endorsed the placement of the first comma in this passage:

...to a man of what Plato calls “universal sympathies,” and even more to the plain, ordinary citizens of this world...

Beadnell averred that, “for the sake of neatness ... commas and periods should always precede quotation marks.”

Indeed, this style is sometimes known as “printers’ quotation” or “typesetters’ quotation” and was apparently initially promoted by those artisans for aesthetic reasons. As Rosemary Feal, then the executive director of the Modern Language Association, commented to me in an email, it was instituted “to improve the appearance of

the text. A comma or period that follows a closing quotation mark appears to hang off by itself and creates a gap in the line (since the space over the mark combines with the following word space).” In America, the style was close to universally adopted by the turn of the 20th century.

But across the Atlantic it was still the Wild West, as it were. The Fowler brothers devote five and a half pages to the matter in *The King’s English* (1906), noting that “general usage, besides being illogical, is so inconsistent, different writers improving upon it in special details that appeal to them.” Their recommendation, for the most part, amounted to the current British system—though “we must warn the reader that it is not the system now in fashion.” They mock Beadnell and others for holding that “neatness is the sole consideration” and conclude, “Argument on the subject is impossible; it is only a question whether the printer’s love for the old ways that seem to him so neat, or the writer’s and reader’s desire to be understood and to understand fully, is to prevail.”

This had not prevailed by 1926 when one of the brothers, H. W., wrote in *A Dictionary of Modern English Usage* that while the outside-quotation-marks style was “right,” the inside-quote-marks style was still “usual.” As late as 1947, Eric Partridge could (disapprovingly) note in *Usage and Abuse* “a tendency among printers to put the period ... and comma inside the ‘quotes’”—though “careful printers are beginning to follow the more logical rule.” Not too long after that, the “logical rule” prevailed in Britain once and for all.

In America, meanwhile, only rarely was the consensus challenged. The only early example I’ve found is the *American Bar Association Journal*, whose use of the British style so infuriated a reader named Sidney Alderman (who had been a member of the prosecution team at the Nuremberg war crimes trial) that, in 1950, he wrote and submitted a letter of some 1,100 words to protest it. “I can hardly enjoy the excellent articles,” he maintained, “because the periods and



commas dangling outside the quotes scratch my eyes like grains of sand or hot cinders, and I spend my time proofreading them back inside the quotes, losing the substance of the articles.” (A perusal of the journal’s archives shows that it was still using the style in 1970 but had dropped it by 1980. I hope Sidney Alderman was alive to see the change.)

Lawyers being famously literal and logical, it’s not surprising that the editors of the *ABA Journal* should have gone this punctuational route. Those traits are also associated with people who work with computers, and this cohort is probably mainly responsible for the rise of the British style in America. In 1991, Eric Raymond wrote in *The New Hacker’s Dictionary*,

Hackers tend to use quotes as balanced delimiters like parentheses, much to the dismay of American editors. Thus, if “Jim is going” is a phrase, and so are “Bill runs” and “Spock groks”, then hackers generally prefer to write: “Jim is going”, “Bill runs”, and “Spock groks”. This is incorrect according to standard American usage (which would put the continuation commas and the final period inside the string quotes); however, it is counter-intuitive to hackers to mutilate literal strings with characters that don’t belong in them. Given the sorts of examples that can come up in discussions of programming, American-style quoting can even be grossly misleading. When communicating command lines or small pieces of code, extra characters can be a real pain in the neck.

Consider, for example, a sentence in a *vi* tutorial that looks like this:

Then delete a line from the file by typing “dd”.

Standard usage would make this

Then delete a line from the file by typing “dd.”

But that would be very bad—because the reader would be prone to type the string

d-d-dot, and it happens that in *vi*, dot repeats the last command accepted. The net result would be to delete *two* lines!

The horror.

Continuing on the logical/literal theme, *Language*, the journal of the Linguistic Society of North America, has adopted the British way. The first item under “Punctuation” in its style sheet says,

The second member of a pair of quotation marks should precede any other adjacent mark of punctuation, unless the other mark is part of the quoted matter: The word means ‘cart’, not ‘horse’.

The other notable American user is *Pitchfork*, the online music magazine. A review there notes,

Covers on the LP [from Iggy Pop] include the Beatles’ “Michelle”, Fred Neil’s “Everybody’s Talkin’”, and tracks from Serge Gainsbourg and Henri Salvador.

I emailed then-managing editor Mark Richardson to ask why *Pitchfork* did it that way, and he responded that it was “partly because it makes sense when the quoted titles don’t contain punctuation (which I guess is why it’s called ‘logical’) and partly because it was absorbed from reading the UK music press.”

But the biggest current user of logical punctuation is Wikipedia, which was founded in America but whose single English-language version is of course read all over the world. The site’s style guide requires that periods and commas be kept “inside the quotation marks if they apply only to the quoted material and outside if they apply to the whole sentence.”

Thus the Wikipedia entry on Frank Sinatra reports that in 1946 he

released “Oh! What it Seemed to Be”, “Day by Day”, “They Say It’s Wonderful”, “Five Minutes More”, and “The Coffee Song” as singles.

Despite all this, there are no signs of the American style diminishing in pro-

fessionally edited prose: what you’ll find in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, or any place adhering to *Chicago Manual of Style*, MLA, or Associated Press guidelines. But in copyeditor-free zones—the web and emails and texts—with increasing frequency, commas and periods find themselves on the outside of quotation marks, looking in.

To take one example out of millions, or maybe billions, Conan O’Brien once tweeted,

Conan’s staffers’ kids say the darndest things. Unfortunately, in this case “darndest” means “incriminating”.

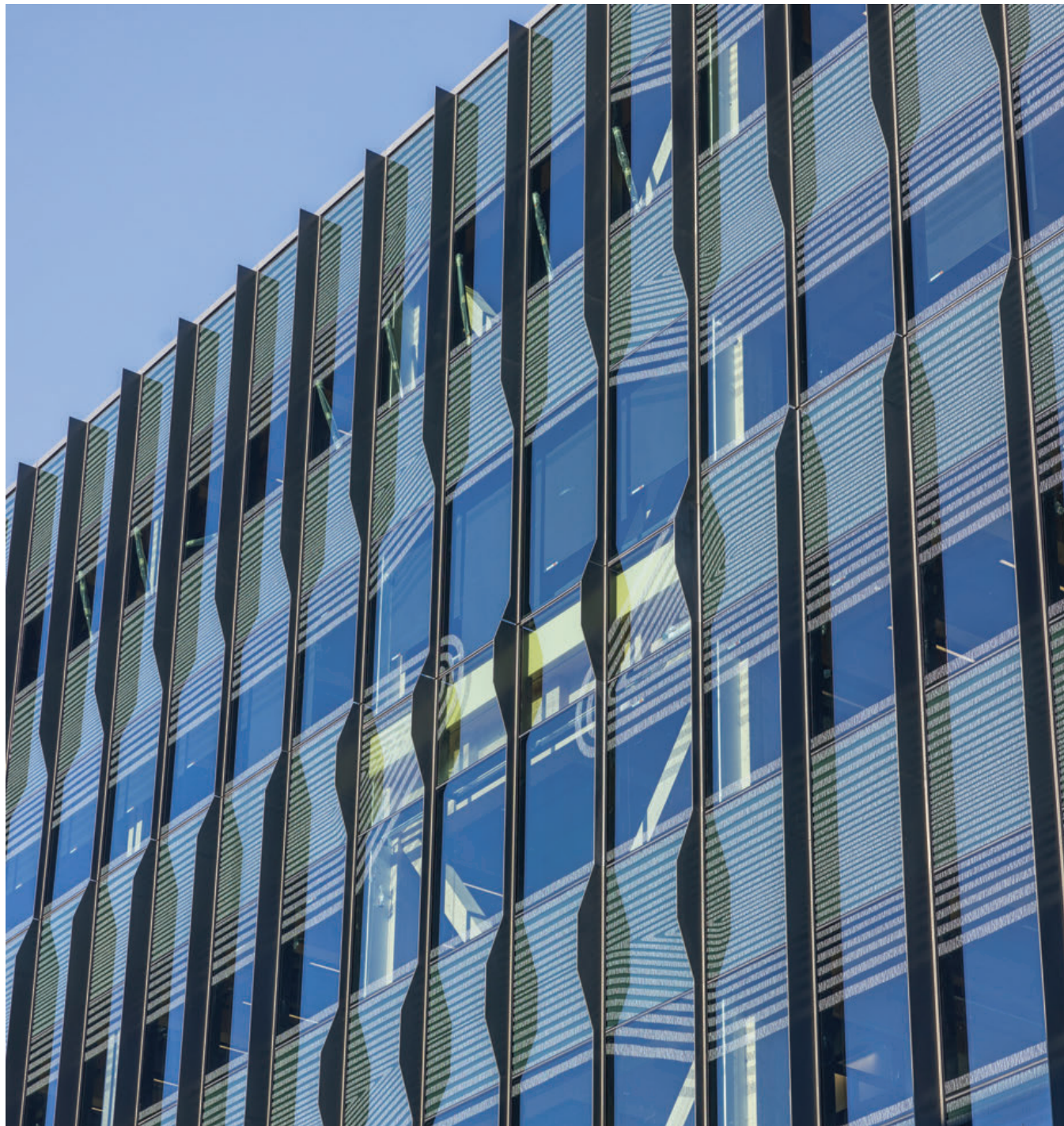
I can say from personal experience that, since the early 2000s, the college students I’ve taught have overwhelmingly favored logical punctuation. When first presented with this, I would make “humorous” remarks to the effect that we were in Delaware, not Liverpool. When that didn’t make a difference, I instituted a one-point penalty on every assignment for infractions. For the most part, that hasn’t helped either.

The reason the students and others are so drawn to the style isn’t that they’re aping *Pitchfork* or Wikipedia, much less imitating the British. Rather, they use it because, as the name says, it’s logical. These writers follow the logic because they don’t know the American rules, which is in turn because they don’t read very much edited prose. Instead, they read plenty of tweets and texts and Instagram comments that put periods and commas outside.

I predict an even more pronounced separation between official and unofficial practice. That is, for the foreseeable future, prose published by established entities will follow the traditional rules, while everyone else will follow logic.

---

Ben Yagoda G’91 is the author, most recently, of *Gobsmacked! The British Invasion of American English*, from which this essay is excerpted with permission of Stanford University Press.



## **Gutmann. Vagelos. Ott.**

A look at Penn's new buildings for data science, energy research, and track and field. [▶](#)



Gutmann Hall (top) and the Vagelos Laboratory for Energy Science and Technology (bottom, with its striking sun shades) have reshaped Penn's architectural profile to the east.

**A**t the September dedication of Amy Gutmann Hall, Harlan Stone C'80—the trustee and major donor who proposed naming the building for Penn's longest serving president (who, fresh from her stint as US Ambassador to Germany, was present for the occasion)—riffed on the significance of the word *hall* (as in Houston, College, etc.) to his own Penn experience and the University as a whole, highlighting the importance of the different spaces, old and new, in which teaching, research, and the many aspects of student life take place.

Gutmann Hall—not to be confused with Gutmann College House [“Gazetteer,” Sep/Oct 2022]—is one of three recent additions to the roster of Penn facilities pictured on these pages, along with the Vagelos Laboratory for Energy Science and Tech-



nology (VLEST) and the Jane and David Ott Center for Track and Field. Besides strengthening Penn's capabilities in data science and energy research, Gutmann Hall and VLEST have reshaped Penn's architectural profile to

**Gutmann Hall represents a “new chapter in Penn's leadership in the AI and data science revolution.”**



the east, while the Ott Center provides a state-of-the-art venue that will be used not only by Penn athletes but others across the city and region.

Located on the northeastern corner of 34th and Chestnut Streets, Gutmann Hall brings together the University's efforts to harness artificial intelligence (AI) and data science to advance interdisciplinary teaching and research in a variety of fields, from engineering to the social sciences and medicine. The building represents a “new chapter in Penn's leadership in the AI and data science revolution,” said Vijay Kumar, the Nemirovsky Family Dean of



Penn Engineering. “Penn has been at the forefront of this revolution, and with this new building, the sky’s the limit—actually, six floors,” he joked.

Those six floors, totaling 116,000 square feet, incorporate classrooms, collaborative and informal meeting places, and research space serving schools across Penn. Gutmann Hall is also Philadelphia’s tallest mass-timber structure, a construction method that significantly reduced the facility’s carbon footprint.

A block south and east along the 3200 block of Walnut Street, the Vagelos lab slips elegantly into the streetscape between the Class of 1923 Ice Rink and David Rittenhouse Laboratory, offering a striking façade adorned with sail-like sun shades that also help control temperatures inside the building without obstructing views. The 112,500-square-foot, seven-story building—dedicated in December, with donors P. Roy Vagelos C’50 Hon’99 and Diana T. Vagelos in attendance—is made up mostly of laboratory space, consolidating work on clean and efficient energy conversion technologies and other efforts taking place in the School of Engineering and Applied Science and the School of Arts and Sciences. A courtyard and walkway provide easy access to Shoemaker Green and the Palestra area below.

Finally, sitting underneath the South Street Bridge, between the Hollenback Center and Rhodes Field along River Fields Drive, the Ott Center is a “first-class” facility that joins the iconic Franklin Field track



and neighboring Irving “Moon” Mondschein Throwing Complex to give Penn track a “combination that is arguably one of the best in the country,” said Steve Dolan, Penn’s director of track and field.

The 73,000-square-foot Ott Center contains a banked 200-meter running track, two runways for the long jump/triple jump, two pole vault runways, an eight-lane infield for sprints, hurdles, and high jump, and a throwing area for shot put and weight throw. Dolan also pointed to the “personality of the building,” bolstered by a mural in the lobby, created by two track and field coaches, highlighting Penn’s connection to the city. Meanwhile, its large, clerestory windows give the Ott Center a lot of natural light and makes it an inviting space for local youth and high school meets, which have already been



scheduled for the current winter season and will be a key component of a building that Dolan called the “home of Philadelphia track and field.”

The addition has been a long time coming. According to Dolan, coaches in the 1970s used to say that Penn was going to get an indoor track as part of their recruiting pitch. “They were right—just 50 years later,” Dolan said from

the Ott Center’s stands, which seat more than 1,000, just after the first event of Penn’s debut meet there on December 6.

Three weeks earlier, hundreds of Penn track and field alumni attended the Ott Center’s unveiling and ribbon-cutting during Homecoming, including donors David Ott W’85 and Jane Ott W’87, Adria Sheth C’97 and Brian Sheth W’97, and Jay Alix W’77. —DZ and JP



## Battling Burnout

How women can manage stress, find rejuvenators, and “restore some sense of harmony.”



**W**hen her blood pressure spiked to 200/110, Kandi Wiens GrEd'16 knew that burnout was not only causing her extreme stress, but actually putting her life in danger. “The thing that’s scary about burnout,” she said, “is that it’s insidious. It will sneak up on you faster than you can say *burnout*.”

Jane Muir Gr'24's interest in the topic was sparked by an undergrad class on mindfulness and compassion. She'd anticipated “an easy A involving napping and resting,” but instead found herself researching how burnout

among clinicians affects patient outcomes. “Nurses and other healthcare professionals are entering the profession wanting to help people, and they come out harming themselves and even harming the patients that they're caring for” due to the effects of burnout, she said. “That was really fascinating to me.”

And as a workplace advisor and executive coach, Farnia Fresnel EAS'98 has seen burnout strike employees at all levels in companies around the world.

While their entrees into the subject varied, all three of

these burnout-conscious alumnae united in early November for a Homecoming panel presented by the Association of Alumnae. Under the title *Women Shaping a Better Tomorrow: Increasing Productivity, Reducing Burnout and Improving Resilience*, they spoke directly to other alums via Zoom about their research and personal experiences.

**“People are tired of hearing about self-care, and being told to practice yoga and mindfulness and all these things that may or may not work for them.”**

Moderator Halcyon Francis SW'03 GrS'15, a private-practice therapist, kicked off the conversation with a question about self-care—a term, she noted, that's thrown around “to the point where I'm kind of tired of hearing about it.” Still, she asked the panelists how they define it, and how they recommend managing stress.

“People are tired of hearing about self-care,” Wiens agreed, “and being told to practice yoga and mindfulness and all these things that may or may not work for them.” As a senior fellow in Penn's Graduate School of Education and the author of *Burnout Immunity* [“Life Hacks,” Sep/Oct 2024], Wiens has discovered how crucial it is for people to let their brains and psyches settle into an equilibrium every so often.

“Get to that level where you're not so amped up that feeling amped up feels normal,” she said. It looks different for everyone, and she encourages people to identify when they're in the sweet spot of feeling challenged and motivated but not overly stressed. Paying attention to the conditions that get you there, she said, can help you stay in that sweet spot more often.

Muir, an assistant professor in both Penn Nursing and the Perelman School of Medicine, recommended that all workers take stock of what is most restorative for them. Standard approaches like spending time outdoors and moving your body are worth considering, but it's also worth the effort to pinpoint more idiosyncratic rejuvenators. It can take a long time for your system to regulate after a stressful day at work, she said, and “just documenting what you know you can turn to ... is an important first step.”

Taking breaks *during* the workday can help, too—and they don't have to be time-consuming or focused on one major act, Fresnel noted. She said it's about finding “micro-moments,” often as brief as 10 seconds, “that restore some sense of harmony.” (An example Muir provided later: spend 30 seconds slowly rubbing on hand sanitizer while feeling its texture and how it glides across your skin.)

“Just taking micro-breaks of restoration makes a massive difference in how we end up at the end of the day,” Fresnel added, since “restoration is happening constantly.” For

those who need a more structured mini-break approach, Wiens outlined the Pomodoro Technique. It involves setting a timer for 25 minutes, working in a productive burst, then taking a short break when the timer dings—“something that gets you up and moving,” Wiens said, “and gives physical distance from the work itself.”

**“It’s very narrow-minded to think that it’s just the individual who’s going to fix this issue.”**

When she’s working with high-performing executives, Fresnel often asks what’s most important to them. These are people who live by their calendars, but the priorities they tend to list—friends, family, hobbies—almost never show up there. “If you’re married to the calendar ... but it’s not telling you when you pick up your children or when you go out with your friends, then let’s reevaluate,” she said. She encourages workers to add these essentials to their work calendars, just as they plan for coffee breaks, meetings, or times to walk around the office during the day. As Wiens put it: “find ways to make work fit around [your] life” rather than the other way around.

While all of these strategies to keep burnout at bay can be effective at the individual level, the panelists agreed there is a dire need for cultural and systems-level change. Muir, who continues to research

burnout in healthcare professionals, said that she has been talking with clinicians about workplace-policy changes to help them regulate their workloads and take breaks. “It’s very narrow-minded to think that it’s just the individual who’s going to fix this issue,” she said. “We need to hold our administrators [and] systems accountable for greater work-life balance.”

Since her book came out, organizations have been asking Wiens to teach their employees to be more resilient. The stress, they say, is only getting worse, so they need burnout-immune workers. “Many organizations just haven’t gotten it yet,” she said. “We can’t just patch these psychologically wounded employees up and send them back to battle. We have to look at things from a system-change and cultural-change perspective.”

But how can an individual help bring those big changes about? By sharing your own story with people at the decision-making level, Wiens said. “The best thing we all can do,” she added, “is to advocate for yourself” and tell company leaders exactly the supports you need. Would a flexible work policy change your quality of life? Could normalizing blocked calendar time for childcare dropoffs and pickups eliminate constant daily stressors? Tell them.

“The more voices they hear from people like you, and the more examples they see,” Wiens said, “that will motivate them to consider making some of these changes.”

—Molly Petrilla C’06



## Path to Peace

The 2024 Silfen Forum sought out common ground in the Israel–Palestine conflict.

**“It’s very difficult to find a compromise for a resolution to international conflicts,** but they can be found,” said Itamar Rabinovich, former Israeli ambassador to the United States. “If you look at the French–German conflict that led to two world wars and almost a century of fighting, today these are two key members of the European Union.”

Rabinovich made those somewhat hopeful remarks at the outset of this year’s David and Lyn Silfen University Forum at the Annenberg Center’s Zellerbach Theatre. He was joined by Salam Fayyad, former prime minister of the Palestinian Authority, in a late October panel discussion titled “Waging Peace’: Dialogue and Diplomacy in the Middle East,” moderated by NPR diplo-

matic correspondent Michele Kelemen C’89.

Yet while Rabinovich and Fayyad found common ground in discussing the Israel–Palestine conflict in front of a large crowd of Penn students, staff members, and faculty, hope was often hard to come by.

“There is no peace process, there is animosity, there is conflict, and it burst out in the worst of ways on October 7 with Hamas,” Rabinovich said, after noting that he had taken part in the Oslo peace process negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization in the more “hopeful” 1990s when he served as Israel’s ambassador to the US. And now, with “Iranian proxies” including Hamas, Hezbollah, the Islamic Jihad Movement, and the Houthi



movement in Yemen all fighting Israel on many different fronts, the conflict has melded with “a more global effort to confront the United States” by Iran, Russia, China, and North Korea. “So this is local, regional, and global at the same time,” said Rabinovich, professor emeritus of Middle Eastern History at Tel Aviv University and the author of several books on the Middle East.

**“This is local, regional, and global at the same time.”**

—ITAMAR RABINOVICH

Fayyad, who served as prime minister of the Fatah-controlled Palestinian Authority from 2007 to 2013, began his remarks by pointing to “the two doctors” at the edge of Zellerbach’s stage and noting that “the first thing you need to do before you operate is to stabilize the patient.” (Those “two doctors,” Penn Interim President J. Larry Jameson and Penn Vice Provost for Global Initiatives Ezekiel Emanuel, introduced the speakers, with Jameson noting that “an all-important tool for waging peace, perhaps the most important tool, is education,” and Emanuel encouraging the audience to “take today as a starting point to go deeper in your exploration of the region and the issues.”)

Calling Gaza “virtually uninhabitable,” Fayyad bleakly

admitted that even if a ceasefire is negotiated, it might take “multiple decades” before the “depth of personal trauma and human rights suffering begins to be seen in the rearview mirror.” But the best way forward, he insisted, is through Palestinian unity. That’s why he’d like to see the Palestinian Authority, which has administrative control over the West Bank, “govern both in the West Bank and Gaza for a transitional period” to stabilize the region before elections are held in the Gaza Strip for the first time since 2006, when the Palestinian Authority lost governing control of Gaza to Hamas.

**“The current government of Israel is not willing to entertain any discussion of Palestinian statehood of any kind.”**

—SALAM FAYYAD

“I feel terrible that there’s been no major internal Palestinian initiative to move in the direction of adopting this plan, much less implementing it,” Fayyad said. “Securing an arrangement, or a consensus on an arrangement, to run the affairs of Gaza postwar is a key element to ending the war, in my judgment.”

Both Fayyad and Rabinovich cited Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as an impediment to any post-

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### **Penn Releases New Goals Toward Carbon Neutrality**

**Ever since Penn formulated its first Climate Action Plan in 2009** [“Red and Blue Makes Green,” Nov|Dec 2009], every five years the University has released progress reports and announced new actions toward the goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2042. The latest iteration—the Climate & Sustainability Action Plan 4.0, covering fiscal years 2025 to 2029—came out in November.

To date, overall emissions have been cut by 47 percent from the baseline year of 2009. One highlight from the previous five-year plan—which added *sustainability* to the title—included a solar power purchase agreement [“Gazetteer,” Jul|Aug 2020] that became operational in 2023 and is anticipated to generate the equivalent of 70 percent of Penn’s electricity needs. Others included distribution of a climate change survey to the Penn community, the development and implementation of an ecological landscape stewardship plan, and the introduction of a program to track and offset carbon emissions resulting from Penn-related air travel.

As previous iterations have done, CSAP 4.0 includes initiatives covering seven areas: academics, utilities and operations, physical environment, procurement, strategic waste, transportation, and civic engagement and outreach. The new plan will be integrated with the University’s current strategic plan, *In Principle and Practice* [“Gazetteer,” Sep|Oct 2024], under the goal of leading “on the great challenges of our time.” The University also announced the appointment of Michael Mann as Penn’s inaugural vice provost for climate science, policy and action [“Gazetteer,” this issue]. CSAP 4.0 expands the boundaries of climate and sustainability efforts beyond Penn’s West Philadelphia campus to include New Bolton Center and the Morris Arboretum as well as Penn-owned real estate properties. It will also incorporate the University of Pennsylvania Health System, which recently developed its own plan for climate action.

“Penn’s strategic framework calls on all of us to bend our talents toward answering great challenges. As Franklin’s University, we are up to the task,” wrote Penn Interim President J. Larry Jameson in an introductory note. “CSAP 4.0 outlines our community’s commitment and will guide our collective strengths for climate and sustainability action over the next 5 years. I encourage everyone to read this plan carefully and then get involved as we move forward with determination, urgency, and ingenuity.”

war plan for Palestinian sovereignty. Rabinovich criticized Netanyahu’s policy of “support[ing] Hamas at the expense of the Palestinian Authority,” noting that the Israeli prime minister “worked with Qatar to bring money to Hamas to keep them quiet.” Considering that much of that money was spent building the tunnel system and infrastructure used

to launch the October 7th attack, it was “a policy that worked until it failed spectacularly, as one senior official told me,” Kelemen said.

As for why Netanyahu propped up Hamas, “the fundamental reason from his point of view, I assert, is that it’s his way to ensure that the Palestinian Authority would be divided, that Gaza and the West Bank would be divided,”

Fayyad said. “The problem is that the current government of Israel is not willing to entertain any discussion of Palestinian statehood of any kind, much less a Palestinian state that can rise to be worthy of the aspirations of the Palestinian people.”

Rabinovich also argued that it’s time for a leadership change within the Palestinian Authority, which has been led for almost 20 years by 89-year-old Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, who in 2008 “missed” an opportunity to accept a peace proposal with a previous Israeli administration that included a near-total withdrawal from the West Bank (which has been under military occupation by Israel since 1967). “Big mistake,” Rabinovich said. “If you are driven by the will and the necessity of statehood, you take it whenever you can.”

Fayyad noted that “who succeeds Abbas has become an obsession” in the Middle East, even though “there has not really been adequate focus on the process.”

“The overall trajectory is not going to change much, absent a fundamental reorientation that can come about from opening up the political space and having elections,” he added. “But don’t tell me that can happen tomorrow. That’s not realistic either.”

When prodded about a potential one-state solution (Kelemen asked the speakers several pre-submitted questions from Penn faculty and students), Rabinovich said he doesn’t use the term

“because it’s not a solution; it’s actually a doorway to a lot of problems.”

“I believe in a two-state solution to be one state that is the Jewish state of Israel, with a 20 percent minority inside the state as we have, and an Arab Palestinian state,” he continued. “If we don’t opt for that, we will become a one-state reality—and a one-state reality is very negative, because Israel will then cease to be Jewish or cease to be democratic. If we control an equal number of Palestinians without giving them full citizenship rights, then we will cease to be a democracy. If we give them citizenship rights, we will cease to be Jewish.”

Rabinovich called one-state plans “rubbish” promoted largely by extreme right-wing members of Netanyahu’s government who believe it’s “realistic or acceptable or even a divine verdict” for Israel to incorporate or resettle the West Bank and Gaza. “Two things need to happen,” he continued. “The Palestinian Authority—I fully agree with Prime Minister Fayyad—needs to rejuvenate in order to control the West Bank and eventually play the same role in Gaza and Israel. And Israel needs to get rid of this fanatical fringe.”

Fayyad stressed that Palestinians need to guide the way forward. “I’m here to tell you that we should be prepared to engage again in a meaningful political process with Israel to negotiate a two-state outcome that begins by squaring

## LEADERSHIP

## Vice Provosts for Arts and Climate Announced

Last fall the University moved to fill two newly created academic leadership positions outlined in Penn’s strategic framework, *In Principle and Practice*, with the appointments of climate scientist Michael Mann as the inaugural vice provost for climate science, policy, and action and of music scholar Timothy Rommen as vice provost for the arts.

Mann, whose appointment became effective November 1, is a Presidential Distinguished Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science and directs the Penn Center for Science, Sustainability, and the Media [“Mann in the Middle,” Jul|Aug 2023].

Provost John L. Jackson Jr. called Mann “one of the world’s leading experts in climate change and sustainability,” in a statement announcing the appointment. “As vice provost, he will continue his essential work while partnering across campus to bring together the wide range of work already being done at Penn, leading innovations and catalyzing new collaborations.”

“I couldn’t be more honored to help lead Penn forward in its mission to address the defining challenge of our time,” Mann said in a statement. “In doing so, we honor the legacy of our founder, Benjamin Franklin—a statesman, a scholar, a scientist, and an environmentalist—as we proudly seek to make a better world.”

Rommen, whose appointment as vice provost for the arts took effect on January 1, is the Davidson Kennedy Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of music and Africana studies in the School of Arts and Sciences. He has taught at Penn since 2002, winning SAS’s top teaching award, the Ira H. Abrams Award for Distinguished Teaching, in 2023. He’s also served as chair, director of graduate studies, and director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Music; as interim chair of the Department of Africana Studies; and on numerous boards and committees within SAS and across the University.

Jackson lauded Rommen as the “ideal colleague” to take on the role of vice provost for the arts, “widely respected as a collaborative and consultative leader who is strongly committed to scholarship and teaching, to our diverse arts communities on campus and in Philadelphia.”

Rommen said that he’s excited to partner with the local arts community “to maximize the impact of their innovative, cross-disciplinary, and experimental work and to imagine new possibilities for the arts here at Penn and beyond.”

the circle that was opened in 1993 with the signing of the declaration of principle that was Oslo,” he said, adding that even if Israel doesn’t entertain the idea, they should push for statehood through the United Nations Security Council, which the US could elect to champion.

“I can relate to how difficult and complex this is, even for some of us who have lived all of our lives there,” Fayyad con-

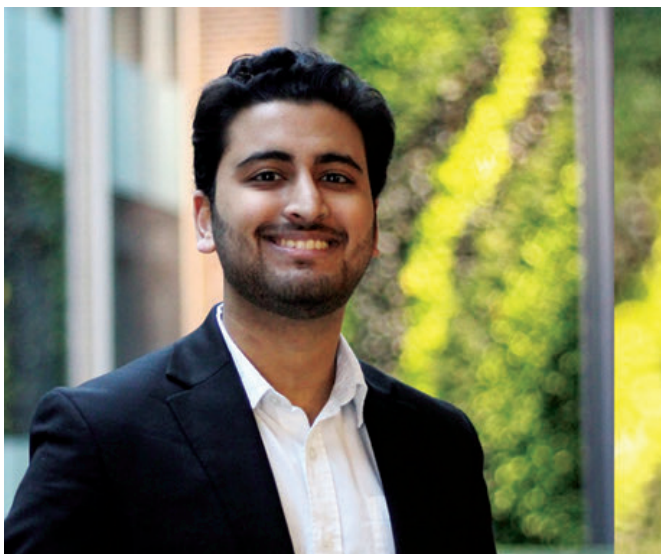
cluded. “It’s an intractable conflict with many subtleties to it. But getting to understand it better and know more about it is important. It is my core belief that it is really up to us Palestinians to actually turn this into a quest for assuming full agency in the act for our liberation.” —DZ

*The Silfen Forum conversation can be watched in its entirety at [silfenforum.upenn.edu/webcast](https://silfenforum.upenn.edu/webcast).*



# The Surprising Roads to Rhodes

After a powerful encounter, a Penn senior changes course and wins a Rhodes Scholarship to pursue cancer research.



**P**enn senior **Om Gandhi** was selected as a 2025 Rhodes Scholar to continue his cancer research at Oxford University in England. The senior from Barrington, Illinois, is double majoring in neuroscience and health and societies, with a public health concentration, and double minoring in chemistry and healthcare management—while also pursuing a master’s degree in bioengineering.

One of only 32 American Rhodes Scholars, Gandhi recalled “completely losing feeling in my legs” when the announcement was made. “So I rested my back against the wall,” he said, “because I was like, *Did they actually say my name?* And then just a wave of pure excitement and joy.”

The prestigious scholarship had not exactly been at the top of his mind when he started out at Penn. Nor had cancer research. As a freshman, he was more interested in policy, philosophy, and ethics, and did some volunteer work in Philadelphia’s Kensington neighborhood, helping people with opioid use disorder get basic needs like food and clean needles. It was while volunteering there that he met a woman who had lost her baby to neuroblastoma, a cancer in nerve cells, which led to the dissolution of her marriage and the start of her heroin addiction. Hearing her story, and others at the Prevention Point harm reduction center, made a powerful impression on Gandhi about the destructive power of cancer, espe-

## HONORS

### Roberts Among 2024 MacArthur Fellows



**PIK Professor Dorothy E. Roberts** was named a MacArthur Fellow in the latest round of “genius grants” awarded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The award provides an \$800,000 stipend over five years to be used as the recipients see fit to support their creative, scholarly, and scientific pursuits.

Roberts [“Dangerous Ideas,” Jul/Aug 2016] is the George A. Weiss University Professor of Law & Sociology and the Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights at the Penn Carey Law School and author of several books, including *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty* (1997); *Shattered Bonds: The Color of Child Welfare* (2001); *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-First Century* (2011); and *Torn Apart: How the Child Welfare System Destroys Black Families—and How Abolition Can Build a Safer World* (2022) [“Gazetteer,” May/Jun 2022], as well as more than 100 scholarly articles and essays.

“I am extremely honored to receive a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship,” Roberts said in a statement. “It is my hope this award will shine a light on Black women’s visions and struggles for reproductive and family justice.”

Penn Interim President J. Larry Jameson praised Roberts’ “transformative scholarship ... addressing issues of inequality, social justice, and race,” and said she “exemplifies Penn’s commitment to impactful, interdisciplinary, creative pursuits.” Sophia Lee, Penn Carey Law’s Dean and Bernard G. Segal Professor of Law, called the selection of Roberts as a MacArthur Fellow “fitting for a scholar who has reframed debates on critical issues ranging from child welfare to the biological basis of race. We are incredibly proud of her achievements and fortunate to have her as a faculty member at Penn Carey Law.”

The award announcement from the MacArthur Foundation credited Roberts’ work with “exposing racial inequities embedded within health and social service systems. She sheds light on systemic inequities, considers the voices of those directly affected, and calls for a wholesale transformation of existing systems.”

“Most people think that America’s child welfare system supports families and protects children, but it actually operates as a family policing system. The system we have now blames vulnerable families for the harms to their children that are actually caused by structural inequities,” Roberts said in a video message posted on the MacArthur Foundation website. “We need a radically different approach that actually supports families, that actually keeps children safe, that actually attends to the material needs of children and their families.”

cially in children, and how it can upend entire families. “I think cancer really is a disease of broken hopes, dreams, and just devastating stories,” he said. “And I think that’s what’s so compelling about trying to

fight the disease—because one day I hope that the stories I hear will be far, far more positive than the stories of all the devastated lives.”

Gandhi pivoted to conducting research on new cancer

therapies and diagnostic approaches at Penn Medicine's Center for Cellular Immunotherapies and in its neurosurgery and radiology departments, as well as the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Center for Childhood Cancer Research. He says that the woman he met in Kensington, who is now in rehab, is never far from his mind. And he is encouraged by hopeful developments in cancer research, both in terms of medical advances and public health strategies.

Gandhi said that he is motivated to "bridge the gap between the lab bench and the bedside" by translating research into patient care. "I want to make sure that all these therapies actually get out of the lab and into the clinic," he explained. "That's what I really hope to dedicate the rest of my career to."

Even as he is "really, really excited" about heading off to England with new questions to explore, Gandhi expressed gratitude for the places and people that "crystallized" his journey forward. His Penn mentors encouraged him to apply for the Rhodes Scholarship, and the University's Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF) guided him every step of the way.

"This award is such a testament to the Penn community," he emphasized—"to the power of mentorship, to the power of organizations within Penn that really only have one mission, which is to help our students make the best of themselves."

—Hannah Chang C'27



## On the Cusp

A historically dominant season ends in cruel fashion for Penn men's soccer.

**F**or several minutes on the evening of November 24, Stas Korzeniowski lay on his back on the Rhodes Field grass. A couple of teammates tried to lift him off the ground but the 6-foot-4 senior barely budged. Fans slowly filtered out of the River Fields athletic facility, as cars on the Schuylkill Expressway buzzed by. It wasn't until classmate Leo Burney came over that Korzeniowski finally lumbered to his feet. Then the two shared a warm embrace on a cold night.

For three months, Korzeniowski and Burney had been nearly perfect, lifting the Quakers to a third straight Ivy League regular season championship and helping them surge in the

national rankings and to a No. 6 overall seed in the NCAA tournament.

But after earning a first-round bye in the NCAA tournament, the Quakers were upset by UMass, 1-0, in front of a packed home crowd at Rhodes Field on that chilly late November night, abruptly ending the collegiate careers of Korzeniowski, Burney, and the rest of Penn's accomplished senior class.

"Players and coaches shouldn't hang their heads in shame," head coach Brian Gill said afterwards. "We did our best and on that night it didn't wind up being good enough to be able to advance in the tournament. But it doesn't take away from how storied the season was and,

for the seniors, how impactful they've been in elevating the program."

Gill and his assistant coaches were named the Ivy League and the United Soccer Coaches (USC) Northeast Region Staff of the Year for guiding the Quakers to a 14-4-1 overall record. Three of those victories were over nationally ranked teams, including a season-opening triumph over third-ranked Pittsburgh, and seven were against Ivy League foes as Penn finished perfect in the Ivies for the first time since 1971.

Korzeniowski and Burney were named the Ivy League Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year, respectively, and they were joined by goalkeeper Phillip Falcon III and midfielder Jack-Ryan Jeremiah on the USC's All-Northeast Region First Team.

Gill noted that Korzeniowski and Burney have a "very special relationship." Both were



## Bert Bell Casts a Long Shadow



**“The circle has ended.** The statue will be here. Bert Bell lived here. He died here. And now today ... he truly came home.”

So said Upton Bell during the statue unveiling of his late father Bert Bell C1920 in the East concourse of Franklin Field in late October.

One of the most important people in the history of football, Bell was the second commissioner of the NFL from 1946 until his death in 1959, modernizing the league and putting it on television screens, paving the way for it to become America’s most popular sport.

Before that, he played college football for Penn, starting at quarterback for the 1916 Quakers team that finished the season playing in the Rose Bowl, and captaining the 1919 squad to a 6–2–1 record. He went on to become an assistant coach at Penn and Temple and an owner of the Philadelphia Eagles and Pittsburgh Steelers, before transforming the NFL as its visionary commissioner [“Alumni Profiles,” Sep/Oct 2019].

At the statue unveiling, Penn athletics director Alanna Wren called Bell “a man clearly ahead of his time, just thinking about television and attendance, and protecting players and their rights.”

“He’s someone that obviously we’re incredibly proud to call one of Penn’s own,” Wren added of Bell, who was part of the inaugural class inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Bell died at 65, suffering a fatal heart attack at Franklin Field while watching a 1959 game between his two former teams, the Eagles and Steelers, inside the stadium where he was once a star player at Penn.

Bell’s statue is the latest to be erected at Franklin Field, joining legendary Penn coach George Munger Ed’33 and Chuck Bednarik Ed’49, the two-way great of the Quakers and the Eagles. —DZ

key players on the 2022 squad that won the Ivy League and then trounced Rutgers in the first round of the NCAA tournament [“Sports,” Jan|Feb 2023]. And both continued to help the program grow, drawing big-time fan support at Penn Park in 2022 and 2023 (when Rhodes Field was out of commission during the construction of the Ott Center) and back at their usual home field throughout the 2024 campaign.

**“Soccer is a frustrating sport. Sometimes you can play well and lose.”**

Burney, who made a huge goal-line clearance against UMass, started all 19 matches this season and led a back line that allowed only 16 goals, while scoring four of his own.

And although he couldn’t score in his final game against UMass, Korzeniewski led the Quakers with 12 goals, five of which were of the game-winning variety, including the Ivy title-clincher at Princeton. “And what he does outside of scoring goals is really important to a front-running player as well,” Gill said. “Sometimes those things are not on the stat sheet, but the team appreciates that and benefits from it.”

After his junior season, Korzeniewski was selected in the 2024 Major League Soccer SuperDraft by the Philadelphia Union, who still hold his rights, giving the striker an opportunity to begin his pro career for the Union in the

2025 season. Burney, too, has MLS in his future, signing a homegrown deal in December with the Seattle Sounders, with whom he was a youth academy player before coming to Penn. “I’m really excited for what the next story is for them,” Gill said.

The Penn head coach is excited about what’s next for the program, too. While the 2024 season was historic—Gill noted that the three straight Ivy titles, the three wins over ranked opponents, and the No. 6 seed in the NCAA tournament “haven’t been done here at Penn”—he now has his sights on a deeper run. The knowledge that Penn’s NCAA tourney loss in 2022 came to the eventual national champion, and their 2024 loss to a UMass team that won three games en route to the national quarterfinals, fuels that belief.

“Soccer is a frustrating sport,” Gill said. “Sometimes you can play well and lose.” He called the NCAA an “unforgiving tournament.” The Ivy League Tournament, too, proved unforgiving; Penn lost to Princeton, at home, in the title game, after a dramatic overtime victory over Brown in the semifinals.

But if the Quakers can establish themselves as a perennial power, and chase down the “Blue Bloods of college soccer,” they’ll have more opportunities to keep winning the Ivies and then break through on the sport’s biggest stage. “We feel pretty strongly,” Gill said, “that we have the ability to take that next step.” —DZ

# Course Corrections

On the 65th anniversary of the *Penn Course Guide*, a deep dive into what Penn undergraduates actually study—and how their choices have changed over time.

By Trey Popp

Imagine, if you can bear it, a contemporary undergraduate registering for classes at Dear Old Penn. Depending on your age, or your politics, you may have heard enough about the Ivory Tower lately—to say nothing of *kids these days*—to recoil from the very thought of it. But there she is, perched before a laptop screen, wearing sweatpants and a T-shirt proclaiming END FOSSIL FUELS. Her Path@Penn course cart is almost full: ENGL 2402: What is Capitalism? Theories of Marx and Marxism. URBS 0093: Latinx Environmental Justice. HIST 0819: Queer Life in US History. NELC 0400: Getting Crusaded. CIMS 3204: History of Children’s TV. And, because not even Wharton’s Finance Department has escaped what Elon Musk C’97 W’97 derides as “the woke mind virus,” maybe she can carve out the time to audit FNCE 2540: ESG and Impact Investing. Well, either that or MUSC 1580: Weird Music.

If that picture leaves you shuddering on the verge that separates bewilderment from apoplexy, pause for a moment to

imagine our notional sophomore’s classmate down the hall. He’s untucked his Brooks Brothers button-down and kicked off his Sperry sneakers, because he has finally sorted out his schedule, too: HIST 1200: Foundations of European Thought. ENGL 1022: The Age of Milton. ENGL 1820: British Poetry 1660–1914. ECON 4610: Foundations of Market Economies. FREN 3130: French for Business II. Only he wonders if he might swap one out for HIST 3965: History of the International Monetary System. Or take a flier on RELS 1130: How to Read the Bible.

The longer you’ve been away from college, the more plausible these bogeymen may seem. Bemoaning the state of US higher education has become a take-no-prisoners pastime. And though it’s been nearly 40 years since Jesse Jackson showed up at Stanford to chant “Hey hey, ho ho, Western Civ has got to go!”—channeling discontent from one end of the political spectrum—the 2020s have seen coruscating criticism from the other side. Conservative pundits regularly paint vast







swaths of academia as meritocratic graveyards where progressive pieties have extinguished rigor. And Penn has come in for its scathing share.

But would alumni strolling down Locust Walk actually encounter one of the students conjured above? Well, it's not unthinkable. The University has offered all of those courses within the last year or so. But if there are any Quakers who have taken even two of them within that time frame, let alone the full five-course fever dream, they are outliers indeed. Ten total students took Professor David Kazanjian's English class on Marxism in 2023. Eleven studied Latinx Environmental Justice. Milton attracted nine gluttons for blank verse while seven signed up to study the next 250 years of British poetry. Wharton's course on Environmental/Social/Governance investing (part of a new undergraduate concentration option) drew 131—tripling the runner-up Foundations of Market Economies. But even the ESG course's enrollment was less than one-quarter of ECON 0200: Introduction to Macroeconomics (565). And Intro Macro didn't even crack the top 10 most popular classes at Penn in 2023.

In short, the reigning caricature of contemporary college life misses reality's bullseye as spectacularly as an archer aiming backwards. But before we paint a more accurate picture of what today's Penn undergraduates are actually studying, let's travel back to an era that's never been accused of going haywire, and imagine a Quaker considering his course options in 1959.

We can guess what he was wearing, too—at least if he heeded the first advertisement printed in the first edition of the *Daily Pennsylvanian Guide To Courses*. On the inside cover of that inaugural 32-page pamphlet, which cost 25 cents, the Varsity Shop plugged Dacron Blend Suits for \$29.90, Dacron Slax for \$9.90, and (for the weekend, one supposes) Dacron Bermuda Shorts for \$4.90. (The Varsity shared the page with the Original Pagano's Pizza at 3614 Walnut Street.) And thanks to a pair of exquisitely detailed registrar's reports that live in the University Archives & Records Center, we know what the most popular classes were at Penn for the 1959–60 academic year. ▶

Eight of the most popular 25 courses in 1959–60 fell within the humanities, and an additional nine belonged to the liberal arts (whose broad definition comprises the natural sciences, formal sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities). These selections were driven substantially by degree requirements. English 1 & 2, for instance, were mandatory composition-focused classes for students in each of Penn's undergraduate schools. The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) required a minimum of five additional humanities courses (plus four of a foreign language), four in specified natural sciences, and two in the social sciences. Wharton also required an in-

troductory course in sociology, a discipline that was then housed within Wharton along with the political science and economics departments. Wharton additionally imposed two literature courses and one course chosen from the College's anthropology, history, and/or philosophy offerings. Engineering students faced the slightly more flexible demand of six electives within the humanities and social sciences beyond core disciplinary curricula. But Wharton's liberal arts requirements had an outsized impact on overall course enrollments due to the business school's size: 1,765 undergraduates, versus

**1959–60 Academic Year:  
Most Popular Classes by Undergraduate Enrollment**

English 1: Composition I	1367
English 2: Composition II	1267
English 100: Intro to Literature: Prose	944
Biology 1: General Biology	755
Psychology 1: General Psychology	747
History 60: History of American Democracy	622
English 101: Intro to Literature: Poetry	608
History of Art 140: Art & Civilization	604
<b>Sociology 1: Intro to Sociology</b>	<b>559</b>
History 45: Europe since 1815	544
Math 140: Calculus and Analytic Geometry I	535
<b>Accounting 1a: Principles of Accounting</b>	<b>510</b>
<b>Finance 1a: Money and Banking</b>	<b>505</b>
<b>Statistics 1: Intro to Business Statistics &amp; Related Topics</b>	<b>505</b>
<b>Industry 1: Principles of Business Management</b>	<b>493</b>
<b>Business Law 1: Legal Bases of Business Transactions</b>	<b>486</b>
<b>Finance 1b: Corporation Finance</b>	<b>476</b>
<b>Economics 1: Principles of Economics</b>	<b>473</b>
<b>Marketing 1: Principles of Marketing</b>	<b>473</b>
<b>Insurance 1: Insurance</b>	<b>471</b>
<b>Political Science 1a: Principles and Structures of Government</b>	<b>446</b>
<b>Accounting 1b: Principles of Accounting</b>	<b>443</b>
Math 120: Fundamentals of Math I	432
English 135: Shakespeare	378
Chemistry 1: General Chemistry	353

**NOTE:** Red text indicates courses offered by Wharton departments

**In 1959–60, Wharton accounted for more than two-thirds of the students in English 135: Shakespeare, and 96 percent of the students who took Intro to Political Science.**



513 in Engineering and 2,446 across CAS, the College for Women, and the School of Fine Arts (which was mostly an undergraduate program in the 1950s). In 1959–60, for instance, Wharton accounted for more than two-thirds of the students in English 135: Shakespeare, and some 96 percent of the students who took Intro to Political Science.

**T**he *DP's Guide to Courses* served to alert students to a broader array of academic gems—and stinkers. “For a survey course,” it reckoned that Prof. William Fontaine G’32 Gr’36’s Philosophy 1 was “one of the most penetrating given in the University.” (The Fontaine Fellowships, which were established in honor of Penn’s first tenured African American faculty member, endure to this day.) Zoology 1, by contrast, was “a necessary evil for majors in the science and pre-medical students” on account of Prof. Rudolph Schmieder Gr1922, judged guilty of “entirely failing to stimulate or encourage even interested students.”

The *Guide to Courses* informed aspiring wordsmiths that English 20: Journalism “employs a ‘learn-by-mistakes’ approach” while English 10: Creative Writing “is the halcyon haven for the fledgling literary dilettante.” History 45: Europe Since 1815 depended on the lecturer: “Case is rated as ‘magnificent,’ while Wolfe is rated as ‘competent, but dull.’” Opinion was “neatly divided” about Edward Sculley Bradley C1919 G1921 Gr1925’s English 184: American Literature Since 1865, with “half believing 184 and Dr. Bradley the two best things since canned beer, half preferring bottled beer.” Chemistry 1 was

**“Opinion on this course is neatly divided,” said the 1964–65 *Course Guide* about Edward Sculley Bradley’s English 184: American Literature Since 1865, “half believing 184 and Dr. Bradley the two best things since canned beer, half preferring bottled beer.”**

“generally well-received but for almost total lack of supervision in labs.” Psychology 1, on the other hand was “fortunately undergoing extensive revision” and “any change can only be to the good” for a course “consistently characterized as ‘worthless,’ ‘useless,’ and ‘probably the worst in the university.’”

The Fall 1959 *Guide* was followed by a Spring 1960 edition. It was again 32 pages but its cost increased to 35 cents—even as the Varsity Shop had slashed Dacron Slax by 20 percent and was offering “Polish Cotton Bermudas” for a mere \$3.90. Semesterly publication soon gave way to annual editions whose

#### 1964–65 Academic Year:

#### Most Popular Classes by Undergraduate Enrollment

Psychology 1: General Psychology	1294
English 1: Composition I	1263
English 100: Intro to Literature: Prose	1246
Biology 1: General Biology	1136
English 101: Intro to Literature: Poetry	1044
English 2: Composition II	1166
Math 140: Calculus and Analytic Geometry I	930
History 149: Russian History in the 19th and 20th Centuries	892
Economics 2a: Introductory Economics I	824
Accounting 1a+b: Principles of Accounting	806
Economics 2b: Introductory Economics II	771
Political Science 2a: Intro to Politics	746
Political Science 2b: Intro to Politics	721
Sociology 100: Intro to Sociology	636
Chemistry 1: General Chemistry	628
Sociology 4: The Family	542
Math 120: Fundamentals of Math I	539
Anthropology 2: General Anthropology 2	529
History 60: History of the US	479
Business Law 1: Intro to the Law	449
Statistics 1a: Intro to Business Stats & Related Topics	434
Philosophy 2: Ethics	427
Sociology 6: Race Relations in the US	422
Statistics 1b: Intro to Business Stats & Related Topics	418
Philosophy 1: Intro to the Problems of Philosophy	410

methodology grew more comprehensive. The 1964–65 *Course Guide* based its judgments on 20,000 questionnaires distributed through campus and the mail.

The good news in 1964–65 was that Psychology 1 appeared to have been resuscitated—depending on who students got. Prof. James Diggory G’43 Gr’48 was “hailed as the new Psych Messiah by

most of his enthusiastic students.” Yet the *Guide* had contrasting “advice to those in [Dr. William Shaw’s] section: ‘Get out!’” Whatever the case, the department had gotten it right enough to make Psych 1 the most popular course of that academic year.

It surely helped that Wharton now required Psych 1 and Sociology 1—in addition to English 1 and 2, English 100 or 101, Anthropology 1 or 2, Philosophy 1 and 2, introductory political science and physics, two courses from a curated list of seven history department offerings, and two in literature. These beefed-up liberal arts requirements stemmed from an ambi-

tious 1960 curriculum overhaul by which Wharton “transformed itself,” as the *New York Times* judged a decade later, “from a trade school that had a reputation as an Ivy League basement for sons of business fathers to a rigorous college of both applied social science and business fundamentals.” Penn’s School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) also continued to require English 1 & 2 (along with six courses in the humanities/social sciences); CAS students were now able to test out of those introductory English composition classes but had to take at least four courses within the humanities.

Requirements aside, the *Course Guide* likely had a hand in vaulting two particular history classes into that year’s Top 25. Reviewing History 60: History of the United States, it described Wallace Davies as “a humorous and iconoclastic professor who is determined to burst some [students’] idealistic bubbles,” especially regarding “Uncle Sam’s checkered career from the Reconstruction period until the recent past.” Yet American history was no match for arguably the most praised professor in the annals of University life. About History 149: Russian History in the 19th and 20th Centuries, the *Course Guide* reported that “rumor has it there is a movement to rename this course to ‘Riasanovsky 149.’ His lectures are noth-

**“Riasanovsky had about as many students in his Russian history class as his grandfather owned serfs,” the *Course Guide* reckoned, and his “captivating” lectures were “spiced with jokes about his father, the Czars, the administration, and especially the Soviets.”**

ing less than captivating ... spiced with jokes about his father, the Czars, the administration, and especially the Soviets.”

Alexander Riasanovsky—or “The Great One, as at least one quarter of his students refer to him”—was a bona fide phenomenon. The 1963–64 *Course Guide* reckoned that “Riasanovsky had about as many students in his Russian history class as his grandfather owned serfs.” By 1968–69, it reported that the “historian-entertainer” was such a juggernaut that “early pre-registration has become almost mandatory owing to the high student demand.” (His popularity with students continued into the next decade and beyond, with author Erik Larson C’76 telling the *Gazette* that Riasanovsky once came to a campus party to “teach us how to drink vodka the Russian way” [“Courage Through History,” Jul|Aug 2020.]

Perhaps the most striking thing about the 1964–65 list is that 23 out of 25 courses fell within the liberal arts (which

encompass statistics and economics), and eight of those belonged to the humanities. This would soon change. Liberal arts would continue to dominate, especially the natural and social sciences, along with the mathematics underpinning them. But even as the ratio of CAS to Wharton students had doubled between 1959 and 1964—reaching a roughly 3-to-1 relationship that has gradually drifted closer to 3.5-to-1—humanities enrollments were about to drop like a stone.

**A** comparison of departmental enrollments in the mid-1970s reveals some unmistakable trends—which appear to be directly traceable to shifts in degree requirements. CAS dropped its minimum humanities requirement from four courses to three, yet those fields remained popular majors. SEAS mandated seven electives within the social sciences and humanities. But at the decade’s outset Wharton overhauled the curriculum that had powered it through the 1960s, slashing English requirements from three courses to one while replacing the comprehensive (and proscriptive) liberal arts curriculum with a more flexible system requiring two courses in the natural sciences, four in the behavioral sciences, plus two more within the liberal arts and sciences that could be satisfied without taking any humanities at all.

Wharton’s stated rationale for “streamlining” the curriculum was to enable students to more easily pursue a second major (outside of Wharton) as well as a minor. Yet the plan, which also reduced the number of course credits needed to graduate from 40 to 36, sparked some faculty dissent. “Opponents of the reforms,” the *Daily Pennsylvanian* reported in 1973, “said they feared that given too much flexibility, students would ei-

ther concentrate all their courses in business or business-related fields, or else avoid business courses whenever possible.”

Both sides appear to have been farsighted. The 1973 reform, whose broad template remains recognizable in today’s curriculum, set the stage for a rise in Wharton double-majors. Some 28 percent of Wharton undergraduates now pursue more than one degree, and 21 percent take a minor. Meanwhile, humanities enrollments cratered. Total participation in English, Classical Studies, and Religious Studies had plummeted by 1974–75. Philosophy course enrollments fell by 65 percent. History courses initially held on, but fell precipitously between 1974 and Fall 1982, when the University registrar produced another detailed report on course enrollments.

The liberal arts still accounted for the lion’s share, but the average Penn student of 1982 took fewer than half as many core humanities courses as their mid-1960s predecessors. (See chart



## Fall 1982 Most Popular Courses by Undergraduate Enrollment

Economics 001a: Introductory Economics I	1055
Legal Studies 1: Intro to the Law	664
Math 150: Calculus for Social/Biological Sciences I	618
Math 140: Calculus for Natural Sciences I	614
Chemistry 1: Introductory Chemistry	612
Chemistry 51: Intro Chemistry Lab	589
Psychology 001: Intro to Experimental Psychology	575
Accounting 1: Principles of Accounting	543
English 1: Craft of Prose	527
Statistics 001: Intro to Business Statistics	518
Sociology 4: The Family	473
Math 240: Calculus III	459
Computer Science Engineering 111: Introduction	409
Marketing 1: Intro to Marketing Strategy	391
English 6: Short Fiction	336
Management 1: Management	335
Finance 001: Monetary Economics	335
Chemistry 11: Chemistry and Society	335
Economics 1b: Introductory Economics II	331
Math 141: Calculus for Natural Sciences II	304
Sociology 3: Criminology	301
Political Science 50: Contemporary International Politics	294
Hist & Soci of Science 1: Intro to History of Sci/Tech/Med	282
English 5: The Art of the Novel	269
Biology 1: Intro Biology A	260
Insurance 1: Risk and Insurance	260

**NOTE:** Blue text indicates courses offered by SEAS.

on page 34.) The dynamic spanned all four undergraduate schools, though the rates of attrition were steepest within SEAS and Wharton. Students in those schools appeared to shift toward the social sciences to satisfy distributional requirements while all but abandoning certain humanities departments. On a per capita basis, for instance, Wharton’s history and philosophy enrollments fell by 78 and 85 percent, respectively.

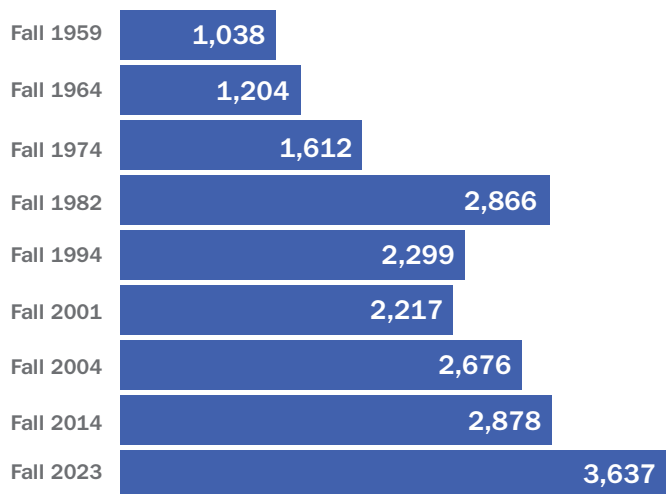
Education historian Jonathan Zimmerman, the Judy and Howard Berkowitz Professor in Education in Penn’s Graduate School of Education and author of books including *The Amateur Hour: A History of College Teaching in America*, suggests that there’s a simple way to explain shifts like these. Namely, that students respond swiftly to curricular changes. “It may be that what we imagine as a decline in a particular discipline is really the function of some administrative decisions” around distributional requirements and the like, he observes. “And when we make these decisions, the ultimate question is always: What are the consequences for people’s education?”

This period was also marked by a wholesale drop in course enrollments, again driven by graduation requirements. In

1964, CAS curricula envisioned that undergraduates would take between 34 and 40 total course units, Wharton specified 43, and SEAS outlined the credit-hour equivalent of roughly 47 courses. By 1982, CAS and Wharton expected students to take 36 total courses, while SEAS departments mandated 40 or 41 for a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. Currently Wharton and SEAS students must take a minimum of 37 courses to graduate, while CAS students can get a diploma with between 32 and 36, depending on their major. Yet in recent decades Penn undergraduates have tended to exceed those minimums, as multiple majors and minors have become more common.

It bears noting that total enrollments, be it by course or department, are only one measure of student engagement—and not necessarily the best one. The 1975 *Penn Course Guide* (compiled by the Student Committee on Undergraduate Education, which wrested the publication away from the *DP* in 1971 and was eventually succeeded by the Penn Course Review student

## Chemistry Course Enrollments



organization) combined increasingly detailed survey data with descriptive reviews that underscored the impact that smaller niche courses can have on individual students. English 190: Topics in Women and Literature drew only 23 takers the previous year, but some deemed it the “most stimulating course I’ve had at Penn” thanks to Nina Auerbach, “by far the best professor I’ve had at Penn” notwithstanding the “tough, heavy workload.” Other students maintained that Jack Reece’s History 546: Europe in the 20th Century (124 students) was “without question ... one of the finest this university has to offer.” Just 15 undergraduates took Introduction to African American Studies, but they gave it stellar marks as a “great intellectual experience” thanks to the “brilliant” professor Houston A. Baker.

It's also worth emphasizing some of the other ways Penn was growing during this period. For instance, the 1974–75 Course Catalogue listed 66 courses in biology and six (plus a lab) in bioengineering. By 1982, the biology department was offering 85 courses (including 225: Neurobiology and 530: Electron Microscope Techniques), while Bioengineering listed 36—sex-tupling in just eight years to address topics like Lasers in Medicine and Ionizing Radiation. Meanwhile SEAS listed 30 classes in computer science—28 more than it offered in 1964–65.

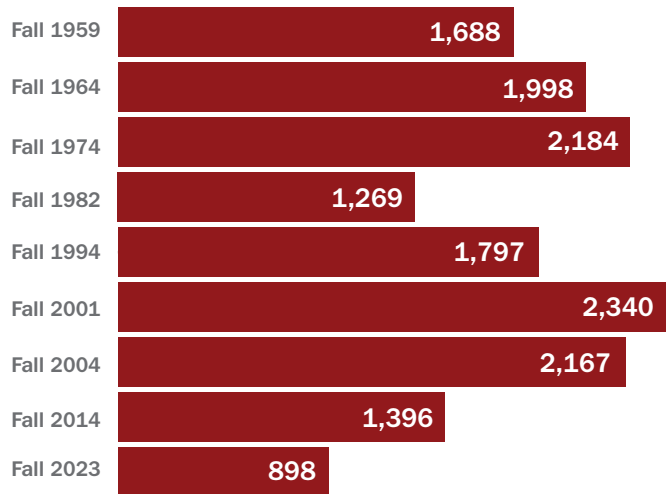
This was also an era of rapid growth in the University's foreign language offerings. From a mid-20th-century baseline made up of Romance and Germanic languages, Russian, Chinese, Arabic, Hebrew, Latin, Greek, and Sanskrit, Quakers in the 1980s could try their tongues on everything from Hindi to Hausa, Armenian to Swahili, Ukrainian to Yoruba. By the early 1990s that list had expanded to include Korean, Vietnamese, Amharic, and too many others to list. Nevertheless, Penn students by and large responded to this explosion of options by piling into Spanish classrooms.

In 1964–65, more students took German than Spanish—yet both those departments combined still trailed the number of undergraduates who studied French. Spanish caught up to French in the early 1980s, and by 1994–95 Spanish enrollments doubled French ones (the linguistic runner-up). That relationship has held steady ever since, the only real change being falling enrollments in both languages over the last decade or so. The College of Arts and Sciences still mandates completing the “fourth-semester level” course in a foreign language (Wharton reduced its requirement from four to two semesters in 2017), but approximately half of today's incoming students satisfy that by testing out of one or both years.

The dynamic evident in foreign languages—an expanding menu of courses, from which students often select a rather narrow subset—exemplifies a longstanding tendency that has occasionally sparked faculty concern. As dean of the College in the late 1980s, sociology professor Ivar Berg attempted to counteract that trend with a reform designed to promote “educational breadth.” A College study had found that students generally ignored many of the 1,700 courses then available, instead crowding into 129 popular offerings. In response, a committee replaced the three old distributional divisions—Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences—with a requirement of 10 courses spread between six new panels: Society; History and Tradition; Arts and Letters; Formal Reasoning and Analysis; the Living World; and the Physical World. This formed the basis of the “Sectors of Knowledge” that College students must still satisfy today, later bolstered by a parallel “Foundational Approaches” distributional requirement.

Be it for that reason or some combination of others, humanities enrollments recovered significantly in the 1990s and stabilized in the early 2000s. The philosophy and history depart-

## History Course Enrollments



ments saw especially sharp gains, roughly doubling their course enrollments between 1982 and 2001. Alumni from the latter era may associate the rise of history with one man: Thomas Childers. The Sheldon and Lucy Hackney Professor, upon whom the Class of 2000 bestowed the Senior Class Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by popular vote, was, per the 2001 *Penn Course Guide*, “an unbelievable, dynamic lecturer.” His justly famous HIST-430: The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich and HIST-431: The World at War attracted loads of students with lectures likened to “a really good TV episode.”

More common, though, were professors who attracted students in modest numbers but made deep impressions. The 135 students who took HIST-020: History of the US to 1865 gave high marks to the “absolutely brilliant” Richard Beeman, a former chair of the Department of History and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Eighty-four took ENGL-090: Topics in Women & Literature with the “inspirational” Rita Barnard, “a treasure who genuinely cares.”

In 2001 SEAS reimposed the English composition requirement it had done away with in the late 1960s, realigning with Wharton and the College in that regard. Had the schools steered all students into the same many-sectioned course, as in the mid-20th century, then English composition would have topped any list of the most popular classes. But undergraduates could instead choose from about a dozen thematic writing seminars. Today's students can choose between roughly 30 discipline- and genre-based writing seminars offered through Penn's Critical Writing Program (rather than the English department).

The dispersal of rising humanities enrollments across a larger number of courses meant that no single humanities



### 1994-95 Most Popular Courses by Undergraduate Enrollment

ECON 001: Intro to Microeconomics	1276
PSYC 001: Intro to Experimental Psychology	1100
<b>LGST 101: Intro to Law and Procedure</b>	<b>896</b>
ECON 002: Intro to Macroeconomics	973
MATH 151: Calculus for the Soc and Behav Sciences II	693
CHEM 101: General Chemistry I	665
SPAN 140: Intermediate Spanish II	603
MATH 141: Calculus for the Natural Sciences II	595
SPAN 130: Intermediate Spanish I	592
MATH 150: Calculus for the Soc and Behav Sciences I	600

### 2001-02 Most Popular Courses by Undergraduate Enrollment

PSYC 001: Intro to Experimental Psychology	1341
ECON 001: Intro to Microeconomics	1266
ECON 002: Intro to Macroeconomics	848
<b>STAT 111: Introductory Statistics</b>	<b>772</b>
<b>LGST 101: Intro to Law and Legal Process</b>	<b>756</b>
<b>FNCE 100: Corporate Finance</b>	<b>737</b>
PSCI 001: Intro to the Study of Politics	639
MATH 151: Calculus for Soc and Behav Sciences II	629
<b>MGMT 100: Leadership &amp; Communication in Groups</b>	<b>627</b>
<b>MKTG 101: Intro to Marketing</b>	<b>607</b>
SPAN 140: Intermediate Spanish II	598

course (other than Intermediate Spanish) made a top 25 list from 1994–95 onward, in the years the *Gazette* sampled. (An argument could be made that Wharton’s Legal Studies 101: Intro to Law and Procedure falls within the humanities—or that it is more properly regarded as a professional subject. Readers will surely make their own interpretations.)

The turn of the century was also an inflection point in the relationship between liberal arts and vocational training at Penn. Wharton exemplified the trend. For decades the school had described its curriculum as offering undergraduates the chance to “take approximately 55 percent of courses in business, or up to 70 percent in liberal arts.” By 2001–02, this longstanding phrase had been removed from the course bulletin, which now specified a business-heavy program supplemented by a writing seminar; seven courses in the liberal arts categories of Social Structures; Language, Arts, and Culture; and Science and Technology; plus two more non-business electives that could be taken pass/fail. No student who took 70 percent of their courses in the liberal arts could come close to satisfying the business requirements.

In 1994–95, nine of the 10 most popular courses were classic liberal arts—biology, chemistry, math, foreign language. That

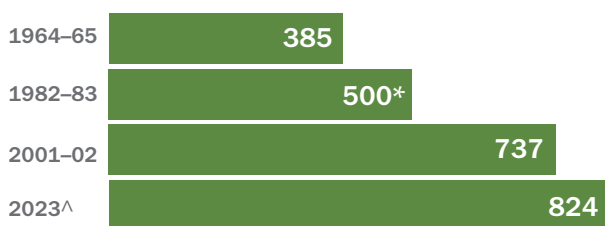
### 2004-05 Most Popular Courses by Undergraduate Enrollment

PSYC 001: Intro to Experimental Psychology	1424
ECON 001: Intro to Microeconomics	1384
MATH 104: Calculus I	1244
ECON 002: Intro to Macroeconomics	1138
<b>LGST 101: Intro to Law &amp; Legal Process</b>	<b>816</b>
MATH 114: Calculus II	762
<b>FNCE 100: Corporate Finance</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>STAT 111: Introductory Statistics</b>	<b>665</b>
CHEM 101: General Chemistry I	658
<b>MGMT-100: Leadership and Communication in Groups</b>	<b>652</b>

### 2014-15 Most Popular Courses by Undergraduate Enrollment

ECON 001: Intro to Microeconomics	1102
PSYC 001: Intro to Experimental Psychology	1152
<b>BEPP 250: Managerial Economics</b>	<b>944</b>
<b>MKTG 101: Intro to Marketing</b>	<b>901</b>
MATH 104: Calculus I	909
<b>ACCT 101: Principles of Accounting</b>	<b>820</b>
<b>MGMT 101: Intro to Management</b>	<b>715</b>
<b>FNCE 100: Corporate Finance</b>	<b>709</b>
CHEM 101: General Chemistry I	668
<b>OPIM 101: Intro to Operations and Info Management</b>	<b>665</b>

## Corporate Finance for Undergraduates



\*estimated from Fall 1982

^Spring and Fall 2023

dropped to seven in 2004–05. By 2014–15 six of the top 10 slots were occupied by pre-professional offerings from Wharton.

(No registrar course enrollment reports could be found in the Penn Archives from after 1990, so data for subsequent years derive in part from enrollment statistics collected by Penn Course Review, which became a web-only resource in 2002. In its digital incarnation run by the Penn Labs student group, the Review sadly no longer features written comments about cours-

### 1994-95 Most Popular Courses in Selected Humanities Depts

*ENGL 085: Modern American Literature Post-1945	172
HIST 002: Europe in a Wider World	291
CLST 200: Greek & Roman Mythology	275
^ANTH 003: Human Evolution	388
RELS 136: Biblical Themes / Christian Literature	63
PHIL 001: Intro to Philosophy	236
MUSC 021: Intro to the History of Music II	218

### 2004-05 Most Popular Courses in Selected Humanities Depts

*ENGL 104: The 20th Century	102
HIST 026: Ancient Greece	276
CLST 200: Greek & Roman Mythology	196
^ANTH 003: Intro To Human Evolution	195
FILM 102: Film Analysis and Methods	108
RELS 113: Western Religious Thinkers: Tupac Shakur	155
PHIL 002: Ethics	162
MUSC 075: Jazz Styles and History	185

### 2014-15 Most Popular Courses in Selected Humanities Depts

*ENGL 096: Theories of Gender/Sexuality	82
HIST 170: The American South	162
CLST 100: Greek & Roman Mythology	231
^ANTH 022: World Music & Cultures	220
CINE 102: World Film History 1945–present	74
RELS 173: Intro to Buddhism	71
PHIL 008: The Social Contract	166
MUSC 007: Ensemble Performance	573

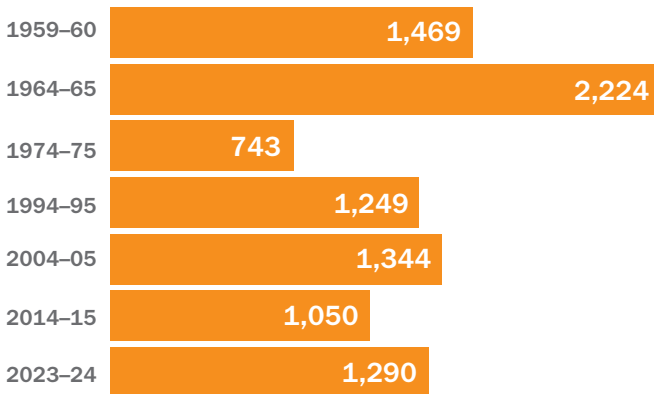
### 2023 Most Popular Courses in Selected Humanities Depts

*ENGL 0159: Gender and Society	94
HIST 1119: History of American Law to 1877	288
CLST 0101: Ancient Greece	69
^ANTH 1040: Sex and Human Nature	188
CIMS 1020: World Film History 1945–present	201
RELS 0790: Religion of Anime	98
PHIL 1433: The Social Contract	209
MUSC 0070: Ensemble Performance	470

\*English courses restricted to literature, not composition and creative writing

^Anthropology classified as a social science in chart on page 34

## Philosophy Course Enrollments



es and professors, which had previously been collected and edited by the now-defunct Penn Course Review student club. But it does feature ratings on the traditional 1 to 5 scale along with detailed enrollment data going back to 1994–95. The University registrar’s office declined to assist the *Gazette*, referring us instead to individual schools and departments whose responsiveness and data-reporting conventions varied widely. All figures from 1959 to 1982 are definitive, as are CAS and Com-

puter & Information Science figures from 1994 and later; Wharton figures depend solely on Penn Course Review data, however, which are prone to specific errors. Painstaking efforts have been made to correct for data eccentricities stemming from courses with multiple teachers or cross-listed in multiple departments, but occasional mistakes may remain—albeit chiefly among less-popular courses whose enrollments would have minimal impacts on the trends observed.)

**T**op 10 and 25 lists have shortcomings. At Penn, for instance, they arguably overstate the centrality of certain courses within Wharton, whose undergraduates share many more requirements than College students who choose from among more than 60 majors and 160 concentrations. Yet departmental comparisons over time reveal some equally dramatic shifts. In 1964–65, for instance, physics classes drew more than three times as many students as marketing classes. Now they’re neck and neck. Undergraduate finance enrollments, which were less than one-third of math enrollments, have nearly pulled even. History enrollments have roughly halved since 2001–02 and are now far eclipsed by management enrollments, which have almost doubled. Classical Studies and philosophy staged stirring comebacks in the late 20th century and have held more or less steady since then. Cinema & Media Studies enrollments have more than tripled during the 21st century, while fewer students seek



## 2023 (Spring and Fall)

### Most Popular Courses by Undergraduate Enrollment

MKTG 1010: Intro to Marketing	909
FNCE 1000: Corporate Finance	824
ECON 0100: Intro to Microeconomics	816
MGMT 1010: Intro to Management	804
MATH 1410: Calculus II	783
ACCT 1010: Accounting & Financial Reporting	774
MGMT 2910: Negotiations	705
MGMT 3010: Teamwork & Interpersonal Influence	667
PSYC 0001: Intro to Psychology	652
CIS 1200: Programming Languages and Techniques I	641
BEPP 2500: Managerial Economics	633
MATH 1400: Calculus I	619
STAT 1110: Intro to Statistics	615
ACCT 1020: Strategic Cost Analysis	593
STAT 1010: Intro to Business Statistics	570
ECON 0200: Intro to Macroeconomics	565
STAT 1020: Intro to Business Statistics II	537
FNCE 1010: Monetary Economics and the Global Economy	532
STAT 4300: Probability	525
CHEM 1012: General Chemistry I	515
CHEM 2410: Organic Chemistry I	454
LGST 1000: Ethics and Social Responsibility	498
CIS 1210: Programming Languages and Techniques II	478
MUSC 0070: Ensemble Performance	470
CIS 1600: Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science	451
OIDD 1010: Intro to Operations and Info Decisions	451
MATH 2400: Calculus III	450
SOCI 1000: Intro to Sociology	436

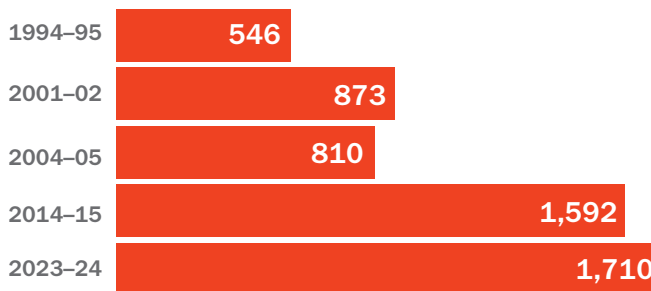
out courses focusing on English-language literature. Department of Comparative Literature enrollments have roughly doubled this century, but virtually no one wants to read Shakespeare for homework anymore. In 2001–02, six courses with Shakespeare in the title collectively drew 293 students. In the fall and spring of 2023, four courses whose descriptions referenced the Bard attracted a grand total of 49.

No department has witnessed a sharper rise in interest than SEAS's Computer and Information Science (CIS). In 2017 the *Daily Pennsylvanian* reported that computer science majors had more than tripled over the previous 10 years, from 250 to 800. And non-majors were clamoring to enroll in CIS classes in even higher numbers. Sampath Kannan, the Henry Salvatore Professor who was then chair of the department, told the newspaper that 40 percent of Penn's undergraduate population took at least one CIS course before graduating. In 2018,

the *DP* reported that “painfully high” demand for CIS courses was leading to waitlists that were in some instances twice as large as the enrollment capacity of certain classes. Figures provided by current CIS senior director of academic affairs Lee Duker show that the department's undergraduate course enrollments have nearly quintupled since 2004–05. In the spring and fall of 2023, College students accounted for about 27 percent of the total and Wharton undergraduates made up another six percent.

Overall, humanities enrollments have drifted downward this century after peaking sometime around 2004–05. Data provided by the College of Arts and Sciences indicate a roughly 14 percent drop in enrollments spanning all humanities disciplines over the last 20 years. Attrition has been concentrated in CAS; thanks in part to mandatory writing seminars, Wharton and SEAS humanities-related enrollments have remained steadier over that stretch. (Opinions are bound to differ over whether classes like Writing Seminar in Physics or Writing Seminar in Statistics should be grouped under humanities. For the purposes of this article, they are, primarily to facilitate comparisons to the 20th century, when mandatory composition courses were taught within the English department. But this almost certainly understates the magnitude of the humanities' drop-off.)

### Neuroscience/BIBB Course Enrollments



\*BIBB: Biological Basis of Behavior

Some critics of elite universities blame declining humanities majors and enrollments on the proliferation of courses that filter subjects through the prisms of gender studies, critical race theory, intersectionality, and the like. (Other critics celebrate the decline for much the same reason.) But this argument is difficult to sustain based on Penn's course catalogue, or the classes that reliably attract students year in and year out. A postmodern or progressive sensibility is evident in a fair number of English department offerings; and a small handful of Religious Studies classes have used departmental cross-listings, contemporary pop cultural glosses, and/or star professors to

lure students (notably Michael Eric Dyson's Spring 2005 blockbuster RELS-113/AFRC-113: Western Religious Thinkers: Tupac Shakur). But a survey of the most popular courses in core humanities departments turns up titles that by and large would have been familiar 50 years ago—only they tend to draw smaller crowds now.

The College's data suggest another explanation for falling humanities enrollments among CAS students: they have flocked to the natural sciences. CAS students currently enroll in 44 percent more natural science classes than they did in 2001–02. So even as natural science enrollments have fallen seven percent among Wharton students and 10 percent among SEAS students, Penn has seen a 27 percent increase in the undergraduate study of natural sciences overall—driven in part by burgeoning fields like neuroscience. The social sciences have fared less well. These disciplines draw four percent fewer College students than at the century's outset, while enrollments have fallen 27 percent among SEAS undergrads and collapsed by 59 percent for Wharton.

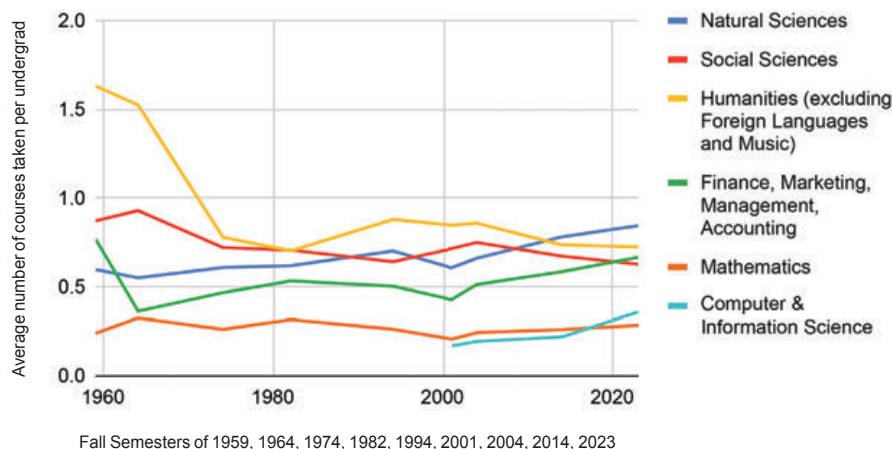
Ultimately, top 25 lists and departmental comparisons alike tell much the same story as on-campus recruiting trends and post-graduation job data: Penn prepares many students for careers in healthcare, technology, engineering, law, and the like—while over the last 20 years few fields have seemed to lure contemporary Quakers quite like the prospect of finance and consulting. A 2023 Penn Career Services survey found that nearly half of Class of 2022 respondents pursuing full-time employment had taken jobs in one of those two fields. That included nearly 80 percent of Wharton grads and 47.5 percent of CAS grads—a pattern that held up for majors in disciplines as different as philosophy, physics, political science, biology, and Classical Studies.

**A**ny number of dynamics can be discerned in these data, but you'd have to squint pretty hard to see a rash of woke indoctrination. So it's no surprise that many Penn faculty tend to worry about something else: the proportion of undergraduates whose career anxieties work against the horizon-broadening spirit that has long been the distinguishing feature of a liberal arts education.

"We want our students to have a breadth of education—that's always the point," says Peter Struck, the longtime Classical

## Semesterly Student Course Enrollments

Selected Disciplinary Categories



**CHART NOTE:** Calculations reflect gradual changes in the full-time undergraduate population, which grew from 5,317 in 1959 to about 10,000 in the present century. Figures exclude SEAS departments apart from CIS. The Humanities category spans core disciplines like English, history, and philosophy as well as smaller departments ranging from Asian American Studies to Theatre Arts, but this graph excludes foreign languages and music. Psychology is not represented; its 21st-century trendline resembles that of Social Sciences, but CAS classifies it within the Natural Sciences.

Studies professor and director of both the Benjamin Franklin Scholars and Integrated Studies programs who became the Stephen A. Levin Family Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in August ["Gazetteer," Nov|Dec 2024]. "Twenty years ago, when we last redid the general education requirement, there was a strong push to make sure students were taking enough STEM. So we succeeded in that," he notes.

Now the College is revisiting those distributional requirements in a process Struck foresees taking two or three years and hopes will strike a new balance that bolsters the humanities.

"Absolutely, it's important that you be numerate—that you understand data and how it works, and you understand the sciences. It would be foolish to send students out in the world soft-pedaling that," he says. "But you're going to be at a great disadvantage if you're not also literate. You need to understand how to read, how to argue, how to understand conflicting evidence that you get in these kinds of complex texts. [Because] when problems come your way, they don't look like problem sets. They don't look like lab writeups. When problems come your way, they've got many dimensions. Some of them will be susceptible to a solution through data, but a lot of them are going to require interpretive work, which is the kind of thinking that we use in the humanities all the time. Lots of them are going to require you to understand culture and its legacy and its history and where people are embedded."



Selling that idea circa 2025 is bound to require sensitivity to the cultural context in which today's Penn undergraduates are themselves embedded.

"We're in a different time than we were 20 years ago. Our students are also different," Struck observes. "And I don't just mean that they're all on social media, although they are—so that's one thing—but they're different demographically. Twenty years ago, about 80 percent of them came from a kind of uniform cultural background. It was anchored in the upper echelons of the American aristocracy. We still have an extraordinarily talented undergraduate student body, but they're much more diverse."

Their economic diversity may be as salient as their cultural diversity. According to Penn's admissions department, 20 percent of the Class of 2027 qualified for Pell grants. A great many more are acutely attuned to the financial burden their education entails. Tuition, fees, and room and board have more than doubled over the last two decades; the 2024–25 all-inclusive sticker price is \$87,860. Even students who receive relatively generous financial aid packages are excruciatingly aware of the sacrifices their families make to send them to college.

"If you're coming from a background like that," Struck says, "and a professor in your English class or your history class is sort of tone deaf to your worry about what you're going to be doing after college—because there might be an urgent need to make sure that things are well taken care of financially with respect to your parents and everyone that you love and people that are investing deeply in you to go do this thing—well, that pressure was different 20 years ago, when the students were more likely to be from very well-heeled backgrounds and in fact their futures *were* going to be secure.

"So we can't just assume anymore that what college is supposed to be has been acculturated for generations into our student body—and that the value of humanities just goes without saying," he adds. "We need to say it, and we need to talk about it, and I want the curriculum to reflect the importance of all of these different modes of thinking."

Perhaps surprisingly for someone who has devoted his life to the pursuit of "ideas for their own sake," Struck embraces a somewhat pre-professional attitude as a lever to restore faith in the liberal arts project in general and humanities scholarship in particular.

"That career anxiety of theirs, is my anxiety. I need to co-own that with them," he declares. "I need to help them with it. It's part of what an education is going to be for the students that we're with right now. And if we don't do that, I think we're dropping the ball.

"In the current environment, one of the things we're trying to address is that there's a misimpression among the students—that runs deep and that's hard to dislodge—that majoring in the humanities is not a good career move. This is not true," he says, pointing toward the ranks of CEOs who majored in fields like history, literature, and Classical Studies (a list that includes Apple's Steve Jobs, YouTube's Susan Wojcicki, Hewlett-Packard's Carly Fiorina, Walt Disney's Michael Eisner, and Chipotle's Steve Ells, among others).

"We have to do a much better job of linking what they're doing here to what they'll do next—and also pushing back against the idea that the major courses of study that don't seem to give very specific skills that are applicable to specific professions, that those are somehow taking you sideways. Because that's just not the case. In fact, they're preparing you not just for that first job out of college, but for a lifetime of leadership in your community, embeddedness in your community, and also in your professions.

**"A curriculum is not just a bunch of courses. It's a set of statements about what you value, and what you think an educated person is."**

"Rigorous thinking doesn't go out of style," he concludes. "It doesn't go out of date. But this or that method of computer programming that you're going to learn today will go out of date. I can guarantee that. I learned C++ [programming language] when I was in high school, and that's going the way of the dodo. Focusing in on specific skills is something all of our graduates will do their whole lives. But doing the hard work of learning how to think, within your liberal arts degree, makes you a much more efficient acquirer of skills as you move through your life. And if you don't take care of that now, there aren't a lot of opportunities to do it later in your life. That's the core of what we're doing in liberal arts."

And yet as the last 65 years have shown, the boundaries and emphases of a liberal arts education are not fixed. Times change, knowledge grows, and curricula must adapt. And every time a university is moved to renew its mission in this way, it makes an unavoidable declaration. "You know, a curriculum is not just a bunch of courses," reflects Jonathan Zimmerman, who has been tapped to help shape the next iteration for the College. "It's a set of statements about what you value, and what you think an educated person is."

# EVERY BITE, EVERY DAY

What one Penn family is doing to raise awareness and research funds for celiac disease—and pursue a cure using mRNA technology pioneered by Nobel laureate Drew Weissman.

By Dave Zeitlin

**It's** a warm Friday afternoon in early October, and Jax Bari is doing what an 11-year-old should be doing: he's getting dirty.

Off from school for fall break, Jax is strolling around Penn's campus with his father Jon Bari C'89, mother Leslie, and sister Lexi, a second-year student at Wharton. Several years down the road, the sixth grader at Philadelphia's Penn Charter School hopes to follow in his dad's and sister's footsteps and come to Penn for college. But for now, Jax is simply enjoying Locust Walk, joyfully running down a steep, wet hill outside College Hall—and slipping and getting his hand covered in mud.

"I *am* still a kid," he says as he walks over to a bench between College Hall and the Fisher Fine Arts Library.

Sometimes, it's good to be reminded.

How many kids, after all, have personally met with President Joe Biden Hon'13, governors and senators, and the heads of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)? Or have appeared on the *Today* show and ABC

*World News Tonight*, and had their photo plastered across a Times Square billboard? Or have spoken in front of hundreds of people at HHS and National Institutes of Health (NIH) summits?

"It's very funny when I have to say that he has to miss school to go to a meeting," says his mother Leslie, just before popping up from the same Locust Walk bench to wipe dirt off her son.

Jax attends those meetings and talks with politicians as the cofounder (along with his parents and sister) of Celiac Journey, a patient-centric advocacy organization that emphasizes sharing the pediatric perspective of 3.3 million Americans with celiac disease—Jax included. When he was five, Jax was diagnosed with the chronic autoimmune disorder, which disrupts the small intestine's ability to digest gluten, a protein found in wheat, rye, and barley, and which frequently contaminates oats. Celiac Journey has two primary goals: requiring the labeling of gluten as a major food allergen on all packaged foods in the US, just like it is in 87 other countries; and increasing government

funding for celiac disease research to find a cure or treatment options beyond a strict gluten-free diet for life.

"One crumb of gluten can make him violently ill," says Jon, noting he didn't fully realize what "food privilege" meant until his son was diagnosed. "And it's unlike a traditional food allergy. There's no rescue medicine at all for celiac disease. And unlike a traditional food allergy, we are a little bit harder to understand, because celiac is at that intersection of food allergies, autoimmune diseases, and digestive diseases."

What Jon doesn't understand is why more attention isn't given to the disease. According to Celiac Journey, about \$3 million has been allocated annually by the NIH (out of a \$45 billion budget) to celiac research, equating to only about \$1 per American with the disease. The Bari family's organization has stepped up to fill the funding void, helping to raise more than \$1.4 million to fund celiac research, including mRNA research with Nobel Prize winner Drew Weissman, Penn Medicine's Roberts Family Professor in Vaccine Research.







And although wheat is required by law to be labeled on food products, barley, rye, and oats are not—which prompted Jax to file a citizen petition with the FDA last September calling for mandatory labeling of gluten on all packaged foods in the US. “Imagine if you had a tree nut allergy, and only almonds and pistachios were required to be labeled, but not other tree nuts, such as almonds and pecans,” Jax says. “That would create a massive food safety gap that needed to be closed. Fortunately, for those with a tree nut allergy, that scenario is not the case. But that similar safety gap does exist with the voluntary labeling of barley, rye, and oats.”

Jon believes that celiac disease is “not taken seriously in our society” because of biases that gluten-free diets and the voluntary labeling of gluten is all that’s needed, “when that’s all that’s ever been available.” Also, while consuming gluten for celiacs might not be “immediately life threatening,” Jon notes, Jax “can get cancer, he can get heart disease, he can get immunological scarring and malnutrition,” among other debilitating symptoms.

Those frightening prospects—not to mention the burden of scouring labels at the grocery store, worrying about cross-contamination in restaurants, and monitoring every bite of food their son consumes—is why the Bari family launched Celiac Journey in 2019. While other celiac organizations have been providing advocacy and support, Jon found that “the pediatric perspective was not being told” and that “Jax’s story is just one of millions of stories out there.”

“I realized that we couldn’t afford not to do it,” Jon says, “because it’s every bite, every day for him.”

### Losing a Carefree Childhood

It’s August of 2018. The Baris are sitting in a conference room at the Buerger Center for Advanced Pediatric Care, overlooking Penn Park. Jax has been seeing Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) doctors because he wasn’t growing, and an endoscopy has just revealed celiac dis-

ease as the culprit. A CHOP psychologist tells them, “This is going to be really hard for you guys,” but Jon is skeptical.

“I was like, ‘*Oh come on, how hard can it be?*’” he says. “I had no idea.”

That kind of immediate response is normal, notes Arun Singh, Jax’s pediatric gastroenterologist and the codirector, along with Lisa Fahey C’07, of the Center for Celiac Disease at CHOP. “When we first meet families, sometimes they’re a little bit stunned,” Singh says. “They don’t realize the magnitude of gluten being in so many different items. It’s not just bread, it’s not just pasta; it can be in something like a dressing, soup, soy sauce.”

One of the largest programs of its kind in the US, the Center for Celiac Disease is staffed by gastroenterologists, dietitians, nurses, and psychologists to provide support and long-term disease management, “because it’s a really complicated psychosocial type of condition where it affects every day, every meal,” Singh says. “With that, unfortunately, comes more anxiety, more depression at times. Our psychologists are there to help our kids and their families with the adjustment.” From a medical perspective, the disease doesn’t manifest the same way, so the center’s staff has learned to coach their patients differently. “Some kids get symptoms by being terribly sick, with vomiting and stomach pains, and others get sick by just being fatigued and having dizziness,” Singh says. “And there are others that don’t have any symptoms, but they’re still having damage done to their intestine, which can be life threatening down the road.”

When Jax first came to CHOP, just before starting kindergarten, doctors determined that he was anemic, which is a common complication of celiac disease. He also had what’s called Marsh Stage 3 damage to his small intestine—“which is the second worst type there is,” Jax notes. “I was told that the doctors only see Marsh 4 damage when they do an autopsy.” Jax worked through those complications, and “he’s been growing well and gotten stronger,” Singh reports. But if Jax

accidentally ingests a single crumb of gluten, “I can get very sick, living on the bathroom floor with vomiting and diarrhea for days,” the 11-year-old says. “It’s awful.”

During a 2023 spring break ski trip to Colorado, the Baris were en route to the airport when Jax “got glutened” (the informal term for accidental ingestion), forcing them to check back into a Denver hotel and pull a bed next to the bathroom for Jax, who spent two days lying next to the toilet in agony. His parents were distraught, unable to do anything for their son but try to comfort him and wait it out. Singh says that for patients like Jax who experience such severe reactions, nausea medications can possibly help, “but mostly it just has to go through your system.”

According to Celiac Journey, 44 percent of people who follow a strict gluten-free diet still get glutened once a month. But the Baris make painstaking efforts to avoid it. Jax likes to say that his mom is his advance team and his dad is his secret service team. Especially when they travel, which can be a challenge, Leslie spends hours scoping out what restaurants are safe—looking at consumer reviews, calling, and emailing—while Jon makes sure to speak up if, for example, he sees a waiter holding a gluten-free pizza too close to an ordinary one. Many places are accommodating but the Baris have left restaurants due to cross-contamination concerns and they were once booted out of an eatery when Leslie ran through her list of questions. “It was horrible,” recalls Jon, who says his wife started to suffer from chronic migraines shortly after Jax’s diagnosis.

But whenever they get discouraged, they think about how much harder it is for Jax—and the emotional toll he grapples with by not being able to participate in simple things like sharing donuts with his soccer teammates or eating pizza at a party. “As Leslie began this journey of getting Jax on a gluten-free diet, and trying to get him to be safe, you don’t realize exactly how many facets of your life this impacts,” Jon says. “It



impacts school, it impacts camp, it impacts soccer practice, it impacts birthday parties. ... I think the worst part of celiac disease is that it takes the idea of a carefree childhood away from a child."

The Baris have made great strides in navigating a gluten-free lifestyle and have built strong bonds within the celiac community. Leslie and Jax started a blog called Gluten Free Finds with an Instagram following of more than 17,000. But they've also been asking tougher questions beyond what the best gluten-free bakery in town is. They've been tirelessly asking about cures and treatments, so that Jax can one day eat at McDonald's (a slice of "Americana," Jon notes, that is not considered safe in the US for celiacs) or enjoy a beer with friends in college.

"Here I am, a dad wanting his kid to drink a beer," Jon says. "Right now, he's not going to have that until things change."

### Eating Without Fear

It's the mid-1990s, long before Lexi and Jax are born. After studying political science at Penn, working in radio advertising, and attending Columbia Business School, Jon has become one of the first employees of Comcast PC Connect—which will later evolve to become what's now known as Xfinity Internet, serving more than 30 million customers.

"I couldn't tell anyone what I did," Jon recalls. "We were in stealth mode. We had 48 homes connected to a broadband network in Lower Merion, and we were crashing people's computers left and right, trying to develop a business."

So began an ambitious and eclectic career journey that Jon credits with preparing him to become a celiac advocate. He continued to be on the forefront of the internet, moving over to Time Warner to work on what was called Road Runner High Speed Online. He then became an entrepreneur, starting a cable TV software company that was acquired by Comcast, followed by a single sign-on security software firm, which he sold to Verisign and developed one of two patents around.

Since then, he's run a consulting group that provides expert witness and consulting services on IP and IT matters. For more than 20 years, he's also been an adjunct professor at Temple's business school as well as the founder and head of the Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia, which was designed to emulate Boston's Freedom Trail and is a leading provider of school field trips in Old City.

### "I think the worst part of celiac disease is that it takes the idea of a carefree childhood away from a child."

Celiac Journey's logo includes the Liberty Bell, with the crack replaced by a stalk of wheat, because their mission is to provide celiac patients with the freedom to eat without fear. "We're an all-volunteer organization where people help us through fits and starts," Jon says. "But ultimately it's storytelling. That's what we do with the Constitutional Walking Tour—we tell America's story—and that's what I did in my career through radio advertising and inventing two patents."

While Jon has leaned on his start-up chops to build Celiac Journey, this time he has a secret weapon: a little kid with a big voice. Jon may help get his son in front of a politician or on television, but Jax—to the surprise of many—has no fear once he gets there. Before appearing on the *Today* show in May, Jax wasn't nervous about going on live TV but instead mostly excited to think about the celebrities who might have sat in the same green room chair backstage.

"I'm just in awe of him," his older sister Lexi says. "I think it's absolutely crazy that an 11-year-old is able to have these intellectual conversations with politicians, and he's able to advocate for those with celiac. ... I would be so nervous. Maybe he doesn't have the chance to get nervous. He's built different."

Lexi has done her part to help with Celiac Journey, chipping in with research in between her Wharton classes. She helps write and edit posts on their website ([celiacjourney.com](http://celiacjourney.com)) and in the beginning studied NIH appropriations, "creating spreadsheet after spreadsheet," her dad says, "to inform our research that celiac receives next to nothing." Like the rest of her family, she's been learning about the disease on the fly and is amazed by how "super positive" Jax usually is when there are so many reasons to be frustrated. "It honestly feels like common sense for gluten to be required to be labeled," Lexi says. "When Jax was in London this summer, he was able to eat things like Mentos and M&Ms, which he can't have here because of the labeling standards. In some ways, I don't understand why the US is like this."

The Baris have had help in their quest to change the country's labeling standards. Virginia Stallings, the director of CHOP's nutrition center and an emeritus professor of pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine, has gone with them to the White House, the HHS, and the FDA. They've met with senior FDA leadership, including Patricia Hansen Gr'89, who works in nutrition and food labeling, and have gotten support from politicians like Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, who in an Instagram post at the end of Celiac Disease Awareness Month in May praised "Pennsylvanians like Jax who have advocated for and delivered real change to improve the quality of life for people with celiac." In August, Jax passionately spoke about his experience with celiac disease and his advocacy in front of about 125 people at an NIH workshop, where Drew Bremer, the director of the NIH Office of Nutrition Research, said "Jax reminds us why we come to work each day."

Oftentimes for his meetings and speeches, Jax wears a Travis Kelce jersey because the Kansas City Chiefs star sports the number 87—the same number of countries that require gluten to be labeled. Jax is also a fan of Kelce and the music of his

Jax Bari gives Drew Weissman a Celiac Journey challenge coin after Weissman's lab was presented with a \$375,000 state grant toward research for a celiac disease cure.

girlfriend, Taylor Swift. His other interests include playing soccer, tennis, and squash, skiing, collecting baseball cards, and hanging with his sheepadoodle Ace. He goes to summer camp and Hebrew school. He plays fantasy football with friends. Life is often good for Jax, but he's still had a "really hard road," his father says. "We're grateful every day that Jax can walk and run and talk—but we also do recognize that he has a disability. And it's about eating," Jon says. "We've tried to frame this in a different way than it's ever been framed. We've tried to frame it through the rights of disability, because this is a disability that impacts him and 3.3 million Americans every day."

"Look, our overarching goal of all of this is eating without fear," continues Jon, who believes his son's advocacy work is having an effect despite his frustrations at the FDA's "glacial" pace in making changes. "And that's something that most people take for granted. It's just the luck of the draw. He got a bad draw, but it's amazing what he does. We're super proud of him, and we're hopeful that it brings about change."

### Unlocking Celiac's Mysteries

It's a Monday afternoon in late November. The Baris are in a fourth-floor lobby inside uCity Square, a life sciences research building that was recently built in University City. That's where Drew Weissman—who, along with Katalin Kariko, won the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for research that led to the development of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines ["Gazetteer," Nov|Dec 2023]—has set up shop at the newly created Penn Institute for RNA Innovation.

The institute, Weissman said at the November event in which it was given a state grant for \$375,000 for celiac treatment research, "came out of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we've been studying RNA for decades—many decades—and what excites us the most about it is all of the potential things that it can be used for." Turning toward Jax, Weissman contin-

ued: "We're so excited that it has an enormous potential to help treat celiac, which will be the first time ever there's a treatment that will prevent the disease. And maybe—and this is just a maybe—some day allow you to eat bread with flour and other grains in it with your family."

Weissman was joined at the event by Kevin Mahoney, chief executive officer



of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, and Jonathan Epstein, interim executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania for the Health System and dean of the Perelman School of Medicine. Mahoney called Jax "the special star with us today," and joked that "getting \$375,000 out of Harrisburg and winning a Nobel Prize takes about the same amount of effort." Epstein said that Weissman has one more Nobel Prize than Jax, though the 11-year-old "might have him beat on television interviews." The Perelman School dean then added, to Jax, "You've really been a remarkable advocate in a very important way."

Jax and his family assembled the Penn heavy hitters and helped facilitate the donation due to their relationship with Pennsylvania State Senator Amanda Cappelletti, who presented the \$375,000 grant. Cappelletti had previously worked with the Baris—her constituents in District 17 (which includes parts of Delaware County and Montgomery County)—on a \$100,000 celiac research grant given to CHOP in May 2023.

Singh hopes that CHOP can work with Weissman's lab on potential cures, calling it an "incredible opportunity to put two major forces together." When Jax was diagnosed, Leslie says they were told there would be a cure for celiac disease in five to 10 years. Six years later, Singh maintains that level of optimism, especially with more research funding and fierce advocates like the Baris, who he says are "really moving the needle."

"I do think that we're going to have a treatment on the horizon," predicts Singh, noting the possibilities for both a vaccine for celiac disease as well as an emergency medicine if someone gets glutenated. "We're going to be able to do it. It's just a matter of time."

At the November event, Singh discussed collaborations with Jilian Melamed, a postdoctoral fellow at the Perelman School of Medicine who started working in the Weissman lab in 2022 and will be leading the research into how RNA therapeutics could be used to prevent celiac disease. While Cappelletti and Singh have been in Jax's corner for years, Melamed met the 11-year-old for the first time in November, immediately bonding over their "shared love of Taylor Swift." She admits she didn't have a great appreciation about how debilitating celiac disease can be until learning about Jax and, like Singh, is "cautiously optimistic" about better treatment options for those like him.

Melamed's research will focus on developing an anti-inflammatory mRNA vaccine for celiac disease, using lipid nanoparticles to deliver mRNA encoding Gliadin, which is a protein found in gluten. "We hypothesized that we could sort of engineer an anti-inflammatory immune response to combat the autoimmune destruction of the small intestine found in celiac disease," she says, adding this kind of approach to treating celiac is "niche" and "pretty unique to Penn right now." But her team "already has some encouraging results in a mouse model of multiple sclerosis" using a similar system. She also notes that Weissman—"the smartest and



Jax and his father Jon enjoy the football game toast toss for the first time during Homecoming, thanks to Penn switching to gluten-free bread.

most strategic person I've ever met"—is excited about the project, which he calls a "new era of research."

Jon Bari—who first began talking with Weissman the same day he and Jax met Joe Biden, in October 2022—is "hopeful that mRNA can help unlock the mysteries of celiac disease" and holds onto a "vision that Jax is part of the first generation of celiacs to receive a treatment other than a gluten-free diet, and ideally, one day, a cure."

### A Toast to Dear Old Penn

It's Homecoming 2024, two days before the event at Drew Weissman's lab. Penn is playing Harvard at Franklin Field. The third quarter has just ended and the alumni who've returned to campus rise to their feet in eager anticipation. The Penn Band plays "Drink a Highball," and when they get to the song's conclusion—"Here's a toast to Dear Old Penn"—fans stand up, pick up the pieces of toast they had grabbed when they came into the stadium, and fling it toward the field.

It's a familiar scene for Penn faithful. Students in helmets and "P" sweaters run along the track, trying to catch the toast in baskets. Cheerleaders dodge the starchy projectiles. The occasional stray piece flies over the track and startles a Penn football player sitting on the bench.

As evidenced by the families that make their way for the exits once the fourth quarter begins, Penn people have come to expect and enjoy the quirky, decades-long tradition. It's also one that the Bari family had come to dread.

Although simply touching gluten will not harm someone like Jax, bread flying all around him can still stoke anxiety. "Imagine it being in his hair," Jon says. "And then, you know, he accidentally puts his hand in his mouth." But Jax likes going to Penn football games, so he's taken precautions to avoid the bread-crumbs over the years. At a game last season, he sprinted up to the upper deck of the stadium—only to see students throwing toast from up there. So he ran



down to field level at the west end of the stadium, behind the end zone and far enough away from the student section to feel comfortable. It was a hard scene for Jon to watch, and afterward he wrote a letter to Penn administrators asking to reimagine the toast toss (which has also been criticized by others over the years for its wastefulness). "Imagine what it must feel like to have people all around you throwing toast and showering you with crumbs that can make you violently sick if you happen to ingest one crumb," Jon wrote. "People with life-threatening food allergies do not want to be hit with food allergens, get crumbs thrown on their clothes, on their seats."

In the days leading up to this year's Penn Homecoming game, Jon received a pleasant email. Senior associate athletic director Rudy Fuller G'16 LPS'20, who has two kids with celiac disease, happily reported that for the first time Penn would be providing gluten-free bread for their toast toss (with the hopes of continuing the practice in future seasons). The Baris were thrilled. "Look, we know we're living in a gluten-filled world," Jon acknowledges, but little changes like these

make a world of difference for celiacs.

It's unlikely other fans in the stadium even noticed the change—or the 11-year-old boy in a Wharton sweatshirt and Penn button, leaving his seats to run *toward* the toast. Settling into the first row near the Penn Band, a stack of gluten-free toast in his hand, his mom taking a video and his dad standing behind him, Jax flings several pieces of toast, frisbee-style, toward the field, smiling ear to ear.

Penn is far from perfect in how it deals with food allergies and Jon has been disappointed by the lack of gluten-free options at other events at his alma mater. The country has a long way to go, too. The Bari family's mission won't stop.

But in this moment, for one kid who in two days will tell a gathering of prominent grownups that "celiac is every bite, every day, constant worrying, constant questioning, constant uncertainty," everything just feels right.

"It was awesome," Jax says as he settles back into his seat between his parents to watch the fourth quarter of the game. "I didn't have to hide for the first time in my life."







# HOMECOMING





# Merit Awards

## Faculty Award of Merit

### André Dombrowski



André, you have written that the eye turns into “a restless, mobile entity... that actively participates in, and even structures, the act of painting from the bottom up.” Though you were remarking on the effects of impressionist style, you might have very well been describing the effects of curiosity, inquiry, and discovery that Penn alumni have experienced in your company for the past 12 years.

You have done this not just through books and on-campus lectures but around the globe. Just four years after you became part of the Penn faculty in 2008, you joined the Penn Alumni Travel program as the faculty host of a tour along the Danube River. It was the beginning of a lasting relationship, and nearly every year since, you have led Penn alumni to examine places of painting, from Bruges to Papeete to Strasbourg to Belle-Ile-en-Mer. It was here, in 2018, that you gathered with alumni and fellow travelers to locate the point where Monet stood and painted—a personally and professionally meaningful moment that you, with characteristic generosity, chose to share with those around you.

Alumni consistently praise your warmth, humanity, and ability to put them at ease to ask questions in unfamiliar environments. Because of these qualities, you have left a lasting impression on all and developed enduring friendships with many.

You have traipsed across terrains both terrestrial and virtual: In a landscape teeming with online offerings, you have led successful virtual lectures that stand out for their clarity and compelling natures. Memorably, you led a webinar for Penn Alumni Lifelong Learning covering Gustave Courbet’s *La Source du Lison*, a work recovered from the basement of the School of Dental Medicine and the centerpiece of an exhibition you co-curated at the Arthur Ross Gallery, where you also serve as Chairman of the Advisory Board. By the time the exhibition closed on May 28, 2023, more than 3,000 people had visited the gallery, among them Penn students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the wider community.

This year, you deepened your involvement with Penn Alumni Lifelong Learning, leading its inaugural seminar program with “How Monet Paints Time.” Students welcomed the quality of your research as well as your “easy

style and breadth of knowledge,” which made the series of lectures and synchronous sessions as enjoyable as they were enriching.

André, in these ways and more, you have actively participated in hundreds of moments of understanding painting “from the bottom up.” On behalf of all the alumni who have remarked that *your* eyes have helped them see the world anew, we are pleased to present you with the Faculty Award of Merit for 2024.

## Social Impact Award

### Desiree Martinez C’95



When you were in sixth grade, a visit to the Southwest Museum of the American Indian in Los Angeles set you on your life’s path. Although the now-closed museum was located within the traditional homelands of the Gabrielino-Tongva tribe, of which you are a member, one of the museum’s guides told you that the Gabrielino-Tongva were extinct. You were also struck by the stereotyped and inaccurate representations of Native communities in the museum’s displays.

But you learned something important that day: The information museum docents use to prepare their talks comes from archaeologists, anthropologists, and ethnographers. To present the perspective of your community—and rewrite its history—you would need to pursue a degree in one of those fields.

You decided to study anthropology and archaeology to make a difference on issues that matter not just to your tribe but to the Native community. Along the way, you became a champion of recognition and respect for groups often marginalized and misunderstood.

To pursue your dreams, you came to Penn, where you earned your degree in anthropology. Later, you continued your education at Harvard University, earning a master’s in anthropology with a concentration in archaeology.

Your essential work of supporting your community began during your undergraduate days. You helped found the University’s first organized cultural group for Native Americans, Six Directions, later known as Natives at Penn. Six Directions gave Native students on campus a place to celebrate their culture and served as the catalyst for much of the later work done at Penn on behalf of Native and Indigenous peoples.

After your graduation, you helped found Penn’s Association of Native Alumni, a group in which you continue to be involved today. More recently, you have served as a consultant for the Penn Native Community Council and helped plan celebrations of Native American Heritage Month on campus.

You have made the most significant impact in your work as an archaeologist. You have dedicated your life to preserving and protecting Native American sacred and cultural sites, especially those connected to the Tongva community. You have also worked to eliminate misinformation about the Gabrielino-Tongva, their history, and your community.

You spent 15 years at Cogstone Resource Management, a cultural resources firm, beginning as an archaeologist and rising to become President. You worked with various organizations to strengthen relationships between Tribal Communities and arrange for the care and repatriation of cultural items.

You have also served as co-director of the Pimu Catalina Island Archaeology Project and consultant and project manager for numerous institutions, including the Autry Museum of the American West and the Fowler Museum at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Your work as an archaeologist began soon after the 1990 passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), which provides for the protection of Native American remains and objects and helped make your important work possible.

Most recently, you joined California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, as Director of Tribal Relations and NAGPRA/CalNAGPRA, which builds on your commitment to NAGPRA. You serve as the University’s primary liaison with Native American Tribal Nations, governments, and urban American Indian communities to develop and implement a robust Tribal relations program.

Early in life, you made it your goal to protect your tribe—and other Native and Indigenous communities—and their cultural resources. You have succeeded admirably, both in your work as an archaeologist and in your advocacy for Native peoples at Penn and nationwide. With gratitude and admiration for your pioneering efforts to be a champion—and a much-needed voice—of Native and Indigenous peoples, the Office of Social Equity and Community and Penn Alumni are proud to present you with the Social Impact Award for 2024.



### Creative Spirit Award

#### Robert W. Cort C'68 G'70 WG'74



When you were ten years old, your parents drove you across the Brooklyn Bridge to the Tivoli Theater in Times Square. In that 2,000-seat theater, on a massive screen, you saw *Around the World in 80 Days* and felt insignificant in the face of the spectacle, yet also like the most important person there. A year later, your brother took you to see *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, which would become your favorite movie. And a year after that, you saw *Gigi*—after which you stole a poster of Leslie Caron.

Almost a decade later, as a senior at Penn, the films you saw that year would mirror the turbulent time you were living in. Anger at the Vietnam War, the importance of the civil rights movement, and the emergence of feminism—you saw them reflected on the screen in *Bonnie and Clyde*, *In the Heat of the Night*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?*, and *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

At that time, you had no idea you would go on to become an acclaimed and prolific movie producer. You graduated from Penn with a degree in history, then earned a master's in history and an MBA from the Wharton School. But it was your career in consulting after graduation that brought you back to your love of movies. One of McKinsey & Company's clients was Columbia Pictures, and you went to Los Angeles for three months to work on a marketing study. You were hooked. After that, movies became your life.

In your four-decade career in Hollywood, you produced films like *Three Men and a Cradle*, *Cocktail*, *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*, *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle*, *Jumanji*, *Mr. Holland's Opus*, *Runaway Bride*, *Save the Last Dance*, *On the Basis of Sex*, and many more. Your 2004 HBO film, *Something the Lord Made*, about the pioneering Black heart surgeon Vivien Thomas, won three Emmy Awards.

Beyond the accomplishment of your many hit films, you have also retained the ideals of the films you saw during your senior year at Penn. You have harnessed your creative spirit—your expert ability to turn an idea into a dream of light projected on a screen—to reflect our world, in the hope that it can be improved. And you have put in the work to improve our world off-screen as well.

Since 2003, you have helped envision a better future as a dedicated member of the

National Advisory Board of the Netter Center for Community Partnerships, where you have served as a devoted and thoughtful volunteer leader. Your creativity and focus have helped ensure that the Center has a lasting and sustainable impact on Penn, the local community, and the wider world. Your wise counsel was especially welcome during the development of the Center's recent planning document on the occasion of its 30th anniversary—a document that both looked back on the origins of the Center and charted a road map for the years to come.

You and your wife, Rosalie, have supported the Center with your philanthropy as well, establishing the Cort Internship Fund and the Cort-Swedlin Fellows Program, both of which provide opportunities for students to work with community-based arts programs sponsored by the Netter Center. In addition, you created the Robert & Rosalie Cort Endowed Scholarship to make a Penn education accessible for undergraduate students.

For your vast and acclaimed work producing films that have made us laugh, cry, and leave the theater thinking about how the world can be made better—and for your volunteer leadership dedicated to improving the world—Penn Alumni is proud to present you with the Creative Spirit Award for 2024.

### Young Alumni Award of Merit

#### Deepak Prabhakar EAS'11 GEng'12



Collaboration and connection have powered your path at Penn. As an undergraduate, you worked with your classmates to engineer real-world solutions. You have carried that same spirit to the alumni community with your enduring effort to rally your peers around reunions, campaigns, and volunteer activities—and you are just getting started.

At the School of Engineering and Applied Science, a collaborative culture shaped your views beyond the classroom. You graduated in 2011 with a BS in engineering and biotechnology. You also earned an MS in biotechnology from Penn in 2012. Your time on campus sharpened your problem-solving abilities and taught you how to work with people from many different backgrounds. These skills have served you well, both professionally and in how you continue to show up for Penn in the years since your graduation.

Connection was a hallmark of your time at Penn. You were involved in myriad

groups to promote school spirit and find fellowship, from the Penn Traditions Undergraduate Board and the Senior Class Executive Board to the Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity and the Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity. Your enthusiastic engagement with your peers was deservedly recognized when you received the Penn Alumni Student Award of Merit in 2011.

No matter how busy life got after graduation, you continued to make time for your alma mater while establishing yourself in the biotech industry. You raised your hand for the Penn Alumni Ambassador Program, motivated by a desire to connect with prospective students and help them learn about this special Red and Blue community. Your enthusiasm for connection with fellow graduates only grew as you became one of the University's most visible young alumni leaders.

You have served on three host committees—for the "Time to Shine" celebration, Homecoming, and The Power of Penn in Philadelphia—where you supported Campaign efforts by planning and welcoming alumni to inspiring University events. When it came time to select a new leader for the Class of 2011, you were elected President, a role in which you have served since 2016. Clearly committed to the Penn cause, you were invited to join the Alumni Class Leadership Council in 2017, where you rolled up your sleeves to strengthen ties between alumni classes and the University.

"Kind," "intelligent," and "thoughtful" are some of the ways your classmates and colleagues have described you, a testament to how you have connected with people over the years. More than a decade ago, while serving as Co-Chair of the Seniors for The Penn Fund, you encouraged your fellow Quakers to make a habit of giving back to Penn. Time has shown that you have not only talked the talk but also walked the walk—generously supporting Penn with annual gifts since your junior year. Thanks to your inspiring actions, the next generation of Penn undergraduates will be well-supported in accessing the same unparalleled classroom and campus experience that you remember so fondly.

For engaging the Penn community through collaboration and thoughtful connections with your peers, and for engineering an even brighter future for Penn students, we are thrilled to present you with the Young Alumni Award of Merit for 2024.

*Alumni Award of Merit*

**Belinda Bentzin Buscher C'92**



Good organizers bring us together; great ones draw us together. In your role as Chair of the Regional Clubs Advisory Board, Co-President of the

Penn Club of Seattle, and beyond—Belinda, you celebrate community as its own reward and bring out the best in all those around you. There can be no doubt that your warmth and dedication to Penn alumni clearly distinguish you as among the greats.

Perhaps one of the most striking examples is your work with the Penn Club of Seattle, where you have been at the helm for the past dozen years. During your tenure, you have creatively engaged longstanding members and made a point of welcoming new faces to the area. Alumni anticipate the annual pool party, where they experience the easy sociability of being among not just fellow Penn graduates but friends.

Your skill as a leader became even more evident during the pandemic. As the club's co-chair, when COVID-19 cases began to mount and the *Penn to You* series canceled its Seattle appearance, you pivoted quickly to spearhead discussions of virtual lectures from the Penn Alumni website. Remarkable afterward on the programming's success, you noted that "anytime we can engage with someone new makes us incredibly happy." It is no coincidence that so many alumni in the Evergreen State say the feeling is mutual, and that more people remark on this fact every year as the Penn Club of Seattle and its membership continue to flourish.

With characteristic enthusiasm and skill, you are also active with the Regional Clubs Advisory Board, working closely with Penn Alumni staff to support regional clubs around the world. In this role, your dedication to helping the regional club network thrive individually and as a unit is evident and invaluable. Above all, your orientation toward the positive power of the alumni community is unmistakable and infectious: those who spend time with you praise your ability to be present, to attend, and to engage. These values shine each time you return to Penn's campus from Seattle—no small act of travel, and one which happens with impressive regularity as you come to be with others in the Penn community in person at Homecoming, Alumni Award of Merit Galas, Alumni Leadership Retreats, and Alumni Weekends.

Your Penn journey has also inspired others. For the past two decades, you have met with countless prospective students as part of the Penn Alumni Ambassador Program to share your knowledge and love for Penn. Over the course of your tenure, you have no doubt helped many young people, some of whom boarded planes, trains, and automobiles toward Philadelphia, and who now count themselves among the alumni network.

You have been an invaluable member of the Penn community through your dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to service. With appreciation for drawing all of us closer together, we are pleased to present you with the Penn Alumni Award of Merit for 2024.

*Alumni Award of Merit*

**Ira Hillman C'92 W'92**



Ira, when you came to Penn in the late 1980s, you found an exciting community that opened a new world for you to explore. Outside of your

classes, you made a home away from home at Penn Hillel, Mask & Wig, the Greenfield Intercultural Center, and the LGBT Center.

As a student, you sharpened your natural leadership abilities as a member of the Sphinx Senior Society and Kite and Key. Your achievements, commitment, and character were further recognized by the Spade Award, which celebrates a graduating senior who demonstrates leadership both inside and outside of the classroom.

Your leadership skills have been on display throughout your evolution as a Penn volunteer. You started as a Penn Fund Phonathon participant in 1997 and now sit on the Board of Advisors at the School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2). In your role at SP2, you have earned a reputation as an engaged, thoughtful board member. Your commitment to social justice is furthering the School's mission of inclusion, excellence, and impact. SP2 is fortunate to count you as one of their most enthusiastic champions.

What is more, the decades you spent serving as President of your undergraduate class represent an inspiring example of your inclination to build community. You are known to be a planner with an eye for detail, from scripting remarks to taking the time to select the perfect swag buttons. Your energy, passion, and Penn pride have been truly instrumental in fostering a robust alumni

community for the Class of 1992.

To strengthen and empower Penn alumni who identify with the LGBTQ+ community and other historically marginalized groups, you became involved in several impactful initiatives. You have generously used your time and talents to serve on PennGALA, including leading the 10th, 15th, and 20th anniversary celebrations for the Penn LGBT Center. You have also been a trailblazer with Penn Leadership Q as a founding member, advocating for more LGBTQ+ leaders at Penn.

Penn Trustee Joan Lau EAS'92 WG'08, your friend and a fellow SP2 board member, said of you, "His focus on belonging and building community transcends interests, backgrounds, differences, and diversity."

You embody this sentiment each time you interact with the Penn community, bringing your lived experience and personal perspective to every engagement. As just one example, you offered candid insights about raising two children in New York with your husband Jeremy—an experience that you shared with fellow Quakers at a Penn Spectrum panel about "The Changing Family & How it Influences Identity." Ira, by being unapologetically you, you have undoubtedly inspired more than a few people along the way. Like the great playwright Tony Kushner wrote in his play *Angels in America*, "You'll find, my friend, that what you love will take you places you never dreamed you'd go." For your generous spirit, your collaborative leadership style, and your bravery in being your true self and inspiring others to do the same, we are delighted to present you with the 2024 Penn Alumni Award of Merit.

*Alumni Award of Merit*

**Sally Jutabha Michaels WG'90 PAR'19 PAR'21 PAR'23**



"Ben's Friends Forever"—that was the theme of a recent event hosted by the Penn Club of Thailand that brought together over 100 alumni for their largest

gathering ever. How does a community of alumni halfway around the world from Philadelphia maintain such vibrant engagement with Penn and foster such dedication from its members? If you asked them, these Friends of Ben would respond: because of you.

You received your MBA in finance from the Wharton School in 1990 and went on to excel in both the public and private sectors: first, in the real estate department of Gold-



## Class and Club Awards

man Sachs, and later, as Advisor to the Thai Trade Representative and Advisor to the Foreign Minister of Thailand. You and your husband, David Michaels W'84, also started GMS Power Public Company in Bangkok, where you are currently a Senior Advisor.

For many years you have been an officer of the Penn-Wharton Club of Thailand, where you were instrumental in hosting events such as the Wharton Global Forum in 2015 in Bangkok. You ably guided all the stakeholders for the event through complicated political circumstances and helped ensure the event's success.

In addition, as Vice President of the Penn Club of Thailand and the School Liaison, you strengthened the University's entire alumni community throughout the country, expanding its reach and bolstering its resources. Your selflessness, humility, and dedication to mentorship have led your fellow alumni in Thailand to call you "P' Sally" (or "Elder Sister Sally"). You lead, guide, and inspire—making sure that the organizations you spent so much time strengthening have new leaders ready to take the baton and carry them into the future.

At the same time, you have provided insight on key issues in Asia during nearly a decade of service on Wharton's Executive Board for Asia. Wharton leadership has looked to you for guidance on engaging with and strengthening the alumni community in Asia, and you have always provided expert counsel. You were kind enough to share all your talents with Penn, including designing and producing a unique pin worn proudly by many.

Beyond your knowledge and expertise, your philanthropy has reflected your commitment to providing support to those who follow in your footsteps. You saw the incredible impact for students who participated in the Wharton Global Youth Program, and you knew that it put them on track for success in the future. But you also knew that for students receiving financial aid at places like your high school alma mater, Phillips Exeter Academy, these programs were often out of reach. That's why you and your husband endowed a scholarship for Exeter students with financial need to participate in the Global Youth Program each year.

The Red and Blue is a vital force in your family, and in return, you have been a vital force in strengthening the Quaker community around the globe.

### Alumni Club Award of Merit | Penn Club of Boston

Thanks to your collaborative spirit and generationally inclusive events, Penn alumni in the greater Boston area are more plugged into Penn than ever. ... The driving force behind your club's success was your very active board, led by Club President Heena Lee C'95 and Vice President Krystle Karoscik MLA'15. This leadership group emphasized communication by reaching out to the more than 14,000 Penn alumni in Boston. ... You rallied your members for on- and off-campus events with The Penn Fund and Alumni Relations, including Homecoming, Alumni Weekend, and First Toast on the Road. Simultaneously, you continued to curate a mature experience through SAGES—a group for graduates from 1985 or earlier. Members of SAGES delighted in events like theatre, wellness gatherings, and wine tastings. You even mentored the Penn Club of Worcester, a fledgling alumni group that has been inspired by your vim and vigor. ... You have established the Penn Club of Boston as a wonderful example of an energetic and engaged group that is proudly and authentically Penn.

### Innovation Award | Penn Club of Hong Kong

### Community Service Award | Penn Club of Philadelphia

### Engagement Award | Penn Club of Switzerland

### Class Award of Merit | Class of 1974

Better than most, in planning its semicentennial anniversary, the Class of 1974 understood the value of calling. ... You spoke privately with concerned classmates, listened, and conveyed the hope that differences might be put aside. ... In every communication, your creative tagline and peace sign logo encouraged classmates to *Remember, Reminisce, and Reconnect* in advance of the big event. Perhaps one of the most illustrative examples is the digital class yearbook that you assembled on BrightCrowd, a newer platform that you adopted to great effect. ... Once on campus, spirits soared. Your 50th class reunion weekend was suffused with a joy matched only by an attention to detail. ... A total of 365 attendees joined one another on Penn's campus, and almost 450 classmates have reconnected through the (ongoing) virtual yearbook. Even during challenging times, your class raised \$4.2 million for the University, while the number of individuals making those gifts earns your class a place on the podium for participation. Thanks to your generosity, the Class of 1974 Peace Memorial Garden will grow and flourish for classes and generations to come.

### Class Award of Merit | Class of 1989

At every turn, you embodied your reunion motto, *The Love is Real*, by reinforcing the friendships, camaraderie, closeness, and Penn pride that have come to define your class. ... Thanks to a diverse cadre of class leaders, your 35th reunion committee dedicated itself to planning a weekend that was memorable, creative, and so much fun. ... Your *Groove is in the Heart*-themed reunion party was a nostalgic throwback that transported attendees back to 1989 for one extremely memorable night together. ... Early on, your class set a goal to break the attendance record for a 35th reunion. Despite a year defined by challenging circumstances, you broke the record with 392 classmates and guests attending. Even more impressive was the fact that you were the *only* class to break an attendance record this year—a testament to your efforts, and to the genuine care and high regard you have for each other. Together, you also raised more than \$8 million for initiatives across Penn with a continued and longstanding dedication to enhancing the undergraduate experience, especially for students with the greatest financial need.

### David N. Tyre Award for Excellence in Class Communications | Class of 2004

How do you convince your classmates to return to Penn for their 20th reunion? For the Class of 2004, it started with a memorable tagline: *Come Back '04 MORE!* It continued with a winning communications effort, complete with eye-catching graphics, which spanned all channels, from print to email to social media. ... In the ten days leading up to the reunion, you posted your Top 10 Reasons to Come Back campaign to social media, culminating in Reason #1: to see old friends and relive fond Red and Blue memories. ... In the end, your communications succeeded where it mattered most. They helped drive attendance, with 558 registrations and 372 attending the reunion party and raised \$3.1 million for your reunion, with Total University Achievement reaching \$4.4 million. In a creative twist, you complemented your class gift with a clothing drive in partnership with The Wardrobe, encouraging classmates to donate gently used professional clothing for students or community members who cannot afford suitable clothes for interviews or jobs.

For your dedication to growing Penn's alumni community in Thailand, for your thoughtful counsel to the University and support of impactful scholarships, and for being such a steadfast friend of "Ben" and of all alumni, we are honored to present you with the Penn Alumni Award of Merit for 2024.

*Alumni Award of Merit*

**Jennifer Krevitt, C'86 L'92 PAR'22**



"Great leaders grow talent.

They strive to make everyone in the room smarter." These words from Penn's Adam

Grant, organizational psychologist and best-selling author, echo your own views. You understand that leadership does not just happen. It must be cultivated with care.

In your professional career, you have worked hard to support and develop the next generation of leaders. Fortunately for your alma mater, you have brought those same skills to your volunteer work at Penn.

A Penn graduate twice over, you earned your undergraduate degree in economics at the College and then returned to earn your JD at Penn Carey Law. From there, you built a successful career in law and human resources, first at Goldman Sachs; later at Invesco, Ltd., where you served as Senior Managing Director and Chief Human Resources Officer; and now as the Principal at Krevitt Consulting.

Throughout your busy career, you have remained dedicated to Penn. In 2006, you were nominated to join the Trustees' Council of Penn Women (TCPW), a group of alumnae leaders who advocate for women leaders and women's issues on campus. It was the perfect fit. You quickly became a leader within the group, contributing to the Advancement of Women Faculty Committee and then the Regional Events Committee, which you co-chaired. Notably, as co-chair of the Membership Committee, you brought in new members who represented different backgrounds, careers, and regions of the country and made TCPW more reflective of the alumnae community.

In 2018, you were nominated to be TCPW's Vice Chair, and three years later rose to become Chair. As the group's leader during the pandemic years, you faced a unique challenge since TCPW's signature conferences were no longer possible. You pivoted, planning and organizing virtual conferences to keep the members engaged and the group strong. In

both leadership roles, you graciously agreed to extend your term, to ensure continuity and keep TCPW vibrant. After six years in leadership, during which you consistently went above and beyond for the group, you passed the torch this summer, working collaboratively to ensure a smooth transition.

When you chose to expand your Penn engagement beyond TCPW, you turned to Penn Carey Law, first joining the Dean's Women's Council and later the Law Alumni Society Alumni Engagement Committee. In 2023, you were invited to join Penn Carey Law's Board of Advisors at a critical time, as the Law School prepared to welcome a new Dean. Once again you were the perfect fit, using your human resources expertise to provide support to navigate this transition. After the new Dean, Sophia Lee, was named, you were among those who provided counsel that fostered her successful first year. You even established the Krevitt-Cohen Endowed Fund to provide support for the new Dean's priorities during the early days of her tenure.

Your volunteer work at Penn spans the campus. You have served Penn Arts & Sciences through your work on the SAS Professional Women's Alliance. Your beloved Class of 1986 has benefited from your work as a reunion and gift committee volunteer. You have also served the larger alumni community through your membership on the Penn Alumni Board of Directors, where you represented TCPW.

Jennifer, you have always understood that leadership matters. Today we honor you for your leadership and your sincere desire to use your talents to make a difference for your alma mater. With gratitude for your commitment to advancing women and women's issues at Penn, for keeping TCPW strong during a challenging time, and for cultivating the next generation of leaders on campus, we are pleased to present you with the Penn Alumni Award of Merit for 2024.

*Alumni Award of Merit*

**Marc H. Morial C'80 PAR'24**



In 1915, W.E.B. Du Bois emphasized the urgency of taking action to improve the social, political, and economic conditions of African Americans.

He advocated for seizing the moment and working toward progress without delay, writing, "Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done and not some

future day or future year." Marc, one could not think of a better description to sum up the trajectory of your life.

You graduated from Penn in 1980 with a degree in economics and African American studies, then went on to earn a law degree at Georgetown University. In the spirit of now, you returned to your hometown of New Orleans, working as a lawyer before being elected to the Louisiana State Senate. In 1994, you were elected mayor of New Orleans, an office you held until 2002. During your time as mayor, you were also elected president of the United States Conference of Mayors, a non-partisan organization that represents cities with populations of 30,000 or more. After your time as an elected official, you continued your service by joining the National Urban League, the nation's largest historic civil rights and urban advocacy organization, where you currently serve as President and CEO.

Like Du Bois, you didn't wait for a more convenient season. You believed that our best work can be done today, and you were dedicated to passing on that sense of civic commitment to the next generation of leaders by engaging with Penn.

Despite your many professional responsibilities, you have always made time for Penn. You have returned to campus again and again to share your experiences and talk with students about what vibrant civic engagement can look like and to participate in dialogues on important issues. You are particularly known for your stirring speeches at Penn Spectrum events, where you have been a fixture for many years. You have always made yourself available, including at the most recent Penn Spectrum conference, where you spoke about the importance of having diverse voices in municipal, state, and federal government, and how Penn alumni can support fellow Quakers who are serving in or pursuing public office.

You are also a longstanding member of the Black Alumni Society and the James Brister Society and a non-resident senior fellow with the Robert A. Fox Leadership Program at Penn Arts & Sciences.

For your embodiment of W.E.B. Du Bois's promise of progress, your dedication to strengthening the fabric of civic life, and your commitment to sharing your vast knowledge and expertise with Penn students and alumni, we are honored to present you with the Penn Alumni Award of Merit for 2024.





## Calendar

### Annenberg Center

pennlivearts.org

**Jan. 2–5** Potted Potter

**Jan. 24–26** Agora de la danse

**Jan. 26** Mali Obomsawin Quartet

**Jan. 30** Benjamin Bagby & Sequentia

**Jan. 31–Feb. 1** Minty Fresh Circus

**Feb. 6–8** Negro Ensemble Company

**Feb. 6** Fazil Say

**Feb. 7** Shemekia Copeland

**Feb. 14–15** RUBBERBAND

**Feb. 23** Rafiq Bhatia with  
Chris Pattishall

**Feb. 28** We Are Nature

### Arthur Ross Gallery

arthurrossgallery.org

Closed until Jan. 10 for renovations.

**Above:** Carl Cheng / John Doe Co.,  
Alternative TV #4, 1974. Courtesy the artist  
and Philip Martin Gallery, Los Angeles

### ICA

icaphila.org

**Carl Cheng: Nature Never Loses**

Jan. 18–Apr. 6

### Kelly Writers House

writing.upenn.edu/wh/

**Jan. 21** Kristen Martin C'11

**Jan. 27** WXPN Live at the  
Writers House

**Jan. 28** New Poems for the New Year

**Jan. 29** Wendy Steiner and  
Heather Love

**Feb. 5** Mystery Novelist Jessica  
Goodman C'12

**Feb. 13** Chili Cook-off

**Feb. 17** WXPN Live at the  
Writers House

### Morris Arboretum and Gardens

morrisarboretum.org

open daily

### Penn Libraries

library.upenn.edu

**Concrete on Paper: The  
Architectural, Technological, and  
Cultural Heritage of Concrete**

Through April 28, 2025

**Through Nursing's Lens: The  
Nurse in Wartime Imagery and  
Photographs**

Through Spring 2025

**Penn in the Field: Student  
Fieldwork Photography**

Through August 2025

### Penn Museum

penn.museum

Open Tuesday-Sunday

**Jan. 11 & 18** Ancient Alcohol: A  
Taste of Bygone Booze

**Jan. 22** Ancient Economics & The  
Rise of the City

**Jan. 25** CultureFest! Lunar New Year

**Feb. 19** The Math of Art & Design

### World Café Live

worldcafelive.com

**Jan. 4** Breakwater

**Jan. 11** Speedy Ortiz with

Big Benny Bailey & The Tisburys

**Jan. 15** Sungazer

**Jan. 17** Cracker

**Jan. 19** Gleen Bryan & Friends

**Jan. 23** Sophie Truax

**Jan. 24** Chuck Prophet &

His Cumbia Shoes

**Jan. 25** Blind Pilot

**Jan. 31** Steve Forbert and

the New Renditions

**Feb. 5** Mighty Mystic—Bob Marley  
Birthday Show

**Feb. 7** Tygerssa Sings Natalie Cole

**Feb. 19** Hot 8 Brass Band

**Feb. 20** Jesse Welles

**Feb. 27** Daymé Arocena



## Still Life with Laurie Olin

One of landscape architecture's most eloquent urbanists gets the documentary treatment.

**“This film is Gina’s art,”** observed Laurie Olin, standing amidst a crowd gathered at Weitzman School of Design’s Meyerson Hall for a premiere of *Sitting Still*, a new documentary from Gina M. Angelone. “It’s her editing and her vision that leaves you with *this* product, not some other one.”

As the film unfolded a few minutes later, though, it became clear that the star of the show was indeed Olin, the National Medal of Arts–winning landscape architect and School of Design emeritus professor whose noteworthy projects with OLIN, the firm he cofounded in 1976, include Battery Park City in New York, the Washington Monument grounds in Washington, DC, and Denver’s 16th Street pedestrian mall.

For the first third of the film, Olin’s voice is the only one we hear as he spins a lyrical tale of his boyhood arrival in Alaska upon his family’s relocation there. There were Eskimos, he says, and white-bearded prospectors brandishing gold nuggets. There were waffles! “It was so cool!” he grins. “It was a boy’s paradise.” This was 1946 and the eight-year-old grew fascinated by something else, too. “Look down the street, and there was nature,” he marvels. “There was no separation.”

As Olin speaks, images of his finely detailed drawings and delicate watercolors from that era flit across the screen. The frontier is what first compelled him to start keeping a sketchbook, he says, and he’s never stopped. “I’m so in love with

the world and the pleasure it gives me, that I just keep trying to put it down.”

Based in Philadelphia, the Emmy award-winning Angelone was introduced to Olin in 2012 when the Cultural Landscape Foundation commissioned her to shoot a series of oral histories on pioneers of landscape architecture. “What came across immediately was Laurie’s brilliance and charisma,” she reflected a few days after the premiere. “Plus, he had such a fantastic memory, down to the most minute details. It all added up to evidence of his commitment to paying attention, which is one of the things we wanted to explore in the film.”

Her project would take nearly 10 years, derailed by fundraising challenges and the pandemic. Primarily shot in 2016, the documentary often positions Olin—wearing a black sweater, black pants, and a collared white shirt—behind a white desk in the middle of a soundstage with a gleaming white floor. A white cyclorama serves as a backdrop, suggestive of an art studio.



An Arcadian view of the deer park of Buckland House, Oxfordshire, with its eel ponds, Roman folly, and mixture of old and new trees in the meadow; beyond the lake and boundary plantation in the distance lies the Thames River valley and the Cotswolds. —Laurie Olin, 1970. From *Across the Open Field: Essays Drawn from English Landscapes*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2000.



As he muses on his early days and inspirations, Angelone intersperses B-roll shots of meaningful places in his life (including, briefly, some of his best-known projects), stock footage of crashing waves and hurricanes, archival and vintage photos, and, always, his drawings and paintings. “One of the joys of landscape architecture is to walk out onto a site and look at it and say, ‘Ah, I remember when I did that first little sketch and—there it is,’” he observes.

With the same elusive quality that suffuses Olin’s drawings of Rome’s Trevi Fountain or Central Park’s Belvedere Castle, the film alights on his professional trajectory here and there. The fuller portrait that emerges, though, is that of a keen observer, nature-lover, and devout urbanist. “That was a deliberate choice,” said Angelone. “I struggled with not going into his wonderful awards and the poetic way he talks about his projects. But that’s all out there—just Google it.” [“Mr. Olin’s Neighborhood,” Jan|Feb 2007.]

**“You learn more and you savor more if you move a little slower. And drawing really slows you down.”**

Eventually, a procession of stellar talking heads enters the picture. This gang includes starchitect Frank Gehry, whose collaborations with Olin include the Getty Center in Los Angeles; architect Billie Tsien, who partnered with him on Philadelphia’s Barnes Foundation; Walter Hood, one of today’s preeminent landscape architects; and Penn’s David Brownlee, the Frances Shapiro-Weitzenhoffer Professor Emeritus of 19th Century European Art and a historian of modern architecture.

They come first to praise Olin (“The humanity of whoever Laurie Olin is inside comes out in those drawings,” says Gehry), then reappear in the final third of the film to expound, along with Olin himself, on a

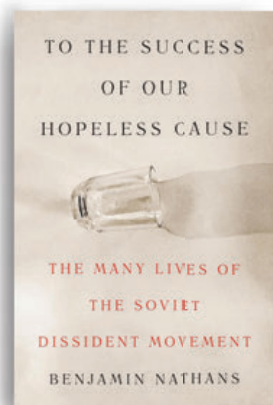
litany of urban and societal woes that include affordable housing, climate change, digital hegemony, gentrification, and sustainability. “They’re talking about all of the social concerns that have driven Laurie’s work through his career,” Angelone said. “I wanted to immerse the audience in the things he cares about.”

That a landscape architect would have thoughts on these problems probably won’t surprise many viewers. The real eye-opener here is the sheer volume and tremendous variety of Olin’s thousands of illustrations. They, more than anything, seem to speak to his personality, his life, and his legacy. “You learn more and you savor more if you move a little slower. And drawing really slows you down,” he says at one point. “There is a sense I get when I do a drawing that *I was there, I was alive, there was that moment.*” —JoAnn Greco

For information about screenings, visit [sittingstillmovie.com](http://sittingstillmovie.com).

# And Yet, They Persisted

The Soviet dissident movement fell short of their aims. Their impact went beyond what they could imagine.



**To the Success of Our Hopeless Cause: The Many Lives of the Soviet Dissident Movement**  
By Benjamin Nathans, faculty  
Princeton Press, 816 pages, \$39.95

**In** the 1960s, an improbable band of Soviet citizens achieved global renown by writing and circulating banned texts, holding unauthorized public meetings, and openly petitioning the Communist regime to change its ways. Unsatisfied with the transition from Stalinist brutality to softer but stabler forms of repression, they demanded deeper changes. Benjamin Nathans, the Alan Charles Kors Endowed Term Professor of History in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences, tells their dramatic story in a new book, *To the Success of Our Hopeless Cause: The Many Lives of the Soviet Dissident Movement*. The book takes its title from an ironic toast that became popular among these stalwart men and women, who risked and frequently suffered ruination in the most quixotic of quests: to live like free people in an unfree country. Nathans spoke with *Gazette* senior editor Trey Popp about the book in October. Their conversation has been edited for concision.

**Given how much attention Soviet dissidents attracted in the West, it's easy in retrospect to regard them almost as a historical inevitability. But you write that when dissent emerged within the USSR during the 1960s, it caught everyone off guard. What made it such an unexpected development?**

The dominant model through which most people in the West understood the Soviet Union was totalitarianism. Everything that people knew from the Stalin era was that people who publicly disagreed with the government were dead in the water. They just had no chance, and people were so fearful that they wouldn't dare to engage in public dissent from the party lines.

**So who were the dissidents? And what was their actual goal?**

What I discovered in my research is that almost without exception, none of the so-called dissidents liked that term—which was popularized by Western journalists. And they especially didn't like it when the Soviet government used the term, which to a Russian ear sounds foreign, to stigmatize them. The term that I think they liked more was *rights defenders*.

Also, in the West the term dissident was used extremely promiscuously. So Russian nationalists were termed dissidents, and Jews who wanted to leave the Soviet Union were dissidents, and Christian believers were dissidents. Basically, anybody who had a gripe with the regime and was willing to talk about it or act on it was a dissident. But in the Soviet setting, dissident really refers to people who wanted to promote the rule of law—and who specifically wanted to pressure the Soviet government to obey its own laws.

**You write that dissidents in fact tended to be “high-minded Soviet people” whose dissent was fueled precisely by how sincerely they embraced Soviet ideals—as opposed to the reality of the Soviet state.**

One of the things that they were *not* aiming for, and frankly couldn't even imagine would be possible, was to overthrow the Soviet government. That country had just survived the greatest military onslaught in history—Hitler's invasion of June 1941. It had withstood the stress test of all stress tests. So with a tiny handful of exceptions, dissidents did not imagine that that government could be overthrown. And they wanted to distance themselves from any of the kind of revolutionary violence that they thought would have been required to overthrow a government like that. So what the dissidents wanted was to make it a law-abiding system.

**So how did this orientation influence their strategy and tactics?**

This is where things get really interesting. The story really goes back to this rather eccentric mathematician in Moscow named Alexander Volpin. He belonged to a cohort of scientists and mathematicians in the middle of the 20th century who were interested in the field of cybernetics, whose goal was to translate all forms of knowledge into a quantifiable series of algorithms or feedback-and-response loops. Volpin wanted to create a perfect language of communication—free from all the ambiguity of natural languages, a language that had the same qualities as mathematics, where you could make statements that were absolutely clear and that could be proven beyond the shadow of a doubt.

After having been arrested in the Soviet Union for writing irreverent poems, and having spent time in a psychiatric institution against his will, and having been exiled to Central Asia for a bit, he became a kind of jailhouse lawyer. So he began to investigate the Soviet Constitu-



tion. And what he discovered there was the language of law, which is all about making as clear as possible what you are allowed to do, what you are forbidden to do, and what you must do: prohibitions, permissions, and injunctions. And he realized that this wasn't a perfect language, but it was a good approximation.

So he came upon this idea of, if we could only make the Soviet Union obey its own constitution—which contained very appealing civil liberties like freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly—if we could only make that language real, we would be a long way towards creating the rule of law. And this became the grand strategy of the movement: not to topple the Soviet state, not even to transform the Soviet state, but a kind of a minimalist program to just get the government to honor its own laws.

#### **How did that work out for them?**

That strategy failed over and over again. People who engaged in free speech and free assembly were arrested, put on trial, inevitably found guilty, and sentenced to years in prison or in labor camps. And all of the open letters and appeals to the Soviet government signed by dozens or hundreds of Soviet citizens, none of them ever received a written response. And in the wake of the failure of that strategy, the strategy shifted.

The dissident movement became increasingly oriented not so much towards Soviet law as towards international law, and particularly international human rights treaties and covenants going back to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and several other international agreements that Moscow had signed.

#### **And how successful was that?**

The Western-oriented strategy was far more effective. Because in the context of the Cold War, the dissident habit of pointing out violations of international human rights norms got a lot more traction than the domestic protests had. But

**“If there’s one thing I’ve learned studying history, it’s that the unintended outcomes are often just as significant as the goals.”**

it was also a very dangerous strategy, because now dissidents were perceived, correctly, as inserting themselves into international relations—and the Kremlin was extremely sensitive to any challenges to its monopoly over the conduct of foreign policy. Dissidents’ evidence of violations of human rights norms became a toxic element in the Cold War. Ultimately, the turn to the West did not make the Soviet Union a more law-abiding state—but it got the dissident movement and its agenda a whole lot more of attention, both abroad and at home.

#### **Were they able to convert that attention into anything positive from their perspective—or did it just win them even more trouble?**

It won them more trouble. Even before the shift to the West, the Soviet government was arresting protesters and putting them on trial. And while the KGB and the government always got the legal result that they wanted—namely, a guilty verdict—the problem was that they rarely got the political payoff that they were after. Because the public relations impact of these trials was terrible for the Soviet government and often very good for the dissidents. It made them seem like martyrs, like Davids fighting Goliath. And the unintended result was that the KGB started relying less and less on courts and the Soviet legal system, and more and more on extra-judicial punishments, which are the most dangerous kind of all, because there are no rules and no boundaries.

So the net effect, at least in the short run, was that the Soviet government actually became less law-abiding, ironically, which was exactly the opposite of what the dissidents wanted. Sakharov and Solzhenitsyn became household

names, and the two of them both won Nobel Prizes. But the interference in Soviet foreign affairs is eventually what caused the KGB to crack down for the final episode, and really to destroy the movement by about 1982.

#### **So their short-term fate was dismal. What significance do you think they had in the longer run?**

If their goal was to spread legal consciousness among their fellow citizens, I don't think they were very successful. If their goal was to make the Soviet state more law-abiding, they weren't very successful. But if there's one thing I've learned studying history, it's that the unintended outcomes are often just as significant as the goals, whether the goals are reached or not. And there were some extremely significant unintended outcomes of the movement.

One was that they helped drain the Soviet system of legitimacy by showing over and over again that this was a state that was either unwilling or incapable of observing its own laws. So it made the Soviet Union look really bad and archaic, and that hollowing out of legitimacy, I think, is a very significant factor—albeit not the only one, and probably not the main one—in what made the Soviet Union collapse so quickly when it did. Another probably more significant drainer of legitimacy was the increasingly dismal economic performance of Soviet socialism, especially by the late '70s and early '80s. But on a moral level, I think the dissidents did hollow out a lot of the system's own claims about itself. So indirectly, they contributed to an outcome that they neither imagined nor directly worked for, and that was the collapse of the USSR during that breathtaking sequence of events in the second half of the 1980s.

The other unintended outcome is that some version of dissident ideas made their way into the upper echelons of the Communist Party. Namely Mikhail Gorbachev and some of the people who helped him articulate the reforms that

were designed to renew and strengthen the system but which actually had the effect of making it unravel. When Gorbachev talked about *glasnost*, which means transparency or openness, that was right out of the dissident lexicon. And when he talked about democratizing the system, that too was a cornerstone of the dissidents' agenda. In fact, the movement was often known in the Soviet Union as the democratic movement.

**The Soviet dissident movement had a complex legacy. Do you think their example has anything to teach us today?**

One of the things that got me interested in the dissident movement was I wanted to learn more about how people who live in authoritarian countries, and non-democratic societies, think about what their political options are—and also how they act on them.

But I think the more profound implication, for me, is that we are living in a time when certain fundamental problems often really appear to be insurmountable. We just don't seem to have the mechanisms that could confront and overcome something like climate change, or the expanding forms and degrees of inequality that we face today, and the forms of social unrest that seem inevitable once we get past a certain tipping point. And what I admire about the dissidents is that they faced what I truly believe were, and appeared to be, much more profound and insurmountable problems—this Soviet regime that just seemed to be so powerful and so permanent to people living inside it. What I admire about them is that while they fully acknowledged the depth and the gravity of the problem that they were up against, they refused to become passive or apathetic or to engage in purely symbolic forms of resistance.

That, to me, is a very powerful thing: that they recognized that in some ways their cause was hopeless—although, as it turned out, it wasn't—and yet they devoted much of their lives to fighting for it.



## Beyond the Bruckner Problem

Benjamin Korstvedt rewrites the record on Austrian composer Anton Bruckner.

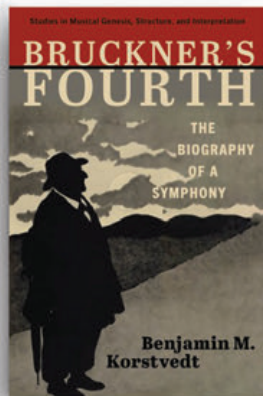
By Nate Chinen

**B**enjamin Korstvedt Gr'95 was peering into the glowing screen of a microfilm reader at Van Pelt Library, some 30 years ago, when he had a jolt of insight. Researching Anton Bruckner for his doctoral dissertation, he had come across a set of unidentified annotations in the Austrian composer's cursive scrawl. Previous scholars had brushed

these notes off as irrelevant. All at once, Korstvedt knew otherwise—that they were a key to Bruckner's Fourth Symphony, the focus of his academic work.

"I realized that they were actually a listing of the revisions he had made to the final version of the symphony after its first performance," Korstvedt recently recalled. "They corresponded to the





**Bruckner's Fourth: The Biography of a Symphony**  
By Benjamin Korstvedt Gr'95  
Oxford University Press, 360 pages, \$132

pages of the manuscript that I had been studying in Vienna. And it was like a penny dropped.” Walking back to his off-campus apartment, he ran into a fellow music student in the courtyard. “I remember saying to him: ‘I just figured it out!’ The pieces suddenly fell into place, in a way that was undeniably correct.”

Korstvedt’s aha moment sparked a cycle of inquiry, discovery, and argument that has established him as quite possibly the world’s foremost scholarly authority on Bruckner’s music. He’s certainly the preeminent steward of the composer’s magnificent Symphony No. 4, having published the first modern edition of its third and final 1888 iteration, and having collaborated with the Bamberg Symphony on an award-winning 4-CD set of all three canonical versions. He is president of the Bruckner Society of America and sits on the editorial board of the New Anton Bruckner Complete Edition. When we first spoke in June, Korstvedt was about to travel to Upper Austria for a Bruckner symposium, where he presented on “Varieties of Sublime Experience in Bruckner’s Late Adagios.”

Several months later—in November, toward the close of Bruckner’s bicentennial year—Korstvedt’s expertise culminated in the publication of *Bruckner’s Fourth: The Biography of a Symphony*, which deftly combines musical analysis

with cultural theory and historiography, focusing on its subject with a tenacious precision. It’s an exemplary piece of music scholarship that one fellow Bruckner expert, the German musicologist Felix Diergarten, has hailed as “a magnum opus.”

For all of Bruckner’s popularity among symphonic conductors and subscription audiences—a factor that led the *New York Times* to recently declare that “we live in the Bruckner Moment”—he’s a complex figure to unpack, because of an array of apparent irresolutions in his life and work. One 19th-century contemporary, the German conductor and composer Hans von Bülow, notoriously described him as “*halb Genie, halb Trottel*”—half genius, half dope (or klutz, or oaf)—capturing a prevailing sentiment among Vienna’s musical elite at the time. By all accounts, Bruckner was a devout Catholic with an earnest demeanor and work ethic, which led many to character-

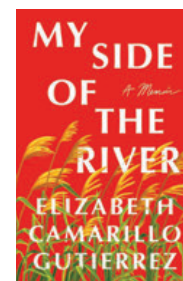
### One 19th-century contemporary notoriously described Bruckner as “*halb Genie, halb Trottel*”—half genius, half dope.

ize him as a provincial naif. The revisions he made to his symphonies, resulting in multiple published editions, have been cited as evidence of insecurity, indecision, and a weakness prone to exploitation—an interpretative conundrum long known in classical music circles as “The Bruckner Problem.”

But even as a graduate student, Korstvedt saw problems with the Bruckner Problem. “The way it had been dealt with by previous scholars, it became obvious to me that there were enormous contradictions in the received wisdom,” he said. “And *why* that was—it was almost as fascinating as sorting out the actual musical facts of the case.”

Korstvedt didn’t come to symphonic music as a *fait accompli*. “My musical

## Briefly Noted



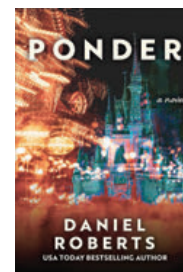
**MY SIDE OF THE RIVER: A Memoir**  
by Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez C’18 (St. Martin’s Press, 2024, \$19.00.) When her parents’ visas expired and they were forced to return to Mexico,

Gutierrez decided to stay in the US to pursue an education. At 15, navigating homelessness, she was one of thousands of under-age victims affected by family separation due to US immigration law and policy.



**TRUE TRUE** by Don P. Hooper EAS’00 (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2023, \$12.99.) A Black teen from Brooklyn struggles to fit in at his almost entirely white Manhattan prep school, resulting in a fight and a plan for

vengeance, in this fast-paced contemporary young adult novel.



**PONDER: A Novel**  
by Daniel Roberts C’91 (Arcade, 2024, \$28.00.) In this dark comedy, two friends have chosen Disney World as the scene for their annual binge-drinking boys’ trip. A love triangle forms

when they meet a free-spirited Southern belle, and the two men become infatuated with her—until their partners show up.



**BLUE-EYED SOUL BROTHER: The Versatile Football Life of Super Bill Bradley**  
by William C. Kashatus Gr’93 (University of Nebraska Press, 2024, \$34.95.) NFL All-Pro free safety Bill Bradley

was known for his fierce competitiveness on the gridiron and his whimsical nonconformity off it. He was among the first NFL players to hold out for a bigger salary and challenge the status quo with his long hair, bushy mustache, and free-spirited lifestyle.

Visit [thepenngazette.com](http://thepenngazette.com) for more *Briefly Noted*.

background in high school, and even starting college, was not classically oriented at all,” he explained. “I was a guitarist at the time and played in some two-bit rock bands. When I started college, I decided to major in music. I studied jazz piano for quite a while.”

After earning his bachelor’s from Clark University, where he’s now a distinguished professor of music, Korstvedt worked in a bookstore in Worcester, Massachusetts, for a couple of years, gradually developing an academic interest in music analysis. This led him to Penn, whose groundbreaking music faculty at the time included the ethnomusicologist Marina Roseman and musicologists Gary Tomlinson and Jeffrey Kallberg.

“I look back at those six years as some of the happiest and most exciting in my life,” Korstvedt recalled. “Those years in the music department at Penn were very exciting, partly because there were several great cohorts of students coming in. But it was also an exciting moment in the field of musicology—a time when traditional approaches were not only coming into question but being supplemented by new approaches. Penn was at the forefront of a much more culturally oriented approach to musicology.”

Kallberg, now the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Music and interim dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, was at the center of that shift, which incorporated ideas from other areas of the humanities, like New Historicism, social constructionism, and textual criticism. Along with Tomlinson, now at Yale, Kallberg was intent on unmooring musicology from strict originalism. The animating idea was to situate a piece of music and its variants within a dynamic socio-historical context.

At the same time, Kallberg valued the rigorous work of score analysis, at which Korstvedt excelled. “When Ben started grad school, there weren’t people like him, really,” he recalled. “It was unusual for a student to be so keenly interested in questions that require really detailed

## **The conversation around Bruckner’s symphonic music is especially tied up with cultural and historical concerns, because of its posthumous appropriation by Adolf Hitler.**

looking at scores—the nitty gritty of multiple versions of symphonies, in his case—and going through them with a fine-toothed comb.”

The conversation around Bruckner’s symphonic music is especially tied up with cultural and historical concerns, because of its posthumous appropriation by Adolf Hitler as a shining cultural emblem of the Third Reich. Korstvedt has written extensively about the role that Nazi ideology played in the reception of Bruckner’s work in the 1930s, especially by way of Robert Haas, a musicologist at the Austrian National Library who insisted on the absolute purity of early scores in the composer’s handwriting, fending off the “corruption” in other editions published during Bruckner’s lifetime. Haas’s fixation on the “original versions” was largely carried on by his successor, Leopold Nowak. It was also uncritically (and perhaps unwittingly) adopted by English scholars in the 1960s, who brought “the Bruckner Problem” into general circulation.

Korstvedt has dismantled this line of argument, notably the idea that Bruckner was hapless in the face of deceptive or coercive intervention by his students. Among the real-world implications is a reclamation of the Fourth Symphony’s 1888 version, which had been the canonical default until its authenticity was called into question by Haas and others. *Bruckner’s Fourth* presents the evidence clearly and methodically, including a reproduction of the notations that caught Korstvedt’s eye as a graduate student. Dating from February 1888, they list a numerical catalog of Bruck-

ner’s changes to the symphony: tweaks to particular instrumental parts at specific points in the score.

“The acute attention to detail with which the composer carried out this work is palpable,” Korstvedt writes, noting that Bruckner dated the manuscript as he made his revisions. “All of this surely demonstrates the composer’s seriousness of intention in the preparation of this version.”

A larger point explored in the book is the proposition that no composer creates their work in isolation. “A symphony is, in a certain sense, an intersubjective musical genre,” Korstvedt elaborates. “It’s designed to be performed by other people, and to be heard by people. A composer like Bruckner was clearly planning and crafting this as a symphony that would be effective in performance.”

This perfectly intuitive, holistic, yet somehow provocative idea of *effectiveness* links Bruckner’s obsessive efforts with Korstvedt’s own. *Bruckner’s Fourth* bears an epigraph from Albert Camus’ *The Myth of Sisyphus*, which reads, in part: “The struggle itself toward the heights is enough to fill a man’s heart.” Asked whether he meant to frame his defining academic work around Symphony No. 4 in Sisyphian terms, Korstvedt smiled.

“Working on this book, and on the editions—where it was literally going through hundreds of pages of music and orchestra parts ... made me realize how persistent and relentless Bruckner was.” He chuckled. “I sometimes felt like: ‘Boy, he really created a puzzling mess for me to sort out.’”

---

Nate Chinen C’97 is the editorial director at WRTI, a contributor to NPR, and a music critic whose work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *JazzTimes*, *Pitchfork*, and the *Village Voice*. He is the author of *Playing Changes: Jazz for the New Century* and coauthor of *Myself Among Others: A Life in Music*, the autobiography of impresario and producer George Wein. He writes a Substack newsletter on music and culture, *The Gig*.



**ALUMNI**

**59**

Medical Antiques

**61**

World Series Pitcher

**62**

Health Philanthropy

**66**

Alumni Notes



# The Accidental Nightclub Owner

Go-go dancers, whiskey sours,  
and the revitalization of a unique Philly bar. ▶

**I**nconspicuous in jeans and a black sweatshirt bleached by lemon juice, Josette Bonafino C'89 walked through Philadelphia's Callowhill neighborhood under a starry October night and slipped into the darker confines of the Trestle Inn.

She ordered a beer and walked past black curtains, into a back room where red lanterns gave off a somber hue and a mirrored ball was still above the dance floor. When a DJ started playing a cover of the Bee Gees song "More Than a Woman," and the lights began spinning, people filed in from front to back, ready to dance for hours. Bonafino sat at a high-top table off to the side, eyes fixed on the empty go-go boxes on the stage.

That's when Bonafino started worrying. After all, she owns the corner bar at 11th and Callowhill Streets. "OK, it's 10 o'clock, where are the dancers?" she said to no one in particular.

Bonafino, 57, was a dual major at Penn, studying communications and urban studies. She said class trips through up-and-coming Philly neighborhoods, like Northern Liberties, with Weitzman School of Design lecturer Paul Levy and Professor of Social Policy and History Mark Stern, were influential. The University didn't teach Bonafino how to wipe down bar tops or mop up spilled bourbon—but she brings her education to the bar business daily.

"I essentially studied liberal arts and like to think what

Penn taught me, most of all, is how to communicate and navigate the world. Penn taught me how to go out there and continue to learn," she said a few weeks earlier inside an empty Trestle Inn. "There's still this connection to urban studies too, seeing the growth of the city as an organism, and all of the things happening here in this neighborhood. I'm a part of that now."

Stern later brought his urban studies students to Callowhill, a neighborhood that was also on the rebound at the turn of the new millennium. Bonafino would invite any Penn student 21 or over into the Trestle for a drink during those tours.

"She was in my Intro to Urban Research class," Stern recalled. "I'm not sure what exactly she took away from the class, but overall, the curriculum focused on the importance of space and place and how cities function. It seems like she understood something implicitly about contributing life to neighborhoods because that's what she's done."

After graduation, Bonafino took a different path than many of her classmates, working at a nightclub in Delaware County, and then flirting with the idea of film school in California. Bonafino didn't think she could be part of the Hollywood machine, so she went to New York, briefly, before heading back to Philly, where she was born and raised. "I'm an East Coaster," she said. "All my family's here."



**Bonafino recalls thinking the Trestle needed a facelift, that it was held up by "bubblegum and toothpicks."**

After New York, Bonafino became an entrepreneur, using her Ivy League education and ingrained Philly hustle to craft a handful of careers. She worked in publishing for a few years, then started an educational tour business called Culture Quest Tours, taking high school and college students to Europe, until the September 11 attacks derailed international travel. Troubled by the anti-Muslim sentiment poisoning the country at the time, Bonafino started a nonprofit, MYX: Multicultural Youth eXchange, that promoted multiculturalism and social responsibility to children through art. She brought that program into the School District of Philadelphia from 2006 to 2012.

One day, around 2004, Bonafino and her husband, Ian Cross, drove down Callowhill Street and saw a large "For Sale" sign at the former J & J Trestle Inn, a longtime go-go lounge. Dancers gyrated in g-strings and pasties there, mostly for neighbor-

hood factory workers nursing beers before trudging back home. The bar used to host contests for certain body parts, front and back, and signs asked patrons to keep their hands off the women.

Bonafino recalls thinking the Trestle needed a facelift, that it was held up by "bubblegum and toothpicks." She and Cross were real estate investors too, mostly flipping condominiums, but the Trestle was a new challenge and the neighborhood—which has been called the Loft District, North Chinatown, Callowhill, and the "Eraserhood," after former resident David Lynch—was alluring. "We thought it was a diamond in the rough," she said. "It came with a liquor license and that was just intriguing. And we had no fear back then. We thought we could do it, so we gave it a shot."

Levy recalled Bonafino taking his class "Urban Redevelopment: From Roosevelt to Bush" because the syllabus included a "weekend day bus tour of development projects



in Philadelphia.” Levy, board chair of the Center City District, said the class has come full circle because he’s now working on projects with the elevated Reading Viaduct Rail Park, which has an entrance about 20 yards from the Trestle. “It’s a classic situation there,” Levy said of the Cal-lowhill neighborhood. “You have the remnants of the former working-class area, the growth of Chinatown, and then artists moved in.”

Along with a \$420,000 bar and liquor license, Bonafino and Cross also inherited a tenant: the go-go act. At first, they were unsure what to do with it. “This was like a throwback to the ’70s. It was more like strip go-go,” she said. “It was fascinating, visually and culturally, but I didn’t want to operate that type of business.”

The Trestle actually needed full reconstructive surgery, Bonafino and Cross later learned. There was a popcorn drop ceiling that had to come out, layer after layer of dingy carpeting, and a mind-boggling number of electrical cords snaking through the building. Bonafino wondered how it hadn’t burned down when, in June of 2010, a three-alarm fire tore through the property, temporarily halting their plans.

Today, the Trestle still looks unassuming, but its gritty, brick facade belies a chic, candlelit minimalism inside. There are no televisions on the walls, and no jukeboxes or video games to pull patrons’ attention from one another. A projector cast old

clips of “Soul Train” on a wall, not college football. The cocktails, like the bar’s famous whiskey sour, are mostly classics. Bonafino and Cross said it’s all analog by design. They even kept the “Trestle” name all on account of the vintage sign out front.

“The sign was legendary,” she said. “We feel passionate about not destroying the character of buildings in the city. We wanted to maintain that, and if you have the outside, the inside has to speak to that.”

That’s one reason why Bonafino also decided to keep a (less salacious) version of go-go. In college, Bonafino was a member of the Penn Dance Company, where she focused on breath-driven movement and techniques that had “dramatic and expressive qualities.”

“Movement has always been important to me,” she said.

On that Saturday night in October, one of the Trestle’s go-go dancers, CeCe Summers, made her way to the box a few minutes past 10 p.m. Bonafino stopped worrying, for a minute or two. Summers wore a sequined skirt, her movements attuned to the DJ. It was clear, early on, that she was the hardest worker in the room, pausing from time to time to wipe some sweat from her brow.

“We have auditions for this and we only accept trained dancers. She’s working hard up there. They are athletes,” Bonafino said at the table that night. “There’s not a lot of places left where you’ll see anything like this.”

—Jason Nark: CGS’07



## A Preexisting Condition

Amassing a centuries-spanning collection of medical artifacts and foiling a long-running art forgery scheme are among the symptoms.

**By** the time he was 15 years old, Douglas Arbittier C’87 M’91 GM’95 knew he wanted to be a doctor—and so did everyone in his family. His second great passion in life emerged around the same age, when his mother brought home a white met-

al examining chair, with a swivel seat that went up and down, that she and a friend had spotted at a garage sale.

“Look what we got you,” his mother said proudly. “It’s medicine and history, and just interesting.” He remembers politely thanking her—

## Alumni

and privately thinking, *What would I want with that?* But that soon changed. “I was hooked,” he says. The chair would become the first item in a collection of more than 3,000 medical artifacts that Arbittier has acquired over the years documenting innovations in medicine.

The Arbittier Museum of Medical History encompasses surgical kits, diagnostic instruments, and other tools used in a wide variety of medical specialties; related historical records; and drawings, paintings, sculptures, and decorative objects that depict physicians at work or were owned by or presented to famous physicians. The oldest items are Persian cupping glasses dating from the ninth to 11th centuries. The collection cuts off in the late 1800s, when sterilization of surgical instruments began—after which, he says, “the tools are all metal and less appealing to the eye.”

“If you’re a collector, once the gene turns on it doesn’t turn off, and it usually is out of control,” says Arbittier, a self-described compulsive. Determined to unravel the history behind his mother’s gift, he traced the label on the chair’s seat bottom to the company’s 1920 medical catalogue, which he obtained from the library. His mother had paid five dollars; the original sold for 80 cents.

He began frequenting flea markets and garage sales in his quest for old medical things, usually vials or drug bottles. In those early days, he was more focused on quanti-



ty than quality; five dollars was his limit. “I had no budget whatsoever for this.” He bought a set of stackable bar-rister bookcases and began displaying his wares. He wrote to the Medical Collectors Association to ask for a free membership because he couldn’t afford the fee, and they granted him one.

And then he went to Penn.

As an undergraduate, he took a few courses in the history of medicine and more in archaeology. “Taking those certainly expanded my horizons, but I had a preexisting condition,” he jokes. As a history minor, he spent a lot of time in the Penn Museum and also discovered Philadelphia’s famed Mütter Museum at the College of Physicians, which specializes in medical history and science [“Museum Men,” Sep/Oct 2022]. “The Mütter was like my second home for a while,” he says. “I loved going there and doing research.”

He continued collecting during his undergraduate years, gradually “upping the ante” on what he was willing to pay while forming relationships with other collectors and dealers. By and by he started following auctions of medical and scientific items at Christie’s and Sotheby’s. “I generally couldn’t afford what was coming up at auction, but I was learning,” he says.

Somewhere between medical school and residency, he began to cull his finds, realizing that “the junk never goes up in value,” he says. “It’s much smarter to sell or trade 10 of those pieces for one middle-of-the-road or nicer piece. And that’s what I started doing.” He also began to zero in on bloodletting and leeching and eventually surgical sets, very early instruments from the 1600s and 1700s, and Civil War–related medical objects in his acquisitions.

Arbittier’s collection includes a vast array of bloodletting instruments, including this English cupping set (circa 1860).

Anna N. Dhody, the founder and executive director of the Dhody Research Institute, a nonprofit that focuses on historical medical collections, says she was “blown away” when she visited Arbittier’s collection in its former location in a dedicated structure in York, Pennsylvania. (The collection has since been moved to Arbittier’s current home in New Jersey, where he is a vice president with Atlantic Health System.) “It is an absolutely amazing collection not only in terms of its breadth but also its diversity,” says Dhody. “Doug’s collection is a testimony to his passion for the subject and how wonderful that passion can be.”

The collection includes a vast array of bloodletting instruments, including several hundred bleeders (also known as *scarificators* or *fleems*) that were used in the 1700s and 1800s. Resembling cigarette lighters or match cases, they’re made of sterling silver, shagreen, tortoiseshell, mother of pearl, and gold, and each holds a set of thumb lancets used for bloodletting. They are quite striking *objets d’art* whose intricate workmanship often has a way of disguising their true purpose. The same goes for leech jars—china vessels in different shapes and styles that are attractive even with the word “leeches” hand painted on the fronts. There are also Delft tiles and plates depicting medical procedures, and a 1763 Delft tobacco jar.

Arbittier also collects exhibition instrument sets—the



finest examples of the instrument maker's craft—and presentation pieces, gifts given to doctors by grateful patients or citizens. A magnificent brain surgery set includes a gold brain drill that was displayed at the International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts in Paris in 1925. Other highlights include a mother of pearl ophthalmology set with retractors and scissors and a dental case in mother of pearl owned by James Butner, who graduated from the Philadelphia College of Dental Surgery, predecessor of the Penn Dental School, in 1853. (Arbittier has Butner's diploma.) The set has drawers full of the original instruments, all in perfect condition.

Other Penn-related items include admission tickets to lectures given by famed physicians Joseph Leidy M1844 and D. Hayes Agnew M1838 of the Agnew Clinic, and the sword presented by the citizens of Philadelphia to Arctic explorer Elisha Kent Kane M1842 ["Explorer in a Hurry," Mar|Apr 2008].

Presentation pieces include a Colt pistol embellished by Tiffany & Co. that was given to D. Willard Bliss, head surgeon of Armory Square Hospital, the largest Army hospital in Washington, DC, by patients and staff in the early 1860s. As Arbittier tells the story, Bliss was also famed as a surgeon to presidents, and while treating President James A. Garfield for a gunshot injury in July 1881, "kept sticking his finger in the wound to try and find the path of the bullet." He

did this for two and a half months before the president ultimately died of an infection. "So that's where the saying 'Ignorance is Bliss' comes from," Arbittier jokes. "In fact, during his trial the man who shot Garfield, Charles J. Guiteau, said, 'I just shot him. The doctor killed him.'"

Among Arbittier's most prized displays are artifacts related to the death of Abraham Lincoln, including handwritten notes by physician Charles Leale—who had just graduated from medical school and was the first person in the president's box after he was shot—describing what he found and what he did, both on the night that Lincoln was shot on April 14, 1865, and the next day.

Arbittier also has Leale's handwritten speech on "Lincoln's Last Hours," delivered in February 1909 during the centenary of Lincoln's birth at the Military Order of the Loyal Legion's Commandery of the State of New York, and published in *Harper's Weekly* that month. "It's just extremely unique to have all these notes pertaining to Lincoln's medical care," he says. The collection even includes the opera glasses Mary Todd Lincoln was holding when her husband was shot, which Arbittier purchased from a British auction house. "The story is they just found them in a drawer when they were cleaning out an estate," he says.

Arbittier's Civil War surgical instrument collection includes the surgical set used in the first amputation of the

JAKE COUSINS C'17

## Baseball's Biggest Stage



When New York Yankees pitcher Jake Cousins C'17 was called out of the bullpen for the 10th inning of Game 1 of the World Series on October 25, it was an incredibly high-stakes moment in a matchup between two of Major League Baseball's most iconic franchises.

It also marked a bit of University history, with Cousins becoming the first Penn alum to play in a World Series in 112 years. The last time had come when Stephen Douglas Yerkes W1909—a shortstop on the Quakers' 1906 baseball team—scored the winning run in the decisive game of the 1912 World Series, lifting the Boston Red Sox past Hall of Famer Christy Mathewson and the New York Giants.

Cousins's trip to this year's Fall Classic wasn't as dramatic or successful. He was charged with the loss in Game 1 and then pitched an inning apiece in New York's losses in Game 2 and Game 3 (pictured above) as the Yankees fell to the Los Angeles Dodgers in five games, missing out on their 28th title.

But Cousins helped the Yankees get there with some strong pitching after coming to New York at the start of the 2024 season.

An All-Ivy pitcher who won 20 games for Penn (third in program history) between 2014 and 2017, Cousins was selected in the 20th round of the 2017 Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft by the Washington Nationals—one of four Quakers to be drafted that year. The right-hander bounced around the minor leagues for a few years, along with several other Penn alums ["Sports," Sep|Oct 2019], before making it to the majors in 2021 with the Milwaukee Brewers.

At that point, Cousins enjoyed another milestone as the first Penn alum to pitch in an MLB game since Steve Adkins EAS'86 did it with the Yankees in 1990. The only other Penn alumni to play in the majors in the last 60 years are Doug Glanville EAS'93 and Mark DeRosa W'97, both of whom had long and successful pro careers despite not playing in a World Series (though DeRosa won a World Series ring, while injured, with the San Francisco Giants in 2010). —DZ

Civil War in the Capitol Rotunda on April 26, 1861, and the amputation set that was handed over at Appomattox in 1865. "I call them my bookends, the before and after," he says.

All of his surgical sets are meticulously documented on his website, which contains information on how he determined their authenticity and the back stories of some of the doctors to whom they

belonged. He also includes cautionary notes about purchasing sets without what he calls “serious documentation,” with links to Civil War manufacturers’ catalogs. “I cannot let something go,” he told the *New York Times* in an article published last July. “It has to be figured out, investigated to death.”

That story—a fascinating one—recounted Arbittier’s crucial role in exposing a long-running case of art forgery. After realizing that he had been duped in a purchase of 120 woodblock and prints ostensibly from the 16th and 17th centuries starting in 2013, Arbittier compiled almost 300 pages of incriminating evidence for use by the FBI in investigating the case. Last year, the forger was caught in a sting operation and is currently serving a 52-month sentence at a federal prison in Florida.

The experience has not deterred Arbittier from collecting, but he is very vigilant with every purchase. “One must always be careful as a collector because forgers take advantage of your passion,” he says. He continues to purchase items of note—“It’s hard to know what I’m missing until I find it”—and his hope is to one day house the collection in a more public space. “I’ve seen collections like his get put into storage,” Dhody says. “So much knowledge would be lost.”

—Kathryn Levy Feldman LPS’09

The Arbittier Museum of Medical History can be found at [www.medicalantiques.com](http://www.medicalantiques.com).

Robert K. Ross C’76 M’80 G’92

## “The Community Is Your Patient”

The head of California’s largest private healthcare foundation looks back on a career investing in communities.

**AS** the head of the California Endowment, the largest private nonprofit foundation in the state dedicated to improving residents’ health, Robert K. Ross C’76 M’80 G’92 transformed healthcare for underserved communities for nearly a quarter of a century. Ross retired from the Los Angeles-based philanthropic organization in September at the age of 69, leaving a legacy of health policy-focused grants that center on the community rather than individuals.

“It’s been a joyful, rewarding, privileged position,” he said.

During his tenure, the California Endowment made a game-changing investment to help implement the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare. Ross said the \$350 million investment—“the biggest we’ve ever made as a foundation”—went toward optimizing the success of Obamacare in California “through education, outreach, enrollment, and expanding services to immigrant communities who were left out.” Before the passage of the Affordable Care Act, approximately 20 percent of Californians had no health insurance. The unprecedented grant support boosted en-

rollment and cut the uninsured rate to approximately six percent, Ross noted.

Ross joined the California Endowment in 2000 with a wealth of healthcare and public policy experience shaped by his studies at Penn, where he earned three degrees. “I can’t say enough about how much my experience at Penn helped lay the groundwork for this career,” he said. “It’s been simply amazing.”

Born to a Puerto Rican mother and African American father, Ross grew up in the Bronx, New York. As a high school junior, he decided to apply to Penn after running in the Penn Relays. “I was flabbergasted at how beautiful and engaging the campus was,” said Ross, who majored in biology as an undergraduate before earning a medical degree from the Perelman School of Medicine. He completed his residency in pediatric medicine at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Ross received a scholarship from the National Health Service Corps—a federal program that pays recipients’ medical school tuition in exchange for providing medical care in an underserved community—that kept him in the area. He then went to work as a pedia-

trician in Camden, New Jersey, during the crack cocaine epidemic in the 1980s, which “transformed my thinking about being a healer.”

Ross stopped seeing himself as simply a doctor treating patients and began to view his work in terms of treating a whole community, leading him to seek out public health administration roles.

“In public health, the community is your patient. And I just loved that idea, particularly in the context of the impact that crack was having on the health of Camden,” Ross said. Ultimately, he served as the commissioner of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and later left the East Coast to become the director of the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency.

After approximately eight years heading the San Diego agency, Ross joined the California Endowment’s board of directors just as the foundation was looking for a new president and CEO. With his strong background in public health leadership, it wasn’t long before the board asked Ross to head the foundation.

Blue Cross of California created the California Endowment in 1996. The foundation currently has more than \$3 billion in assets and has awarded more than \$3 billion in grants to community-based organizations throughout the state during its existence. The California Endowment seeks to “change the way people view health—from the notion that health happens in the doctor’s office





to a belief that health happens where you live, work, learn, and play.”

From the start, Ross put his stamp on the foundation. “I wanted to focus on super-marginalized, ignored, and underserved populations,” he said. “We did a lot of investing in farm workers’ health across the state because they’re so ignored. So many of them don’t have legal immigration status and don’t qualify for any health services.” He also emphasized improving access to health and mental health services for young people of color in the juvenile justice and foster care systems, and youth in the LGBTQ+ community.

Under Ross’s leadership, the California Endowment be-

came more focused on changing laws, policies, and systems that impede healthy living for a range of underserved communities. He counts the \$350 million investment to support enrollment in the Affordable Care Act as one of his proudest accomplishments. But the ongoing difficulty managing the rising cost of healthcare and health insurance proved to be his biggest frustration. “Until we get to a more unified financing system in this country like single-payer [healthcare system] or some variation of single-payer, I don’t think we’re going to be able to get our arms around it,” he said. “So that’s been a frustrating battle for us in the business of health philanthropy.”

Even as practice issues per-

sisted, Ross concentrated on encouraging philosophical shifts within the California Endowment, particularly the foundation’s embrace of place-based funding, which lets community leaders decide how to best utilize investments in their communities.

“We ended up dropping anchor as a partner in 14 really low-income communities,” he said. The California Endowment then talked in-depth with community leaders to determine their needs. In East Los Angeles, for example, the foundation learned that a group of Latina women regularly walked in the cemetery for exercise to avoid gang violence in the neighborhood parks. “The cemetery ended up being the

safest place for them to take a walk,” Ross said. “So we worked with them to get their parks cleaned up and make exercise more available and accessible.”

Ross believes being a good listener has helped make him an effective philanthropic leader. “In philanthropy, we often think about getting the smartest people in the room and making the smartest grant possible to solve an issue,” he said. “But what I’ve learned is [you need to] open your ears, lean forward, listen, and engage. Let your philanthropic investments be guided by grassroots organizations and grassroots leaders, and good things will undoubtedly occur.”

—Samantha Drake CGS’06

# Penn Alumni Regional Clubs

*Extending Penn's Reach Across the World*



## Penn Club of Boston



### Alumni Club Award of Merit |

The Penn Club of Boston is honored as the 2024 recipient of the Alumni Club Award of Merit. The Penn Club of Boston was selected for their exceptionally diverse set of well-attended events. They offered generationally inclusive programming, from young alumni events to their SAGES program, which offers events by and for alumni who graduated 40+ years ago. They are exemplary collaborators, working with other Boston-based Ivy+ alumni clubs, cross promoting events, and serving as a mentor for the new Penn Club of Worcester. The Penn Club of Boston caters to a large and diverse population and their numerous consistently sold-out events reflect their commitment to Boston area alumni.

## Penn Club of Hong Kong



### Innovation Award |

The 2024 Innovation Award is presented to the Penn Club of Hong Kong. This award is given to a club that demonstrates creativity and innovation in engaging Penn alumni—and the Penn Club of Hong Kong was selected for their creative event series *Penn X*. With programs like *Penn X Art*, *Penn X Life*, and *Penn X Perspectives*, the club is engaging new segments of alumni.

Experience the impact of Penn in *your* community.

See our listing of Penn alumni clubs and get involved: [www.alumni.upenn.edu/clubs](http://www.alumni.upenn.edu/clubs)



Over 120 Penn Alumni Regional Clubs around the world serve to bring the spirit of the University to their regions. Wherever you are, you're never far from another Penn alumnus or a Penn Club. In connecting the Penn community across the globe, clubs offer opportunities for fun and socializing, networking, learning, and collaborative initiatives that impact the people and communities where they live.

## Penn Club of Philadelphia

**Community Service Award** | Congratulations to the Penn Club of Philadelphia, the 2024 recipient of the Community Service Award. This award recognizes a club which is dedicated to making an impact on their local community through one or more events and provides volunteer opportunities to their club members. The Club was selected for its impact on the greater Philadelphia community. They offered three diverse service opportunities to their members throughout the year by partnering with the Children's Crisis Treatment Center, Share Food Program and the Philadelphia Zoo.



## Penn Club of Switzerland

**Engagement Award** | The Penn Club of Switzerland is the winner of the 2024 Engagement Award, which recognizes a club that has increased engagement through a variety of events or with a single signature event. The club got a fresh start this past year after being dormant for five years and held six successful events throughout the country. The success of the events was in large part due to the Club board members personally messaging alumni through email, MyPenn and LinkedIn. Many alumni noted the personal touch was ultimately the reason they decided to attend the events.



“Drs. Craig Holbrook, Bill Edkin, Dennis Burkett, Andy Nebzydoski, and I decided to continue celebrating our reunion year with a 360-mile bike ride along the Erie Canal in October. With perfect weather and no mishaps, it was an outstanding ride for our aging group of veterinarians to reconnect.”

—Dr. Jim Lunig V’84

## 1954

**Bernard Edelson W’54 L’57** writes, “After 55 years of practice—working for the Defender Association, as a district attorney, and doing trial work representing plaintiffs and defendants—I retired in 2013. Then my life became more interesting and enjoyable. My wife, Fay Stofman Edelson, and I live at an assisted living facility in Framingham, Massachusetts, where I am the sole caretaker for Fay. I look forward to 2027, when, health permitting, I will carry the flag down Locust Walk, celebrating my Penn years.”

**Tony Pasquarello C’54**, professor emeritus of philosophy at The Ohio State University, has authored an extended article, featured in the Oct|Nov issue of *Free Inquiry* (Vol. 44, No. 6). *Free Inquiry* is published by the Council for Secular Humanism, a program of the Center for Inquiry. Tony’s article, “The Face of (the Problem of) Evil,” explores the significance and validity of Epicurus’s famous Problem of Evil.

## 1959

**Samantha Miller Grier CW’59** has written her second book under her pen (not Penn) name, Shulamit Sofia, and “it is dedicated to all the Old Guarders,” she reports. *From Oy to Joy: A Soul Journey Towards Making the Best of Your Life for the Rest of*

*Your Life* “enables the reader to soften the slings and arrows of aging by developing successful strategies and a positive mindset.”

**Celebrate Your Reunion, May 16–19, 2025!**

## 1960

**Dr. Ferdinand A. DeAntonis C’60** writes, “Once again, and now at the age of 86, I was a volunteer at the Xponential Music Festival in Camden, New Jersey’s Wiggins Park. This annual event, which this year took place on September 20–22, is organized by dear old WXP. I have been doing this for many years.” While at Penn, Dr. DeAntonis, who was known as Fred, was a member of Alpha Chi Sigma.

## 1961

**Joseph Schwab C’61** shares this tribute for his 1961 classmate **James N. “Jay” Hullett C’61**, who died June 2 [“Obituaries,” Sep|Oct 2024]: “Jay and I were fellow Warwick dormitory residents during our freshman year. Jay introduced me to jazz by frequently playing Thelonious Monk records. And Jay provided me with summer jobs (working on hail insurance) at Hartford Insurance’s offices in Chicago, my hometown—apparently via his father, who was the president of The Hart-

## We Want to Hear from You

**EMAIL** [gazette@ben.dev.upenn.edu](mailto:gazette@ben.dev.upenn.edu)

Please include your school and year, along with your address and a daytime telephone number. We include email addresses only when requested or obviously implied.

**ALUMNI NOTE DEADLINES** 7/15 for the Sep|Oct issue; 9/15 for Nov|Dec; 11/15 for Jan|Feb; 1/15 for Mar|Apr; 3/15 for May|Jun; and 5/15 for Jul|Aug.

## Events

### WESTCHESTER AND ROCKLAND COUNTIES

Enjoy an evening of good company and great theatre in New York City. Join fellow alumni and celebrate Ben’s birthday on Tuesday, February 4, over dinner at the Penn Club of New York, followed by a performance of *The Outsiders*, which won the 2024 Tony Award for Best Musical, Best Direction, Best Lighting, and Best Sound. *The Outsiders* is the beloved story that defined a generation, reimagined as a groundbreaking new musical. Enjoy a discussion with the show’s producers and orchestra seats at the musical. To register for the event, visit the Penn Club of Westchester and Rockland Counties events page at [www.pennclubwestrock.org](http://www.pennclubwestrock.org).

ford at that time. I deeply regret that I never thanked Jay. Rest in peace, Jay, and sincere belated thanks, nevertheless.”

## 1964

**Barry Fain C’64** has been inducted into the Rhode Island Press Association’s Rhode Island Journalism Hall of Fame in recognition of his lifelong achievements in the publishing industry. Barry writes, “I have been publishing several magazines distributed throughout the state of Rhode Island since 1975. I knew those late nights as an editor at the *Daily Pennsylvanian* would serve me well.” He adds, “I truly enjoyed attending my 60th Reunion and touring the DP offices.”

**Ilene Leff CW’64** writes, “In October, I went to the McKinsey New York Office (NYO) Alumni Event, where they invited 100 alums of the AI industry, as well as me, the 12th woman consultant in the firm’s history, and a friend,



the first woman partner. The current woman head of the NYO did an intro by having everyone stand and then sit down if they left the firm after 2020, 2010, 2000, 1990, etc., until the first woman partner and I were the only ones left standing. Guess it showed the younger people how advanced McKinsey was to hire women so long ago. It was an honor to be recognized as the ‘most tenured’ alum there. Young women came up to me with thanks for paving the way. I am still (yes, ‘still’) active as a senior advisor to Ashoka, a social sector organization founded by a McKinsey colleague, and as an independent consultant to companies and organizations on people management strategies. I introduced Ashoka to **John Gamba C’92**, entrepreneur in residence at Penn’s Graduate School of Education Catalyst Center, for a partnership in developing the Ashoka Penn GSE Changemaker Educator Certificate. Our class motto is ‘Stayin’ Alive!’”

**Stuart Resor C’64** shares this memory: “Three years after my roommate **Dr. Ronnie Feldman C’65 GM’73** and I went down from campus to see JFK during his remaining weeks of the 1960 presidential campaign ... the word circulated through my AXP home that President Kennedy had been shot. Along with others, I was stunned and overcome with sadness on a major level! I thought the sun would not come up and that the subway would not run. However, the next morning all that came to pass. I slowly recovered from all that. That memory sadly far outweighs many other good things that happened at Penn during my otherwise very happy days there.”

*Celebrate Your Reunion, May 16–19, 2025!*

## 1965

**Arthur L. Finkle WG’65**, a designated advanced practitioner by the Association for Conflict Resolution, co-heads the organization’s national section for Workplace Mediation. He is an eclectic author of 10 books on management, five on Judaism, and nine on topic subjects. His most recent book is *Can One Recover Nazi Purloined Property: Obstacles to Retrieving Nazi Plunder*. He also teaches at Kean Univer-

sity and Empire State College, and he was recently tapped to serve as an editor and peer reviewer for Merlot.org, a repository of online learning resources. Certified as a Reform Jewish Educator and mentored by an Orthodox rabbi, he has long served as educational director for two synagogues.

## 1967

**E. Judd Cohen C’67** was named president of the Penn Club of New York in July.

*Celebrate Your Reunion, May 16–19, 2025!*

## 1970

**Sandi Shustak Kligman MT’70** writes, “The Class of 1970 Reunion Committee is excited to announce that, on January 28 at 7 p.m. EST, **Andy Wolk C’70** will present a special Zoom screening of his riveting, award-winning film *Rough Magic: Exit Shakespeare*. The 37-minute-long movie will be followed by an interactive Q&A with Andy and a discussion about the creative process. This Zoom event is open to all alumni, friends, and family. Please check class newsletters for details or contact Charles Marsh (chmars@upenn.edu) to register. Andy Wolk has written/directed over 100 episodes of television (including *The Sopranos*, *Criminal Minds*, and *Gossip Girl*) and is currently working on a new adaptation of *Antigone*.”

## 1972

**David I. Falk W’72** has been installed as president of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

**Robin Palley CW’72** writes, “I am wrapping up a career in digital marketing as senior vice president of healthcare at Epsilon, a Publicis Groupe company, and (with partner Henry Brann) am now running the Nick Virgilio Haiku Association and Writers House, a nonprofit centered on poetry (especially modern American haiku) and literacy in Camden, New Jersey. The organization delivers free programs, especially for underserved youth, using short-form poetry and a trauma-informed curriculum in schools to support creativity, self-expression, word skills, and reading. As board

president, I’m especially focused on board recruitment and welcome any outreach (www.nickvirgiliohaiku.org). Also enjoying kids **Josh Palley C’04** and his wife **Julie Berstein Palley C’03**, Dr. Alexis Langsfeld, who practices emergency medicine in Brooklyn, and her husband **Ben Langsfeld C’02** and their five wonderful kids. Watch out, Penn—the next generation is coming!”

## 1973

**Seth Bergmann GEE’73** writes, “I have retired from the computer science department at Rowan University, after 44 years. On September 28, I completed the 75-mile Bike MS: City to Shore Ride.”

**George J. Marcus C’73** announces his retirement from the full-time practice of law. George, a native of Portland, Maine, practiced corporate law in that community for 48 years following his graduation from Penn in 1973 and the University of Chicago Law School in 1976. He says he now looks forward to retirement, travel with his wife Nancy, and spending more time with his family and friends.

*Celebrate Your Reunion, May 16–19, 2025!*

## 1975

**Nathan D. “Nicky” Isen W’75** has relocated his auction house specializing in contemporary art, Dane Fine Art, to 2320 Haverford Road in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. Nathan is coauthor of the book *Louis Icart: The Complete Etchings*, and he and his wife **Leslie Berman C’81** are expecting their 10th grandchild.

**Dr. Powel Kazanjian C’75**, a professor of history and medicine at the University of Michigan, is the author of a new book, *Persisting Pandemics: Syphilis, AIDS, and COVID*. He writes, “It examines why pandemics persist despite public health programs using scientific tools that can eradicate them. It shows how the socioeconomic factors that drive epidemic diseases interfere with biomedical efforts to eliminate them. It also explores what it means to live with epidemic diseases and the programs designed to eliminate them today.”

## 1978

**Dr. Bill Edkin C'78 V'84** see **Dr. Jim Lunig V'84**.

**Dr. Jay Tartell C'78** writes, "I remain in active clinical practice as a radiologist at RadNet medical imaging centers in New York City. With longstanding interests and scholarship in art, antiques, and historic objects, I have now published my first full-length book on early English and Colonial American military history, titled *Evolution of the Brown Bess Musket: Early British Infantry Flintlocks in Context*. This work holistically covers early Anglo-American conflicts and the interrelation between tactics and flintlock infantry arms from 1600 through the American Revolution."

## 1981

**Leslie Berman C'81** see **Nathan D. "Nick" Isen W'75**.

## 1982

**Woody Rosenbach W'82 WG'83** writes, "Forty-one years post-Penn, October marked a major milestone as I closed out my career chapter. This career journey started in consumer products as a brand assistant at Procter & Gamble (Vicks, Pampers), progressed with stints at Campbell Soup (Vlasic, Spaghettios, V8), Mattel Toys (Hot Wheels/Matchbox/Tyco, Barbie, Fisher-Price), and Kantar Consulting (Coca-Cola, Hershey's, Mondelez)—with a capstone ending as CEO of COMHAR (a Philadelphia-based health and human services nonprofit). What's the next chapter? Of course, there will be more time with my wife, **Brooke Smith C'82 GSE'82** (who preceded me in retirement after a more than 30-year teaching career), as well as friends, family, travel, sports, etc. But I will also be restarting my volunteer efforts to help sustain and grow Philadelphia as a world-class city. Stay tuned."

## 1983

**Randy Malamud C'83**, Regents' Professor of English at Georgia State University, has published his 12th book, *CRASH! Aviation Disasters and the Cultural Debris*

*Fields*. He is retiring this year, he says, "after 41 wonderful and exhausting years of teaching, 36 of them at GSU."

## 1984

**Nora M. Alter C'84 G'86 Gr'91**, a professor of film and media arts at Temple University, is the author of a new book, *Harun Farocki: Forms of Intelligence*, which presents a comprehensive analysis of the work of one of the world's most celebrated experimental filmmakers, Harun Farocki. From the press materials: "Focusing on interconnected ideas surrounding labor, critique, and war, [Nora Alter] shows how [Farocki's] politically committed art is informed by pedagogical strategies that drive viewers to perceive how the media world they inhabit functions."

**Neil Kaplan W'84** has published *Polish Citizenship by Descent: The PolandPassport.com Handbook*. Updated for 2025, the book is a comprehensive guide to the process of gaining Polish citizenship by descent and ancestry. Topics include recent changes in Polish citizenship law, and it is one of the first books of its kind to address the dramatically increasing interest in obtaining a second citizenship.

**Peter Brampton Koelle G'84 Gr'95** has published a play in Spanish, *El Tiro Postergado* (The Shot Postponed), a drama that examines pride, revenge, duels, and destiny in post-Napoleonic Russia.

**Marc C. Laredo C'84** is featured in the 2024 issue of *Massachusetts Super Lawyers*, as a "Top 100 Lawyer" in the category of Business Litigation. Marc is a partner at Laredo & Smith, a law firm with offices in Boston.

**Dr. Jim Lunig V'84** shares, "While attending our 40th class reunion in May, **Drs. Craig Holbrook V'84, Bill Edkin C'78 V'84, Dennis Burkett V'84, Andy Nebzydoski V'84**, and I decided to continue celebrating our reunion year with a 360-mile bike ride along the Erie Canal in October. With perfect weather and no mishaps, it was an outstanding ride for our aging group of veterinarians to reconnect. We are planning a ride across Ohio or Western Pennsylvania next fall and hoping other classmates will join us."

**Janet Popofsky Vance C'84** is a lawyer and corporate partner in the New York office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, where she has worked since 1988, after a clerkship with a federal judge in Los Angeles from 1987 to 1988. She writes, "My children are both Penn grads, **Eden Vance C'22** (currently at Harvard Law School) and **Hudson Vance C'24** (currently at Columbia Law School). I live in New York City and East Hampton, and I would be happy to hear from classmates at janetpopofsky@gmail.com or jvance@gibsondunn.com."

## 1986

**Jerome Socolovsky EAS'86** switched careers after graduating and went into journalism, and he now works for National Public Radio in Washington, DC. His first book, *Sound Reporting (Second Edition): The NPR Guide to Broadcast, Podcast and Digital Journalism*, was published in December. In the book, Jerome reveals how stories get pitched; how they are reported, produced, written, edited, voiced, and tailored to multiple media formats; and how shows and podcasts are put together. The book is based on Jerome's extensive work as a reporter and foreign correspondent, editor on *Morning Edition* and NPR's national, international, and culture desks, as well as more than 80 interviews with other NPR staffers.

## 1988

**Efren David Olivares W'88** writes, "After 25 years as a leader in pharmaceutical marketing and market research (17 of those at Pfizer, both in New York and abroad), I returned to school for a master of art degree in modern and contemporary art at Christie's Education and set up Look@NYArt (lookatnyart.com), a service offering well-received customized art gallery walks throughout New York City. (Art History was always my favorite class at Penn, despite being a Wharton undergrad.) It has been a pleasure to lead dozens of tours for members of the Penn Club of New York and Penn Club of New Jersey. Feel free to contact me



if you are in the New York tristate area and might be interested in a customized art tour for your work colleagues, club or association, clients, friends or family.”

**Sophie Osborn C’88** has published her second book, *Feather Trails: A Journey of Discovery Among Endangered Birds*. She writes, “Birds are receiving increased attention because of their diminished population numbers and the explosion of interest in birds during the pandemic (at last estimate, 96 million of us in the US watch/enjoy birds). The book takes readers behind the scenes and shows them (through my work and experiences) what it’s like to reintroduce endangered bird species to the wild. In the process, the book highlights the threats that imperiled these birds and reveals that what threatened them harms us too. Birds are truly the canaries in the coal mines that alert us to environmental harms. The book has received wonderful reviews from some of our best-known bird writers/scientists.”

**Celebrate Your Reunion, May 16–19, 2025!**

## 1990

**J. Timothy Davis G’90 Gr’95**, a child and family psychologist and volunteer firefighter, has written a new book, *Challenging Boys: A Proven Plan for Keeping Your Cool and Helping Your Son Thrive*, to be released in April. Publisher Rowman & Littlefield describes the book as “an innovative approach for parents of challenging boys to prevent meltdowns and put out fires.”

**Fred Sullivan W’90** see **Daniel Roberts C’91**.

## 1991

**William Hudders GFA’91** shares that his painting “White Shirt, 2023” is on view at the Mid Atlantic New Painting Biennial 2024 at the University of Mary Washington Galleries in Fredericksburg, Virginia, through January 19. His paintings can be viewed on his website, [williamhudders.com](http://williamhudders.com).

**Daniel Roberts C’91** writes, “My second novel, *Ponder*, was released on October 8.

In addition to writing, I work as a private investor and venture capitalist in New York City, where I live with my young daughter. I am in touch with several Quakers, including **Claude Schwab C’91 WG’98**, **Greg Lippman C’91**, **Fred Sullivan W’90**, and **Lee Rezza Michel C’91**.”

## 1992

**John Gamba C’92** see **Ilene Leff CW’64**.

## 1993

**William C. Kashatus Gr’93**, a historian, educator, and author of more than 20 books, has published a new biography of former NFL All-Pro free safety Bill Bradley, *Blue-Eyed Soul Brother: The Versatile Football Life of Super Bill Bradley*. From the press materials: “Bill Bradley ... was known on the gridiron as much for his fierce competitiveness as he was for his whimsical nonconformity off it. Bradley was among the first NFL players to hold out for a bigger salary and challenge the status quo with his long hair, bushy mustache, and free-spirited lifestyle.”

## 1996

**Matt Robinson C’96** has expanded the reach of his Ivy League book, *Lions, Tigers, and ... Bulldogs? An Unofficial Guide to the Legends and Lore of the Ivy League*, by hosting a nationally syndicated author interview program called “The Writer’s Block,” available for viewing online at [needhamchannel.org/the-writers-block](http://needhamchannel.org/the-writers-block). More information about his book can be found at [lionstigersbulldogs.com](http://lionstigersbulldogs.com). Matt adds, “I’d love to work with more Quaker authors.”

## 1997

**Sigrid Ladores Barrett Nu’97 GNu’02** has been selected as the new dean of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Nursing. She writes, “I am a tenured professor and will be overseeing the growth and excellence of the school as part of an R1 university.” Sigrid is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and has received numerous awards for her teaching, research, and service.

## Alumni in Business

A guide for Gazette readers seeking to reach the business services of Penn graduates.



### Magical Entertainment for Milestone and Corporate Events!

Steve Cotariu, WG’94 AKA Hudson the Magician

218.656.0006

[Hudson@HudsonMagic.com](mailto:Hudson@HudsonMagic.com)

[www.HudsonMagic.com](http://www.HudsonMagic.com)

**Exchanges Made Easy™**

The future of trading is here.

- Build a new secondary marketplace for a fraction of the time and cost
- Leverage EP3’s library of APIs to extend your exchange ecosystem
- Consult our team of experts to develop and support your platform

**EP3**  
by  
**Connamara**  
TECHNOLOGIES  
[www.connamara.tech](http://www.connamara.tech)

Daniel Davis W’15,  
[ddavis@connamara.tech](mailto:ddavis@connamara.tech)

John Tepe Special Penn Community Rates

**JOHN TEPE, ’03**  
HIGH PERFORMANCE  
MINDSET COACHING  
AND THERAPY  
Practising Online  
Take Control of Your Narrative

[www.johntepe.com](http://www.johntepe.com)  
[john@john-tepe.com](mailto:john@john-tepe.com)

For advertising information, contact Linda Caiazzo:  
[caiazzo@upenn.edu](mailto:caiazzo@upenn.edu); 215-898-6811.

## 1999

**Ndaba N. Gaolathe WG'99** was sworn in as Botswana's vice president in November. He serves alongside President Duma Boko and will also double as the country's finance minister.

*Celebrate Your Reunion, May 16–19, 2025!*

## 2000

**Meredith Klapholz Fogel L'00** has been promoted to executive vice president, chief legal officer, and general counsel at the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. She joined the organization's legal department in 2016.

**Don P. Hooper EAS'00**, a writer and filmmaker, has published his debut novel for young adults, *True True*. The story follows Gil, a Black teen from Brooklyn, as he begins his senior year at an almost entirely white Manhattan prep school, where he struggles to fit in. After a racist run-in on the first day leaves him suspended, Gil realizes the school is not going to carve out a space for him, and he works to make a change in the school's politics.

## 2002

**Kazi Khaleed Ashraf Gr'02**, director-general of the Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements in Dhaka, Bangladesh, has published two new books, *The Mother Tongue of Architecture: Selected Writings of Kazi Khaleed Ashraf* and *The Great Padma: The Epic River that made the Bengal Delta*, of which he is the editor. More information about Kazi and his writings can be found at [kaziashraf.com](http://kaziashraf.com) and [bengal.institute](http://bengal.institute).

**Ben Langsfeld C'02** see **Robin Palley CW'72**.

**Lauren Davidson Sachs C'02** served as president of the Penn Club of New York from July 2018 until June 2024, completing a six-year tenure in the role.

## 2003

**Julie Berstein Palley C'03** see **Robin Palley CW'72**.

**Allen B. Reitz GEx'03 GEx'06**, CEO of

Fox Chase Therapeutics Discovery, received the Timothy M. Block, PhD, Biotech Impact Award from the Hepatitis B Foundation, Baruch S. Blumberg Institute, and Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center. Allen was recognized for his many professional accomplishments in the field of drug discovery and development.

**Vicky Reynal C'03** is a London-based psychotherapist and columnist for the *Daily Mail*. She has authored a new book, *Money on Your Mind: The Psychology Behind Your Financial Habits*, which aims to help readers overcome emotional hurdles to make better financial choices.

## 2004

**Josh Palley C'04** see **Robin Palley CW'72**.

## 2006

**Chris Ko C'06** has been named senior director of programs and impact for the Anenberg Foundation, which provides funding and support to nonprofit organizations in the US and globally. Prior to this appointment, he was vice president of impact and strategy for United Way of Greater Los Angeles.

## 2007

**Rachel Aronson C'07** has been selected as a Leadership Fellow at the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, a fellowship for emerging leaders tackling critical challenges for the public good. Rachel is the director of Quiet Sound, a Washington State NGO working with commercial shipping to protect endangered whales.

**Sara E. Gorman C'07**, a public health expert and author based in New York, has published a new book, *The Anatomy of Deception: Conspiracy Theories, Distrust, and Public Health in America*. Sara is also CEO of Critica, whose mission is to develop new methods of advancing public acceptance of scientific evidence.

## 2009

**Matthew A. Marcucci C'09** has been promoted to counsel at Warsaw Burstein, LLP. Matthew maintains a broad litigation practice

that encompasses nearly every type of commercial dispute. He has been named a *Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" each year since 2018.

## 2013

**Taylor E. Hawes-Pacheco C'13 L'16** is returning to Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity (PLSE) as the organization's executive director. She originally joined PLSE in September of 2019 as a staff attorney and quickly rose to deputy executive director in 2021. Most recently, she was the associate director of public interest fellowships and government career pathway at Penn Carey Law. PLSE is a nonprofit that "provides free legal advice and representation to low-income Philadelphia residents whose criminal records are holding them back from achieving their social and career potentials."

*Celebrate Your Reunion, May 16–19, 2025!*

## 2015

**Joshua Kahane L'15** and Rebecca Feldbaum were married on June 9 at the Memphis Botanic Garden in Memphis, Tennessee. Joshua is a litigation partner at Schlam Stone & Dolan LLP in New York City.

## 2019

**Emily Spencer EAS'19 W'19** and **Frank Masuelli EAS'20 GEng'20** were married August 23, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Emily and Frank met while on the ski team at Penn. They were honored to have many fellow Penn grads join in the celebration.

*Celebrate Your Reunion, May 16–19, 2025!*

## 2020

**Frank Masuelli EAS'20 GEng'20** see **Emily Spencer EAS'19 W'19**.

## 2022

**Eden Vance C'22** see **Janet Popofsky Vance C'84**.

## 2024

**Hudson Vance C'24** see **Janet Popofsky Vance C'84**.



## 1939

**Virginia Gehr Stackel Ed'39**, Matthews, NC, a former middle school math and English teacher; Oct. 8, at 106. At Penn, she was a member of the Choral Society.

## 1942

**Peter Scotese WEv'42**, New York, former president and CEO of Springs Mills, a cotton textile company; July 25, at 104. He served in the US Army during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Sigma Pi fraternity.

## 1944

**Dr. J. Malcolm Masten M'44**, Fresno, CA, a retired physician; March 26, at 104.

## 1948

**Rachel Funk Jenkins CW'48 GEd'50**, Haverford, PA, retired director of youth service at the American Red Cross of Southeastern Pennsylvania; June 4. Earlier in her career, she was a national umpire and official for USA Field Hockey and Women's Lacrosse and taught physical education at Penn. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, and the badminton, basketball, field hockey, and lacrosse teams. One stepdaughter is Mary Stuart Champion C'85 GAR'98.

## 1949

**Evelyn Rose Benson NEd'49**, Brookline, MA, retired assistant dean at La Salle University's School of Nursing; Oct. 20, at 100. She served in the US Cadet Nurse Corps. Her daughters are Miriam E. Benson C'82 and Rebecca J. Benson C'79 G'79, who is married to Arthur P. Kreiger C'77.

**Dr. Jay D. Edwards C'49 D'51**, Vero Beach, FL, a retired dentist; Oct. 10. He served in the US Army Dental Corps. At Penn, he was a member of the Penn Band.

**Robert N. Taylor WG'49**, Newport News, VA, a shipbuilder and former owner of a marina; July 21. He served in the US Navy.

**Frederic W. Thomas Jr. WG'49**, Lebanon, NH, a retired bank executive; Sept. 13. He served in the US Navy.

## 1950

**M. William Jones W'50**, Lancaster, PA, retired assistant to the president at Armstrong Cork, a flooring company; Oct. 7. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and the track team. His children include M. William Jones III C'76 GEd'78 Gr'83 and Carol Adaire Jones CW'73.

**Patricia Mackey Schach von Wittenau CW'50**, Groton, CT, former member of the Connecticut Republican State Central Committee and a justice of the peace; Oct. 8. Earlier in her career she worked in public relations for the US Army. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. Her sister is Mary Mackey Carbone Ed'53, who died June 21, 2021 (see Class of 1953).

## 1951

**Helen Hogg Artigues Gindele CW'51**, Haverford, PA, a former director of donor relations in the School of Arts and Sciences; July 20. She joined Penn's development department in 1965 as a writer and editor. In 1973, she became the first woman to head a division in the department, serving as the director of the newly created stewardship office. She then became the director of donor relations in 1976, a role she held until 1987. She served on the public relations committee of the University of Pennsylvania Antiques Show and was an active member of the Women's Committee of the Penn Museum. As a student at Penn, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**William T. Green C'51**, Glenview, IL, a retired insurance underwriter; Aug. 27. He served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II and the US Army Transportation Corps during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the soccer team.

**Evelyn Stambaugh Mechtly HUP'51**, New Oxford, PA, a former nurse; Nov. 9.

**Marian Mazis Jurin Rubin CW'51**, Mount Laurel, NJ, a retired teacher and school counselor in the School District of Philadelphia; Oct. 2. At Penn, she was a member of Phi

## Notifications

Please send notifications of deaths of alumni directly to: Alumni Records, University of Pennsylvania, Suite 300, 2929 Walnut Street, Phila., PA 19104

**EMAIL** record@ben.dev.upenn.edu  
Newspaper obits are appreciated.

Sigma Sigma sorority and WXPN. Her sons are Eric J. Jurin C'79 and Bruce E. Jurin W'81.

**David J. Sautter W'51**, Warrington, PA, a retired bank executive; Sept. 8. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. One daughter is Amy Sautter Valerio C'87.

**Mae Grasser Smith GEd'51**, Telford, PA, a retired elementary school teacher; Oct. 4, at 100.

## 1952

**Mark H. Goldman WG'52**, Wilmington, DE, a retired accountant; Jan. 20. He served in the US Marine Corps during the Korean War.

**Berrill T. "Bud" Jacobs WG'52**, West Hartford, CT, a retired accountant; May 31. He served in the US Army during the Korean war.

**Dr. Calvin Moon V'52**, North Hanover, NJ, a retired veterinarian; Sept. 5, at 100. He served in the US Navy during World War II. One daughter is Dr. Mary Moon Kandebo V'83.

**Harry P. Pappas W'52**, Towson, MD, Sept. 5. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, and the soccer and lacrosse teams.

**Bloor Redding W'52**, Indianapolis, a commercial real estate appraiser; Oct. 2. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity, Mask & Wig, Penn Players, and the ROTC.

## 1953

**William G. Bohn W'53**, Bismarck, ND, retired North Dakota court administrator; Aug. 27. He served in the US Marine Corps. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**Mary Mackey Carbone Ed'53**, Hyannis, MA, June 21, 2021. At Penn, she was a

member of Kappa Delta sorority. Her sister is Patricia Mackey Schach Von Wittenau CW'50, who died Oct. 8 (see Class of 1950).

**Vincent A. Crisanti C'53**, Shadyside, PA, a retired estate and real estate lawyer; Sept. 18. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, and the tennis and soccer teams. His daughters are Lynn M. Crisanti C'88 and Caren Crisanti Grau C'93.

**Richard A. Eliasberg W'53**, Baltimore, a former insurance executive; Oct. 12. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, ROTC, and the swimming team.

**Janet Cohen Fink Ed'53 GEd'55**, Audubon, PA, a former elementary school teacher; Sept. 1. One son is Dr. David M. Fink C'81.

**Dr. David P. Jacobus M'53 GM'57**, Princeton, NJ, founder of a pharmaceutical company; May 23. His company developed Paser, an antibiotic for tuberculosis. He served in the US Army.

**Marie H. Laessig CW'53**, Westfield, NJ, a retired bookstore manager; Oct. 9. At Penn, she was a member of the Choral Society.

**Howard L. Lidz W'53 Ar'57 GAR'58**, Philadelphia, an architect; Sept. 28.

**Dr. John D. Miller M'53**, Leesburg, FL, a retired pediatrician; June 4, 2023. He served in the US Air Force.

**James W. Reagan W'53**, Eagan, MN, a retired bank executive; Sept. 2. He served in the US Army Finance Corps.

**Dr. William R. Shoulberg C'53 D'56**, Scottsdale, AZ, Sept. 30. His wife is Barbara Ruche Shoulberg CW'62, and two grandchildren are Matthew J. Martos C'12 W'12 and Carly E. Shoulberg C'20.

**William J. Young Jr. WEv'53**, Roslyn, PA; Aug. 9, at 100. He retired from Moore Products. He served in the US Army during World War II.

## 1954

**Janet Loucks Parkerson CW'54**, Cutler Bay, FL, retired head of a reading department at a private school; May 24. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Hubert A. Riester Jr. GEE'54**, Willow Street, PA, a retired engineering executive at Fischer & Porter Company; Aug. 29. He served in the US Army during World War II.

**Marion Hamer Tippetts CW'54**, Amelia Island, FL, an artist who formerly taught art in public schools and art therapy to people with addictions; Feb. 20. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

## 1955

**Douglas Ann Boutin Bohman PT'55**, Chatham, MA, a retired physical therapist; Oct. 4. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**Dr. Thales Bowen GM'55**, Haverford, PA, former chief of anesthesiology and staff president at a hospital; Sept. 1. He served in the US Army. One son is Richard P. Bowen EE'83.

**Dr. John M. Krouse M'55**, Greensburg, PA, a retired vascular and thoracic surgeon; Sept. 14. He served in the US Army.

**Raymond Moskow WG'55**, Wilton, CT, Oct. 2. He retired from IBM. He served in the US Army.

**Dr. Wayne B. Ranck D'55**, Lancaster, PA, a retired dentist; Jan. 3, 2021. He served in the US Air Force.

## 1956

**Stanley L. Chaplin Jr. W'56**, Portsmouth, VA, Aug. 10. He spent his career in the furniture industry. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity, Sphinx Senior Society, and the football team, where he was among the last of the "Mungermen" caught up in the gears of Penn's transition to the Ivy League ["The Price They Paid," Nov|Dec 2024].

**Charles H. Davis W'56 WG'63**, Lancaster, PA, owner of an export management company; Sept. 11. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Phi fraternity, and the lacrosse and squash teams.

**Gladys Heiken Goehringer Ed'56 GED'59**, Cherry Hill, NJ, a retired regional supervisor of the Division of Developmental Disabilities for the State of New

Jersey; Sept. 20. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

**Bernard M. Gross W'56 L'59**, Audubon, PA, an attorney and former Pennsylvania State Representative; Sept. 21. One daughter is Deborah Gross Kurtz W'82, and one grandchild is Emily R. Kurtz EAS'16.

**Dr. David G. Kline C'56 M'60**, Amite, LA, a retired neurosurgeon and head of the department of neurosurgery at the Louisiana State University School of Medicine; Sept. 20. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, Sphinx Senior Society, and the wrestling team.

**Rocco A. "Rocky" Ortenzio PT'56**, Lemoyne, PA, a physical therapist and founder of several rehabilitation hospitals; Oct. 26. One grandchild is Bryan A. Ortenzio C'12.

**Paul C. Smith C'56**, Philadelphia, professor emeritus of Spanish at UCLA; Nov. 10, 2022. In 2006, he established the Paul C. Smith Endowed Fund at Penn Libraries to support acquisitions in the field of Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian studies.

**Dr. Ellen A. Wiener V'56**, Medford, NJ, a retired owner of a veterinary hospital; Sept. 11.

**Charles A. Winans Jr. WG'56**, Vero Beach, FL, a retired bank executive; May 24, 2023. He served in the US Navy.

**Dorothy M. Zimmerman DH'56**, Pompton Plains, NJ, a retired administrator of several psychiatric hospitals; Sept. 16.

## 1957

**Dr. William L. Earp M'57**, Tampa, FL, a retired orthopaedic surgeon; Nov. 6, 2023. He served in the US Air Force.

**Bruce H. Gleason W'57**, Bailey Island, ME, a retired travel agent and tax preparer; Sept. 11. He served in the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and the rowing team.

**Edward D. Goldberg W'57**, New York, former chancellor of higher education for the State of New Jersey; Aug. 28. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity and WXPn.



**Robert J. Hilly WEV'57**, Ocean View, NJ, a retired accountant; Aug. 1, 2023. He served in the US Army during the Korean War and in the US Army Reserve.

**Dr. Stephen H. Homer C'57 M'61 GM'65**, Kernersville, NC, a retired surgeon and former professor of medicine at Wake Forest University; Oct. 15. Later in his career, he was general partner of a real estate management and investment firm. At Penn, he was president of the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. His brother is Mark D. Homer C'65.

**Eugene M. Kornblum W'57**, Saint Louis, retired founder of a distributor of musical instruments; Sept. 17. He served in the Missouri Air National Guard. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity, the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, and the swimming team. His daughter is Nancy G. Kornblum C'85.

**Philips W. Marshall W'57**, Portsmouth, NH, a retired insurance executive; Aug. 9. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

**Leonard Packer W'57**, Philadelphia, professor emeritus of law at Villanova University; Sept. 9. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity.

**Ruth Lederach Rittgers GEd'57**, Saint Petersburg, FL, a former nursing teacher and owner of a real estate business; Aug. 27.

**Dr. Ralph Dale Schmoll M'57**, Bloomfield, CT, a retired physician; Aug. 31.

**Dr. Robert M. Siegel D'57**, Spring Valley, NY, a retired dentist; Aug. 2.

## 1958

**Dr. Richard P. Albertson W'58**, Wynnewood, PA, a retired anesthesiologist and former president of the Lankenau Hospital medical staff; June 13. He served in the US Army and US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, ROTC, and the rowing team. His wife is Charlotte Ann Sutula Albertson GEd'60.

**Lynda Fowler Bailey W'58**, Fairport, NY, retired owner of a computer training business that delivered courses to companies

such as Xerox and Kodak; Nov. 27, 2020. Her husband is John M. Bailey GEE'60.

**Howard A. Cox WG'58**, Willow Street, PA, Sept. 7. He retired from IBM. He served in the US Army.

**George Peterson III C'58**, Mendham, NJ, a retired investment bank executive; Oct. 8. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity and the soccer team.

**Ingrid Wagner Reed CW'58**, Skillman, NJ, a civil rights advocate and public policy expert; July 27. She led the New Jersey Project for Eagleton Institute at Rutgers University for 15 years and served on the Trustees' Council of Penn Women.

**Letty Gail Schacht W'58**, Rochester, NY, an accountant; Oct. 1.

**Deborah Alterman Spungen CW'58**, Bala Cynwyd, PA, founder and executive director of the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia, and former owner of a natural foods store; Sept. 12. Her son is David M. Spungen C'83.

**Alfred M. Weiss C'58**, West Caldwell, NJ, a high school guidance counselor; Aug. 31. He served in the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Alpha fraternity.

**Kamal N. Yacoub GEE'58 GrE'61**, South Miami, FL, a former professor of electrical engineering at the University of Miami; Aug. 31.

## 1959

**Dr. Howard Berg C'59 D'63**, San Jose, CA, a retired dentist; Oct. 18.

**Janet Ellis Cherry W'59 G'72**, Philadelphia, a statistician who worked in public health and the nonprofit sector; Aug. 17. She was also a math tutor up until the time of her death.

**John J. Francis Jr. L'59**, Mendham, NJ, a retired lawyer; Sept. 16. He served as the former assistant US attorney for the District of New Jersey.

**Dale T. Kidd WG'59**, Allentown, PA, a retired customer service manager at Pennsylvania Power and Light; Sept. 24. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

**Robert G. Morrison Ar'59**, New Holland, PA, an architect; Aug. 30.

**Phyllis Cohen Seligsohn Ed'59**, Philadelphia, a retired teacher; Oct. 25. Her husband is Sheldon Seligsohn W'53, and her children are Jeffrey R. Seligsohn W'84 and Deena L. Seligsohn C'86 G'96.

**Dr. Barry D. Trabitz GD'59**, Manchester, CT, a retired oral and maxillofacial surgeon; Aug. 29. He served in the US Air Force as an oral surgeon.

## 1960

**Cecile Parris Frey CW'60 GEd'62 GrEd'75**, Haverford, PA, an English teacher; Sept. 28. One child is Lauren Remick Martone C86, and one sibling is Barbara Parris Meyer CW'64.

**Inez C. Friedman-Lipetz Ed'60**, Pennington, NJ, a retired children's speech pathologist; Sept. 13. Her son is Jed A. Fishback C'93 W'93, one stepchild is Andrew K. Lipetz W'82, and her brother is Merwyn M. Friedman C'62 G'66.

**Gordon C. Pine W'60**, Brattleboro, VT, Sept. 3. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and Penn Players.

**Capt. J. Ashley Roach C'60 L'63**, Arlington, VA, a retired officer of the US Navy Judge Advocate General Corps and an attorney adviser for the US State Department; Aug. 20. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, WXPB, and the rowing team. His son is Ashley P. Roach C'96.

**Dr. A. Dean Steele M'60**, Temple, TX, a retired physician; March 15.

**Charles M. Weisman GL'60**, Rosemont, PA, an attorney; Sept. 17.

## 1961

**Dr. Robert L. Graeff D'61**, Reading, PA, a retired dentist; May 30. He served in the US Army as a dentist.

**George S. Koval W'61**, Broomall, PA, a retired administrator at Penn; June 15. He worked in the Office of Student Financial Aid and Student Employment from 1960 to 1969, and also served as assistant football coach. After spending five years as director of financial aid at Temple University, he returned to Penn in 1974 for the rest of his

career, taking on roles including director of financial aid, director of housing and security, and acting vice provost, until his retirement in 1995. He served in the US Army National Guard and Reserve. As a student at Penn, he was a member of Sphinx Senior Society and the football and baseball teams. As quarterback of the football team, he threw a famous touchdown pass to Barney Berlinger Jr. ME'60 to lead Penn to its first Ivy League championship in 1959 ["Sports," Nov|Dec 2019]. One daughter is Lisa Koval Babitz C'86, who is married to Martyn S. Babitz W'84 L'87. His grandchildren include Eric C. Babitz W'18, Keith F. Babitz W'21, Kelly S. Babitz EAS'21 GEng'21, and Kevin D. Babitz W'21 GEng'21.

**Dr. John M. Rusk M'61**, Ardmore, PA, a psychiatrist and former clinical associate professor of psychiatry at Thomas Jefferson University; Aug. 28. One son is Dr. Matthew H. Rusk M'92, GM'95.

**Joseph B. Witz W'61**, Miami, owner of a real estate consultancy; Sept. 10. He served in the US Coast Guard Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity and WXPEN.

## 1962

**Franklin A. Josef W'62**, Fayetteville, NY, a lawyer and former judge in the Town of Manlius, NY; Aug. 9. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity and the rowing team. One son is Brian M. Josef C'93.

**Thomas R. Mayhew GEE'62**, Langhorne, PA, a retired electrical engineer; Sept. 25.

**Sandra Neff Packel CW'62**, Jenkintown, PA, an elementary school French teacher; Oct. 11. At Penn, she was a member of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority. Her husband is John W. Packel L'63.

**Elizabeth Ridley Rivers SW'62**, Yardley, PA, a retired social worker for the Pennsylvania State Department of Public Assistance; Nov. 20. Her husband is William H. Rivers SW'62.

**Donald A. Wood GED'62**, Wayne, PA, a former fire chief and high school physics teacher; March 14.

## 1963

**Clara Gearhart-Allen CW'63**, Laurel, MD, a former analyst for the US Department of Social Security; July 4.

**Thomas R. Leggett WG'63**, Bonita Springs, FL, a retired market researcher and adjunct professor at Drexel University; Sept. 21.

**John F. Magagna GED'63**, Wilkes Barre, PA, a teacher and administrator in Morocco, Iran, and Indonesia; Sept. 29.

## 1964

**Madeline Becker Frey CW'64**, Flower Mound, TX, Sept. 27. She worked with her husband at the FMS Group. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

## 1965

**Alan R. Finkelstein W'65**, Long Island, NY, cofounder of a life insurance and employee benefits company; Oct. 23. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity and the golf team. One son is Andrew L. Finkelstein C'97.

**Donald L. Flamm W'65 WG'66**, Danbury, CT, Aug. 11. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity.

**Gwen Jacoby Hauser CW'65**, Bala Cynwyd, PA, a retired teacher in the School District of Philadelphia; Aug. 26.

**Richard F. McCloskey WG'65**, West Chester, PA, a former chief financial officer at Philadelphia Biologics Center; Aug. 29. He served in the US Navy. His wife is Rosemarie K. McCloskey CW'62, and one son is Richard F. McCloskey Jr. C'92.

## 1966

**Herman J. Hedeman Joosten WG'66**, Retie, Belgium, Oct. 1.

**David V. Manoogian GEE'66 GrE'76**, Lynnfield, MA, a retired engineer at Raytheon; Sept. 14. He held several patents for radar technology.

**Dr. Donald H. Schubert C'66 D'70**, Earleville, MD, a retired dentist; Sept. 4. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and the football team.

**John M. Wetherhold Jr. C'66 WG'69**, New York, an investment banker; May 2. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**Dr. Linton Wray M'66**, Chevy Chase, MD, a physician and professor of medicine; Dec. 7, 2023. He served as a physician and medical researcher for the US Army for more than two decades.

## 1967

**Nello Augustine Jr. SW'67**, Plains Township, PA, retired chief operating officer for a mental health facility; Sept. 15.

**Bhaskar Bandyopadhyay GCh'67 Gr'69**, Gainesville, FL, a retired research and development process engineer and manager in the phosphate industry; Oct. 1. He also taught chemistry at Santa Fe College. His wife is Rosalie S. Bandyopadhyay CW'70.

**Barry Carol W'67**, Aberdeen, NJ, a retired securities analyst at US Steel & Carnegie Pension Fund; July 23. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. His son is Charles H. Carol C'99, who is married to Amanda Shiffman Carol C'02.

**Paul M. Farber C'67**, Philadelphia, former head of the Rosengarten Reserve at the University of Pennsylvania's Van Pelt-Dietrich Library; Aug. 29. He was hired at the library in 1974 as a clerk at the Wharton Duplicating Center and rose to head of the reserve in 1998. His efforts helped thousands of Penn students find resources for their courses, and he also supervised other library staff and coordinated the reserve's lending schedules. He retired in 2012. His son is Noah B. Farber C'02.

**Dr. Lawrence J. Friedman V'67**, Crossville, TN, a retired veterinarian; Sept. 9. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

**John C. Parry IV WG'67**, Plymouth, MA, a former athletic director at several universities, including Brown, Butler, and Cleveland State; Aug. 4. His former wife is Anne P. Becker CW'67.

**Phyllis Lenow Steingard GED'67 GrEd'99**, South Burlington, VT, a former elementary school principal and cofounder of the In-



ternational Dyslexia Society; Sept. 16. One son is Ronald J. Steingard C'73.

## 1968

**Dr. Irwin L. Klein C'68 GM'77**, Northport, NY, an endocrinologist and former professor of medicine at New York University; July 5. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity and the lacrosse team.

**Melinne Owen CW'68**, Santa Fe, NM, an artist renowned for her batiks and hand-painted scarves; Aug. 13.

**William J. Travis C'68**, Saint Louis, a former lawyer and president of a real estate business; Aug. 26. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. One sister is Anne Travis Shapleigh CW'72.

## 1969

**Gayle Ford Sewell Nu'69**, Lawrence, KS, a former nursing instructor at a vocational-technical school; Sept. 6. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority and Penn Singers.

**Thomas A. Tedesco Gr'69**, Land O' Lakes, FL, a retired laboratory director at the University of South Florida and former director of an IVF program at a women's hospital; Sept. 6. He served in the US Army.

**Siraik Zakarian Gr'69**, Philadelphia, a biochemist; Aug. 15. She worked at Penn's Wistar Institute studying endorphin peptides. In 1989, after a fire devastated the historic Bergdoll Mansion in the Spring Garden neighborhood of Philadelphia, she bought and restored the building, which was built in 1886.

## 1970

**Thomas N. Gilmore GA'70**, Philadelphia, an expert in workplace psychodynamics, cofounder of the Center for Applied Research, and former senior fellow at Wharton; July 20. His wife is Sally Walker G'68 SW'85.

## 1971

**Dr. Pauline R. Chusid CW'71**, Fort Myers, FL, a former hospice physician; Oct. 13. One son is Zachary C. Williamson C'09.

**Jack S. Davis WG'71**, Hideaway, TX, July 20, 2021.

**Arnon E. Garonzik EE'71**, Cherry Hill, NJ, former president of a hazardous waste collection and treatment facility; Nov. 7. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity and Friars Senior Society. His wife is Nancy D. Gold CW'73.

**Dr. Joel H. Goldberg D'71**, Port Richey, FL, a retired dentist; Sept. 4.

**James R. Magee L'71**, Fremont, MI, an artist and poet who spent four decades building "The Hill," a monument of stone and steel in the West Texas desert; Sept. 14

**Dr. Thomas Scanlin M'71**, Flourtown, PA, professor emeritus of pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and at the Perelman School of Medicine; Sept. 10. He joined Penn's faculty in 1973 as an instructor in pediatric medicine in the School of Medicine and at CHOP. After a series of promotions, he became a full professor in 1996. He led the Cystic Fibrosis Center for 24 years, and his clinical programs were consistently ranked among the top five in the nation. In 2016, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation honored him with its Distinguished Service Award. His wife is Susan VonNessen-Scanlin, who has a graduate nursing certificate from Penn.

## 1972

**Frederick E. Ball II WG'72**, Scarsdale, NY, a retired banker; Aug. 19. He served in the US Navy.

**Frederick G. Ferguson Gr'72**, State College, PA, a retired professor of veterinary science and director of the animal resource program at Penn State University; Aug. 8.

**Elizabeth Williams Fox GEd'72 L'80**, Philadelphia, a lawyer and history teacher; Sept. 8.

**Louis C. Mahlman C'72 WEv'80**, Bethlehem, PA, retired president of the United Way of Southeast Delaware County; Sept. 12. He served in the US Army.

**Alfred F. Sama WG'72**, Devon, PA, a former director of business operations in the chemical, aerospace, and transportation

industries; Sept. 14. He served in the US Merchant Marines during the Vietnam War.

**David J. Walton WG'72**, East Lansing, MI, former director of finance for Goodwill Industries; June 2024.

## 1973

**Paul L. Carmichael Jr. EE'73**, San Antonio, a computer engineer for the US Navy; June 30. His siblings include Mary C. Carmichael MT'74 and Robert W. Carmichael W'80.

**Dr. Albert U. "Lib" Liberatore D'73**, Bangor, ME, a dentist; March 8, 2023.

**Alison B. Rea CW'73**, New York, a business journalist who worked for magazines such as *Fortune* and *Business Week*, and consultancies such as McKinsey; June 28.

**William G. "Chip" Rueter III C'73**, Monkton, MD, Feb. 17, 2023. He worked for several rental car businesses. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity, Mask & Wig, and the sprint football team.

## 1974

**Axel D. Steuer Gr'74**, Jacksonville, IL, president emeritus of Illinois College; Aug. 14.

**Dr. Gary P. Williams M'74**, Reston, VA, an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin; Aug. 21.

## 1975

**Michael C. Mulitz W'75**, Bethesda, MD, a retired aviation finance and leasing attorney; Sept. 19. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity.

**Dr. William E. Munley D'75**, Newtown Square, PA, a dentist; Sept. 14.

**Jerold H. Price Gr'75**, Fleetwood, PA, a chemistry professor at the Community College of Philadelphia; Sept. 5. He served in the US Marine Corps.

**Raymond B. Regan C'75**, Lakehurst, NJ, a medical social worker; Aug. 26. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

## 1976

**Robert B. Scott Jr. Gr'76**, Fulton, MO, Aug. 31.

## 1977

**Dr. David M. Fenster D'77 GD'80**, West Windsor, NJ, an endodontist; Sept. 8.

**Dr. Kenneth J. Mello D'77**, Newport News, VA, an endodontist; March 17. He served in the US Navy as a dentist.

## 1978

**Paula A. Bishop W'78**, Bellevue, WA, an accountant and a college financial aid consultant; July 2. At Penn, she was a member of the Penguinettes synchronized swimming team.

**Dr. Robert R. Johnson V'78**, Paso Robles, CA, a veterinarian; Aug. 15. He was a part of Team USA's equestrian veterinary staff during the 1984 Summer Olympics. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Xi fraternity.

## 1979

**Dr. Joel S. Delfiner M'79**, Bronx, NY, an associate professor of neurology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Aug. 29. His wife is Dr. Madeline S. Ginzburg D'79 GD'80, and two children are Dr. Alexandra S. Delfiner C'10 and Matthew S. Delfiner C'10.

## 1980

**Betty Rabinowitch Liefer G'80**, Philadelphia, a former information system manager at Penn's Clinical Research Center; July 6. After earning her master's in demography and statistics, she worked as a research assistant at Penn's Population Studies Center. She joined the staff at Penn in 1984, where she installed hardware and software and managed data for various groups at the University. Her expertise was in math, statistics, and research, and for over 30 years, she educated and supported researchers at Penn, analyzed statistical data at Pennsylvania and Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, and supervised surveys, studies, and reports for the health department's Division of Statistics and Research. She retired in 1992. Her husband is Philip L. Leifer C'60 EE'60 GEE'64, and one daughter is Stephanie D. Leifer C'89.

**Amy J. Tananbaum C'80**, Belmont, MA, founder of a coaching and consulting com-

pany; Sept. 17. At Penn, she was a member of the Sphinx Senior Society and a Thouron Award recipient.

## 1981

**Steven L. Herring G'81**, Mobile, AL, March 25.

**Sylvia B. Jones GrEd'81**, Wallingford, PA, a retired educator, principal, and assistant regional superintendent for the School District of Philadelphia; Sept. 19.

## 1982

**Sujitra Chaturongkul CGS'82**, Somerville, MA, Aug. 19.

**Dr. Donald F. Leatherwood II C'82 M'87 GM'92**, Fort Washington, PA, an orthopedic surgeon; Sept. 10. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the wrestling team, and he was a Thouron Award recipient.

**Jerry M. Sorkin CGS'82 G'84**, Philadelphia, founder and president of a travel company specializing in cultural and historical tourism; Sept. 12. He wrote an essay for the *Gazette* on Tunisia, where he lived and led tours for many years ["Alumni Voices," Nov/Dec 2015], and he taught for nearly a decade a class on Oriental rugs at Penn.

## 1983

**Jill E. Fishbein C'83**, Cupertino, CA, an attorney specializing in corporate law; April 15.

**Russell W. Stabler C'83**, Lancaster, PA, a lawyer; Sept. 24.

## 1985

**Nadine Y. Markham-Itteilag C'85**, Silver Spring, MD, a lawyer; Sept. 14.

**James R. Solomon WG'85**, Glenview, IL, founder of an investment firm; Nov. 1, 2022.

**Brian R. Tarasi C'85**, Sewickley, PA, Aug. 26. He spent his career at American Airlines. At Penn, he was a member of the rugby team.

## 1986

**Thomas M. Moran W'86**, Plano, TX, Aug. 21. He worked in the golf finance management industry.

## 1987

**Nancy S. Hart WEv'87 WEv'89**, Springfield, PA, Sept. 4. She worked in the pharmaceutical industry.

## 1988

**Eugene A. Bolt Jr. C'88 G'01**, Philadelphia, an author, historian, and former director of foundation relations at the University of the Arts; Sept. 12. At Penn, he was a member of the rowing team.

**Kathleen Winters Plehn GNU'88**, Stoughton, WI, a nurse practitioner teacher at a technical college; Sept. 17.

## 1990

**Raffaele A. "Ralph" Perrini WEv'90**, Culver City, CA, an advertising executive at *Investor's Business Daily*; June 2. He served in the US Army and the US Army Reserve.

## 1991

**Augustine A. "Gus" Long G'91 WG'91**, Cincinnati, an investment banker; Sept. 2.

**Dr. Mark A. Urban GM'91**, Minneapolis, an orthopedic surgeon; July 6.

## 1998

**William J. Zee III GEd'98**, Lancaster, PA, an attorney specializing in education law; Sept. 22.

## 2000

**David E. Brown GEx'00**, Mantua, NJ, an attorney; Aug. 4.

## 2001

**Deanna Page Kemler Gr'01**, Philadelphia, Aug. 22.

## 2004

**Cristen M. Place GEd'04**, East Stroudsburg, PA, a high school mathematics teacher; Sept. 21.

## 2007

**Marvin E. Black CGS'07**, Philadelphia, cofounder of a children's summer camp;



Aug. 30, at 99. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

## 2008

**Curtis McCaskey GEd'08**, Beaufort, SC, retired coordinator of nontraditional programs at the Eastern Lancaster County School District; Aug. 31. He served in the US Navy.

## 2017

**Zachary M. Cross C'17**, Chicago, a fourth-year medical student at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine; Oct. 20. While at Penn, he served as a research technician at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and a tutor at nearby high schools.

## 2019

**Thomas J. Rose Gr'19**, Philadelphia, a clinical research associate and manager in the pharmaceutical industry and at Penn; July 15.

## Faculty & Staff

**Paul M. Farber.** *See Class of 1967.*

**Thomas N. Gilmore.** *See Class of 1970.*

**Helen Hogg Artigues Gindele.** *See Class of 1951.*

**Sol H. Goodgal**, Paramus, NJ, professor emeritus of microbiology and medicine in the Perelman School of Medicine; Sept. 8, at 103. He joined Penn's faculty in 1961 as an associate professor of microbiology in the School of Medicine, where he researched the applications of RNA and DNA on infectious diseases and taught a renowned freshman seminar titled Philosophy Problems in Modern Biology. In 1971, he was promoted to full professor. He received several University Research Foundation grants for projects like "Studies of Genetic Controls of Light Sensory Response of *Phycomyces*" (1972), "Studies on Transformation in *Haemophilus Influenzae*" (1974), and "Transformation in *Haemophilus*" (1990). He retired in 1991 but continued to teach until 2002. He served in the US military during World War II. His son is Charles "Chuck" Goodgal C'84 WG'86.

**Rachel Funk Jenkins.** *See Class of 1948.*

**George S. Koval.** *See Class of 1961.*

**Betty Rabinowitch Leifer.** *See Class of 1980.*

**Thomas J. Rose.** *See Class of 2019.*

**Dr. Thomas Scanlin.** *See Class of 1971.*

**Dr. William W. Schlaepfer**, Wallingford, PA, an emeritus professor of pathology and laboratory medicine in the Perelman School of Medicine; June 20. He joined Penn's faculty in 1979, as a professor in the department of pathology and laboratory medicine. He held this appointment until retiring in 2014. His research at Penn focused on peripheral nerve disease, and his laboratory specialized in the biochemical and molecular properties of neurofilament (NF) proteins, and explored mechanisms through which the disruption of NF assembly and aggregation of light neurofilament proteins led to motor neuron degeneration and disease. One daughter is Dr. Linda Schlaepfer Werner M'91.

**Jerry M. Sorkin.** *See Class of 1982.*

**Michael R. Topp**, professor emeritus of chemistry in the School of Arts and Sciences; June 18. He joined Penn's faculty as an assistant professor of chemistry in 1973, moving up the ranks to full professor in 1990. Alongside his work in the chemistry department, he held an assistant professorship in what is now the College of Liberal and Professional Studies. His research, much of which was conducted at Penn, was focused on physical chemistry, with specific interests in conformational relaxation in isolated molecular clusters, hydrogen-bonded molecular dimers, and ultrafast electronic relaxation of hydrogen-bonded molecules, studied through femtosecond pump-probe spectroscopy. He received multiple University Research Foundation awards and retired from Penn in 2017. His daughter is Stephanie D. Topp C'04.

**Guy R. Welbon**, Newtown Square, PA, an associate professor emeritus of religious studies and South Asia studies in the School of Arts and Sciences; Sept. 26. In 1972, he joined Penn's faculty as an associate professor of religious studies. In 1978, he took on a sec-

ondary role as associate professor in what is now the College of Liberal and Professional Studies. He later became chair of the religious studies department in 1984, a position he held until 1989. In 1995, he was appointed chair of the department of South Asia studies and director of the South Asia Center, where he served until 2002. He also served as graduate chair of the religious studies department from 2003 until his retirement in 2005. He specialized in Hindu and Buddhist ritual practices, the agama and South Indian "temple Hinduism," the history of Burma and Cambodia, and Pali Buddhist texts. One son is Christopher T. Welbon C'92.

**Siegfried Wenzel**, Chapel Hill, NC, professor emeritus of English in the College of Arts and Sciences; Sept. 27. He joined Penn's faculty in 1975 as a professor of English. He wrote widely on medieval vices and virtues, as well as on Chaucer, Langland, and many aspects of Middle English literature, including analysis of religious texts. He received two Guggenheim Fellowships and a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, among other accomplishments. Two children are Anne B. Wenzel C'81 GCP'85 and Tom P. Wenzel C'85.

**Aaron V. Wunsch**, Philadelphia, an associate professor of landscape and architectural history in the Stuart Weitzman School of Design; Sept. 20. In 2008, he joined Penn's department of historic preservation as a visiting assistant professor. He lectured in the graduate program in historic preservation and later became an associate professor. He regularly taught two core courses in the historic preservation department: Documentation I and Introduction to Public History. His seminars addressed various aspects of the American built environment, including therapeutic landscapes, cemeteries, suburbs, and commercial architecture. He also cotaught interdisciplinary classes on topics such as the history of epidemics and 19th-century Paris and Philadelphia.

**Siraik Zakarian.** *See Class of 1969.*

## Classifieds

### Collectibles

**BUYING COLLECTIONS OF BOOKS** and Pulp Magazines, especially Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror and others. Email: ray@raybowman.com

### College Admissions

#### TEST PREP & COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Robert Kohen, Ph.D., Harvard and Columbia grad, provides individualized tutoring for SAT, ACT, ISEE, SSAT & SHSAT and guides families through all aspects of the college admissions process. 212.658.0834; robert@koheneducationalservices.com; www.koheneducationalservices.com

**JUSTIN NEIMAN** ex-Harvard Admissions Officer and Stanford Dean. Strategic advising and planning. 1-800-917-5947 justin@selectiveadmissions.com www.selectiveadmissions.com

## ATHENA PHEROMONES™ INCREASE AFFECTION



Created by **Winnifred Cutler, Ph.D. in biology from U. Penn, post-doc Stanford. Co-discovered human pheromones in 1986**

**Effective for 74% in two 8-week studies and 68% in a 3rd study.**

### PROVEN EFFECTIVE IN 3 PUBLISHED STUDIES



Unscented  
Fragrance  
Additives

#### INCREASE YOUR ATTRACTIVENESS

Vial of 1/6 oz. lasts 4-6 months  
**Athena 10X™ For Men \$99.50**  
**10:13™ For Women \$98.50**  
Cosmetics **2+ vials ship free to US**

♥ **Dale (TX)** "I think 10X is fantastic! I have noticed obviously an attraction. But the most important effect is **the receptivity it produces**. After that, it is virtually up to me."

♥ **Patricia (CO)** "I am 68. 10:13 is amazing! **It's like a secret weapon**. Men just treat you differently; more respectful. They stop; want to be around me. All ages."

**Not in stores 610-827-2200**  
**Athenainstitute.com**

Athena Institute, 1211 Braefield Rd., Chester Spgs, PA 19425 PGZ



### Gift Ideas



**PEACEWARE.COM** Curated Indian textiles and delightful gifts designed for modern living. Sourced ethically.

**PERSONALIZED ENGRAVED GIFTS** Custom Engraved Decanters, Bowls, Vases & Wine Bottles. www.personalized-engraved-gifts.com

### Real Estate for Sale



#### PARIS PENTHOUSE ON SAINT GERMAIN

Luxury penthouse apartment with 4 bedrooms with in-suite bathrooms, 5 marble fireplaces, balconies on north and south facades, 4 expositions and flooded with sunlight. Air-conditioned. Rare and breathtaking views of the Eiffel Tower, Invalides, Notre Dame, St. Sulpice, St. Chapelle, Pantheon, Sorbonne ... 5 minute walk to Luxembourg Gardens and Notre Dame. High-end renovation was completed in December 2024 including custom walnut built-ins, beautiful lighting, Pierre Frey fabrics, and high-end furnishings. Turnkey sale possible. We are selling only because we are moving for our children's education. douglas.rosefsky.wg95@wharton.upenn.edu

### Travel



**EXPERT-LED** archaeological and cultural tours and gulet cruises. Multi-award-winning Peter Sommer Travels. www.petersommer.com

## ARE YOU A SINGLE MAN (34-42)?



#### Are You:

- ✓ Ready to find the right one to build a life and family with
- ✓ Based in Arizona (or open to relocating there for the right relationship)
- ✓ 34-42 years old

Then we encourage you to apply for a potential complimentary introduction to our selective client.



Matchmaker Jasbina  
info@IntersectionsMatch.com  
877-289-7107, www.IntersectionsMatch.com

> I'M A MATCH

## Share a spare?

Hello! My name is Joan Bromley and I am looking for a kidney donor.

To learn more about my story, find out about kidney donation, or be tested as a potential donor, please visit my website:  
[www.nkr.org/NHY394](http://www.nkr.org/NHY394)



Please share and help me find a kidney donor.

**NATIONAL KIDNEY REGISTRY®**  
FACILITATING LIVING DONOR TRANSPLANTS

### Vacation Rental—USA

**SECLUDED COUNTRY HOME** for artist retreat or family getaway on 37 acres in Upper Bucks County. Features 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, living room, dining room, sun room, enclosed porch, one acre pond, hiking path, fenced garden. One mile from Nockamixon State Park with marina, hiking and biking trails. 45 miles from Center City Philadelphia. \$15,000 for June 15–September 15. Text 215-495-3863

**STONE HARBOR, NJ** On beach. Outstanding home. Great on/off Season Rental. Call (570)430-3639. www.Stoneharborbeachhouses.com or email: RAdams150@aol.com





**SUPPORT  
THE GAZETTE**



Although a true friend really is the best possession, for donations of \$100 or more, we'll send you a limited-edition *Gazette* mug just like Ben's.

[thepenngazette.com/support-the-gazette](http://thepenngazette.com/support-the-gazette)

## Classified Advertising

### Regular Classified

- \$4.00 per word for 1 issue • \$3.60 per word for 3 issues • \$3.25 per word for 6 issues
- Add color to title (no additional charge)
- Add a photo to the online listing: \$25 (one-time fee)
- Telephone numbers (including area code) count as one word
- No charge for zip codes
- Ten word minimum

### Display Classified

- \$150 per column inch (depth) • 2" depth minimum
- Column width is 2.2"
- Electronic files required (300 dpi .jpg/.pdf/.tif/.png)

**All classified ads must be prepaid.** Payments can be made online at [www.alumni.upenn.edu/GazetteAdvertise](http://www.alumni.upenn.edu/GazetteAdvertise)

## Alumni in Business

Advertise your business or profession with us and reach 270,000 fellow alumni.

- Must be a Penn graduate • See our current Alumni in Business ads on page 69.

To advertise, email Linda: [caiazzo@upenn.edu](mailto:caiazzo@upenn.edu) or visit [thepenngazette.com/advertise](http://thepenngazette.com/advertise)

Family photos and movies digitized with great care

[myphotolounge.com](http://myphotolounge.com)

Text (215) 326-9486 to start

Where Ivy League and Oxbridge people find love

**bluesmatch.com**

Over a decade of successful match making

**ARE YOU A SINGLE  
WOMAN (30-38)?**



**NYC based, ambitious and extroverted Tech Executive** seeks a partner (30-38) with whom to share experiences, learn from one another and build a family together.

**Health and fitness-oriented**, he likewise appreciates a partner who prioritizes taking care of herself.

**Valuing work-life balance**, he enjoys live music, comedy, theater, sports, exploring restaurants, cocktail bars, travel, reading, cooking, self-improvement, and meeting friends locally and globally.



Matchmaker Jasbina  
[info@IntersectionsMatch.com](mailto:info@IntersectionsMatch.com)  
877-289-7107, [www.IntersectionsMatch.com](http://www.IntersectionsMatch.com)

> I'M A MATCH

## CLIENT SUCCESS STORY



... The most important conclusion from my time with Jasbina wasn't the fact that I met a guy and married him ... the most important result of her coaching was my self-empowerment and confidence, because it took that for me to meet the right person ...

... I think all of my parents' friends, and all my family, had decided that I'd never get married, or find the right guy. Because I'll be 40 this year, it seemed like everybody had given up. So when they heard that I met a guy, and next they heard I got engaged, and then I was getting married they were all shocked, and asked "Hey, what website did you use? My son needs help." I refer them all to Jasbina, and tell them she was the catalyst for me and for my personal life ... —Physician, Florida



Matchmaker Jasbina  
[info@IntersectionsMatch.com](mailto:info@IntersectionsMatch.com)  
877-289-7107, [www.IntersectionsMatch.com](http://www.IntersectionsMatch.com)

> I'M A MATCH



# A Leader Among Women

**T**his month, in 1949, Laura Ruth “Patsy” Murray Klein Ed’31 G’33 Gr’43 became the first woman to receive Penn’s Alumni Award of Merit. “Your leadership and enthusiasm, your generous gift of time and energy have inspired Alumnae interest and participation everywhere in the great cause of our University,” reads the citation on her award certificate, which goes on to list a series of accomplish-

ments for the 38-year-old alumna who hadn’t even peaked yet in her career.

Perhaps best known for her role as principal of the Philadelphia High School for Girls from 1963 to 1976, Klein (“renowned for [her] open-toed black suede shoes, untidy white bun and stylish black dress,” wrote Alexis Moore from the Girls’ High Class of June 1967 for the December 6, 1998, issue of the *Inquirer Magazine*) led the school through the turbulent ’60s and ’70s with grace and dedication. She believed girls to be just as intellectually curious as boys, and her administration reflected that. Among other initiatives, she established a program where students could choose an extra elective from a wide variety of subjects, as well as an internship program in partner-

Below: Laura Ruth “Patsy” Murray Klein Ed’31 G’33 Gr’43, the first woman to receive Penn’s Alumni Award of Merit, accepts the recognition from Edward R. Snyder, a 1906 graduate of the old Towne Scientific School and president of the General Alumni Society, on Founder’s Day, January 15, 1949.



ship with businesses across the city. In total, she spent 41 years with the School District of Philadelphia as a beloved teacher and administrator.

Born on Valentine’s Day in 1910, Klein received her undergraduate degree in education, followed by a master’s and PhD in English, when it was still rare for women to receive a doctorate from Penn. As a student, she was involved in extracurriculars such as the Women’s Glee Club, Radio Plays, Dance, and Drama, and was the only first-year woman on the varsity debate team, eventually becoming team captain and manager. She was also a member of Chi Omega sorority and was a charter member of the women’s section of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

As an alumna, Klein served as national president of the Association of Alumnae from 1943 to 1946, vice president of the General Alumni Society, and president of the Philadelphia branch of the American Association of University Women. Her merit award cites her “distinguished service to Pennsylvania women.”

Klein “never accepted second-class status in anything,” wrote Robin Warshaw in a December 8, 1978, letter to the editor published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. “To thousands of Girls’ High students, Dr. Klein was a role model of women’s potential for achievement.” She died on June 4, 1998, at age 88. —NP





Photo courtesy of the Office of University Communications

## Making a Meaningful Resolution

The new year is traditionally a time when resolutions are made—providing an opportunity to look back on the past and set goals, expectations, and hopes for the year ahead. As you think about your resolutions for 2025, take a moment to consider your Penn legacy.

Making a meaningful difference is easier than you think. By updating your will to include a bequest to your favorite Penn program, you can help shape the future of the University. Bequests have benefited everything from scholarships and professorships to groundbreaking research, competitive athletics, and Penn's renowned cultural institutions. These thoughtful commitments provide the resources needed to create extraordinary opportunities and drive Penn's continued excellence.

---

For questions about planning a bequest to Penn, or to request language specific to your giving situation, contact:

University of Pennsylvania | Office of Gift Planning  
2929 Walnut Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 19104-5099

☎ 215.898.6171 ✉ [giftplan@dev.upenn.edu](mailto:giftplan@dev.upenn.edu)

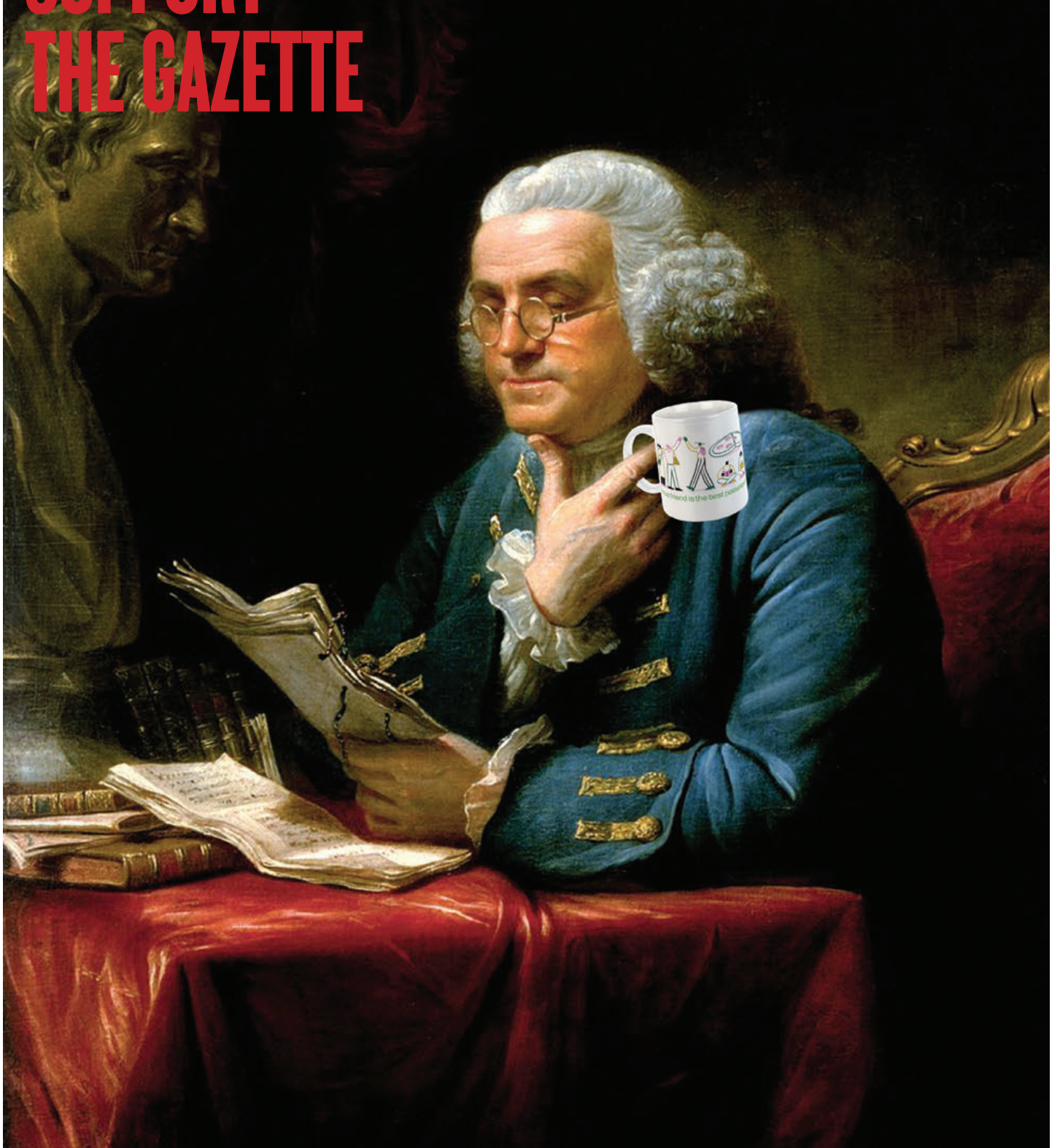
🌐 [giving.upenn.edu/gift-planning](https://giving.upenn.edu/gift-planning)



On behalf of the Office of Gift Planning at the University of Pennsylvania,  
we wish you a happy and healthy new year!



# SUPPORT THE GAZETTE



Although a true friend really is the best possession, for donations of \$100 or more, we'll send you a limited-edition *Gazette* mug just like Ben's.

[thepenn Gazette.com/support-the-gazette](https://thepenn Gazette.com/support-the-gazette)