

THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

MAR|APR21



American Histories

Jason Karlawish and *The Problem of Alzheimer's*

Andrew Feiler W'84's Photos of Rosenwald Schools

Decision Desk Jockey John Lapinski

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The Triangle, NC

The Penn Alumni Club of the Triangle, North Carolina

relaunched in 2016 after several years of dormancy. By hosting events for alumni in Raleigh-Durham and Chapel Hill, we aim to create a link back to our beloved Penn, give back to the greater Triangle community, and provide opportunities for networking, personal enrichment, and education.

Since 2016, we've maintained a program of roughly 3-4 events per "semester." The Club has hosted a family-friendly tour at the Duke Lemur Center, as well as a hiking event at William Umstead Park. To welcome incoming Freshman and their parents to the Penn Family, we've hosted Student Send-Offs each summer. Our club also set up a Community Service Day at the Food Bank of

Central & Eastern North Carolina located in Raleigh, where we sorted and salvaged food.

When the COVID pandemic broke out, the Club pivoted quickly to online events. We were proud to host two events on coping with lockdown, focusing on personal resilience and mindfulness. We hosted two other Zoom webinars geared toward small businesses and parents (*How to Speak to Kids About Money*), respectively.

Now, we look forward to better times for our club, the Triangle, and the world. We will have online events in the Spring of 2021, and we're planning to host more in-person events when it is safe to do so. If you're an alum in the Triangle or surrounding cities and you'd like to either participate in events or get involved with the club, we would love to connect. Email us at pennclubofthetrianglenc@gmail.com.

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COVER

Illustration by David Hollenbach

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Who We Are

Early in “The History Wars,” senior editor Trey Popp’s cover story on Jonathan Zimmerman, the education historian and Penn GSE professor points to two signature failures of American education “writ large”—too many of us have never learned to discriminate between information and disinformation and too few of us are able to look beyond our own partisan bubbles to truly engage with and debate those of different views.

For examples of the former, witness anti-vaxxers, climate change denialists, and followers of QAnon, he says; for the latter, consider the mutual incredulity on the part of Trump and Biden supporters that tens of millions of people could possibly have voted for the other guy.

Zimmerman is the author of eight books on different aspects of American education (or, better to say, education *and* America). He is also a regular—and sometimes infuriating, to liberal sensibilities—opinion columnist. His newest book is a history of college teaching, *The Amateur Hour* (a ninth, *Free Speech: And Why You Should Give a Damn*, is forthcoming this spring), but he and Trey spent most of their time talking about an earlier book, *Whose America?: Culture Wars in the Public Schools*, which recounts a variety of textbook battles throughout the 20th century and into the present.

In Zimmerman’s view, the ways that events in American history have been subject to repeated reinterpretation, and which groups have gotten to be included in the nation’s narrative and on what terms, have shaped—and helped polarize—attitudes about who and what America is. The effects can be seen in battles over Civil War monuments and statues of Christopher Columbus, while the inclusion of previously marginalized groups in the “pantheon” of heroes has brought with it a softening of conflicts and smoothing over of imperfections, to the detriment of historical understanding.

Textbook battles have shaped—and helped polarize—attitudes about America.

The deadly attack on the US Capitol on January 6 may be the ultimate demonstration of Zimmerman’s comments about disinformation and a blinkered world view—with incomprehension of others’ preference, abetted by a campaign of lies about election fraud, resulting in a violent attempt to “Stop the Steal.”

The insurrection temporarily interrupted the certification of the Electoral College vote by Congress and also diverted media attention from the runoff election drama in Georgia that had transfixed the nation the night before—as noted in “Calling It,” Alyson Krueger C’07’s article on NBC News director of elections and Penn political science professor John Lapinski. (“It was kind of surreal,” Lapinski says, of watching the network cut away to the Capitol.)

Lapinski cut his teeth as an election analyst in the presidential election of 2000, and has been running the NBC News Decision Desk since 2013, where he has also involved Penn faculty, staff, and students. One 2020 intern compared election night to “that feeling in your chest when you are on a roller coaster.” As it turned out, the ride lasted until Saturday, November 7, when Lapinski called Pennsylvania for Biden.

In 2020, changes to voting procedures sparked by the pandemic, combined with President Trump’s refusal to concede, complicated the analysis of election returns and raised the stakes for reaching the “99.5 percent” confidence level Lapinski says is needed to declare a winner. But while those particular circumstances may change, he and other observers speculate that closely divided, multiday vote count elections could become the pattern in the future.

The power of education in the face of oppression comes through clearly in Andrew

Feiler W’84’s new book of photographs documenting the Jim Crow-era Rosenwald schools, a selection of which we offer in “Black Education Before *Brown*,” with text by JoAnn Greco. Funded by Sears Roebuck president Julius Rosenwald, these schools educated hundreds of thousands of African American students—some of whom Feiler photographed on site, and others of whom include icons like John Lewis and Maya Angelou.

Finally, the vagaries of history and questions of identity also figure in Julia M. Klein’s profile of physician and writer Jason Karlawish GM’99, “The Humanist Is In.” Karlawish is the codirector of the Penn Memory Center and author of *The Problem of Alzheimer’s: How Science, Culture, and Politics Turned a Rare Disease into a Crisis and What We Can Do About It*.

Karlawish suggests that work on Alzheimer’s might have advanced further and faster if the disease’s identification in Germany early in the 20th century had not been succeeded by that country’s later history. In the piece, he also calls for mending the historical split in the Alzheimer’s field “pitting care versus cure” and shares stories of his “teachers”—individuals and their caretakers coping with the stigma, loss of autonomy, and other devastating impacts of the condition.



Mental health matters, doctor's advice, negative note, and more.

We Welcome Letters

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Please note, due to the COVID-19 pandemic,
Gazette offices are closed until further notice and
we cannot retrieve postal mail at this time.
Letters should refer to material published in the
magazine and may be edited for clarity, civility,
and length.

Something in the Environment?

Do not students attend universities, especially leading Ivy League universities, for the opportunities to learn and explore new subjects, the opportunity to understand the life they have before them in the light of the ages and sages, the opportunities for advancements in the arts and sciences that an undergraduate preparation offers? Is not college an enticing opportunity that excites, pleases, and satisfies?

I reread Dave Zeitlin's "Wellness Warriors" [Jan/Feb 2021] for quotes from students concerning how the intellectual resources at college were failing them and causes of discouragement to their aspirations. Sadly for me I saw no such expectations that had been thwarted. Problems expressed by students were making relationships with other students, lack of fun, behavioral expectations for one at Penn, dealing with frequent suicides, feeling stigmatized, and so forth.

When a behavior or symptom or disease reaches a high prevalence in an environment, a first premise of medicine is that something in the environment could be causal. Has the Ivy League turned from offering an education to some other task, desired by the public but toxic for students? Must that cause be addressed so that vulnerable students or those with intellectual interests incompatible with the society's priorities will be able to avoid demoralization, depressions, and suicides?

Robert E. Becker GM'63, Park City, UT



“Has the Ivy league turned from offering an education to some other task, desired by the public but toxic for students?”

Kudos on Article, and to Students

I am writing to you to tell you how important I think the article “Wellness Warriors” is for students, faculty, and parents. I’m a speech and language pathologist married to a Penn graduate (Dennis Kaffel C’67). I enjoy your magazine and often peruse it, reading articles that interest me.

Last year I took a college drawing course at a university near my New Jersey home. I was struck by how little the students spoke to each other or made comments about the work we were doing. The instructor told me that they just do not know how to talk to each other. That is not the only time I have heard that from colleagues and friends involved in higher education.

In my field, I work on pragmatic skills with language-impaired students. What is sad is that so many young people with normal language skills lack the necessary ability, self-awareness, and self-permission to express themselves. There are so many stigmas, still, to break down.

It’s great that Penn is doing so much for the student body. Hopefully, students and staff who need support will take advantage of what is available.

I was struck by the cover photo ... such an upfront image, as well as the photos in the story. The students looked so present. Good for them to be photographed!

Kudos for the article.

Joyce Kaffel, spouse, Short Hills, NJ

Cherish Each Moment

Little did I know when I was a graduate student in Dr. Ian McHarg’s Land Use and Environmental Planning Department (1981) that I would one day be living on a farm raising sheep and organic produce just west of Chicago. So many events have happened in the past 40 years. I was recruited out of Penn to work on oil spill cleanup and hazardous waste management for ARCO in Long Beach,

California. After being married and starting a family, I worked on a consulting basis. We were transferred to Chicago-land in 1993 for my husband's job

Then everything started to change. He could not keep up with his corporate position, was very depressed and irritable. We moved to the farm after he lost his job. Fast forward 20 years. I became the voice for the small farmer at the Farm Bureau and worked on farmland protection policies. Scott still wasn't able to hold down a job and was misdiagnosed with sleep apnea and midlife crisis.

Finally the correct diagnosis was achieved: early-onset Alzheimer's. He was only in his mid-50s. My life would now focus on caregiving for his needs.

Scott used to love to read the *Pennsylvania Gazette* from cover to cover when it would arrive in the mail. Now he is bedbound and no longer can speak, but I continue to read it to him. This past issue had an excellent article, "Wellness Warriors," about "a new road for student mental health." Suicide and depression in the younger generation is so sad, and I was glad to hear about the support groups on campus.

Since so many alumni read the magazine, I would urge you to consider an awareness article on early-onset Alzheimer's. I do not wish that anyone has to go through those years of misdiagnosis and confusion. It takes a toll on the entire family.

People don't want to see that the "golden years of retirement" may never happen. I am thankful that we "front-loaded life" and didn't wait to travel and do the things we enjoy! I leave you with that pearl of wisdom ... plus cherish each precious moment we have with each other. Thank you.

Donna Zarutskie Lehrer GRP'81, Big Rock, IL

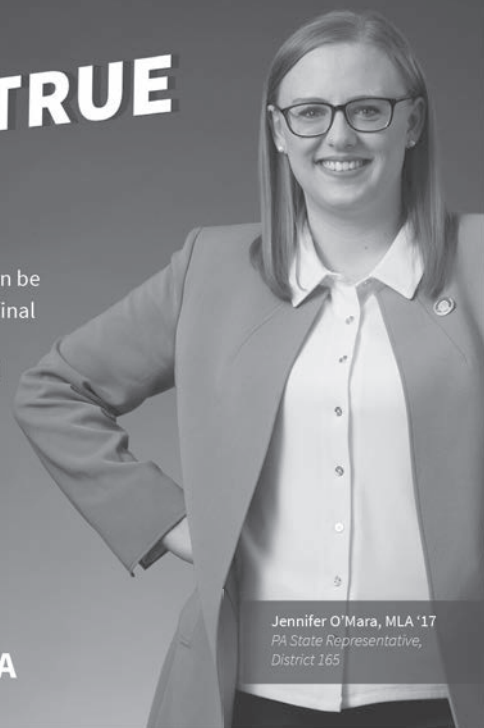
Coincidentally, we have a related story in this issue. See "The Humanist Is In," by Julia M. Klein, on Penn Memory Center codirector Jason Karlawish and his new book on the history of Alzheimer's disease.—Ed.

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Jennifer O'Mara, MLA '17
PA State Representative,
District 165



Choose a Life Beyond Medicine

I would like to comment on the thoughts of Mayer L. Horensten regarding Nov|Dec 2020's "The Museum Prescription" ["Letters," Jan|Feb 2021]. I have been in orthopedic surgery practice for almost 30 years and can "feel his pain." However, despite the ever-present tug of war between current documentation requirements and the desire to bond with our patients, doctors can do both, and have a life outside of medicine. One of the best things I have done in recent years to accomplish this is to hire a medical scribe. I can focus all my attention on my patients, and spend the time I need with them, while the scribe enters the entire encounter in the "dreaded" electronic health record (EHR). I now have the choice of actually treating more patients than I used to, prior to the scribe, or seeing the same number of patients and finishing my day earlier.

Our lives and careers are still under our control. I choose to have a life beyond medicine, and therefore do have the time to go to art museums, create art, play



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LETTERS

sports, and enjoy friends and family. I know that I do not make as much money as I could, and I do not come from wealth. I also admit that medicine is not as enjoyable to practice as it used to be. However, I have chosen this route, and, therefore, I am not “burned out.” As some very wise people have noted, “We should work to live, not live to work.”

By the way, I do enjoy the Rx Museum Initiative each Monday.

Steve Meadows C’82, Delray Beach, FL

Disappointing Decline

I was so disappointed to see that the editors of the *Pennsylvania Gazette* chose to debase a once-venerable publication with overtly political messages in the Class of 2004 “Alumni Notes” [Jan|Feb 2021].

I do not recall any rapturous class notes about the results of the 2016 presidential election—nor should there have been any. The real problem, then, is the infantile

decision to publish a politically motivated class update in the first place. It shows that, much like the personalities who spend their time in the Twitter fever swamps or watching hopelessly polarized cable news channels, the editors of the *Gazette* have no real interest in promoting common bonds amongst Penn alumni, but rather, they seek to highlight divisions and create rancor.

Alumni of good will and mutual respect will mourn the needless decline of this once enjoyable magazine section into yet another shrill political forum.

Aaron Yunis C’02 W’02, Englewood, NJ

Fitting Support

What a pleasure it was to read about Penn’s financial support of the Philadelphia public schools [“Gazetteer,” Jan|Feb 2021]. As most of the University and Health System’s \$10 billion in annual business and their real estate

holdings are untaxed, it is fitting that the University would and should give financial support to the cash-strapped public schools. Another example of the good Penn can do for the city is Philadelphia’s Jobs with Justice executive director Devan Spear C’17, a recent Penn grad who has spent the last five years, along with faculty and alumni, lobbying Penn’s administration, trustees, and alumni to support the public schools. It looks like she was successful.

Hanley Bodek C’77, Philadelphia

Design Disapproval

A caricature on paper can be a humorous, expressive depiction of a person or a landscape. However, I was shocked to discover a three-dimensional architectural caricature in “Vagelos Laboratory to Rise on Walnut Street” [“Gazetteer,” Jan|Feb 2021]. There are two hovering, rectangular blocks, above their captor base, that seem to be desperately trying to escape their capture, on a site along Walnut Street. Can these poor blocks, and their street side constrainer, have really been approved by Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, the home of Louis I. Kahn?

David H. Karp Ar’59, San Mateo, CA

Not Perfect, But No Failure

In the essay “Eleven Hours,” Chonni-pha Piriyaalertsak compares the response by Thailand to the COVID-19 pandemic to that of the US and claims that Thailand managed the pandemic a lot better while the “all-powerful United States has failed so miserably” [“Notes From the Undergrad,” Nov|Dec 2020].

The response by the Trump administration to the pandemic may not have been perfect, but it did result in the industrial scale manufacturing of surgical masks, PPE equipment, ventilators and the development of three COVID vaccines in less than 10 months when the development of new vaccines usually takes five to 10 years.

Gerardo Reyes C’82 M’86, Burr Ridge, IL

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My Losing Seasons

Prelude to a life in sports broadcasting.

By Budd Mishkin

It was the worst of times. Fall had descended on 1985 and there was no Charles Dickens about it: the best of times may have dawned for others, but I was mired in only the worst. Four years out of Penn, I was out of work and lacking direction, cluelessly squeaking by with help from my folks. I was living in what New Yorkers called a railroad apartment, where you can stand at one end and see straight through to the other. I shared it with my oldest friend, Mark, and one of his friends, Danny. Danny was in school, Mark was underemployed, and I had nothing going at all. Beyond our cramped quarters the bachelor's bacchanalia was in full swing. Wall Street was booming and the money seemed to be raining into every pocket but ours. As the daylight shrank and the cold set in, I'd look into Mezzaluna restaurant on Third Avenue, see all of the people having a great time, and wish them all ... well, bad things. Our neighborhood commissary was a Chinese take-out place called Wok on Third. We'd order on Sunday night and leave enough to have leftovers on Monday. On lucky weeks, we still had food left for Tuesday night. Let the good times roll.

I'd come to New York that summer because some friends had offered to loan me their apartment in Brooklyn for a short spell, which I'd taken as a sign from God that I should leave my full-time radio job down the Jersey Shore. Once you've got New York's real estate figured, I reasoned, everything else will follow. And it seemed to—at the start. I landed a summertime vacation-relief job writing news at the radio station WMCA. WMCA had been big in the 1960s, playing rock-and-roll and calling its deejays "The Good Guys." Those glory days were long gone, but still, it was a job. I'd drive into Manhattan around 3 a.m., park about eight blocks from the station, and walk the remainder with an umbrella. Clear sky overhead? Didn't matter. Carry an umbrella. I also cultivated the habit of talking to myself. That's hardly unusual

nowadays, in the era of earbuds and Apple watches. But in 1985 it was an excellent way to come off as a bit unhinged, and therefore best avoided. I doubt that I ever struck fear into the hearts of my fellow night owls. But I didn't have any issues. Must have been the umbrella.

I worked from 4 a.m. until noon writing news copy for the Ralph & Ryan show. Hardly my dream job, but it was New York and I was learning. I was a good writer, not a great one, but I got the copy in on time and managed not to get the station sued. I thought it was going well, and was told as much by the station's honchos. The demo tape I made for some on-air work landed with a thud, but otherwise I was cruising toward what seemed sure to become a full-time position. And so when August ended and the general manager said, "Thanks a lot, good job," I was surprised. As was she when she saw my surprise, forcing her to once again explain that a summer vacation-relief job was exactly what it sounded like. And summer had ended, along with my time at WMCA.

September bled into October, and then November, which passed in its own turn, finding me still out of work. No job, no plan, no strategy.

Then, in early December, I got a phone call out of the blue from Morrie Trumble, an ABC Radio announcer I'd met over the summer. He explained that he had a service that provided ski reports for radio stations around the region. One of his announcers had just bailed on him. Was I interested? If memory serves, I copped a bit of an attitude with him. "Thank you very much, Mr. Trumble, but I've done news and sports. Ski reports?" By way of reply, he gently inquired if I was working. "Look," he said, "it's 100 bucks a week part-time: three hours every morning from your apartment. But it will get you on the air." I will forever appreciate that piece of advice and the kind way Morrie offered it. "It will get you on the air."

So began my career as a ski reporter. I didn't know Killington from Stratton,

but to my assigned 20 stations, I was a ski reporter. Morrie held a conference call with the announcers at 5:30 a.m. every weekday, updating us on the resorts: how much new-packed powder, how many trails open. Then, for the next three hours, I called radio stations.

There was nothing cool or suave about ski reports on the radio. They always went to 11. So I came out of the gate hollering at the top of my lungs. "Good morning Boston, welcome to the Morning Zoo 105 Ski Zone! It's a great day for skiing!" For the record, it was always a great day for skiing. Pouring outside? Who cares! "Hey, Harrisburg! It's a great day for skiing!"

I set up shop that first day in the kitchen, into which Mark stumbled a few minutes after 6 a.m. How was I doing?, he asked. "Good!" What was I doing? "Why, the ski reports!" Well, Mark kindly informed me, he didn't need to wake up for another three hours. Translation: I needed to find another location. And there was only one room available.

Which is how it came to pass that, during the winter of 1985-1986, I spent three hours every weekday morning reporting ski conditions from our bathroom. I sat on the toilet, with a tray table in front of me holding my notes and the apartment's phone, at the end of its long cord. If it was 35 degrees outside, it might reach 45 inside. The paint peeled, the pipes hissed. Occasionally I would flush mid-report for a laugh. The hilarity had a way of wearing off, though, when between calls I asked myself how I'd ended up here.

Yet I was on the air, including four stations in New York (one of which was K-Rock, then the home of Howard Stern, who allegedly made fun of my name one day. At the time, it was a career highlight). People started to hear me. Occasionally friends of friends would call seeking my recommendation for a weekend of skiing. Should we go to Gore? Whiteface? Bromley? "I can't even afford to go to one of these places for a single day," I didn't tell them. "And even if I could, I don't know how to ski!" I opted to keep that to myself.

One day my contact at a Pittsburgh station asked me to change my name. From Mishkin? What, I wondered darkly, could possibly motivate that request? He even had an alternative name picked out: Eric Carter.

I was many things in this world, but I was not an Eric Carter. But what could a toilet-mounted ski reporter do? Thus began my brief Pittsburgh radio career as Eric Carter. The reason turned out to be benign: my reports were running on a competitor station, which made for a branding headache. The only problem was that occasionally I would forget, starting the ski report as Eric Carter and finishing it as Budd Mishkin. Such was the lot of the semi-professional broadcaster. Edward R. Murrow, I was not.

A single ray of hope flickered across the porcelain that winter. One of my stations was WNBC in New York, which then owned the radio rights to the Knicks and the Rangers. It was launching a five-hour talk show called *Sportsnight*, produced by a young man named Mike Breen—now known to sports fans as the voice of the NBA. For some reason, WNBC decided to include my ski report in the show's first half-hour. So Mike and I talked most days when I called it in, and eventually I pitched his bosses on hiring me to cover New York baseball. After all, when the basketball and hockey seasons ended, *Sportsnight* would still have five hours to fill. Alas, their answer amounted to: Nice try, but no cigar.

And then ski season was over. The bathroom reverted to a bathroom, and as spring sprung I was unemployed. Again.

The next month, Budd Mishkin C'81 got a call from WNBC offering him the Yankees beat, which became a springboard to a long career in sports and news broadcasting. A couple years in, noticing a pile of audition tapes that had apparently been passed over in his favor, he asked Mike Breen why the job hadn't gone to one of those hundreds of applicants. "We knew you from the ski reports," the future voice of the NBA replied.

Up the Creek, and Back

Plying a quintessential American waterway.

By Cynthia McVay



On a serene fall morning in the Hudson Valley, my eyes savor the billowing, exuberant orange, yellow, red, and still-green treetops as a friend and I set off in two single sculls on the water-glass of Rondout Creek. Rowing saved me this summer from the pandemic's isolation grip, but the solace it brings comes tinted with the fractured world beyond.

We head east towards the Hudson River. Low tide reveals what's been underwater all along: sunken trees and moss-covered docks, laden with invasive purple loosestrife's long fingers. A blue heron stalks the shallow water. Cormorants cling to buoys. When I glance over my shoulder to see what lies ahead, I can't tell whether the rippling water signals a floating log or a duck until it flies away. Osprey nest every year atop the rusty 30-foot arm of an arthritic crane, which reaches towards the heavens in a state of perpetual supplication. I carry a low-grade fear that a town planner will "clean up" this waterfront, mistaking its complex, adaptive ecosystem for unredeemed industrial wreckage.

We row to where the creek spills into the Hudson River. We gauge the river's hospitality by the Rondout Lighthouse's American flag: if it shivers horizontally—which is often, lately—it's too windy and we turn around. In this COVID year, we are in singles and doubles, rather than quads or eights, and so row less than we normally do on this regal but intimidating river. The Hudson is a draw for its long vistas, the luxury of taking a dozen strokes without having to turn to see what's ahead, and the excitement-cum-terror when an immense ship approaches. But what beckons most is its sheer grandeur.

"To Eddyville?"

"Yep." We head back up the creek—which, to be clear, is no compromise; it has historical, aesthetic, and natural treasures all its own, delivered on a personal scale. Four bridges offer delectable shade and segment the three miles to the waterfall. We pull by the low-slung blue-and-white houseboat that a long-haired, bare-chested millennial outfitted as a B&B last year. A vomit-hued hospital ship is ripe for creative repurposing. We pass the sheriff's dock, get a whiff of bacon from Ole Savannah's southern brunch, hear woodworkers tapping in the barn. Each of several marinas has its own character. Connelly leans toward sailboats—some

verging on yachts—and sports a huge, honking rusty hanger. At the far end, some part of it has been *UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT* for as long as I can remember. On a warm afternoon, small children with bubbled arms jump and shriek in the water I hope they don't swallow. There's a little Mexican restaurant, a cluster of fuel pumps, waterfront acreage for sale. A few trailers create a courtyard around an inviting, smoking barbecue.

We head toward the Wilbur train bridge. If we hear a rumble, we decide whether we can make it or to wait out the locomotive. They seem to go on forever, slowly: oil tanks, MAERSK containers, multicolored trailers, flatbeds, and container skeletons, heading in equal measures north and south. Sometimes we yield to impatience and take our chances, pulling quickly, hoping the train won't kick a rock as we pass 150 feet beneath. So far so good. I wave at the older couple who while away the day on a large sailboat below the trestle and wonder how they trust the century-old structure.

I turn to take a good look before navigating this next part, through Feeney Shipyard, where barges and tugboats double- and triple-park and sometimes kick up debris we dodge in our fragile sculls. For over a hundred years, Feeney's has been fixing and building marine vessels. I see a microcosm of America at work. It's been busy, almost jubilant, the past few years. What does that say about global shipping and America's economy? Are the ships out of commission while we get things straight with China? Or is there so much commerce that demand for more capacity reaches all the way back here? *STATUE CRUISES*, *Statue of Liberty* and *Ellis Island* rests here, too, this pandemic summer, her windows masked with strand board, a metaphor for our fractious and fraying republic, where New York tourism has been suspended along with the hopes of immigrant children.

We row alongside the vast vessels, their sides smeared in orange and green

like Richter paintings scraped by the lock walls of the Panama Canal, or the port of Newark. We've watched the progress on *PILOT No.1* metamorphosing from oil spill response vessel to pilot boat mother ship. Cranes at rakish angles hoist American flags hundreds of feet into the sky. Workers in hardhats and protective visors scrape and paint; even on weekends, sparks fly. In the scrapyards at the far end of Feeney's, a four-taloned claw wrangles a pile of old cars and lawnmowers. I applaud the efforts to recycle, but I worry the tall stack might topple into the creek. Despite my environmentalist bent, I appreciate the shipyard's industrial beauty, productivity, and authenticity.

Just beyond the shipyard, two weeks ago, a 20-foot motorboat revved into high gear—heedless of the NO WAKE zone—creating a large, threatening wave. After passing me, they bore down directly at my friend as if playing a game of chicken. She shook for 10 minutes.

All summer, we've dealt with an articulated political rift on the Rondout Creek. Rowers, sailors, and kayakers seem to share a connection: physical exertion, poetry of motion, proximity to nature. Motorboats tend to gun their way down the creek, blasting music and heaving blue exhaust mixed with cigarette smoke, American flags on the bow and Trump pennants on the stern. Boat names may contain whimsy, but many are imbued with aggression or hard partying, like *I CAN'T REMEMBER*.

This morning, for almost the entire row to Eddyville, a motorboat creeps along behind us, its disconcerting presence hard to read. The boat is not only following us, but the rules—going slowly so as to not create a wake, which can easily unsteady a 25-foot-long, slender scull. It stops near a wetland inlet just short of where we habitually turn around. As we pass the boat on our way back, I make out three men and a couple of children. The morning sun catches a translucent line as one man casts a reel.

I wonder if I should thank them for going slowly. My instinct is to reinforce good behavior through acknowledgment, but I've learned it can backfire if it rubs up against the wrong sort of masculinity, the kind that rejects masks and common courtesy as outrageous threats against American liberty. I decide to take my chances.

"Thank you for going slowly."

"Sure," he says.

I smile in relief. Just then, I sense a flutter, a shadow. I look up. Flashes of white pop against the blue sky.

"Look! A bald eagle," I exclaim. It lands in a nearby, leafless tree.

"Hey, kids. A bald eagle!" They move to that side of the boat to see.

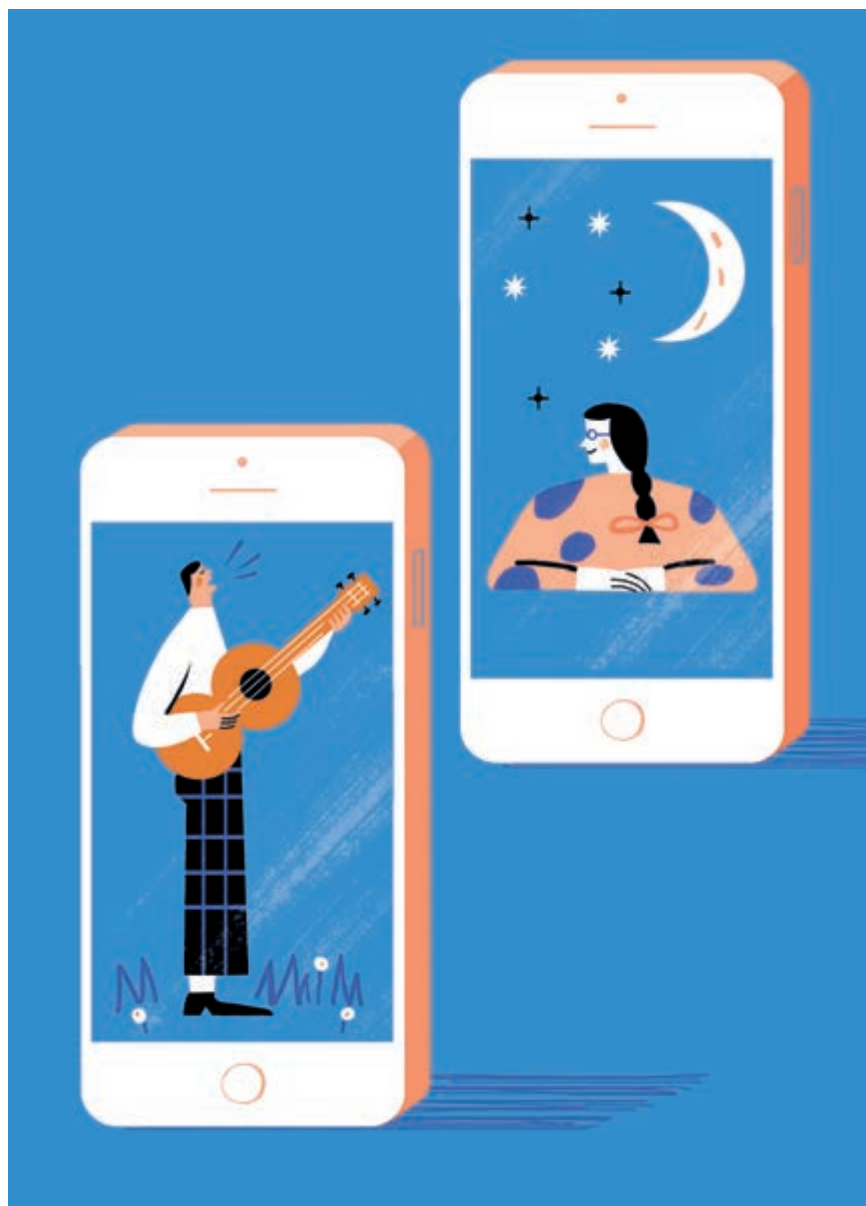
We all watch together, riveted.

When they were named the national bird in 1782, bald eagles soared in the hundreds of thousands. By the mid-1960s habitat destruction, hunting, and pesticides reduced their numbers to 450 nesting pairs in the continental United States. Thanks to environmental protections, bald eagles came off the endangered species list in 1995. Every time we see one on our rows, we pause in awe.

I nod at the family and carry on. I exhale as I drive—push with my feet and pull with my arms, feeling the resistance of the water—and inhale on recovery, as I pull up the slide. That's what this year has been: constant recovery.

I want to believe the eagle is an omen of good news. We are battling for our country and everybody in it, for the American flag and all it represents, for the planet's future. The fall is progressing. Soon the boats will be put away—sailboats, motorboats, our sculls. The docks will be up. The days will shorten. I will miss rowing and the profound beauty the creek offers as winter locks up the waterways. But I will have something to look forward to in the spring.

Cynthia McVay G'88 WG'88 is an artist, writer, and rower based in the Hudson Valley and St. Croix.



Swipeout

How the pandemic is changing the future of romance.

By Mia Levitin

As life went even more digital during lockdown, the inversion we had been heading towards for over a decade was nearly complete: many of us in the West had gone from a life engaged in the

world interspersed with screen time to existing almost entirely online, with the outside world a place to dip into from time to time. Seduction took a strange twist, as physical intimacy became potentially perilous for the first time since

the AIDS epidemic, leading singles to date fewer people at a time and have exclusivity conversations sooner.

Government guidelines on sex during lockdown varied by geography. The Dutch were counseled to limit themselves to one *seksbuddy*. Single Brits pored over the rules in search of a loophole (outdoor orgies?) until “support bubbles” effectively lifted the sex ban. Officials in New York and LA began by preaching abstinence: “You are your safest sex partner,” wrote the New York Department of Health, and the “next safest partner” is someone in your household. The guidelines were later updated to acknowledge interhousehold activity by recommending wearing face masks and avoiding kissing for safer sex. “Make it a little kinky,” suggested their COVID-19 factsheet. “Be creative with sexual positions and physical barriers, like walls, that allow sexual contact while preventing close face-to-face contact.”

For those not busy building state-sanctioned glory holes, dating app traffic soared during lockdown. Tinder had 3 billion Swipes® (yes, it’s actually a registered trademark) on March 29 alone, the highest number recorded in the app’s history. The daily average swipes of female users under 30 were up 37 percent, which got its parent company, Match Group, excited: “Female usage and engagement is a key driver for a dating product’s success,” they told shareholders. OkCupid also noted an uptick, with women sending 40 percent more intro messages than previously.

In light of rules around social distancing, the pandemic ushered in a new era of video dating. Bumble’s in-app video chatting, a feature many users didn’t even know existed, increased 93 percent in the two weeks after President Trump declared a national emergency. Hinge also introduced a “date from home” feature to indicate if matches were up for a video chat or phone call. Teams at both Tinder and Facebook Dating got busy adding video functionality to their plat-

forms to accommodate the surge in interest. By adding the dimensions of voice and mannerisms, video is one step closer to sussing out what it's like to be with someone. Provided the apps could screen for safety—i.e., it didn't devolve into Chatroulette—some users planned to continue using video as a way to screen dates before meeting face to face.

As physical borders contracted, the digital dating universe expanded: Bumble let people match with anyone in their country and Tinder offered its premium Passport function—traditionally used by people to line up dates before traveling—for free during lockdown. Airbnb and Bumble teamed up to curate virtual first dates in exotic locales, from a Turkish coffee-grind reading (hopefully predicting a wonderful future together) to “Meet the Woolly Sheep of My New Zealand Farm.” Virtual Reality Looking For Partner (VRLFP)—“a community for people interested in dating, hookups, friendship and/or roleplaying in virtual reality”—left the physical plane behind altogether. VR porn also saw increased traffic, offering experiences in places people missed: outdoors, abroad, in restaurants and, yes, hair salons.

Many commentators highlighted the positive aspects of distance-dating, praising the slow burn of delaying physical intimacy, deeper conversations around safety, and longing associated with separation. If one positive thing came out of lockdown with regard to seduction, people realized how much they missed human touch. Some singles complained of increased aggressivity, however, with a ramp-up in unsolicited nudes and pressure to break lockdown rules to meet up. Others wondered whether video chatting with people in far-flung locations, whom they had no chance of meeting anytime soon, was yet another way of avoiding intimacy. In its roundup of pandemic dating alternatives, *Time Out* London kept it real: “None of them is as good as going to the pub for a couple of drinks and then going back to theirs.”

Even before opportunities for in-person encounters dwindled, dating apps were a booming business. According to the analytics firm App Annie, dating app spending doubled in the past two years, to \$2.2 billion globally in 2019. Tinder, the market leader, is the highest-grossing non-gaming app, with an impressive \$1.4 billion of revenue expected in 2020. Despite the seeming sexual smorgasbord on offer on apps, however, a 2019 Pew survey showed that 67 percent of singletons surveyed were dissatisfied with their dating lives and 75 percent were finding it difficult to meet people to date.

The popularity of apps has posed a challenge to other dating businesses. A matchmaker at a high-end agency told me that her clients, who were always demanding given the hefty fee of the service, come in with ever-longer laundry lists of must-haves and deal-breakers. The shutting down of Guardian Soulmates, a paid service that had been a mainstay of UK dating since 2004, was a direct casualty of free apps. Zoe Strimpel, the author of *Seeking Love in Modern Britain*, called the demise of Soulmates “an epic final nail in the coffin of the old era of courtship.”

Habituated to the safety of screens, people are increasingly unpracticed at unmediated seduction. The social anthropologist Jean Smith told me that some participants in a masterclass she taught on flirtation asked her to set up an online forum so they could “wink” at those whom they had been too shy to approach during the cocktail hour. This, having just dedicated hours to developing that very skill! Despite the prevalence of dating apps, a full 84 percent of millennials surveyed said they would still prefer to meet someone organically. And yet they fear they are losing the aptitude to do so: a School of Life class I attended on the art of conversation was filled with participants who felt unable to relay their text selves into real life. Northwestern University's class on intimacy is dubbed “the most popular

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course on campus.” One of the assignments? Asking someone out on a date.

As I learned from one of Smith's “fearless flirtation” courses, striking up conversations IRL can be as simple as asking a question to establish rapport, e.g., “Can you recommend a beer on tap?” The revelation is that if someone is interested in talking to you, the opening gambit does not matter a lick. If they're not interested, you respectfully retreat. A smile is a low-cost investment: if it goes unreturned, what, really, have you lost? Flirtation doesn't even have to have sexual undertones or romantic intent; at its base, it is nothing more than cultivating a sense of playfulness and openness to the possibilities of conversation. (You might discover a new lager!) There are plenty of people out there in the wild, it turns out, if we just lift our heads and take out our AirPods long enough to notice.

So what will courtship look like when singletons emerge from their caves—eyes blinking to adjust to the sun—as it becomes safe to go out again? The pandemic has given us occasion to pause and consider how it is we want to live, at a moment when we have reached the apotheosis of individualism. We can rethink our approach to social care, healthcare, and the environment, or we can revert to the old normal. We can engage in the world and the people who populate it, in all of their glorious messiness, or spend our one wild and precious life swiping them away. Choose your own adventure.

Mia Levitin W'97 is the author of *The Future of Seduction*, from which this essay is adapted with the permission of Unbound.



Masked Move-In

It was a different kind of college move-in for freshmen like Mehul Suri EAS'24, seen above rolling his belongings into Lauder College House with his father, Ajit Suri, on January 14. Because the pandemic shut down college housing for the fall semester, most of Penn's first-year students didn't make their first trips to campus until this winter. And since safety precautions limited students to only single bedrooms, some were spread out in dorms typically occupied by upperclassmen. No matter where on campus they landed, freshmen quickly needed to get comfortable in their new rooms—since that's likely where they've been taking their (still mostly virtual) classes for the spring semester.



Fostering Youth Voices

Penn's newest Rhodes Scholar plans to help kids who grew up like her.

Mackenzie Fierceton C'20 SPP'21 wrote her Rhodes Scholarship application from a hospital bed. After suffering a seizure that sent her epilepsy into overdrive nearly two weeks before the deadline—which is, coincidentally, when she decided to apply—Fierceton had meetings and wrote essays while pushing through a cloud of sedatives.

Now, Fierceton is Penn's 2021 Rhodes Scholar, beating out more than 2,300 applicants nationwide to become one of 32 Americans to earn a prestigious four-year scholarship to study at England's University of Oxford.

While at Oxford, Fierceton intends to research the child welfare system and conduct a comparative study of social

safety nets in the United States, United Kingdom, and Norway, to determine how welfare programs and social assistance contribute to the foster care-to-prison pipeline.

Foster youth “get swept into incarceration, and a lot of the time it's for survival crimes,” Fierceton says. “It's literally for stealing money or stealing things because you don't have shoes for school or enough money to pay rent if you're an 18-year-old who just got dropped out of the system.”

Fierceton's research hits close to home. Having grown up in foster homes in St. Louis and Florida, she understands how the system stacks odds against children like her. According to studies, about 50 percent of foster youth graduate from high school and only 2.5 percent

from a four-year college.

“The overwhelming majority of foster youth do want to complete high school and go on to college or trade school or vocational school,” Fierceton claims. “But then when we get there, we have no support and the wheels just kind of fall off, in a sense.”

Fierceton notes that her experience in the foster system, while still difficult, was an exception to the rule. She went to a private high school, where the adults looked out for her; almost approximating a sense of family. Teachers showed up at soccer games and theater performances, while friends' families invited her over for holidays and ensured she had clothes and “everything she needed” while she moved in and out of the system.

“For foster youth, in particular, your success is determined by your social support and social capital,” she says. “I got where I am today because I don't face the innumerable racial, educational, and sociopolitical marginalizations that the vast majority of foster youth experience. That's why I was able to go to Penn, and why I have access to so many spaces.”

Fierceton is currently pursuing a master's in social work at Penn with an eye toward reforming the system she grew up in—even if that means having a gentler understanding of the social workers who struggled to support her. “When I aged out of the foster care system, I wanted to get as far away from [it] as possible. I never wanted to talk to another so-

cial worker for the rest of my life,” she says, remembering one particular caseworker of hers who never bothered to learn her name after skipping visits for months. At the time, again from a hospital bed, Fierceton emailed “every politician [she] could think of” about how they must reform child welfare and find her a better caseworker.

Now, after working as a caseworker at Penn's School of Social Policy & Practice's Goldring Reentry Initiative, which addresses the barriers incarcerated individuals face upon release from Philadelphia prisons, Fierceton has more compassion for those managing heavy caseloads. “People go into it with so much passion and compassion and empathy and a really deep desire to support youth,” she says. “Then they're overworked and underpaid and have no support in the workplace. So burnout is such a huge problem.”

After finishing at Oxford, Fierceton hopes to return to Philadelphia to do clinical social work while also crafting child welfare policy. “An issue with a lot of policymaking is that the people who are making policy have no first-hand experience and have never worked with the populations they're writing policy for, so a lot of it doesn't have the intended effect,” she says.

“After winning the Rhodes, I had this overwhelming sense that people are finally listening to foster youth—seeing us, hearing us, and believing that work needs to be done.”

—Beatrice Forman C'22

The Snow Camp historic site in Alamance County, North Carolina, was once home to a Quaker community that was believed to be a stop on the Underground Railroad.



Preserving Civil Rights Heritage

A new center at the Weitzman School commemorates and aims to understand the African American struggle.

When Booker T. Washington was named principal of Alabama's new Tuskegee Normal School for Colored Teachers in 1881, his domain encompassed not much more than a one-room shanty. After about a year, the celebrated educator purchased a former plantation and began developing a 100-acre campus that formed the nucleus of what blossomed into Tuskegee University. "The students actually built the early parts of the campus themselves," says Randall Mason, associate professor in historic preservation at Penn's Stuart Weitzman

School of Design. "They literally dug the clay so they could make the bricks that turned into the buildings."

In the 1890s, Robert Robinson Taylor, the nation's first accredited Black architect, and David A. Williston, its first professionally trained African American landscape architect, collaborated on a further expansion and later joined the faculty. More than a century later, Tuskegee remains one of just a handful of the nation's historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) that offers an accredited architecture degree. In fact, its Robert R. Taylor School of Architecture and Construction Science is a

core partner of the Weitzman School's new Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites (CPCRS), which launched last fall with Mason serving as faculty director. The initiative traces its roots to a collaboration between Penn and Tuskegee that started in 2019 with the support of Amy Freitag GFA'94 GLA'94, executive director of the philanthropic organization J. M. Kaplan Fund, and Kevin Penn W'83, chair of Weitzman's board of advisors.

The center's scope, according to Mason, is to explore how the pursuit of civil rights has shaped America's built environment and its society.

That includes recognizing both iconic sites and ordinary places "where the Black community prevailed and triumphed" throughout the 19th and 20th centuries—not just "the era that we refer to with a capital C and capital R" in the 1950s and 1960s.

According to a recent *New Yorker* article, only two percent of the nearly 100,000 sites on the National Register of Historic Places are associated with the Black experience. Brent Leggs, founding executive director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's new African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, is a leader in rectifying that—and one of the first experts that Mason contacted as he fleshed out the idea of a center. "Brent's program has had a pretty amazing impact," Mason says. "Beyond raising money to support these sites, it's brought many untold stories to the surface."

During this spring semester, Leggs and Mason have cotaught a course called *Reckoning with Civil Rights Sites* that includes opportunities to collaborate with students at Tuskegee to consider future possibilities for a school building in rural Alabama, and with local partners to search for sustainable strategies for the Marian Anderson House in Philadelphia. Leggs also serves on the advisory board of CPCRS, along with Freitag; Penn; Monica Rhodes GFA'12, director of resource management for the National Park Foundation; Kwesi Daniels, Tuskegee's architecture chair and

assistant professor; and Bill Adair C'85, an independent arts and culture consultant.

After more than a decade spent chipping away at “elevating the significance of African America culture” by securing historic designation for sites like the estate of entrepreneur Madam C. J. Walker in Irvington, New York, and the Negro League’s Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, New Jersey, Leggs says he was inspired by the 2017 Charlottesville, Virginia, protests over Civil War monuments to consider how “historic preservation could have a role in equity and social justice.” Since the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund was launched, it has awarded grants totaling more than \$4.3 million for preservation efforts at some 150 sites.

“My first goal is always to protect the site in perpetuity and to buy time for its future,” Leggs says. “Ultimately, though, a site must contribute to the cultural vibrancy and life of its communities—it can’t just sit as an artifact on the landscape. So for me, after protection comes planning, restoration, and finally activation for the public use. The big goal is that these assets are positioned as cultural anchors within their communities, and to foster conversation about identity and place.”

Leggs has particular fondness for Philadelphia’s built legacy, and has worked on historically designated sites in the city like the John Coltrane House, Joe Frazier’s Gym, and Tindley Temple United Methodist Church. “When I

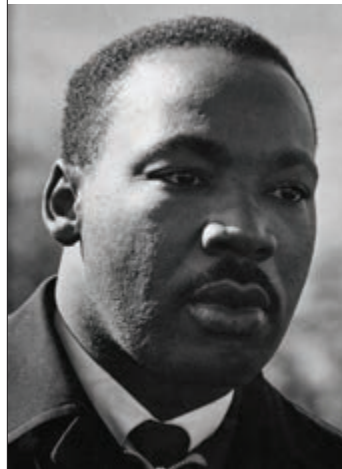
look at the American cultural landscape and when I think of African American history, I see that Philadelphia has been home to a most remarkable collection of people [who contributed to that history], from Marian Anderson to Dox Thrash to W. E. B. Dubois to Paul Robeson,” he says. “I’ve respected and followed [Mason’s] work for years, and in my opinion, Penn’s is the leading academic preservation program in the United States. So when this bold vision was coalescing, I was really interested to be a part of [it].”

In addition to the coursework, the center plans to conduct research at several field sites, organize virtual panels, and feature on its website a crowdsourced digital exhibition of places that commemorate civil rights stories. More than anything, “we’re taking an open and inquisitive attitude toward understanding what civil rights sites are and how we preserve their history,” Mason says. “What other means besides the current array of preservation tools do we need to acknowledge them when, for instance, the sites don’t have the presence of, say, Independence Hall? When something like Joe Frazier’s Gym, for example, is now a furniture store or when the physical evidence of the MOVE tragedy is mostly gone? These questions are part of a conversation about what’s been purposely forgotten or erased and how to begin redefining heritage.”

—JoAnn Greco

The Radical and Universal King

Cornel West on the misunderstood icon and “imperfect,” “magnificent” man.



“I think we have to begin with the notion that Martin Luther King Jr.

is not an isolated voice, an icon in a museum; he’s a wave in an ocean. That he is part and parcel of the tradition of a great people—a world-historical people whose gifts to the world are an unbelievable ‘caravan of love,’ in the language of the Isley Brothers, in the face of 400 years of chronic hatred,” said philosopher and activist Cornel West near the start of the 2021 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture in Social Justice.

Cohosted by the Center for Africana Studies and the Annenberg School for Communication, the lecture was the 20th in the annual series at the University—and the first to be held virtually.

In a wide-ranging conversation with Center director

and Penn English professor Margo Crawford, the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Professor of Faculty Excellence, West—a philosophy professor at Harvard and the author of 20 books, most recently *Black Prophetic Fire*—touched on King’s place in the “cacophony of voices” making up the movement for civil rights and social and economic justice. West also delved into King’s relationship with Malcolm X, and the centrality of Black popular culture as a spiritual and democratic force, among other topics.

In her last question, Crawford asked West to comment on King’s 1966 statement that “a riot is the language of the unheard” in the context of the mass demonstrations that followed the killing of George Floyd last summer.

“I applaud the marvelous militancy of the largest expression of protests in the history of the United States,” which then spread around the globe, West said. “But the real challenge is that we can’t view it in an isolated way. There’s a connection between police power, Pentagon power, Wall Street power,” he continued, drawing a comparison to King’s critique of militarism during the US war in Vietnam.

West argued that King was profoundly misunderstood

even during his own lifetime, pointing out that people now forget that the majority of Americans and even almost half of Black people disapproved of him two months before he died. “Black folk was saying, ‘Why you talking about foreign policy? We just talking about civil rights. Why you talking about the poor? We don’t need to talk about white poor, we don’t need to talk about brown poor, we’re talking about Black people.’

“And Martin said, ‘Y’all never understood me: see, I was never just a civil rights activist. I was never just a patriot. I am a Christian preacher who’s called to follow *hesed*, pursue justice, and tell the truth that affects every corner of the globe, *beginning* with Black people in the United States. ... But that love for Black people didn’t stop me from loving white people, from loving Jewish people, from loving Palestinian people, from loving Arab people, from loving Asians, indigenous peoples, and so forth.’

“That’s the Love Supreme that’s always too much for the ears of the elites—too much for them to really listen to and understand the challenge, the fundamental challenge, to the powers that be. And that’s why we shall never ever forget our brother Martin and all of the others who gave so much in their own imperfect and fallible but magnificent and, I would say, sublime ways.” —JP

The entire session can be viewed at the Center for Africana Studies’ homepage or YouTube channel.

A Place for Pluralism

After 15 years working there—and 10 in charge—Rabbi Mike Uram leaves Penn Hillel as a welcoming space for Jews and non-Jews alike.

In his second week working at Penn Hillel, Rabbi Mike Uram was given a task well-suited for a man in his 20s. Facebook had just allowed its users to post photos, and Uram was responsible for teaching older staff members how to navigate the new social network. “And how quickly I became a dinosaur in social media use,” laughs the now 44-year-old, who remained at the University’s center for Jewish life for more than 15 years, first as Penn Hillel’s assistant director and then as its executive director, before departing at the end of 2020.

“I basically came of age at Penn,” says Uram, who left to take a job as the chief vision and education officer of Pardes North America, under the umbrella of the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. “I moved to Philadelphia as a newly married person. I learned how to become a husband and a father. I learned to be a rabbi and a professional at Penn. ... It’s really hard to say goodbye to so many people you love and to an organization you care so much about.”

The rise of social media is one way to chart how things have changed since Uram

arrived at Penn. In his estimation, it’s led to less civil discourse between students who disagree politically, whereas “politics on campus were much more muted” in 2005. More positively, he’s also seen a dramatic shift in “students becoming much more trans-

2003, where students can find common ground in person, whether attending a panel discussion about Israel or eating Shabbat dinner. And Hillel staff members have often been the “first line of defense,” he says, for students to talk with about their mental health or any other concerns.

The doors are open to everybody, too. Uram notes that in a normal year Penn Hillel engages about 3,500 undergraduates—while there are only about 1,750 Jewish undergraduates at Penn. “So a huge amount of work involves interfaith dialogue, interfaith community ser-



parent and real about their struggles and their vulnerabilities and their challenges with mental health.”

To navigate these changes, Uram tried to maintain a welcoming and pluralistic environment at Steinhardt Hall, Penn Hillel’s home since

vices, and bridge building work between religious communities,” he says. Since Uram started as executive director in 2010, one of his proudest accomplishments was tripling Penn Hillel’s budget. And he directed those donor-raised funds to

student programming that includes a fellowship in which Jews and Muslims learn Hebrew and Arabic together, social justice initiatives like a weekly soup kitchen inside Steinhardt Hall, and yearly interfaith trips to mentor orphans at a Rwandan youth village [“Horror and Hope,” Sep/Oct 2011]. “And people who would go to Rwanda or on our Israel programs or Spring Break programs would then become regulars at Hillel, whether or not they were Jewish,” Uram says. “To be there during a weekday dinner or a Friday night Shabbat dinner, when a huge number of students are of different faiths and colors and socioeconomic backgrounds, that level of inclusivity really ramped up.”

Ensuring that everyone inside Steinhardt Hall was always physically safe as well as emotionally safe was a “constant source of tension” for Uram, who recalls instances where individuals not affiliated with Penn “who were very agitated were trying to get into the building.” Their security protocols always worked, but Penn Hillel leaders have remained vigilant due to what Uram calls a “dramatic rise of the visibility of anti-Semitism in recent years.”

After a gunman opened fire on worshippers at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018, killing 11 and wounding six, Penn Hillel hosted a campus vigil with staffers devoting many hours to help students cope with the tragedy. In many cases, however, Uram has noticed that Penn’s

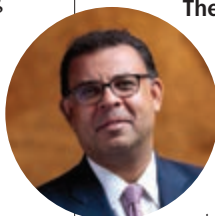
Jewish students are more concerned about “justice and equality and inclusivity for everyone,” he says, noting there have been more conversations about “how to be good partners and allies to Black Lives Matter and to LG-BTQ students than *how do we protect the Jews?*” And based on research Penn Hillel did a few years ago, although a majority of Jewish students have reported hearing classic anti-Semitic tropes on campus, many did not think of it as anti-Semitism at the time. “We’re often trying to both be good allies,” Uram says, “and in our spare time trying to figure out how to raise a nuanced conversation about ways that anti-Semitism shows up on a college campus.”

Through it all, the students were always the most rewarding part of the job, and those relationships have lasted well past graduation. Uram has officiated weddings of couples who met while they were at Penn. On Alumni Weekend, he’s bumped into former students back on campus with their kids in tow. Before his final day, his colleagues gave him a 150-page memory book filled with messages from alumni about the effect Penn Hillel had on them. “It was everything from, ‘I never thought about Judaism in this way until we talked about it,’ to ‘I would never have made it through that moment of my depression without you,’” he says. “We’re there through thick and thin with students.”

It was a difficult decision for Uram to leave, but he’s

LEADERSHIP

Woods Tapped to Run Penn Museum



The University announced that Christopher Woods

has been named the Williams Director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, effective April 1.

Woods arrives at Penn from the University of Chicago, where he served as director of the Oriental Institute, one of the world’s leading centers for interdisciplinary research on Near East civilizations. Woods, who also served as editor in chief of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, is “an experienced and collaborative leader and award-winning scholar who believes deeply in the power of museums to connect past to present,” Penn President Amy Gutmann said in the announcement.

Woods replaces Julian Siggers, whose eight-year tenure was marked by what he called a “reimagining and rebranding of the museum” in an interview with the *Philadelphia Inquirer* last April after he was named head of the Field Museum in Chicago. Efforts he shepherded as director include recent renovations to the Middle East, Africa, and Mexico and Central America galleries as part of a multiphase building transformation project [“Gazetteer,” Jan/Feb 2020]. The renovations also established a dramatic and airier main entrance in which visitors now immediately greet the 25,000-pound Sphinx of the Pharaoh Ramses II, which had been moved, from a different part of the museum, for the first time in almost a century [“Gazetteer,” Sep/Oct 2019].

Gutmann praised Woods as an ideal choice to continue the museum’s “essential missions of research, teaching, and public outreach and engagement.” She continued, “Chris’s excellent track record at the University of Chicago Oriental Institute is proof positive of his ability to provide visionary leadership, and we are most fortunate to bring him to Penn.”

excited for a new opportunity at Pardes and is comfortable with where he’s leaving Penn Hillel. Under his guidance, the organization recently completed a \$10 million endowment campaign. Rabbi Gabe Greenberg, the current interim director and a candidate to fill the vacancy full-time, is an “outstanding” leader, he says. And Penn Hillel’s mission of social justice and inclusivity should only continue to grow. Uram

hopes it can be a place of “healing to rebuild campus life post-pandemic.”

And Uram, who lives with his family just outside the city in Wynnewood, will be happy to keep helping in whatever way he can. “I’ve said to everyone I’ve talked to that I’m only six miles away,” he says. “If you have a cold and you need chicken soup, if you need a place to study to get away from campus, those relationships will transcend.” —DZ

No Permanent Conflict?

Before relations between the two countries became poisoned, America and Iran shared a long history of “mutual idealization.”

Images of rioters scaling a wall of the US Capitol on January 6 reminded John Ghazvinian, executive director of Penn’s Middle East Center, of another famous scene, from his native Iran. On Twitter he posted a photograph of the recent incursion alongside another of Iranian students breaching the US Embassy in Tehran in 1979.

That attack, by supporters of Iran’s Islamic Revolution, inaugurated a 14-month hostage crisis that likely cost President Jimmy Carter a second term—and fixed Iran as a foe in the American psyche. Its immediate trigger was Carter’s decision to allow the ousted Shah of Iran into the United States for medical treatment. But anti-US sentiment also had historical roots, in the CIA’s role in a 1953 anti-democratic coup that deposed a popular prime minister and strengthened the shah.

Yet the relationship between the two countries hasn’t always been hostile, as Ghazvinian makes clear in his new book, *America and Iran: A History, 1720 to the Present* (Alfred A. Knopf). “This was the great surprise for me,” he says, “to realize that this is a story of two countries that, for the overwhelming majority of their history, have been

very warm and affectionate towards each other—where the history is full of mutual admiration, mutual fascination, even a sort of mutual idealization.”

In his introduction, he writes: “The Iran hostage crisis of 1979 has become a kind of original sin—the moment the serpent slipped into the Garden of Eden and brought an end to the comfortable illusion of American global invincibility. The unforgivable has become the unforgiven. And nothing has been the same since.”

In 1950s Iran, after the CIA helped overthrow Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddeq, “a generation that had adored America—a generation raised on years of John Wayne movies and big, stylish Chevrolts— ... quickly grew to hate it,” Ghazvinian writes. “So it has remained, for forty years. History—like almost everything else—has become a casualty in the long-running war of words between Iran and the United States.”

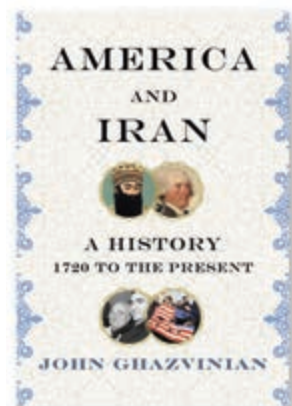
Ghazvinian’s book aims to be a corrective. One of his epigraphs quotes the 14th-century Persian poet Hafez on “the lingering sorrow of separation,” a theme that infuses his narrative. The second epigraph is a 1986 statement

from President Ronald Reagan that “between American and Iranian basic national interests there need be no permanent conflict.” Ghazvinian argues that, US fears notwithstanding, Iran has no real intention of building nuclear weapons, and the two countries could find common cause in regional stability and opposition to the Taliban, ISIS, and other Sunni jihadist groups.

Wondering “how things went so wrong” between the US and Iran, Ghazvinian discovered “the question we never ask, which is ‘How did things go right in the first place?’” After all, implicit in the assumption that “things have gone wrong is that things weren’t always so bad,” he says. “There’s a tendency to want to use history as a kind of blame game. That’s not what history should be about.”

The 46-year-old Ghazvinian dedicates *America and Iran* to his parents, “who lived too much of this history.” His father, a scientist and educator turned businessman, and his mother, a secretary and homemaker, left Iran in 1975, when their only child was just one. Ghazvinian calls their decision to emigrate “aspirational” and stresses that they were neither political nor economic refugees. “We had a good life,” he says. But the regime of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi was tightening its repressive grip, and his father believed “this was not a country going in the right direction.”

The family settled in London, then Los Angeles, where Ghazvinian attended high school. After graduating



“This is a story of two countries that, for the overwhelming majority of their history, have been very warm and affectionate towards each other.”

from Brown University, he earned his doctorate in British history at the University of Oxford. In London, he worked as a stringer for *Newsweek* and other publications, and, in 2007, he published *Untapped: The Scramble for Africa’s Oil* (Harcourt), which *Publishers Weekly* praised for “bringing perspective to the chaos.”

Ghazvinian says that he had never intended to write about Iran. But after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, he felt “called upon,” to explain the Middle East, even though “a lot of us [from the region] don’t understand the Middle East ourselves either.”

It was helpful that he spoke Farsi, though not as fluently as his British-accented English. And as a dual US and Iranian citizen, he was able to travel freely to Iran (though, about a year ago, federal customs agents in New York pulled him aside and interrogated him about his political views). He managed to gain access to the Iranian Foreign Ministry archives, a rare—if not unique—coup for an American scholar, after “hours of pleading phone calls,” “political background checks,” “sudden rule changes,” and other impediments.

In US archives, he was surprised to see how extensively, and sympathetically, colonial newspapers covered Persia, as Iran was known until 1935. “It absolutely blew my mind,” he says, “to discover that the very first newspapers published in North America, in Boston in 1720, were obsessed with the big international news story of the day”—an Afghan uprising against the Persian Empire in reaction to forced conversions from Sunni to Shia Islam. American newspapers, he says, wrongly assumed that the Afghans were colluding with the Ottoman Empire, “the hated evil empire of its day.” By contrast, they regarded Persia as an “idyllic, fairy-tale land,” and the country’s Shia faith as “somehow less Muslim—and therefore less evil.”

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the imperial powers of Britain and Russia wrestled for influence over Iran, “using bribes, economic leverage, and political intrigue to stage-

manage the decisions of the Persian government,” Ghazvinian writes. To balance out those pressures, he says, “successive Iranian governments tried to cultivate the US as a sort of third force.”

Iran’s Constitutional Revolution created an elected parliament in 1906 to check the shah’s power. And, in 1911, the government invited an American lawyer, William Morgan Shuster, “every inch the can-do American trailblazer,” to become treasurer-general and straighten out the country’s tangled finances. Shuster, interpreting his mission broadly and taking on British and Russian interference, became an unlikely Iranian hero, an embodiment of nationalist aspirations and democratic ideals.

But the political hero who truly bestrides Ghazvinian’s narrative is Mosaddeq, an aristocrat who led the country’s liberal reformers. “He was as bald as a melon, walked with a cane, and suffered from a nervous condition that often manifested itself in the form of fainting spells,” Ghazvinian writes. “But he was also one of the most charismatic, free-spirited, and uncompromising figures of the twentieth century.”

Mosaddeq’s ouster, in 1953, consolidated the shah’s rule, which encompassed both secret police terror and modernizing reforms. Gaylord Harnwell Hon’53, a physicist who was Penn’s president from 1953 to 1970, helped the shah establish an American-style university in the city of Shiraz, an experience he

chronicled in *Educational Voyaging in Iran* (University of Pennsylvania Press). In 1962, the year Harnwell’s book appeared, Penn awarded an honorary doctorate to the shah, who arrived for the ceremony via a helicopter landing in Franklin Field.

Another Penn-Iran connection was forged by archaeological digs, beginning in the 1930s, which helped the University amass a world-class collection of Persian antiquities. A 1958 photograph in *America and Iran* shows Penn anthropologist Robert H. Dyson Jr., later dean of the Faculty (now School) of Arts and Sciences and director of the Penn Museum, triumphantly displaying a golden bowl unearthed at the Iranian site of Hasanlu.

After World War II, US administrations tended to see Iran through the scrim of the Cold War. Fearing the shah’s demise could lead to Communist ascendancy, an assumption Ghazvinian disputes, they mostly overlooked the regime’s abuses. President Carter’s human-rights rhetoric seemed to challenge that posture and emboldened opposition forces. But Carter ultimately declined to break with longstanding American policy and traveled to Tehran in December 1977 to toast the shah’s country as “an island of stability”—a week before the outbreak of the Islamic Revolution.

Despite having “no special love for the Islamic Republic,” Ghazvinian argues that demonizing it is counterproductive. “You don’t have to like the Islamic Republic,” he says, “to

recognize that it did come to power on the back of a massive popular revolution” nor “to recognize that a generation of young men gave their lives” to defend it in the savage 1980–88 war against Iraq.

Since the 1990s, the Islamic Republic has adopted a “more pragmatic and realistic foreign policy that has not always been met by pragmatism and realism on the American side,” he says. “And you don’t have to like the Islamic Republic to recognize that this [US] policy of brutal, extreme sanctions and maximum pressure is simply not going to achieve anything other than the suffering of the Iranian people.”

Ghazvinian is a proponent of the 2015 nuclear agreement, which imposed restrictions on Iran’s development of nuclear energy in exchange for sanctions relief. The Trump administration withdrew from the deal in 2018.

President Joe Biden faces “a real challenge” in improving relations, Ghazvinian says, given the limited window before June’s Iranian presidential election. In the wake of the US’s abrogation of the nuclear deal, he says, a more hardline candidate is likely to win.

Nevertheless, despite lingering distrust on both sides, Ghazvinian remains optimistic. The logic supporting a better relationship between the two nations “hasn’t really gone away,” he says. “There’s no reason why at some point these countries couldn’t lay aside their enmity and even become friends.”

—Julia M. Klein

Breaking Barriers

Penn's first Black starting quarterback reminisces about his trailblazing college football career.

Marty Vaughn W'75 WG'81 had no idea why he was being summoned to head football coach Harry Gamble's office a day or two before Penn's October 19, 1973 game versus Lehigh. At first, the Quakers' freshly minted starting quarterback thought he might be in trouble. But now, more than 47 years later, the conversation remains vivid.

"They had this quarterback by the name of Kim McQuilken—a big, strapping, prototypical quarterback at the time," Vaughn says of the Lehigh All-American who went on to play in the NFL for several seasons. "And I remember Coach Gamble looked me right in the face and said, 'Listen, we know who the better quarterback is—and Friday night you're gonna show 'em who it is.' I walked out of there thinking, *Damn, he thinks I'm better than this guy. I gotta go out there and prove him right.*"

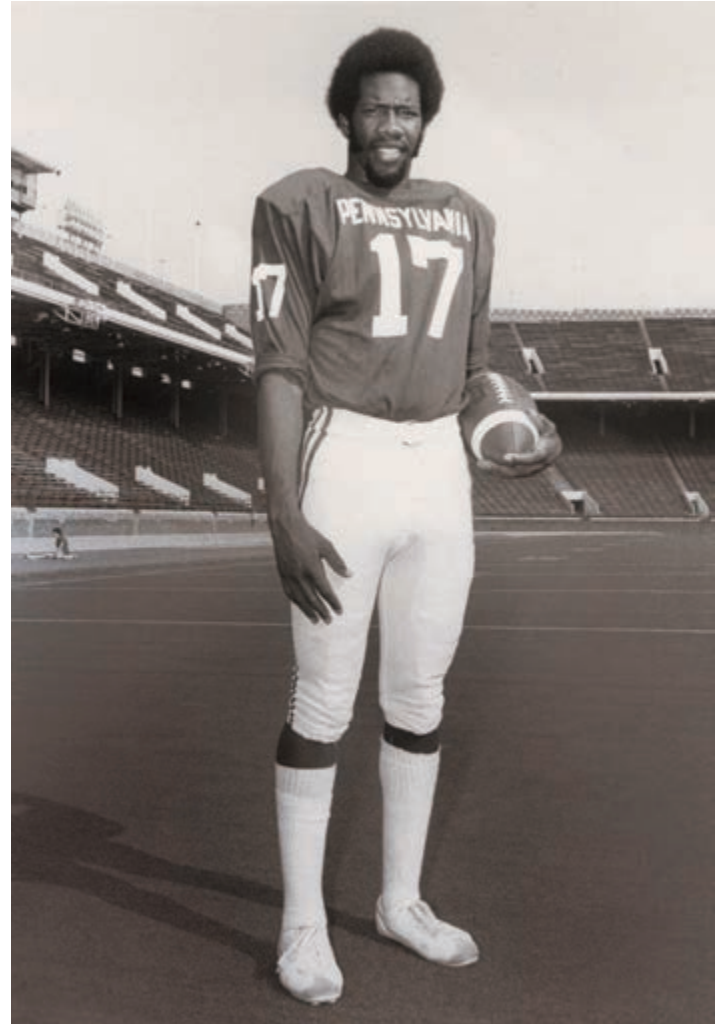
Gamble's pep talk would prove auspicious as Vaughn outplayed McQuilken in a 27-20 Penn win in the second night game ever played under the lights of Franklin Field. It also reflected a turning point in a sport that had resisted—and would continue resisting—change

when it came to its most important position.

As Vaughn notes, McQuilken was exactly the kind of quarterback fans of that era—or any era—would have expected to see. And Vaughn, well, he was not. Just three weeks earlier, in a 16-14 loss to Lafayette, Vaughn became the first Black quarterback to ever start a game at Penn. And the week after that, he participated in the first-ever matchup between two starting Black quarterbacks in more than 100 years of major college football, with Penn defeating Dennis Coleman and Brown, 28-20, in the Quakers' 1973 home opener.

"I didn't really know the significance of that game until much later on," says Vaughn, who learned about it when he read an article commemorating the Ivy League's 50-year anniversary in 2006. "I called up Dennis [Coleman] and asked, 'Did you know that?' He said, 'No I didn't.'"

While it may have been overlooked for decades, Vaughn recently got the opportunity to discuss that game during a Penn Homecoming panel entitled "Race and Athletics: Challenging Deep Rooted Beliefs." The virtual presentation in November also included Jimmy Jones, who helped break the



QB color barrier at USC a few years before Vaughn got to Penn, recent Penn track standout Nia Akins Nu'20, and former basketball player Stan Greene C'78, who said the hoops players at Penn in the late 1970s were "inspired by the African American athletes leading the football team and playing an exciting form of football" before them.

These days, exciting Black quarterbacks like Patrick Mahomes, Lamar Jackson, and Deshaun Watson are dominating the NFL and revolutionizing the position. But for a long time, Black

quarterbacks remained a rarity even as Black players commonly occupied other positions. "Part of it was ignorance and racism," says Vaughn, who claims that he was encouraged to switch to wide receiver throughout his time playing high school football in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. "Even in my senior year, they kept trying to bring up guys to take my position. My mother always said, 'You have to be twice as good to get an opportunity.'"

Vaughn learned to have thick skin growing up, moving around the country and

Europe because his father was in the US Army. Racism was always lurking beneath the surface; sometimes it bubbled up. When he was a kid, he was in the crowd with his parents and brother for Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. After leaving the March on Washington, they stopped at a roadside store on the way to a funeral in Georgia, only to be turned away by the shopkeeper, who Vaughn recalls telling his father, "You can't bring these little 'n-words' into this store." While retreating to the car, his father grabbed Vaughn's hand so hard that he dislocated one of his fingers.

After the tumult of the 1960s, more African American students were admitted to universities across the country, and when Vaughn arrived at Penn in 1971, he gravitated to his fellow Black classmates. Many sat together in a part of Franklin Field "we called the Black section," Vaughn says. "It was encouraging to look up and see those Black faces in the crowd back then. They were pulling for *you*—not as you the quarterback or you the running back. They knew us. We ate together. We talked about our families. We shared experiences." Some, Vaughn adds, even looked to him and classmate Adolph "Beep Beep" Bellizeare C'75—a star Black running back who amassed 4,004 all-purpose yards, the second highest total in program history—as role models. (Bellizeare died in 2011 and was remembered by Vaughn and many other old team-

"It was encouraging to look up and see those Black faces in the crowd back then."

mates and coaches during halftime of that year's Penn Homecoming game ["Gazetteer," Jan/Feb 2012]. Gamble, who attended that ceremony, died three years later.)

Other teams also crafted defensive game plans to contain Bellizeare's speed, which "provided me with a lot of opportunity to do my thing," Vaughn says. He did his thing to the tune of 1,926 passing yards and 17 touchdowns as a junior in 1973—establishing program records that would last for 20 years. Though he played only two seasons (freshmen weren't eligible to play varsity back then and he wasn't called off the bench as a sophomore) and Quaker quarterbacks of later eras were tasked with more pass-heavy game plans (in keeping with broader trends in football), Vaughn currently ranks sixth all-time at Penn in career touchdowns (29) and 10th in passing yards (3,429). "We became more of a passing team than a lot of teams were in those days," says Don Clune C'74, Vaughn's top receiving target in 1973, who went on to play three seasons in the NFL.

Clune, one of the best wide receivers to ever don the red and blue, adds that Vaughn fit in seamlessly not only as his third quarterback in as many seasons but as the team's leader. "He had great leadership skills," Clune says, as evidenced by the fact that Vaughn was named the team's sole captain the next season in 1974. "He was a nice guy to begin with—wasn't conceited, not a head-in-the-clouds kind of guy. That's why I think he was so well-liked by people."

Clune's one lament is that the players of that decade and the previous one are sometimes overlooked in the 143-year tapestry of Penn football, since the Quakers didn't win any Ivy League championships between 1959 and 1982. With Vaughn, Bellizeare, Clune, and wide receiver Bob Bucola C'75 (whose 86-yard touchdown reception from Vaughn in 1973 is the third longest in program history) leading a high-octane offense, the '73 Quakers made a good run at the title, though. In fact, Vaughn still thinks about one of the team's two league losses that season—a narrow 34–30 Homecoming setback to Harvard in which nearly 40,000 fans at Franklin Field witnessed an offensive explosion from both teams. Yet it was a rare incompleteness, in the final minute, that still haunts Vaughn. "Every now and then," he says, "I have nightmares about that."

Most of his time at Penn, though, was a dream. He led the Quakers to winning sea-

sons in '73 and '74, and for more than 45 years has remained close with many of his former teammates and other members of what he says is a tight-knit Class of 1975. A corporate finance executive living just outside of Philadelphia, he sits on the Penn football board and returns to campus to watch games when he can (when he's not hitting the road to watch his daughter Mikayla Vaughn, who plays basketball for Notre Dame and has been to the Final Four twice and won a national championship). And he's offered advice to players like Ryan Glover W'21, who in 2018 was the only regular Black starting quarterback in the Ivy League.

While he may not have known the specific milestone he and longtime friend Dennis Coleman reached in 1973, he *was* aware that they were two of only a handful of starting Black quarterbacks in all of college football that year. And with every fling of the football, he and his counterpart at Brown both did their best to try to stomp out prejudices, shed stereotypes, and help pave a road forward for those coming behind them. "We knew we were in a unique position," Vaughn says. "We felt like we had a responsibility to represent ourselves, our race, our schools, our school communities with the right kind of presentation—how we carried ourselves, how we handled disappointment, how we dealt with some of the uphill battles we had to climb.

"We tried to do it with class and with grace." —DZ

Education scholar
Jonathan Zimmerman
on how the US republic lost
the ability to understand
itself—and how we can help
our children recover it.

By Trey Popp

THE HISTORY WARS





“There’s no other way to interpret our moment other than as an epic failure of education.”

It’s the middle of November, and education historian Jonathan Zimmerman is not in the mood to steer conversation toward his latest book. *The Amateur Hour: A History of College Teaching in America* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020) is his eighth. The title’s final word—America—furnishes the link to all the others. From a history of one-room schoolhouses, to separate histories of alcohol and sex education, to an exploration of US campus politics, to a history of American teachers abroad, Zimmerman’s bibliography is above all else an examination of the US republic. And in the bile-spattered, venom-splashed, conspiracy-stained wake of the 2020 election, he laments the state of the union.

“It’s not the ‘fault’ of teachers,” he continues—dispatching with the customary scapegoat of much education-reform discourse (and one that has its own lengthy history). “I’m talking about education writ large.” Which has failed, he contends, on two fronts.

“First of all, we haven’t taught people how to discriminate between information and disinformation.”

That ability, and the discipline to exercise it, “is at the heart of all intellectual activity—and it’s at the heart of democracy,” says Zimmerman, who is the Judy and Howard Berkowitz Professor in Education in Penn’s Graduate School of Education. For instance, “You have to be able to discriminate between ‘vaccines keep you safe’ or ‘vaccines give you autism.’”

“And it’s not just a Democratic/Republican thing—it really isn’t,” he adds. For that’s another Zimmerman hallmark: yanking the rug out from under self-satisfied liberals. “How many people are there in Boulder, Colorado, who scoff—appropriately in my view—at climate change

denial, yet who don’t vaccinate their kids? A lot, and they’re all Democrats, virtually every single one,” he says, slipping momentarily into hyperbole. (State-level legislation to expand personal exemptions to childhood vaccinations has been a bipartisan affair over the last decade, though a 2018 study found that Republican legislators have sponsored more such bills; another study, in California, found significantly higher rates of non-vaccination in heavily Republican neighborhoods than in heavily Democratic ones.)

“So there *is* a war on science, there *is* a war on expertise, there *is* this inability to discriminate—but I think it’s a slur to call it Republican,” Zimmerman goes on. “It’s true that there are more Republican climate change denialists than Democrats—but there are sizeable numbers of Democrats. And same for the anti-vax thing: there’s a skew, but it’s not one or another. So it’s a failure that we haven’t taught people these basic skills.

“Obviously there are efforts to do this—it’s not that we don’t teach it,” he allows. “But we don’t teach it well enough. There’s no other way to interpret all this. If millions of people think that in Congress there is a conspiracy of people that are sexually abusing children and drinking their blood,” he says, referring to QAnon adherents, “and if we just elected somebody to that body who seems to believe that—well, we’ve got a problem with our education system.”

The second failure clasps hands with the first: “We haven’t taught people to engage across their differences. And to me that’s also an educational problem.” To the extent that contemporary Americans are taught the practice of political discourse, they learn it largely from cable news, whose model for debate amounts to four faces appearing on a screen and yelling at each other. “That’s what we’ve socialized people to think politics is,” Zimmerman says.

“And the only institution that has even a chance of intervening in that,” he contends, “is a school.”

Historians of education are rare enough that it would be odd to suggest that anyone might be destined to become one, but there’s little doubt that Zimmerman’s academic interest in academics stems from a peculiar fact of his childhood: he attended a Catholic school for girls.

Bishop Cotton Girls’ School was located in Bangalore, India, to which Jonathan’s parents had been posted as Peace Corps administrators in the late 1960s. It was an Anglophone institution in a neighborhood near their home, and every year it took a handful of boys, so that was that.

“When you’re that young, you don’t know how weird the stuff you’re doing is. Kids never do—they just do it!” Zimmerman says now. Bishop Cotton’s pedagogical style was “what you might guess of a Catholic school in South India during the Cold War,” he says. “There was a lot of memorization, a lot of copying. But there was rigor to all that as well, which I’m glad I received. Those nuns, when I goofed off—which I did a lot because I was getting so much attention—they’d give me a little rap to the knuckles with the ruler.

“And I’m not saying I support that, or that I would do that,” he interjects, “but I am not the worse for wear. There are so many ways to skin a cat when it comes to schooling, and I think that what my own experience did was sensitize me to that variety.”

When the Peace Corps shifted his parents to Iran, Jonathan got a whole different kind of education, at an international school in Tehran. It was the height of the oil boom, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was on a quest for superpower status, and petrol money had turned the capital into a cosmopolitan crossroads. “The term *international school* is often a misnomer, but in this case it really was that: a quarter Persian, a quarter American, and half everyone else,” Zimmerman remembers. “I had friends from Poland, South Africa, the UK ... because Tehran was going to be the Paris of the Middle East.



“It was an amazing experience,” he says, “and it was a great place to be an American.” Not just because of petrodollars and geopolitics, but because Iranians seemed so fascinated by and favorably disposed toward the United States. Zimmerman vividly remembers watching the iconic first fight between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier with his parents’ cook, who was transfixed by the spectacle of two Black Americans, one bearing an Islamic name, clashing in a bout that guaranteed them equal shares of a \$5 million purse.

“I was also there for the moon landing,” Zimmerman reminisces, “which was a huge moment of American pride.”

Zimmerman calls his elementary-school education in Bangalore and Tehran the most formative experience of his life (apart from, years later, meeting his wife). “Together with my own Peace Corps experience as a teacher in Nepal,

“We have radically different understandings of America right now. But that’s not the problem. The problem is we don’t actually have venues and institutions to deliberate those differences.”

it made me interested in the way different communities around the world try to reproduce themselves via schools, and try to make citizens. Because that’s what schools in every place do. And they do it in all kinds of different ways. It’s deeply inflected by culture, religion, and often race. It made me more interested in that variety, and more tolerant of it—and more skeptical of whatever bromides we’re offering in the current moment.”

In point of fact, the aftermath of the 2020 election was rough going for bromide peddlers—about education or any other aspect of civic life in America. Indeed, as widespread rejection of the election’s legitimacy among Republicans bloomed into chatter about “secession” in some quarters of right-wing media and the Texas GOP (before exploding into the deadly insurrection on Capitol Hill on

January 6), it took considerable grammatical strain to speak of America in the singular case at all.

“One thing that everyone said, no matter where they were, is, ‘God, I didn’t know there were that many people on the other side,’” Zimmerman remarks about reactions to the presidential vote totals. “Wasn’t that remarkable! Myself and my Biden friends are like, ‘Holy shit, 71 million people on the other side?! Who are these people?’ But you go to Trump Land, and they say exactly the same thing. They live in their own bubble, and that bubble has persuaded them they are in the majority, and they’re like, ‘74 million people for Biden? Who are these people?’” (When the count was finished, those totals would rise to roughly 74 million for Donald Trump W’68 and 81 million for President Joe Biden Hon’13.)

“We have radically different understandings of America right now,” he goes on. “But that’s not the problem. The problem is we don’t actually have venues and institutions to deliberate those differences. That’s what this last election was about. And our educational institutions have not stepped into that challenge. They are critical here. They are our key institutions, and public ones, to discuss and deliberate what we want to communicate to our young—and even to discuss and deliberate *who we are*.”

Who Americans are is bound up tightly in who we have been, how that has changed, and how each generation has connected itself to the story of those who came before—shifting the narrative’s arcs and emphases with every extension. Who we are, in other words, is a matter of our history.

Which is why the book on Zimmerman’s mind was neither his latest nor his next (a paean to free speech, largely aimed at campus liberals who’ve grown skeptical of it), but one of his first: a 2002 volume examining the history of how American schools have taught US history. *Whose America?: Culture Wars in the Public Schools* (Harvard University Press)

plumbed themes that proved resonant in 2020, and not just around the election. During a summer when social justice activists campaigned to eliminate public memorials to figures they associated with white supremacy, Zimmerman repeatedly drew from that book in newspaper op-ed columns to push back against attempts to cashier Christopher Columbus, for example, or to bury memorials to Confederate insurrectionists in deep storage. (He did so while simultaneously pushing back against the notion that the latter are anything but the “racist memorials” they have in fact been since their installation, by the so-called Redeemers who restored white supremacy after Reconstruction. Zimmerman, suffice it say, does a lot of pushing back.)

Statues may be a uniquely reductive form of commemorating the past, but the history of Columbus busts reveals a deeper insight about the way Americans have gone about distilling the vast past into digestible textbook form. As Zimmerman argued this summer, the key to understanding Columbus statues in the US lies in the timing of their proliferation. They did not begin appearing until well after the Civil War, and the vast majority date to the turn of the 20th century. If there was a watershed year in Columbus veneration, it was probably 1892, when the first statues went up in New York and Chicago, among other US cities. That year was the 400th anniversary of Columbus’s first voyage to the Caribbean. (The Genoan explorer never made landfall in North America.) But that milestone may well have gone unmarked if not for a more proximate catalyst: the poor treatment of Italian immigrants who had arrived in large numbers over the preceding decades. The nadir of anti-Italian discrimination in the US arguably came in 1891, when a white mob in New Orleans lynched 11 Sicilian immigrants in a vigilante action that future president Theodore Roosevelt deemed “rather a good thing.”

Eager to establish themselves as part of the American community in the face of

pervasive intolerance, Italian immigrants set out to elevate a historical figure who could support their claim to civic belonging. “Columbus statues arose during the same years” that Confederate memorials began appearing amidst the reestablishment of apartheid regimes in the post-Reconstruction South, Zimmerman writes, “but they aimed to rebut white racism rather than to further it. And the bigotry they targeted wasn’t against blacks, but against another despised minority group: Italians.”

What began with fundraising drives for memorial statues would gradually morph into campaigns directed at history textbooks. The goal was to ensure that the American story didn’t simply begin with the *Mayflower* landing in 1620, but with Columbus’s trans-Atlantic voyages more than a century before. And the success of that framing effort would set an enduring template for the curation of American history.

The drive to place the *Niña*, *Pinta*, and *Santa María* on par with the *Mayflower* was by no means an act of historical invention. Columbus had been recognized by earlier generations of Americans—otherwise it wouldn’t have worked. (In the 18th and early 19th centuries, however, it was more common to encounter the figure of Columbia, a poetic feminine personification that melded the explorer’s name with a Latin suffix and neoclassical imagery to create a broadly symbolic representation of America.) Elevating the Columbus story was instead an act of historical emphasis. And it would be neither the first nor the last. The explorer’s legacy had enjoyed an earlier promotion, so to speak, after the American Revolution—when citizens of the new republic wanted heroes who weren’t British. But that pendulum would continue to swing.

In *Whose America*, Zimmerman documents the striking malleability of the Revolution’s portrayal by history textbooks in the early 20th century. Even

successive editions of the same book—David S. Muzzey’s *An American History*—featured remarkable shifts in emphasis; what in 1911 was presented as a complex dispute involving pro- and anti-royalist factions on *both* sides of the Atlantic, had by 1925 been revised into “a simplistic statement of British malfeasance and American resistance.” In the middle of that stretch, other major authors altered their own texts to reinforce *pro-British* sentiments—an editorial choice shaped by the exigencies of World War I. “There is nothing I would not do to bring about the warmest relations between the English-speaking peoples,” Zimmerman quotes the historian Claude Van Tyne stating in 1918. “To my mind the whole future of the democratic world depends upon that factor.” That imperative coincided with a fresh emphasis on socioeconomic analysis that served partially to highlight British contributions to America’s development. As a historical methodology, this approach was perfectly justifiable in purely scholarly terms—but Zimmerman contends that historians of the era were also cognizant of its potential influence on contemporary affairs. “By complicating the old story of a venomous England and a virtuous America, scholars believed, the ‘new’ history would help heal old wounds between them.”

In due course this ‘new history’ would arouse the ire of right-wing groups who felt that the trend toward socioeconomic analysis came at the expense of the Founding Fathers and other Anglo-Saxon patriots. As such groups lobbied state legislatures to ban “treasonous textbooks” in the 1920s, they got a surprising ally. As Zimmerman puts it, hyphenated Americans and “nonwhite activists also joined the assault.” Much like the Italian Americans who wanted to preserve a place for Columbus, these ethnic groups were fine with celebrating the Anglo-Saxon pantheon—as long as their own heroes got at least cameo roles. German Americans (especially after World War I) lobbied for the inclusion of Daniel Pasto-

Zimmerman documents the malleability of the Revolution’s portrayal by early-20th-century textbooks—even in successive editions of the same book.

rius and the settlers in Germantown, Pennsylvania, who produced the first anti-slavery petition on American soil. American Indians stumped for figures like Pocahontas and Tecumseh. Polish Americans wrangled with Lithuanian Americans over who had the rightful claim to Casimir Pulaski, the Revolutionary War hero popularly known as “the father of the American cavalry.” Norwegian Americans would soon joust with their Italian counterparts over who really discovered the Americas: Columbus or Leif Erikson. “Even as they condemned ‘pro-British’ textbooks,” Zimmerman showed, “ethnic groups often competed with one another to revise them.”

As such efforts gained traction, one group remained essentially outcaste in the nation’s history texts: African Americans. The simple truth was that neither the Italians nor the Irish nor any other immigrant group confronted bigotry on the scale of that which afflicted Black citizens, especially during Jim Crow. And the sectional battle over Civil War historiography posed a towering obstacle. In 1895, 32 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, veterans in Richmond, Virginia, complained about a text that

depicted it as “patriotic and proper” rather than as a “palpable violation of the Constitution.” Yet such objections were less a last gasp than a template that would extend well into the second half of the 20th century.

As Zimmerman documents in *Whose America*, a powerful campaign helmed by Mildred Lewis Rutherford, the historian general of the United Daughters of the Confederacy whose textbook activism lasted until her death in 1928, effectively imposed an ultimatum on the five things American history texts must *not* do: define the war as a “rebellion”; call any Confederate soldier a “traitor or rebel”; “say that the South fought to hold her slaves”; “glorify Lincoln”; or impugn a slaveholder as “unjust to his slaves.” (In Rutherford’s stated opinion, “slaves were the happiest people on the face of the globe, free from care or thought of food, clothes, home.”)

By and large, publishers responded as they had to their ethnic critics: by catering to their sensitivities—but almost exclusively to the sensitivities of whites. “The most common pattern of southern textbook development,” Zimmerman writes, was that “Confederate groups complained about a text, then the publisher altered it.”

Some publishers released separate Southern or state-specific editions. Others bowdlerized texts marketed nationwide. Neo-Confederate activists won capitulations ranging from soft-pedaled depictions of slavery, to the excision of words like “rebellion” to describe the conflict, to picayune matters like expunging a mathematics word problem asking pupils to calculate Ulysses S. Grant’s age on the day the Union general captured Vicksburg. “Other Confederate groups,” Zimmerman observed, “bragged that they had successfully pressured publishers to discard or replace entire chapters, including one textbook’s discussion of the causes of the Civil War.”

In one of the many instances of strange bedfellows that have cropped up in America’s history-textbook wars, in the 1920s

“southern loyalists joined with their erstwhile Yankee enemies to stop—or at least slow—the entry of ‘new’ history into American schools,” fearing that “too much concern with impersonal ‘causes’ and ‘forces’ would sap children’s faith in their forefathers.”

Yet a decade later, the same critics began invoking the “new” history—embracing the class-based analysis by which historians Charles and Mary Beard reinterpreted the Civil War as an essentially economic clash while “minimiz[ing] its moral dimensions, particular those surrounding slavery.”

As the 1930s gave way to the ‘40s and ‘50s, “anti-black errors and stereotypes continued to mar nearly every American history text,” Zimmerman writes, especially in the form of “exaggerated accounts of black violence, incompetence, and corruption during Reconstruction.”

Led by figures including W. E. B. DuBois and Carter G. Woodson, African American scholars “struggled valiantly to repel racist interpretations, winning special courses in some schools and slightly revised general history textbooks in others. But they could not overcome American’s united front of white opinion, which sought to placate—if not always to satisfy—southern concerns. ... Not until the 1960s would black Americans rise up en masse against racist history, compelling the rest of the country to take heed.”

By the 1990s, as Zimmerman summarizes, a “classic American bargain” had emerged in history textbooks’ discussions of race and religion. Equally amenable to the varied groups and the publishers who aimed to please them, it boiled down to: *You get your heroes, I get mine.*

“We have radically diversified the story,” Zimmerman says. “Anyone who says, for example, that high school American history now is only about white men, they just haven’t looked at a textbook. If you looked at a textbook 60 years ago, you would have been right. But you look at it now—the 800 pages that middle school kids carry around—and it’s a

great rainbow. If you want something about Kazakh Americans, there’s a sidebar about the great things they’ve done.”

As a way for marginalized groups to gain acceptance in a society that has disdained them, this has in some cases been phenomenally effective. (Just how effective is evident in the very fact that statues of Christopher Columbus were targeted by opponents of white supremacy this past summer. “Never mind that Columbus himself wouldn’t have been recognized as fully white if he walked down the streets of New York in 1892, when the grand monument in Columbus Circle went up,” Zimmerman wrote in June. “Italians are white now, and so is Columbus.” That’s why in 2020 he was regarded not as “the bold discoverer from Genoa,” but instead as a violent tyrant who enslaved more than a thousand inhabitants of the land he claimed for the Spanish monarchy, and hence is “saddled with the sins of a race that long rejected people like him.”)

But as a way to understand the past, this “bargain” has considerable downsides. For one thing, the focus on inclusion has an unstated corollary that applies to virtually all hero worship: the urge to bend their records into alignment with one or another set of present-day ideals, and a bias toward glossing over anything unsavory.

“Since the 1920s each group that has gained admission to the grand national narrative has received the same fulsome praise as the nation itself,” Zimmerman writes. “True, groups that were excluded from this story—especially African Americans—were often horribly denigrated or stigmatized. Once they earned a place in the pantheon, however, they became as sacrosanct as any other god. For instance, today’s texts shy away from discussing the African role in the slave trade or the human sacrifice practiced by some Native Americans prior to the European conquest. These facts would temper the texts’ image of minority groups as uniformly peaceful and morally pristine.”

Zimmerman learned just how restrictive that can be during an early-career stint as a sixth-grade social studies teacher in Baltimore. During a unit on the civil rights movement, a student asked him if it was true that Martin Luther King, Jr., had engaged in extramarital affairs. Zimmerman did what he thought any good progressive educator should do. He planned a lesson around it.

“I came in the next day, brought up the question, and I said, ‘The answer is *yes*, but that’s not exactly what we’re going to talk about. We are trying to become historians here—so what we’re going to try to figure out is: How do we *know* the answer is *yes*?’”

And how we know, he went on, is that in 1963 US Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy authorized the FBI to wiretap King’s telephones, which it did for the next three years, obtaining recordings with which the Bureau attempted to blackmail the civil rights advocate. “I laid this out for my class,” Zimmerman remembers. “And one of the kids, an African American, raises his hand and says, ‘So you’re saying he was an enemy of the state!’ And I said, ‘Yes, I think you are right. I think that is what I’m saying. If the state goes through all that sound and fury to try to destroy you, I think you’re an enemy of the state.’”

“Now it’s all been so sanitized,” Zimmerman says, slipping into a kindergarten cadence: “*Happy Birthday, Martin! Day of Service!* I think people have lost sight of the history, which is that he was the most dangerous American—the person who was scariest to the state.” (Two days after King’s 1963 “I Have A Dream” speech, the FBI’s head of domestic intelligence issued a memo declaring, “We must mark him now as the most dangerous Negro in the future of this nation.” Despite King’s working relationship with Lyndon Johnson, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover led a dogged campaign against King, whose public acclaim gradually shrank to the point that 75 percent of whites and 48 percent of

Blacks disapproved of him in a Harris poll two months before his death in 1968.)

When the class period ended, Zimmerman walked out thinking, *Wow, that kind of worked!* Then the phone calls began coming into the principal.

Those led to a charged meeting between Zimmerman and some classroom parents. “Their take was pretty simple,” he remembers. “They said: ‘Look, you’re a white guy, you already have heroes. There are plenty of them. They’re on the fucking money: Washington, Lincoln, Hamilton, Jackson, Franklin. We have this one guy, and you don’t like him. You can’t accept him, so you want to degrade and diminish him in front of our kids, who have in the pantheon of *their* heroes only this one guy.’”

“I did my best to respond, but I don’t think I did it very well,” he says now. “But reflecting on that episode, it highlights just how difficult it is to have a conversation about who we are. And I don’t begrudge those parents for objecting. They’re citizens, they’re taxpayers, they’re parents, and they have every right to object. I didn’t agree with the thrust of their objection—and I certainly can confirm that I was certainly not trying to turn their kids against Martin Luther King.

“But I can imagine why some of them might have thought so,” he continues. “And when you blow that out in any direction, you can just imagine the number of people who would say, *You’re trying to turn my kids against X*. ‘You just told my kids about Abu Ghraib—how are they going to respect the military? Their dad’s a vet; are they going to respect their dad?’ I could give you a hundred examples.”

The upshot is that a “lazy multiculturalism” becomes the path of least resistance for teaching US history: “just add the Kazakh Americans and it will be all fine,” as Zimmerman quips.

This basic critique dates back at least to 1979, when journalist and historian Frances FitzGerald observed that “the principle that lies behind textbook history is that the inclusion of nasty information

constitutes bias even if the information is true.” Ditto for the inclusion of information that might suggest any unresolved disharmony between groups or classes whose fortunes have diverged in American life. In her book-length examination of US history textbooks, FitzGerald noted that the portrayal of minorities as contented citizens untroubled by societal problems carried over even to the illustrations. Invariably depicted smiling, it was as though “all non-white people in the United States took happy pills,” she wrote.

No wonder, then, that discourse among today’s American adults is studded with such ahistorical howlers as the notion, fashionable among certain conservatives, that Martin Luther King typified the ideology of the modern Republican Party—a gambit that can only succeed by pretending away King’s advocacy of labor unionism and “a radical redistribution of economic and political power,” in his words. Or, on the flip side, the urge among certain leftists to interpret King through a prism that minimizes his radical commitment to New Testament theology. And if Americans can manage this much misunderstanding about a man who left behind a documentary record as extensive as King’s, there may be no limit to how badly we can misrepresent a figure like Robert E. Lee, or John Brown, or Sitting Bull.

By Zimmerman’s reckoning, the problem goes beyond assessments of this or that historical figure. America’s textbook bargain serves to short-circuit critical inquiry in broader terms. “Each ‘race’ gets to have its heroes sung,” he writes, “but no group may question the melody of peace, freedom, and economic opportunity that unites them all.”

Which is ultimately no less suspect than massaging the story of the American Revolution to gel with the US Department of War’s public-messaging aims during World War I, or recasting the history of the Confederacy to placate apologists for antebellum and postbellum apartheid regimes. To which Zimmerman

The “lazy multiculturalism” of contemporary textbook history, in Zimmerman’s view, sacrifices critical inquiry on the altar of inclusiveness.

adds an additional charge—that the bargain in fact violates the central theme that US history textbooks share: the freedom of the individual.

“Textbooks depict America as a beacon of personal liberty and opportunity, lighting the way for an often tyrannical and barbaric world,” he writes. “Yet by stressing this sunny story and downplaying darker ones—especially poverty, racism, and imperialism—the texts actually inhibit the very individualism that they venerate. If the books took personal freedom seriously, they would encourage students to develop their own perspectives about the nation and about its various races, ethnicities, and religions.”

After all, over the past half-century “historians have engaged in a rich debate about the ‘liberal’ character of American society. Were slavery and nativism simply bumps in the road toward America’s democratic destiny, brief interruptions of the parade of progress? Or did the traditions of liberalism and racism work in tandem, each one defining the content and contours of the other? Is America a ‘uniquely free’ country, as its textbooks proudly proclaim? What does ‘free’ mean, anyway?”

Elementary school children might not be ready for such discussions—nor, per-

haps, are sixth-graders like Zimmerman's former pupils. "But these are all questions that high school students can answer—indeed, that they must answer, if they are to develop the critical capacities that democratic citizenship requires," he argues. Culture itself is less a monologue than a many-sided debate—especially in a nation as ethnically, religiously, economically, and ideologically diverse as the United States. "So we should teach it as a debate, pressing our students to join America's arguments rather than pretending that we settled these differences long ago."

"You cannot praise America for cultivating individual freedom of thought, then proceed to tell every individual what to think," he concludes. "But that is exactly what most of our schoolbooks continue to do."

There are significant impediments to changing that status quo. It's hard to generalize about an educational system comprised of 14,000 school districts, several million teachers, and tens of millions of children. "But I think," Zimmerman says, "that especially in history, social studies, and English, there are serious inhibitors on teaching. A lot of the teaching tends to be rote-driven, textbook-driven, and not discussion-based."

That has been exacerbated, in his view, by the fact that "in the past 20 years we've made schools into standardized-testing machines." Zimmerman notes that whenever he speaks about his pedagogical ideas with educators, he hears the same lament. "People will say, 'This is a very nice idea, and I certainly endorse it in principle—but when am I going to have time to have that debate about whether we should have gone to war with Vietnam? I've got 15 minutes for the Vietnam War before I have to move on to Watergate. And by the way, there's going to be a question on the standardized exam and it's not going to be *Write an essay about whether we*

should have been in Vietnam;' it's going to be *Who was Ho Chi Minh?*' So the rise of this standardized testing accountability regime has been a huge inhibitor."

It doesn't help that American education schools tend to offer a "hollow and decidedly anti-intellectual brand" of teacher training that's long on "arcane" jargon and short on "serious intellectual initiation into the subjects in which teachers will have to instruct students," as Zimmerman has charged in the *New York Review of Books*. (American universities, he argues in *The Amateur Hour*, are dogged by the opposite problem: professors have deep knowledge about their subject areas but rarely receive any training in how to effectively teach it.) And current K-12 practices further limit the ability of teachers to learn from one another. "Many other advanced countries have institutionalized critical commentary by peers and also provide intellectual support to improve skills and learning as part of teachers' professional practice. Japanese teachers even have a separate word for this process, *jugyokenkyu*, which is built into their weekly routines," Zimmerman observes. "We don't even have a word for it."

But in *Whose America*, he identified what would seem to be an even larger obstacle to critical education in US public schools: the American public itself. "As one of my students once quipped, 'You'll never see a parents' group called *Americans in Favor of Debating the Other Side in Our Schools*.' Citizens enter the arena of curriculum so that a particular view or attitude will find a place within it. The last thing they want, it seems, is a multiplicity of perspectives."

But two decades later, Zimmerman thinks the moment may finally have come.

"The only way that changes—and this is going to sound tautological—is if we as citizens decide it needs to," he says. "The polling literature shows that Americans are deeply dissatisfied with their political culture right now. Americans acknowledge how polarized and poison-

ous it is, and they don't like it—Democrats and Republicans. And that provides an important wedge and opportunity: because that suggests to me that there are more Americans who want to see schools actually tackle that, and demonstrate something that's better."

Doing so, he believes, will require acknowledging and confronting a fear that has grown as public discourse has atrophied.

"In both K-12 and higher-ed, one of the key inhibitors is that people are afraid. They don't feel they have either the duty or the right to speak their minds." A 2020 survey by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), encompassing nearly 20,000 students at 55 colleges and universities, found that 60 percent reported having felt unable to express an opinion on campus for fear of social or administrative repercussions.

"And large numbers of faculty, both Republican and Democrat, say the same thing," Zimmerman contends. "That is an enormous inhibitor. We live in a culture of fear. Political partisans are demonizing one another, and making us fear one another. But at the same time we actually fear speaking, period, because we don't know what people on the other side—or even people in our own tribe—are going to say. And I don't believe that in higher education, we've really acknowledged that. After the FIRE survey, how many university presidents said, 'OK, this is bad, we've got to change this'? I didn't really hear it. And as per the cliché about Alcoholics Anonymous, we're really not going to change that until we acknowledge that we have a problem."

Education is an inescapably political enterprise, as Aristotle articulated long ago. "And in America, especially at the K-12 level, schools were founded for explicitly civic purposes," Zimmerman says. What animated the common schools movement of the 19th century was the conviction that

they would function, in the words of one advocate, as “pillars of the republic.”

“It wasn’t *pillars of higher test scores*, or *pillars of a better job*, or *pillars of not losing out to China*,” Zimmerman says. “It was *pillars of the republic* because the idea was that we’re making a nation and what we need is an institution that will bind us to one another, and teach us the habits and skills of democratic life.”

There is no getting around the fact that different people want different things from our schools, from critical inquiry to civic hero worship of widely varying forms.

“The fact that we have such different views of America is an incredible challenge, because people will object when their view is not affirmed,” Zimmerman allows. “But it’s also a gift: because we shouldn’t have to pretend that we all agree about what the nation is when the kids are in the room—we should expose them to that little secret.”

“And in some ways it’s easier to do in situations where there’s more pluralism, where there’s more disagreement,” he suggests. “I think we try to pretend that the classroom should somehow be insulated from the rest of society—that somehow it ought to be a plane that floats above it. And I think that’s an enormous mistake. It is hugely challenging to let all that stuff into the classroom door. But I think it’s diverse enough that it gives us as Americans an incredible opportunity to literally and figuratively school people in our differences.”

That is a learned behavior, Zimmerman stresses. “People don’t come out of the womb doing it. And if we believe some psychologists, it may even be unnatural—we’re just programmed to love our tribe and hate on the others. And certainly we’ve done plenty of that. But I think the best outcome would be to use these different stories to actually engage each other about what we think America is.”

In that vein, he sees the *New York Times*’ 1619 Project—or rather “the debate surrounding” that initiative to examine

“If the books took personal freedom seriously, they would encourage students to develop their own perspectives about the nation.”

American history through the lens of slavery’s consequences and the contributions of Black Americans to the nation’s development—as an “incredible opportunity.” But only if it is permitted to function as *one* analysis, not *the* analysis. By challenging the “lazy multiculturalism” and thematic sanitization Zimmerman laments in contemporary textbooks, it can help us “to do what we haven’t done, which is really try to use all this diversity to ask ourselves about the larger story.”

“Part of the celebration of American freedom, to me,” he emphasizes, “should be teaching people how to arrive at their own conclusion instead of repeating what the textbook says. That’s not an act of freedom; that’s its opposite, an act of indoctrination.”

Which nevertheless always lurks around the next corner.

“One of my concerns is that in some instances the 1619 Project is just becoming a new set of instructions—and that won’t help anybody,” he acknowledges. “The people criticizing it have in some places been unfairly depicted as denialists. Sean Wilentz and Gordon Wood don’t deny the relevance and centrality of slavery and racism,” Zimmerman emphasizes, citing two historians who have raised objections to elements of the

Times’ interpretive frame. “Their critique is that they don’t think the project does justice to all the people who have fought against that, creating different ideas and different traditions.”

This happens to be an issue on which Zimmerman has chosen a side.

“I grew up in a vastly more patriotic age. There’s no other way to put it,” he reflects. “One of the things I’ve noticed on this subject—especially with respect to my daughters, who are now 27 and 24—is that we loathe Trump equally, yet I’m offended by him, and they are not. This is an experience I’ve had with my students, too. Because they regard him as an inevitable product of what’s wrong with America. Whereas I see him as this enormous deviation from it. So I’m like, ‘This is horrible because it runs counter to everything that America is and should be.’ And their view is: ‘No! It’s the apotheosis of it! This was a place that was born in racism and oppression, so of course it gave birth to this guy.’ And I’m like, ‘Look, I’m a historian—I’m not going to deny the racism and oppression. But there’s a deep tradition of liberty and freedom that ran counter to that.’”

In other words, he relishes the debate. And the present moment, he believes, clarifies the consequences of an educational regime that shrinks from it.

“I think the biggest poison in our democracy is to assume that somebody who disagrees with you is simply misinformed,” Zimmerman says. “Look, sometimes they are—and that’s important. But there are plenty of people who are equally knowledgeable and equally reasonable and equally educated as I am, and see the world differently. And the biggest poison is this idea that somebody who disagrees with us is either cognitively or morally warped: either they’re just ill-informed and believe things that are false, or they’re just awful people.”

“The only way we get away from that is via schools,” he concludes. “I don’t see any other way.”

The Humanist Is In

In a new book, the codirector of the Penn Memory Center unravels the tapestry of Alzheimer's science and history, and outlines the medical, social, and ethical challenges that lie ahead.

By Julia M. Klein

When Jason Karlawish GM'99 opted in 1995 for a geriatric medicine fellowship, his friends and mentors were not just surprised. "They were aghast," he recalls. Why was this promising young doctor, headed for a career in critical care, switching to such an unsexy specialty? At the time, geriatrics was in such low demand at the University of Chicago that Karlawish was the only fellow for three years.

That was fine with him. "They left me alone," he says. "I did whatever I wanted"—which meant that, after taking care of patients, he spent his time in the li-

brary, poring over the geriatric literature and pondering the blurred boundaries between aging and disease. "Where does one begin, and the other end?" he wondered, asking questions that would help shape his career. "Is it a category or categories, or a continuum? Is it defined by biology? Is it defined by society? A little bit of both?"

This was hardly the first time that Karlawish, codirector of the Penn Memory Center since 2015, had flouted expectations or challenged conventional wisdom. His first post-residency fellowship was in bioethics, not yet a touchstone of

medical education. He has always been as much humanist as scientist, loving history and nursing literary ambitions. As a medical student, he was a finalist in a national poetry contest for his short ode to a moth.

There was a personal reason for the switch to geriatrics: the fate of his paternal grandfather. In Karlawish's view, modern medicine, in all its well-intentioned but misdirected zealotry, had killed the man. His 90-year-old grandfather, who had been suffering from dementia, fell and broke his hip. Hospitalized, with little attention paid to his men-



tal state, he had spiraled down into delirium and stopped eating and drinking. Each aggressive medical intervention seemed only to worsen his condition. “It was the best of care and the worst of care,” Karlawish writes in his new book, *The Problem of Alzheimer’s: How Science, Culture, and Politics Turned a Rare Disease into a Crisis and What We Can Do About It* (St. Martin’s Press). “It was a medical funhouse run by madmen.”

A nonfiction narrative filled with colorful characters, *The Problem of Alzheimer’s* reflects Karlawish’s multidisciplinary inclinations, ethical concerns, and passion for prose. *Kirkus Reviews* praises it as a “lucid, opinionated history of the science, politics, and care involved in the fight against this century’s most problematic disease,” written with a “page-turning style.”

“Jason is a really visionary thinker, and the perspectives he brings to his work are non-obvious,” says Paul Root Wolpe C’78, director of the Center for Ethics at Emory University in Atlanta and a former Penn faculty member in psychology, sociology, and medical ethics. “He’s not just another good Alzheimer’s doctor—he’s someone who sees a little further and thinks a little more deeply than a lot of his colleagues about what this disease means, how we need to think about it, how we honor the lives of people who have it.”

“He is an incredibly intense, brainy guy who just can always connect the dots,” says Christine K. Cassel, a past president and chief executive officer of the American Board of Internal Medicine who supervised Karlawish’s geriatrics fellowship at the University of Chicago.

David Wolk, an associate professor of neurology who codirects the Memory Center with Karlawish, says their interests are complementary. “Where he stops,” Karlawish says, “I pick up.” Wolk’s focus is on the neuroscience—specifically, on using cognitive testing and neuroimaging to distinguish changes related to normal aging from those signaling early Alzheimer’s disease. Wolk calls

his colleague “an exquisite scholar,” whose “ability to bring historical perspective to this disease is really important because there are so many bioethical and policy implications.”

The leading cause of dementia, afflicting an estimated 5.8 million Americans, Alzheimer’s disease—or perhaps, as Karlawish’s book postulates, Alzheimer’s *diseases*—remains an illness without a cure and with only minimally effective treatments to slow its inexorable, devastating progression. “The more we advance in our understanding of the disease,” Karlawish says, “the more we see its complexity.”

A “weird sort of dichotomy” exists in the Alzheimer’s field, he says, between those on the hunt for a cure and those preoccupied with the economic and social crisis of caregiving. “What the book tries to do is recognize that the two simply have to live together—and do live together. The field has been haunted by pitting care versus cure,” he says. “And the book asks, ‘Why did that happen, and how can we reconcile them?’”

“I’ll show you around,” says Karlawish, volunteering a Zoom tour of his home office in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia, near the evocative ruins of the Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site. He points to “a note wall, with some new ideas,” a farm-table desk bought at Freeman’s auction house, and at his feet, the elder and more sedentary of his two whippets, Sunny. The other, Daisy, with “a lot of the puppy in her,” occasionally joins them.

He shares the rowhome with his husband, John Bruza, a fellow geriatrician whom Karlawish proudly describes as “a doctor’s doctor.” The two came to Penn together in 1997 and quickly became a power geriatrics couple. Bruza is associate professor of clinical medicine and vice chief for clinical affairs in the Division of Geriatric Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine. In 2019, he won Perelman’s Sylvan Eisman Outstanding

Primary Care Physician Award—the first time, according to Karlawish, that it has been awarded to a geriatrician.

Besides codirecting the Memory Center, Karlawish is professor of medicine, medical ethics and health policy, and neurology. He is a widely sought speaker on issues such as informed consent, voting rights, and financial protections for people living with dementia. Among his titles: senior fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics and the Penn Center for Public Health Initiatives, fellow of Penn’s Institute on Aging, director of the Penn Program on Precision Medicine for the Brain, and co-associate director of Penn’s Alzheimer’s Disease Core Center.

Karlawish describes himself as both a physician and a writer. There is evidence of a family literary gene. Or at least Gene. Karlawish holds up a 1928 memoir, *The Great Horn Spoon*, by his maternal grandfather, Eugene Wright, whom he used to call “Daddy Gene.” Wright left Columbia University his junior year to become a merchant seaman, traveling to Africa and the Far East. “This book is his adventures,” Karlawish says. In 2013, an appreciative Amazon reviewer gave it five stars and praised it as a “compelling autobiographical story.”

Karlawish was born in Manhattan, the second of two brothers, and raised in the Bergen County town of Ramsey, New Jersey. His parents divorced when he was 12. “It was rough,” says Karlawish, who lived with his mother, Anne Wright, a middle school English teacher and, later, college administrator. His father, John Karlawish W’58 WG’61, worked on Wall Street as a financial analyst and investment manager. (Both are now retired.)

In 1984, Karlawish was admitted to the Honors Program in Medical Education at Northwestern University. The program enabled participants to earn a bachelor’s degree in two years before matriculating at Northwestern’s medical school in Chicago. “I knew the moment I got there that two years was not going to be enough,”

“He just doesn’t do anything halfway. He looks down unconventional hallways and opens doors that other people wouldn’t open.”

Karlawish says. “I remember how excited I was looking at the course catalog at classes like the intellectual history of Europe.” With his parents’ support, he opted for an extra undergraduate year, supplementing the required premedical courses with a deep dive into history, literature, and philosophy. (The Northwestern program now mandates at least three undergraduate years.)

While he loved his liberal arts education, Karlawish says, “I had a rough time in medical school because medical school, especially then, was a trade school.” When he expressed an interest in ethics, he was told “there was not a career to be had in that space.” When he submitted an essay for his residency application about his desire to combine medicine with writing, his mentor was “so dismissive I actually had to drop him as my mentor.” Karlawish was ahead of the curve. Both the field of bioethics and the phenomenon of physician-writers—exemplars include Oliver Sacks (*The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*), Siddhartha Mukherjee (*The Emperor of All Maladies*), and Atul Gawande (*Being Mortal*)—have become integral to contemporary medicine.

He completed an internship and residency in internal medicine—and met his future husband—in Baltimore, at the Francis Scott Key Medical Center, now part of Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. Perusing a bulletin board in a hospital lounge, he was enticed by a University of Chicago fellowship in clinical medical ethics. He was accepted to that program, and to the university’s prestigious critical care fellowship as well.

During the bioethics fellowship, he moonlighted at a chronic ventilator unit, which raised ethical conundrums of its own. “These people were alive, but chronically ill and dependent on the care of others, both human care and machine care,” he recalls. “And I became fascinated with [the question of], ‘Why did this happen to them?’”

At that point, he says, “I was interested in aging, and I was immersed in ethics.”

Then his grandfather fell and entered the hospital and died. “And I just said, ‘I don’t want to go into critical care. I just don’t.’”

“Geriatrics is still, to this day, not a highly valued specialty in this country, much as it should be,” says Cassel, professor of medicine and senior adviser for strategy and policy at the University of California, San Francisco, and a former Penn professor of medicine and bioethics. “What stood out to me [about Karlawish] was just his intense curiosity—and intensity in general. He just doesn’t do anything halfway. He looks down unconventional hallways and opens doors that other people wouldn’t open because of that curiosity.”

Karlawish’s entry in the 1989 William Carlos Williams Poetry Contest, a national contest for medical students, was titled, *To a Moth*:

*My room is 17 stories high,
Imagine my surprise when you came
into a light
And died.*

“That was it,” says Karlawish. “That was the whole poem. I probably have not written poetry since then.”

He prefers prose, the natural flow of the English language. “There’s nothing more fun than a well-constructed English sentence,” he says.

He attempted his first novel when he was about eight and has been writing ever since, including “piles of short sto-

ries.” In 1997, he won the Wakley Prize, awarded annually by the British medical journal *The Lancet*, for an essay titled, “A Personal Choice.” Karlawish contrasts being gay, once seen as a disease, with the “disease” of aging. Even without an identifiable illness, he writes, the aging are considered “at risk” and are subject to what he calls the risk-benefit analyses of “deskside medicine.”

Asked to reflect on parallels between his sexual orientation and an Alzheimer’s diagnosis, Karlawish mentions “common themes of stigma and its many sufferings,” including the experience of being the “other,” “of feeling different and fearing rejection.” Both also give rise, he says, to the dilemma of how and when to “come out” to others.

Another link—issues of autonomy and self-determination—is a major theme of Karlawish’s research. He has done pathbreaking work on caregiving, capacity assessment, and voting rights for people living with dementia. In 2015, he introduced the concept of “whealthcare,” calling for financial institutions to identify and protect customers with cognitive impairment from fraud, missed payments, and other potential mishaps.

“Several years ago, I realized that I’m fully alive because of Alzheimer’s disease,” Karlawish says. “The triumph of self-determination for all adults has allowed me to live as I am. In the case of being gay, it’s about simply living one’s life as one determines it. In the case of Alzheimer’s disease, we see how painful it is to lose that self-determination.” In both instances, he says, “caring relationships” are an important part of the equation.

Karlawish’s interest in bioethics informed his somewhat surprising and well-reviewed first book—not a scientific treatise, but an historical novel. Based closely on primary sources, *Open Wound: The Tragic Obsession of Dr. William Beaumont* (University of Michigan Press, 2011), tells the mostly true story of a talented and hubristic 19th-century US army surgeon who treats a French Canadian fur

trapper with a near-fatal stomach wound [“Arts,” Mar|Apr 2012]. The wound heals but remains open—an opportunity, as the surgeon sees it, for the study of digestive processes. With money and other enticements, Beaumont pressures his onetime patient into submitting to sometimes painful experiments, for the advancement of both science and his own reputation.

The novel’s concerns include “the nature of what it means to be American—namely, to be ambitious, to get ahead,” Karlawish says. Reviewing *Open Wound* for the *New York Times*, Abigail Zuger, an infectious-disease specialist, described the book’s protagonist as “a true tragic hero, an unpedigreed nobody determined to succeed on his own merits, yet undermined by exactly that determination.”

Karlawish regards the novel as “part of the seamless garment of my scholarship”—and also “very much a training ground for how to really write prose.”

“Science is fragile,” says Karlawish, reflecting on the complex story he tells in *The Problem of Alzheimer’s*. “It’s powerful, but it’s incredibly fragile.”

The narrative weaves back and forth in time to describe how Alzheimer’s disease was discovered, forgotten, rediscovered, and elevated to a crisis. Karlawish writes about how politics and history framed, influenced, and diverted the scientific research agenda. He details recent progress in diagnosing Alzheimer’s, and the difficulties involved in prevention, treatment, and cure. And he describes moral challenges and innovations in caregiving, including the use of robots and other technology, as well as fanciful Disneyfied environments that return patients to an idealized past. The book’s recurring theme is the interplay between science and society, involving both resistance and accommodation.

Before the early 20th century, Karlawish writes, the medical profession regarded “senile dementia” as an unfortunate consequence of normal aging, to be endured rather than cured. But it was also known that middle-aged people, albeit in much smaller numbers, could develop similar symptoms, including progressive memory loss and other markers of cognitive decline.

A breakthrough came in 1906, when the German psychiatrist Alois Alzheimer performed a microscopic examination of the brain of a former patient, Auguste Deter. Diagnosed with dementia at 51, she was dead at 55. Alzheimer spotted abnormalities that came to be known as amyloid plaques (clumps of proteins) and tau tangles (tangles of broken protein). From 1907 to 1911, another German psychiatrist, Oskar Fischer, detected identical plaques in the brains of older dementia patients, suggesting that the pathology was the same.

These discoveries almost surely would have transformed medicine, Karlawish says, speeding progress toward a cure—had Germany’s dark 20th century history not intervened. “Had Germany not gone to war in the First World War, had there not been the social and economic collapse of the ’20s, had Nazism





and anti-Semitism not destroyed the country,” he says, “it’s possible by 1940 or 1950 there would be this view that older adults who are forgetful and wandering have a disease in their brain—and we need to figure it out. But none of that happened.

“And why it didn’t happen is not because science couldn’t do it—it’s because the science was destroyed,” he says, “wrecked by 1945, caught up in the baggage of eugenics.”

As Karlawish tells the story, the early 20th-century German advances were largely forgotten. Biological psychiatry beat a retreat, and, in mid-century America, Freudianism became psychiatry’s dominant disease model and reigning ideology. In *The Problem of Alzheimer’s*, Karlawish recounts with some shame his own attempt, as a medical student, to apply psycho-dynamic theory to the diagnosis of a dementia case.

In 1976, the neurologist Robert Katzman wrote a now-legendary article that defined Alzheimer’s disease as “a major killer” and put it on the public health agenda. “A brief period of re-definition, rediscovery, reframing” followed, Karlawish says. In 1979, Katzman and others created an organization that evolved into the Alzheimer’s Association, which offers support to families and lobbies for increased federal funding.

But the country’s rightward political drift in the 1980s and early 1990s stalled progress. Bipartisan backing for federally funded long-term care insurance, a huge potential boon to Alzheimer’s patients and their families, crumbled. In November 1994, nearly six years after leaving the presidency, Ronald Reagan announced, in somewhat equivocal terms, his own Alzheimer’s diagnosis.

Nevertheless, Karlawish writes: “As the twentieth century ended, the disease of the century remained a crisis without a national plan to address it.”

One of Karlawish’s arguments in *The Problem of Alzheimer’s* is that second-wave feminism, by expanding women’s career options, made the problem of Alzheimer’s more visible and more pressing. “One way you could address the Alzheimer’s crisis is if you created a permanent labor class of implicit caregivers whose job is to just take care of these older adults who are forgetful,” he says, referring to the prospect of women leaving the labor market to provide unpaid home care. In that case, he says, dementia would once again disappear from the public sphere, though the suffering it caused would remain.

With medicine still largely helpless, Alzheimer’s care entails an array of social, psychological, and environmental interventions that Medicare mostly won’t reimburse and that aren’t routinely available, Karlawish writes. In 2009, a report by a congressional study group estimated the annual cost of caregiving for Alzheimer’s in the United States at \$100 billion. That already outdated figure will grow with the aging of the long-lived Baby Boomer population, even though healthier lifestyles have decreased the per capita prevalence of dementia.

To solve the problem of Alzheimer’s, America needs “to have an honest conversation” and “spend some money,” Karlawish

says. “Never, ever underestimate how important it is in America for a disease to have a business model. And if there’s one lesson in the story of Alzheimer’s, it’s that Alzheimer’s has struggled to have a business model.”

“In a different life,” says Allison K. Hoffman, professor of law at Penn Carey Law School, Karlawish “would have been a sociologist. He’s really curious about what makes people tick and how societies operate.” She says the opportunity to collaborate with him on caregiving issues was one factor that lured her to Penn from UCLA School of Law in 2017.

In July, Hoffman and Karlawish teamed with David C. Grabowski, professor of healthcare policy at Harvard Medical School, on a *Washington Post* opinion piece urging nursing homes to relax pandemic policies barring visitors. “Many family members are not so much company as essential caregivers and care monitors,” they wrote.

Karlawish is himself a caregiver. He has an uncle, he says, with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), a condition that can progress to dementia. The cause is Alzheimer’s, diagnosed by clinical examination and brain imaging. By revealing the disease’s characteristic amyloid plaques, tau tangles, and neural atrophy, imaging can detect Alzheimer’s even in people whose cognitive functioning is normal.

Karlawish’s uncle has had problems with memory and executive function. He has a harder time now making decisions and performing daily activities, such as managing money. “To keep him in his home and happy, I have to nudge and integrate myself into his self. I’m intruding, just a bit, into his privacy,” Karlawish says. “I attend his physician visits. I watch over his checking account. I check in with his neighbors. I figure out what he likes, does not like, put up with his quirks and oddities. I am beholding how the lives of the caregiver and patient become enmeshed.”

Karlawish stresses that he has assumed these tasks with his uncle’s per-

mission—and only after talking to him openly about his diagnosis, which provides them with “a common language, a common understanding.”

There are drugs, Karlawish says, that can treat the disease’s symptoms, but none so far able to attack the pathology. One modest hopeful sign: in January, Eli Lilly announced positive preliminary results in a small Phase II trial for donanemab, which targets amyloid plaques. The drug cleared the plaques and slowed the rate of cognitive and functional decline by about a third compared to placebo.

One of the problems in finding a cure, Karlawish says, is the “heterogeneity” of the disease, which can have different neurological and behavioral manifestations. It might be helpful, he suggests, to think about Alzheimer’s *diseases*, plural. And, as with different forms of cancer, some types of Alzheimer’s may turn out to be more treatable than others, he says.

Meanwhile, supported in part by the National Institute on Aging, facilities such as the Memory Center diagnose, monitor disease progress, and offer activities for both patients and caregivers. The center runs classes, workshops, and support groups for caregivers. It sponsors innovative events such as Cognitive Comedy, Creative Expression Through Music, and a monthly Memory Café, featuring dance, music, talks, zoo animals, and more—all held virtually during the pandemic.

When Renee Packel first called the Memory Center, more than two decades ago, she was desperate to find a geriatrician to see her husband, Arthur, a lawyer in his late 60s who was struggling at work and having trouble driving familiar routes. “I’ll take anybody,” she said.

Eight months passed before she could secure an appointment. It turned out to be with Karlawish. “It was the luckiest break ever,” she says, “because that man is something else. He’s so compassionate, so caring. He treats his patients with dignity. He never called Art anything other than Mr. Packel.”

Karlawish introduced Renee Packel to the concept of “loving deceptions.” She recalls: “He said, ‘Always be in their moment. If he looks outside, and the sun is shining, and he says it’s dark, you say it’s dark.’” At one point, her husband started hallucinating that there were men in the bathroom. She remembers responding: “Oh, yeah—I have them working. They’ll leave soon.”

Another time, he mistook her for his brother Morton. “I said, ‘I’m not Mortie—I’m your wife.’ He looked at me and burst out laughing. You have to laugh along with it. Otherwise, you would go crazy.”

Packel’s life was convulsed by her husband’s illness. As she recounted in a 2010 *New York Times* article, her husband had stopped paying their bills. Worse, even with the aid of a forensic accountant, she was unable to locate their nest egg. The money seemed to be gone. She ended up having to sell their house and take a job, at 75, as a receptionist.

At Karlawish’s suggestion, Packel sent her husband to adult day care. But as he grew more ill and experienced falls, the physical challenges of keeping him at home proved overwhelming. Reluctantly, she institutionalized him. But that, too, entailed challenges. He became so “rambunctious” and “disruptive,” she says, that the nursing home sedated him to the point where he nearly stopped eating and drinking. She insisted that the medication be halted. In *The Problem of Alzheimer’s*, Karlawish describes her anguish over that decision, which likely prolonged her husband’s life. “I have no regrets,” she says now. “I did what I did, and that was it. It was the right thing in the long run.”

Many caregivers experience profound emotional conflict around such dilemmas, Karlawish says. Like concentration camp inmates and others who endure “sustained traumas,” they wrestle with the cost-benefit calculus of survival, suffering, and encroaching mortality.

In his acknowledgments, Karlawish credits Packel, who sometimes talks to his

“The disease is so crushing that the decision to come forth and tell people you have it is truly monumental. Even amongst my patients, they resist telling their own family members. They fear being treated differently. They fear that any mistake will be exaggerated, that they’ll be excluded from doing things.”

class on Alzheimer’s disease, as one of the inspirations for his book. Another is Richard W. Bartholomew C’63 GAR’65, a retired architect and urban planner who taught in Penn’s Department of Architecture and Urban Design. Bartholomew’s wife, Julia Moore Converse, who had early-onset Alzheimer’s and died in May [“Obituaries,” Sep/Oct 2020], was founding director of Penn’s Architectural Archives and an assistant dean for external relations at what is now the Stuart A. Weitzman School of Design. Her father and uncle were both US ambassadors to Ireland.

Bartholomew, like Packel, has spoken to Karlawish’s students about his struggles as a caregiver, about which he kept a meticulous journal. “One of the problems with almost every Alzheimer’s patient is boredom,” Bartholomew says. When Converse stopped reading, he found himself “constantly looking for activities to engage her.” Penn’s Memory Café was one solution; another was a Philadelphia art appreciation program for people living with dementia called ARTZ at the Museum, perfect for someone with Converse’s curatorial background.

Karlawish urged Bartholomew to find caregiving assistance, which he did, by trial and error and serendipity. The doctor also suggested adult day care, but Converse resisted. When she required colon cancer surgery, Karlawish advised Bartholomew to enlist family members to stay with her

in shifts to avoid the problem of delirium that had afflicted his grandfather. Even as the pandemic narrowed their world, Bartholomew was able to take care of his wife at home. And Karlawish helped him figure out the right moment to turn to Medicare-financed hospice care to ease her final weeks. “At one point,” Bartholomew recalls, “he said to me, ‘Ms. Converse and you have been among my best teachers.’”

From 2016 to 2018, retired *Philadelphia Inquirer* sports columnist Bill Lyon chronicled his battle with Alzheimer’s disease in a series of *Inquirer* articles that candidly mapped both his decline and his determination to resist it.

“He’s a hero,” says Karlawish of Lyon, who died in 2019, at 81. Karlawish was his physician and wrote companion pieces to the series. “The inspiration of Bill Lyon is that he looked the stigma of Alzheimer’s in the face and just batted it away like a fly.”

Elsewhere, though, the stigma remains.

One of Karlawish’s current research projects involves trying “to understand how persons with advanced dementia communicate with their family members.” Among the questions he is asking: How do other people perceive those with advanced dementia? How do their perceptions influence the decisions they make about their care?

Another project studies the impact of biomarker-based diagnosis. Brain imaging can detect signs of Alzheimer’s before any disability emerges. But diagnosis carries ethical risk. “The disease is so crushing that the decision to come forth and tell people you have it is truly monumental,” Karlawish says. “Even amongst my patients, they resist telling their own family members. They fear being treated differently. They fear that any mistake will be exaggerated, that they’ll be excluded from doing things.”

“I don’t have a fundamental problem with diagnosing Alzheimer’s disease before one has a memory problem,” he says. “My objection is the world in which those diagnoses are made. My objection is labeling some with Alzheimer’s, and then finding they suffer crushing stigmas and discrimination that make them feel less than capable and worthy.”

“Right now,” he says, “the benefit is purely information,” an aid to planning. “For some, that’s very empowering. You could make a good case [for early diagnosis] out of respect for their autonomy and self-determination.”

But testing is expensive. “You start to get into some rough economic issues,” questions about resource allocation, he says—until the time when those diagnosed have a realistic chance of avoiding the disease’s dire consequences.

“Once you introduce a treatment that you think slows the natural history, you change that economic equation substantially,” Karlawish says, “because you have a chance of helping not just to predict, but also to prevent disability or reduce the likelihood of it. One of my missions, though, is to ensure that the society within which that happens is culturally and ethically and socially prepared. And I don’t think right now we are.”

Julia M. Klein, a frequent *Gazette* contributor, has written for the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Mother Jones*, *Slate*, and other publications. Follow her on Twitter @JuliaMKlein.



Black Education Before *Brown*

Andrew Feiler documents the Rosenwald schools, which educated hundreds of thousands of African Americans in the Jim Crow South. By JoAnn Greco | Photography by Andrew Feiler



“It’s a story that touches every pillar of my life,” says Andrew Feiler W’84. “I am Jewish, I am Southern, I am progressive. So, how could I never have heard of it?”

The Atlanta-based photographer is referring to the history he explores in his latest book, *A Better Life for Their Children* (University of Georgia Press). The result of a three-and-a-half-year quest that took Feiler to 15 states, the book surveys a small fraction of the 4,977 schools built between 1912 and 1932 (one more school was added in 1937) for Black students across the South. Known as Rosenwald schools, they were the product of a unique partnership between Julius Rosenwald, the Jewish president of Sears Roebuck, and Booker T. Washington, the prominent Black educator.

The program’s hundreds of thousands of graduates included luminaries like activist Medgar Evers, poet Maya Angelou,

An exhibition of selected prints from the book is due to open this April at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta; plans call for it to travel to other venues, including the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in New Orleans, the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, and the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond.

and Congressman John Lewis, whose preface touches upon his experience at the Dunn’s Chapel School in rural Alabama. “I loved school, loved everything about it, no matter how good or bad I was at it,” he writes. “I loved reading ... [B]iographies were my favorite, stories that opened my eyes to the world beyond.”

Lewis remembers his school as a “small wooden building, whitewashed and with large windows” illuminating an interior partitioned into two rooms and warmed by cast iron stoves. These elements—along with brick chimneys, wide-plank

heart pine floors, and separate cloakrooms—show up again and again in the pages that follow, beginning with the Emory School. The oldest surviving Rosenwald school, it served Black students in Hale County, Alabama, from 1915 through 1962. (School closing dates vary depending on state responses to the 1954 and 1955

Rosenwald Hall, Seminole County,
Oklahoma, 1921–1966.

Jefferson Jacob School, Jefferson County,
Kentucky, 1917–1957.



Supreme Court decisions requiring desegregation of public schools.) In his text, Feiler posits that Emory represents a distillation of the principles and designs—developed by Robert Robinson Taylor, the nation’s first accredited African American architect—that governed the early schools. Drawing from dozens of books and articles, National Trust applications, and his interviews with former students, teachers, preservationists, and historians, Feiler expertly enhances each photo with information illustrating significant elements in the design, expansion or financing of the program or to place the buildings in a larger context.

“Every school has a story,” he says.

The Jefferson Jacob School in Kentucky, an early example of a multilevel school building, has the expansive feel of a gracious

residence, thanks to its white clapboard, pitched roof, and the ornamental flourish of a bell tower. “Such architectural niceties were discouraged by the officials overseeing the program,” Feiler writes. “[It] illustrates the degree to which local communities exercised design flexibility in the early years of the program.” In stark contrast is Rosenwald Hall in Oklahoma: an unadorned brick structure that squats solemnly in a forsaken landscape. Feiler traces its history to the slaves who accompanied Native Americans westward on forced migrations from the South during the 1830s and 1840s. Once emancipated, these African Americans went on to create more than 50 all-Black towns in the Sooner State; this school is one of at least 11 that opened in those towns.

“In recent years, I’ve been drawn to using my voice as a photographer for a broader understanding of the role that education has played as an on-ramp to the American middle class,” Feiler says. It’s especially apt, then, that photography played a role in the program’s early development, he adds. “When Washington sent photographs of students and teachers assembled in front of the six pilot schools in Alabama, Rosenwald was so moved by the images that he committed to expanding the program.”

Feiler pays homage to those historical photographs in his own visual language, which echoes their black-and-white tones and horizontal orientation.

“I started out photographing exteriors, then added interiors, but ultimately I re-

alized that it was the people that enlivened the buildings,” Feiler says. “So many of the Rosenwald students went on to become educators and then got involved in preserving the schools. They are keepers of a flame that testifies to the importance of education.” Take Sophia and Elroy Williams, whom Feiler photographed at the Hopewell School outside of Austin, Texas, holding a gilded portrait of Sophia’s grandparents. Feiler’s narrative unspools the threads of their story. Born into slavery, Sophia’s grandparents married in 1874; decades later her grandmother donated land to the county for a Rosenwald school. Their daughter (Sophia’s mother) was the school’s first teacher, and Sophia, a former Hopewell student herself, also became a teacher in the county. So did Elroy, who attended a different Rosenwald school

Elroy and Sophia Williams holding a portrait of Sophia's grandparents, former slaves who acquired and donated land for a Rosenwald school.

Chairs with donors' names, Russell School, Durham County, North Carolina, 1927-1945.



in the region. Over the years, Elroy has dedicated himself to the restoration of Hopewell, putting together grant applications and even personally shoring up the building's roof at one point. The hope is to one day convert the former school into a community center.

As Feiler discovered, every minute counts in efforts to save the 500 or so extant schools. "I really wanted to visit the W. E. B. Du Bois School in North Carolina," he recalls. "It had been listed on the National Register of Historic Places for years, but when I arrived, I was distraught to find yellow caution tape around a pile of rubble." The school had been deemed a hazard and demolished a few days before Feiler got there. His documentation of the scene serves as a silent commentary, a cautionary tale that tempers the book's hopeful tone. But, its author insists, the overall narrative remains a positive one, exemplified by many of the schools' continued lives as daycare centers and apartments, as small museums and



church halls. "The ultimate story here," he says, "is that from Rosenwald himself to the people who are part of the momentum, individual action can make a difference."

Calling it

How John Lapinski and a squad of Penn faculty and students backing him up on the NBC News Decision Desk navigated an election season that was unprecedented—and could set a pattern for the future.

By Alyson Krueger

“I just needed to hear John’s voice in my ear,” recalls Rashida Jones, the NBC News senior vice president in charge of election coverage.

It was Saturday morning, November 7, 2020—four days after the polls closed—and the winner had yet to be declared in the presidential election between Donald Trump W’68 and Joe Biden Hon’13.

As it had been since November 4, the NBC News Decision Desk team—led by director of elections John Lapinski, the Robert A. Fox Professor of Political Science and director of the Penn Program on Opinion Research and Election Studies (PORES)—was gathered in a make-shift space inside the Comcast Center in Philadelphia, analyzing returns to make projections for the presidential and other still-undecided races to be used by the network’s various broadcast TV, cable, and streaming platforms.

At that point, the 44 members of NBC’s election night operation—20 of whom were Penn professors or students—had been up nearly 24 hours a day for four days straight. Besides calling races,

throughout the process decision desk staff also use exit polls and other data to generate graphs, charts, and blog posts to explain what is happening in various contests, such as how votes broke down by gender or race.

Based on the states that had already been called, NBC’s electoral college count stood at 253–214 in Biden’s favor, with Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania still undeclared.

While the goal is to project a winner sooner rather than later, based on analysis of votes collected from key counties across the country, the threshold for making a call is always high—and never more so than in the polarized, pandemic-scrambled election of 2020. “We have to be 99.5 percent confident to project,” says Lapinski.

Voting patterns from past elections were of limited help this time around, since changes sparked by the pandemic—in particular, growth in the use of mail-in ballots—combined with President Trump’s attempts to cast doubt on those ballots and undermine faith in the election, caused voters to behave differ-

ently. The political and data scientists had to ask themselves endless variations of questions like, “If Democrats in Arizona’s Maricopa County are mostly voting by mail rather in person, what types of votes are still outstanding?”

On that Saturday morning, Jones, who has since been promoted to president of MSNBC, had an idea that a vote dump was coming in from Pennsylvania that might put the call for that state’s 20 electoral college votes over the edge, pushing Biden past the 270 threshold to win. But she needed to hear Lapinski’s voice to make sure. “He gave us his marching orders,” she says. NBC then publicly declared the win for Biden (seconds after CNN at 11:24 a.m.), and by 11:40 a.m. the Associated Press and other networks had followed suit.

As images of celebrating Biden supporters and protesting Trump followers filled the airwaves, Lapinski and his soldiers resumed counting. “We still had a bunch of other races like Nevada to call,” he says. (That happened around 2 p.m.) The last calls in the presidential race didn’t come until November 13—North Carolina for



Trump, Georgia for Biden—to bring the final electoral vote tally to 306–232.

There was other news out of Georgia, too, of course, where both of the state's Senate elections were headed for runoffs, after incumbent Republican Senator David Perdue fell short of 50 percent of the vote versus Democrat Jon Ossoff while Democrat Raphael Warnock and Kelly Loeffler, a Republican appointed to the seat in 2019, were the top two vote-getters in a multi-candidate field. Both runoffs promised to determine the nation's trajectory for the next four years, with control of the US Senate hanging in the balance.

One of the more idiosyncratic aspects of the US presidential electoral system is that there is no centralized, governmental body that determines every county and state's votes on election night. Each state certifies its election results on a different timeline and their votes are formally cast when the electoral college convenes a month or so after the election. The results are then sent to Washington and tallied in a January 6 joint session of Congress (which we learned this year, all too clearly, isn't always a mere formality.)

That leaves a big gap that the media long ago stepped in to fill.

"In the '50s and '60s people used to flock to their local newspapers to find out who won on election night," says Michael Conway, a television news historian and associate professor of journalism at Indiana University. "They were the ones who got those numbers and counted them first." (Political parties and candidates also do their own counting, but they can be biased.) While wire services like the Associated Press—which has been calling elections since 1848—and major newspapers remain sources, eventually the action moved mostly to TV, first with the broadcast networks' election night coverage, then the addition of news-focused cable channels, and more recently the plethora of digital properties offering political coverage on the internet.

This year the media's role became even more important, because another political tradition was breached. "There used to be this idea that the way we could also know who won the presidency is when the other person conceded," says Conway, which Trump refused to do.

That put additional pressure on election arbiters like Lapinski and his team. "I don't want to be melodramatic, but if we screw this up it can be very damaging for our democracy," he says. "No one wants to get into a Constitutional crisis."

And not screwing up is getting harder.

In order to make a projection the decision desk must collect voting results from county officials and precincts across the country. But many of those places have proven unwilling or unable to count their votes, especially absentee ballots, as early as possible, leading to longer days or weeks for those calling the races.

"The reason the election wasn't called on election night 2020 is because the COVID-19 pandemic meant so many ballots were mailed in or dropped off, and many state legislatures' laws prohibited counting those ballots until polls had closed. There was a huge backlog that took time to get through," says Emily VanDerWerff, a television critic for *Vox* who wrote a column that advocated getting rid of election night programming because of this reality.

Even without deliberate delays, local election officials focused on counting the vote don't always provide the most transparent or thorough information to journalists, leaving decision desks unclear about which votes are left to count and what kind of votes they are. MSNBC analyst "Steve Kornacki was calling Fulton County himself this year while he was on air" trying to get some answers, says Stephanie Perry, manager of polling for NBC News and a member of the decision desk. "We need to reimagine the way we get the most up-to-date information."

"This year really did feel super, super crazy," says Lapinski. "On the fly we had to come up with different types of models,

different analysis tools, to build as we went along" to deal with the fragmentation of the electorate—into in-person Election Day voters; early mail-in voters; and same-day mail-in voters or people who dropped off their absentee ballot at polling sites (a category that didn't really exist before 2020)—and create responsive forecasting models. "The good news is we had such an experienced, talented team that we knew how to do that. We were rock solid in this."

Going forward, Lapinski would like to have better ways to track exactly what type of vote is coming in and how much is outstanding, especially in swing states. "You have to put a lot of resources into being able to do that because it's a job that takes people power," he said. "But NBC has already told me they are investing their resources in this. They want to get it right."

While he was growing up in Seattle, Lapinski's grandmother inspired his love of the news. "I would watch television with my grandma," he says. "That was the Tom Brokaw, Dan Rather days. They were big deals."

He was the first in his family to go to college, completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Washington, where he studied political science. He followed that up with a master's degree in public policy at the University of Chicago, with the help of a full scholarship. "That's when I realized I had abilities with numbers and when I started getting a lot of statistics training," he says.

He received his PhD in 2000 from Columbia University and taught at Yale before coming to Penn in 2006.

Lapinski teaches political science classes, especially those within the department's data science minor, and is also the faculty director of the Fox Leadership Program and of the Executive Masters of Public Administration program at the Fels Institute of Government. That's in addition to heading up PORES. The program's mission is simple, he says: "We train students how to analyze and think about problems using numbers."

When he's not pulling all-nighters at the decision desk, Lapinski's scholarship focuses on using data analysis to understand national elections and Congressional lawmaking. He is the author of *The Substance of Representation: Congress, American Political Development, and Lawmaking* (Princeton University Press, 2013) and a coauthor of *Southern Nation: Congress and White Supremacy After Reconstruction* (also from Princeton, 2018).

Currently, Lapinski is working on a report for the American Association for Public Opinion Research, scheduled for release this spring in time for the group's annual conference, about how to improve polls. "We need to rethink how it is done, how to do it better, but also how the media should be using it," he says. "People are so obsessed with the numbers, who is going to win, but the media can be doing a better job about how we report out poll numbers."

Among the biggest flaws he identifies is lack of participation among certain populations, which skews the results. For example, far-right voters, who distrust mainstream media and political organizations, won't usually answer the phone for pollsters. "There are two ways to think about this," says Lapinski. "We can figure out how to get more people in the polls. Or we can make some improvements in how we statistically weigh the data, but we have to understand these people better and how they behave before we do that."

Another issue is predicting the composition of the electorate—how many Democrats and Republicans will vote? This has been a problem for pollsters in both 2016 and 2020, with Trump on the ballot, but may well also continue in the future. "Probably what we will end up doing is to move away from having one hard number to having multiple numbers," says Lapinski. "We will say if the electorate looks like this, this is what will happen. If it looks like B, this will happen."



"I got to NBC News by accident," says Lapinski. Just as he was finishing up his PhD at Columbia and starting at Yale, he aimed to do a big survey studying people's attitudes about politics. He wanted to conduct the poll on MSNBC.com and was put in touch with the director of elections at NBC. "He told me my project was crap, but he grilled me for a long time," Lapinski says. "Two weeks later he called me and asked me to be an analyst on the decision desk."

His first election was the Bush-Gore race that ended up in the Supreme Court. "They sent me home early," Lapinski remembers. "Only when I woke up the next day did I realize all the crazy stuff that went on."

NBC, along with other networks, faced backlash from that election after calling Florida for Gore early in the night, retracting the projection, calling the state for Bush, and taking that back in the predawn hours when it became clear there would be a recount.

"The 2000 election led to new innovations and new approaches in thinking about data," says Lapinski. "When you make a mistake that big, you get a little more cautious."

Decision desks run simultaneous models to see what outcome they predict. In 2000, they only ran a few of these. Now, they use at least 20, "and we run them millions and millions of times a night,"

says Lapinski. "We now run a lot of different types of models to see if they produce the same result. If there is one that doesn't, we don't call the race. Instead of assuming that model is the outlier like they might have in the past, we say it might be the right one."

Another big change at decision desks is how much data with which they have to work. "There have been leaps and bounds in data science from what we had in 2000 to now," says Lapinski. "It's light years. We have so much data, that we have to make sure not to get saturated and inundated in it." For example, decision desks used to only get data at the county level. Now it is broken down into precincts, which means it is much more granular, and the forecasting can be more precise.

By 2013 Lapinski was leading the decision desk, a position that allowed him to staff the team with his people. He turned to Penn. For the 2020 general election, there were nine Penn faculty or staff members working the decision desk.

Every election year Lapinski also brings in undergraduate interns—in 2020 there were 11—who work on inputting exit poll data, building graphs for use on air, fact-checking numbers, and getting vote counts from county and state websites.

College junior Leonard Chen, who is a philosophy, politics, and economics

(PPE) major, “was pretty shocked” when he was asked to join the team, he says.

Election night was a whirlwind. “You know that feeling in your chest when you are on a roller coaster?” says Chen. “That’s what it felt like.” He was assigned the task of making graphics and then checking them on air. “There is a lot of scrambling, a lot of yelling, but you get used to it.”

Besides the adrenaline rush, riding the roller coaster could also lead to a job in the future. NBC hires many of the interns that come through the program, Jones says. “You can teach data analysis in the classroom, but it’s another thing to have these students have the live experience of knowing how television works.”

According to Tom Jones, a senior writer for the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, decision desks are more important than ever. “They need to stick to the same mission of calling the results and making the projections when they are ready to be called,” he says. “That’s never been more important than now, when so many Americans, because of the lies they’ve been told that our elections could be rigged, don’t have 100 percent confidence in election results.”

The problem is that forecasting requires an understanding of how the electorate behaves, how certain people in a certain place at a certain time will vote. And a lot of that has changed. “If 2020 is any indication, elections have entered a new phase,” says MSNBC’s Jones.

Perry agrees: “These races are now going to be a lot harder to call.”

Election analysts need a way to identify what *kind* of votes are coming in at any given time and account for those differences. “It’s not just that mail-in ballots are different from in-person ballots,” Lapinski says. “Different types of mail-in ballots were different. The ones that were dropped off on Election Day looked so different from the ones that came in two days earlier.”

“We have to design and develop tools to help us understand what we are look-

ing at, and what we have and don’t have in the moment,” says Perry. “And these tools need to help us make it reportable to the American public.”

Exit polls have also gotten more complicated to analyze. In 2020, “there were a lot of issues with how people responded to polls,” Lapinski says. For example, it’s no longer helpful to just poll voters who show up on Election Day, because they act very differently than people who vote early by mail (who act differently than people who vote early in person). “Now you have three electorates,” he says.

One thing the 2020 election made clear is that the audience of politics-consuming Americans has a healthy—or maybe not healthy, but *voracious*—appetite for watching geeky broadcasters operate digital displays and talk numbers for days on end. “I was with other professors who study the media, and they were yelling at the television screen: ‘Where are the numbers? Why aren’t there more numbers?’” says Indiana University TV historian and journalism professor Conway.

Witness the reports that The Gap sold out of khaki pants—signature attire of MSNBC’s boyish on-air data analyst Steve Kornacki, who was also named one of the sexiest men alive by *People* magazine. (“There is now hope for all of us,” jokes Lapinski.)

More seriously, he has some ideas about how networks should make use of that attention, beyond treating the ups and downs of election night (or week) number-crunching as if it was a football game. “We have to come to a place where people’s faith in the system is restored and people start trusting it,” he says. “I think there is still a lot to learn, and I am not sure it’s fully fixable. But we are at the beginning stages of at least trying.”

More basically, people’s idea of “election night” may have to change. “If every contest takes three or four days, we all can’t physically stay up for that long to cover those,” he said. “We are going to have to teach people to be more patient

and know that elections will be called over the span of multiple nights.”

On January 6, Lapinski was back at the Comcast Center collecting votes from county precincts in Georgia, where results of the previous day’s runoff elections were continuing to be tallied. The Warnock–Loeffler race had already been called in Warnock’s favor in the wee hours, but the contest between Perdue and Ossoff was still officially in doubt.

The night before, it seemed the entire country had been glued to their various screens waiting for a winner. But when night turned into day, a fresh news story took center stage: Trump supporters had violently stormed the Capitol as Congress was in the process of certifying the election.

The majority of NBC’s team turned its attention to that shocking development. But as the leader of the decision desk, Lapinski’s job was to keep counting.

“It was kind of surreal,” he says. “As I’m looking at votes, out of the corner of my eye I see police pulling guns at protesters who have breached the Capitol.”

“We called the race at 4:06 p.m.,” says Perry, “but it didn’t even matter—it mattered ultimately, but not on the day we called it.” At the time, the projection wasn’t even announced on live television, only online through social and digital channels.

But once the Capitol was secure and Congress resumed its electoral vote count, the results were waiting that the two Democrats had won their Georgia elections, creating a Democratic majority in the Senate with Vice President Kamala Harris as the tiebreaking vote.

And viewers could rest assured the announcement was accurate. “I wouldn’t say that we waited *much* longer than being 99.5 percent sure Ossoff would win, but we pushed it a little beyond that,” says Lapinski. “This call, there was no way we could get that wrong.”

Alyson Krueger C’07 writes frequently for the *Gazette*.



Calendar

Annenberg Center
annenbergcenter.org

LIVESTREAM EVENTS

Mar 4: Thomas Kraines, cello & Kinan Abou-afach, cello/oud

Mar 11: HopeBoykinDance

Apr 1: Rennie Harris
 Puremovement

Apr 8: Zakir Hussain, tabla

Apr 15: Keyon Harrold, trumpet

Apr 22: Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers

Arthur Ross Gallery
arthurrossgallery.org

SCHEDULED VISITS

through Mar 28: Many Voices, Many Visions

Apr 15–Jul 25: An Inner World: 17th century Dutch Genre Painting

ICA

icaphila.org

SCHEDULED VISITS

RAW Académie Session 9:

Infrastructure

Jessica Vaughn: Our Primary Focus Is to Be Successful
both through May 9

Kelly Writers House
writing.upenn.edu/wh/

YOUTUBE EVENTS

Mar 2: Tyrone Williams, reading

Mar 15: City Planning Poetics 10: Urban Futures

Mar 29: Hilton Als, reading

Apr 26: Gabrielle Hamilton, reading

Penn Libraries
library.upenn.edu/collections/online-exhibits

Remarkable Figures: Women in the Art of Ashley Bryan

The Jewish Home: Dwelling on the Domestic, the Familial, and the Lived-In

In Sight: Seeing the People of the Holy Land

Red Etchings: Soviet Book Illustrations from the Collection of Monroe Price

The Midwest Experience:

Ormandy in Minnesota
plus dozens more online

Penn Museum
penn.museum/collections

SCHEDULED VISITS

Living with the Sea: Charting the Pacific

Invisible Beauty: The Art of Archaeological Science
through Jun 6

Slought
slought.org

SCHEDULED VISITS

Atlas of Effects
Echando Ganas

World Café Live
worldcafelive.com

LIVESTREAM EVENTS

Mar 6: The Besnard Lakes

Mar 16: Vieux Farka Toure

Mar 25: Southern Culture on The Skids

Mar 27: Willy Porter

Apr 30: Sammy Rae & The Friends

As seen under a microscope, a basalt inclusion in a ceramic tile from the first half of 6th century BCE, from Gordion, in present-day Turkey.

Her Architect

Harriet Pattison melds correspondence and memoir to explore her role in the life and work of Louis Kahn.

By JoAnn Greco

In her new memoir, *Our Days Are Like Full Years*—a title taken from one of many romantic, over-promising communiques that Louis Kahn Ar'24 Hon'71 sent her—Harriet Pattison GLA'67 presents a contemporaneous look at the celebrated architect's work during the 1960s and '70s. Kahn scholars and enthusiasts will lap up the wealth of drawings and insights, but there's a lot more here. After living and working almost literally in Kahn's shadow for decades—she was his mistress and muse for the last 15 years of his life, as well as an occasional coworker who at one point designed major landscape projects for him while squirreled away in a room that was little more than a windowless closet—this is Pattison's time to make her presence felt.

Speaking by phone from her home in a converted barn in suburban Philadelphia, Pattison says that when she first revisited the correspondence she'd set aside for years, her “intention was to show what was going on with Lou's work during this period through his eyes.” And this volume offers a rich trove of letters, postcards, telegrams, and drawings Kahn sent her over the years. But as she began her research—poring through the Kahn collection at Penn's Architectural Archives and prodding her son with Kahn, Nathaniel, for his memories—Pattison began to sense that as much as she shunned the spotlight, her voice was necessary. With no missives of her own to review—“I'm quite grateful that they've disappeared,” the 92-year-old says with a chuckle—she decided to add the beautifully written, keenly observed commentary that drives this book.



Our Days Are Like Full Years
By Harriet Pattison
Yale University Press, 448 pages, \$45

Of course, there's a lot of Lou because, well, he was *a lot*. His letters bristle with vim and vigor, often filling every inch of the page. Illustrations abound, as do photos of Harriet and Lou through the years (she favors pageboys and pin-afores, he, wilted suits and white shirts). Especially peripatetic during these years, Kahn dispatched many of these notes from abroad.

The man was a great travel writer, his verbal sketches of the people he encountered as sharply drawn as any architectural elevation. “I went today to a Yeminite village,” he writes from Tel Aviv in the summer of 1963. “[T]he most ancient looking man I ever saw ... sat at a bench over his work ... A pipe, about 8 feet long, was constantly in his mouth.

No smoke came out of it or out of his mouth. He inhaled it all.” The standard gripes of the creative genius (“All of the ideas I gave them ... are on the plan in the wrong place ... It's sickening!”) and the persistent complaints of delayed flights and payments, of lost baggage and commissions, regularly find Kahn in a blue mood. Yet again and again, with effervescent resilience, he adroitly recovers with whimsy or self-deprecation. Poetic introspection is a frequent visitor, too: “Here now almost the whole of me is out of me,” he writes. “The tiniest of thread holds on to me”—catnip for the sensitive, artistically inclined Harriet.

Born in Chicago, one of six surviving children, Pattison showed an early interest in architecture and music, and the book begins with her at Yale, in the graduate drama program. One snowy day, she encounters Kahn. To the 25-year-old Harriet, he's simply an older (by 27 years) man in need of a hand navigating the slippery sidewalk. When she and her friends invite him to join them for coffee, he holds court but doesn't disclose his identity. Pattison recalls writing in her journal: “I met an amazing man.”

A few years later it's 1958 and she's in Philadelphia, studying at the Curtis Institute of Music and enjoying a “sweet, courtly romance” with, of all people, the soon-to-be-celebrated architect Robert Venturi Hon'80. At a holiday party, they bump into Kahn. Then he turns up at a party she herself is hosting, and soon afterward they meet again at an architectural event. At the end of that evening, Bob and Lou and Harriet meander through Rittenhouse Square: the two men being geniuses together as she chimes in now and then. When Harriet and Lou catch each other's eye she feels a “rush of excitement”—and we're off.

Harriet sends Kahn an invitation to dinner. His response, the first of the letters she reprints here, is brief but lushly romantic. “Dearest Harriet, I received your note. It is so deeply good. Always it will be a delight to meet you wherever.”

His Architect

A project to reissue Richard Saul Wurman's classic, long-out-of-print 1962 volume of Louis Kahn's art.

“There are a lot of wonderful books on Lou Kahn,” says Richard Saul Wurman Ar’58 GA’59, referring to the iconic 20th-century American architect. “And if I was going to have just one book, it wouldn’t be mine.”

Wurman’s contribution to the Kahn canon was the 1962 volume *The Notebooks and Drawings of Louis I. Kahn*. Ranging from sketches of ancient ruins and European cityscapes, to pencil renderings of his own buildings (like the Richards Medical Research Laboratories at Penn), to conceptual designs for never-built proposals (like the architect’s radical plan to remake Center City Philadelphia), the book’s eclectic survey of Kahn’s freehand art won many admirers. And even if Wurman would pack a different volume for a proverbial desert island, his own would probably make the cut if he had a whole shelf to work with.

It has been out of print for decades, but this winter the publisher Designers & Books is launching the Louis I. Kahn Facsimile Project (louisikahn.com), a Kickstarter campaign to publish an exact replica, augmented by a reader’s guide to feature additional material, including some drawn from Penn Architectural Archives, most of which has not been published before.

Wurman recalls encountering Kahn for the first time in 1955 as an architecture student at Penn. “I saw this funny

By July, professions of love have been exchanged. Letters and postcards pour in, but it isn’t long before Pattison starts questioning the relationship. “What kind of a future was there in this?” she recalls wondering. “I didn’t want to end like a character in an Edith Wharton story, stuck in a tiny apartment, the lover of a man who showed up at his convenience.” Still, she decides to quit her New York job and relocate to Philly in the hopes that Lou’s “someday, someday” talk might be realized.

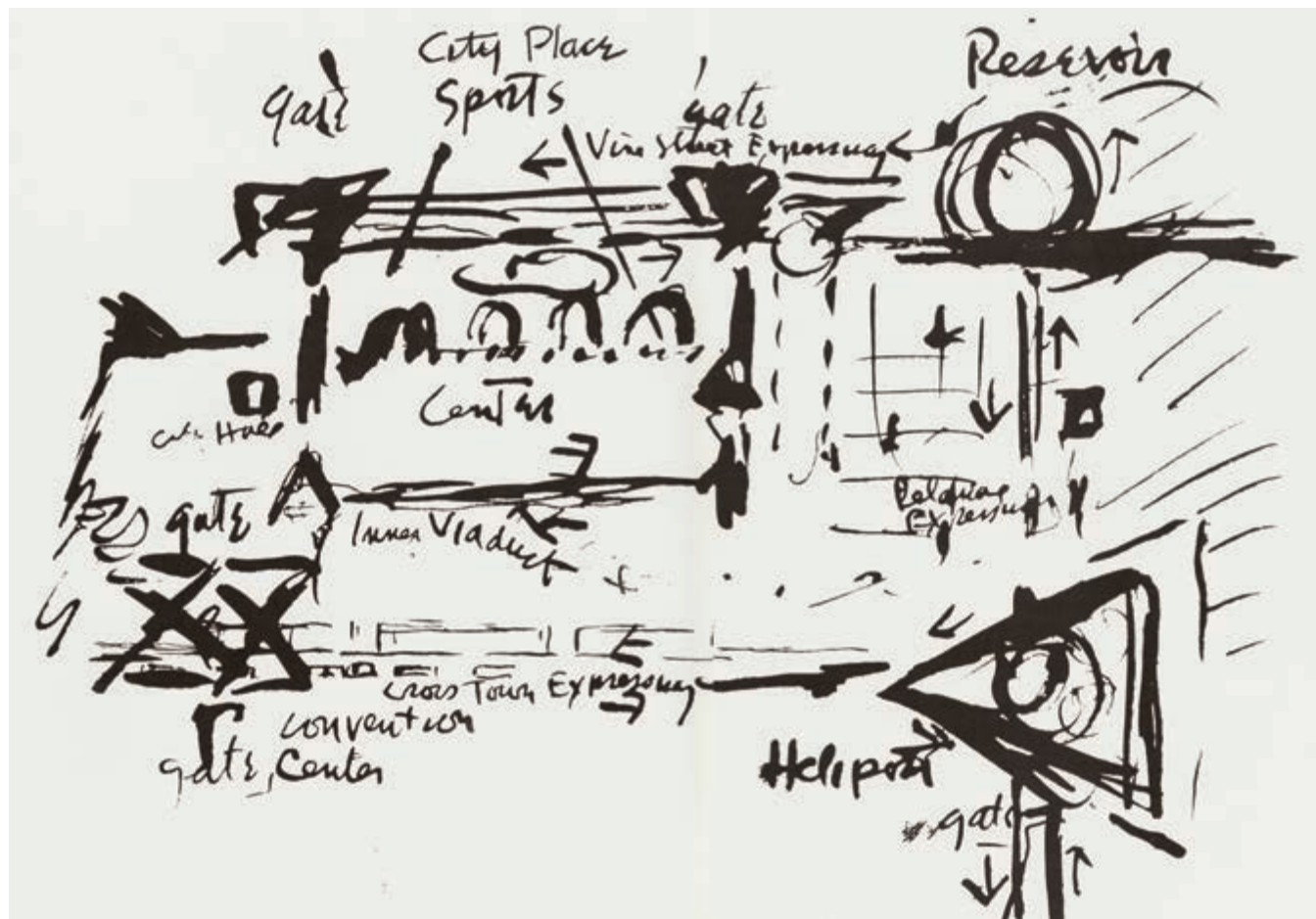
When Kahn invites her to attend a Museum of Modern Art opening in his honor, she observes that his father, wife, daughter, and an ex-lover (the architect Anne Tyng Gr’75, with whom Kahn also had a child) hover around the star of the show. In a letter sent a few days afterwards, Lou writes to her: “It was so hard to feel your disappointment in not being able to talk to me freely. The delight of the few nights that we had alone before your leaving lingers ... Only prying words make our meeting less.” In her narrative, Pattison assumes they’ve argued about her feeling treated as “just another person, one of many, in his life. His response felt like a subtle scolding. It was as if the doors and windows to the outer world might be shuttered, and that I would be kept in a secret place.” Passages like these underscore that this is Pattison’s story. Aspects of Kahn’s other goings-on—his home life with his daughter and wife, for example, or his sporadic visits to Tyng and their daughter—remain hidden.

Never bitter or sentimental, always moving and inspiring, *Our Lives* is ultimately about the awakening of a resolute and independent woman whose understanding of the tradeoffs she willingly entered into was, and remains, clear-eyed and uncompromising. “You can suddenly unlock all kinds of memories if you take the time to reflect,” Pattison says over the phone. “But even at the time, I felt that what was happening was untraveled territory. It was not how I expected my life to go.”

Certainly the idea of bearing a child out of wedlock—the news of which elicits a murmured “not again” from Kahn—wasn’t part of her plans. Determined to keep the child, Harriet reaches a turning point and, it seems, an unspoken understanding: Lou will be around, but not really. “I will try to get the where with all [sic] soon,” he writes in a postscript to an October 1962 letter that primarily deals with his antics at a rollicking party. She receives it a month before Nathaniel is born. Riding out her pregnancy at a friend’s house in Connecticut, Harriet waits for Kahn to send the promised money to help with the baby’s delivery. It never arrives.

During the next decade, Kahn’s career takes off; he crisscrosses the globe, dropping in occasionally with presents and promises for Harriet and Nathaniel (who would later explore his own experience of that relationship in the Oscar-winning 2003 documentary *My Architect* [“Arts,” Jan/Feb 2004]). Kahn’s correspondence bursts with ideas and sketches for his major commissions, like the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California, as well as copious material detailing his unbuilt work. Looking back at all this, Pattison draws connections and notes possible inspirations linking the works. “The projects that weren’t built were especially original and stunning,” she says in conversation. “What he was aiming for with them was very significant and new.”

Among those unbuilt works was Four Freedoms Park on New York City’s Roosevelt Island. Featuring Pattison’s most complete landscape contribution to a Kahn project, it was finally opened in 2012 [“Constructing a New Kahn,” Mar/Apr 2013]. By that point, Pattison, who never married, was winding down a 40-year solo practice, and the realization of this 1973 design triumphantly concludes the book. In the end, she has arrived: a fully-formed pioneer who knows her value not only in Kahn’s personal narrative, but in his professional oeuvre—and in her own mind.



little man with a high-pitched, somewhat raggedy voice, and an ill-tied bow tie," he remembers. "He had this reputation among students, but I'd never heard of him." Wurman was captivated almost at once. "When he said something, it was so simple, and it was the truth. And I realized I had been brought up with people not telling truth—or not asking questions that elicit the truth."

Eventually Wurman took a job in Kahn's private practice, where one day he worked up the nerve to pitch his idea for a book.

"He said yes, which shocked me," Wurman remembers. "He said, 'Let's go pick out the pictures,' and he opened the drawers." Then Wurman sprung the catch: he didn't want Kahn to choose what to include; that would be Wurman's job alone.

"I didn't want any photographs, and I didn't want any beautiful renderings," Wur-

man says now. "I wanted developmental drawings. I wanted drawings that showed his process and his mistakes as he drew: the struggle. I'm very interested in failure and struggle as a way of moving forward."

Kahn giggled, as Wurman tells it, and let his former student proceed on his merry way.

Why exactly did Wurman want to make precisely this kind of a book, with its jumble of quick sketches, handwritten notes, draft drawings of projects that were later refined, and grandiose ideas that were never built at all?

"So I could have it by my bed," he says, with a simplicity borne of a deep love for Kahn that has never faded.

"Lou said to me once, 'A good idea that doesn't happen is no idea at all,'" Wurman elaborates. "But I don't judge it the way Lou judged it. He had ideas that never got

done that were still enormous contributions to the world of architecture. He never did Mikvah Israel, he never did the Meeting House at Salk, he never did the central synagogue in Jerusalem, he never did the Goldenberg House. He got them up to a certain point, and I think they're still valued contributions."

The Notebooks and Drawings of Louis I. Kahn did not feature those particular examples but was created in that spirit.

"This book should not be in competition with beautiful books, most of which are really pretty good," Wurman says. "There's no beautiful photographs, or anything sexy in that way. But there will be the thought in his drawings, the mistake, the notes he left on them for what to do next. That, to me, is fascinating. It's much more alive than a photograph of a finished building."—TP

The Discard Pile

You've fed your sourdough starter. Now what?



Hannah Dela Cruz C'12 first encountered the term *sourdough* when she was 13, the year her family immigrated to the US from the Philippines. But it wasn't until 2018, having burned out of a job in public relations, that she began playing around with a starter of her own. As she ran up against other unfamiliar terms—*autolyse*, *lame*—she launched a blog to work through her confusion and document her progress. By the time the pandemic emptied baker's yeast from supermarket shelves, she'd climbed Mount Mother Culture just as a million suddenly homebound amateurs started mixing flour and water.

Traffic to her *Saveur* Blog Award-winning MakeItDough.com tripled during the spring lockdown, setting off a chain reaction that led to the December publication of *Sourdough Every Day: Your Guide to Using Active and Discard Starter for Artisan Bread, Rolls, Pasta, Sweets, and More* (Page Street Publishing, 176 pages, \$21.99).

The cookbook aisles groan with sourdough titles—Amazon lists more than 700—but Dela Cruz has managed the rare feat of adding something genuine-

ly fresh and useful to an overloaded category: no other cookbook, in the awareness of this sourdough-tending reviewer, explicitly focuses on uses for the discard that is part and parcel of starter maintenance. (The yeast in a starter culture require regular feeding, which is done by discarding a portion of the starter and replacing it with flour and water.) These discard recipes are what distinguish Dela Cruz's first cookbook.

My favorites were for pastas. Sourdough discard imparts a subtle or distinct tang (depending on how long it rests in the fridge) to fettuccine-cut egg noodles—a flavor element that proved an especially welcome foil to the slightly sweet beet-and-goat-cheese ravioli I make for Christmas dinner. Recipes for ramen noodles, gyoza wrappers, and pierogis apply the same principle. Elsewhere, Dela Cruz gives the discard treatment to recipes running a multicultural gamut from paratha-style scallion pancakes to focaccia di Recco, rosewater-cardamom-pistachio biscotti to traditional zucchini bread, and Liège waffles to Moroccan-inflected chicken empanadas. There is much to try.

The author's fresh memory of her own amateur days is also apparent in

the more traditional sections devoted to active starter. To take one example, her advice to rub proofing-basket cloths with rice flour—whose lack of gluten minimizes sticking—made me wonder why on earth the *New York Times*' otherwise excellent sourdough bread

recipe advocates a 50-50 blend of rice and wheat flour.

So for adventurous beginners looking for an approachable guide to sourdough basics, or home bakers who've spent the pandemic wondering what to do with all that discard, this is a worthy addition to the kitchen shelf. —TP



Parties of One

Loneliness has been the scourge of the 21st century. Could the pandemic be a turning point?

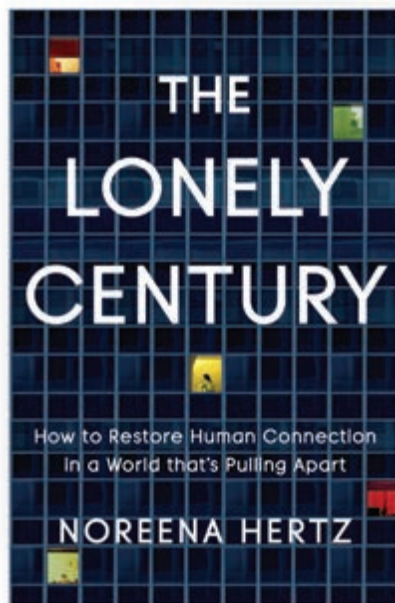
Noreena Hertz WG'91 had already rented a friend in New York and paid to be cuddled in Los Angeles—among other research for her latest book, *The Lonely Century: How to Restore Connection in a World That's Pulling Apart* (Currency)—when the pandemic suddenly thrust loneliness into the forefront of everybody's mind. Hertz, a broadcaster, academic, and public speaker who holds an honorary professorship at University College London's Institute for Global Prosperity, quickly rewrote, weaving references to the novel coronavirus's impact into her argument. "The pandemic was only amplifying and exaggerating the fault lines I'd already identified," she says.

Hertz, whose previous books have tackled the perils of unregulated capitalism, the problem of international debt, and the art of decision-making, sees rising loneliness as the product of political, social, and technological forces. "My definition goes beyond craving intimacy or feeling disconnected from your friends and family. It's also about feeling disconnected from your employer, from your government," she says.

The Lonely Century, which was published in February, offers a wide range of post-pandemic solutions to the loneliness crisis, including heightened civic engagement and the reinvigoration of public spaces. *Gazette* contributor Julia M. Klein spoke to Hertz via Zoom. Their conversation has been edited for length and clarity.

What was the inspiration for the book?

First, I was really struck by the fact that I had increasing numbers of students confiding in me how lonely and isolated



"Only a few years after the 1918 Spanish flu, bars and nightclubs and cafés were full to the gills."

they felt. This was a new phenomenon. Second, in my academic research I wanted to better understand the rise of right-wing populism, and, hearing testimonies, one of the things coming out was how lonely [these people] had felt until they found community in the far right. And third, I found myself feeling increasingly

affectionate towards my Amazon Alexa, which made me interested in the role that technology and AI and social robots are likely to play in our futures. That alerted me to the rise of what I've called the loneliness economy.

You've suggested that loneliness is, in part, a product of capitalism. But you've also noted that capitalism has produced rental friends, robot companions, professional cuddling partners. Are these solutions—or symptoms of the problem?

I view them as solutions. I think capitalism's greatest strength is its power of innovation. In my research, I did explore some of the more extreme market solutions: I rented a friend in New York, and I paid to be cuddled in Los Angeles.

You come down hard on our immersion in smartphones and social media—technologies designed to be connective that you argue are making us lonelier. How do we balance the perils and pluses?

There obviously are constituents for whom social media has provided a lifeline. For instance, the LGBTQ kid in the small town in the Midwest who wouldn't have otherwise found her people. But we've never had a technology we've been this addicted to, that's been this omnipresent. Social media is playing a role in making us lonely because it's stealing our time and attention away from in-person interactions, which are deeper and of a higher quality. Other problems include how polarizing those platforms are, and how excluding. There's so much bullying on these sites. They are the tobacco companies of the 21st century and

should be regulated as such—especially when it comes to children.

You advocate building bridges between people of different socioeconomic classes and political opinions. That seems utopian.

We *can* bring different types of people together. I've drawn ideas from what already is happening, whether it's French President Emmanuel Macron's pilot scheme of civic service for teenagers, or the scheme in Germany by a newspaper which brought together people of opposing views to converse, or the Rwandan example of compulsory service.

If you're not afflicted by personal loneliness, what's the motivation to heal these social and political rifts?

You did end up living in a society where Trump did win the 2016 election, so if more centrist politics is your aspiration, then you have a real motivation for bridging these political divides—a self-interested one. There's an economic and a social cost when society is fragmented and polarized.

Do you see differences between Britain and the United States with regard to loneliness?

The United Kingdom has been on a very similar trajectory to the United States for decades now. The loneliness data are pretty indistinguishable between the UK and the US: 60 percent of adults consider themselves lonely. More than one in five American millennials say they have no friends. It's about the same in the UK.

These data predate the pandemic?

Right. And since then what we've seen is an increase in loneliness across the globe. There are certain groups that are disproportionately lonelier: like low-income workers, the young, and women. They're having to do more of the childcare, more of the housekeeping. We've seen a rise in domestic abuse during the pandemic, and there's nothing lonelier than being in an abusive relationship.

How much hope do you have that we'll be able to have more communal, less solitary lifestyles post-pandemic?

We can find some succor in the past. Only a few years after the 1918 Spanish flu, bars and nightclubs and cafés were full to the gills. We are creatures of togetherness. We are hardwired to connect. I don't believe for a minute that this is the new normal and that, moving forward, we will choose to conduct our lives on Zoom. Because we've all been through this collective experience of isolation, loneliness is now something that is being destigmatized. And I think we appreciate our local communities more. Some of the values that were subordinated in recent years—kindness and care for each other—have been recognized as important once again.

What are some ideas that will help moving forward?

Reinvest in the infrastructure of community. What we've seen since the 2008 financial crisis was a real slashing of funding to public libraries, public parks, youth community centers, elderly care centers. People need to have physical spaces where they can do things together. We need to nurture our local communities, pledge to do more shopping at our local stores, show up at community events. Businesses also have a role to play. One of the things that came out of my research was the incredible effect eating together can have. There was a study from the US where they found that firefighters who ate together not only felt much more bonded to each other, but also performed twice as well.

What about individuals?

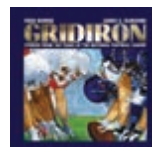
We can think about whether there's someone in our own network who might be feeling lonely and reach out to them. Because just showing someone that they are visible, that you are thinking about them, can make a huge difference.

Briefly Noted



ADMISSION by Julie Buxbaum C'99 (Delacorte Press, 2020, \$18.99.) Inspired by the recent college admissions scandal, Buxbaum's sixth novel follows the story of Chloe

Wynn Berringer, a teenage girl whose privileged world is shattered when her family's lies are exposed. Chloe must reckon with what happened—and her own guilt.



GRIDIRON: Stories From 100 Years of the National Football League by Fred Bowen C'75 and James E. Ransome

(Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2020, \$19.99.) Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the NFL last year, this illustrated book takes readers from the league's scrappy beginnings in an automobile showroom, through World War II and desegregation, to where it is today—the most popular sports league in the United States.



COUNTING KINDNESS: Ten Ways to Welcome Refugee Children by Hollis Kurman C'85 (Charlesbridge, 2020,

\$16.99.) Kurman, a human rights activist, offers a warm and welcoming introduction to immigration, refugees, and inclusivity in this book endorsed by Amnesty International. Children count from one to ten with one boat, two helping hands, and the kindness of many.



PERSPECTIVES ON FAIR HOUSING edited by edited by Penn faculty members Vincent J. Reina, Wendell E. Pritchett Gr'97, and Susan M. Wachter (University of Pennsylvania

Press, 2020, \$45.00.) Fifty years after the passage of the Fair Housing Act, the US faces a dire crisis in housing. The essays in this volume provide historical, sociological, economic, and legal perspectives on the continuing problem of housing discrimination and review tools that could promote racial and economic equity in America.

Visit thepenngazette.com for more Briefly Noted.



Hear Them ROAR

Decimated by the pandemic, some young restaurant industry leaders are fighting back.

When New York City restaurants were ordered to shut down at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic a year ago, Camilla Marcus W'07 had only one thought: *We need to organize.* “Everyone I knew was firing or furloughing their teams. I was scared for New York City, and I was scared for our restaurants,” says Marcus, who was then the owner of West~bourne, a vegetable-inspired establishment in SoHo. “Anyone in the industry saw the writing on the wall: we are at the epicenter of this crisis.”

New York restaurant owners and chefs, who employ about 315,000 people, are famously competitive, known more for guarding their turf than coming together. But within days of the initial lockdown, Marcus got 30 of them on a call to decide what to do—including some of the top restaurateurs in the city—and soon cofounded a group called ROAR (Relief Opportunities for All Restaurants).

Working quickly, they put up a petition on Change.org outlining what they wanted from local government, including payroll tax relief and ways to incentivize lease restructuring. Ten days later they set up a fund with the Robin Hood Foundation to provide immediate cash for out-of-work restaurant workers, which has so far raised more than \$2.5 million. And with the help of a lobbyist, they worked to convince the state to allow outdoor dining in the first phase of the city's

“Before this, we did not have an appropriate seat at the table in politics. Hopefully we can pave the way for a future that is much more collaborative.”

summer reopening—quicker than originally planned. They also blocked smaller but significant proposals like one forcing restaurants to give out hazard pay. “When all of these businesses are bankrupt, and their employees are unemployed, paying someone 75 dollars an hour will put someone out of business overnight,” says Marcus, who is joined at ROAR by her former colleague and fellow Quaker Nate Adler C'11 W'11, owner of the quirky Brooklyn restaurant Gertie. “We fought a number of government proposals that would have been a nail in the coffin.”

The efforts have been voluntary and ad hoc, but ROAR has been in discussions to figure out how to become a formal institution with a full-time team. “Before this, we did not have an appropriate seat at the table in politics,” Marcus says. “Hopefully we can pave the way for a future that is much more collaborative.”

Even at Penn, Marcus was cutting her own path. She decided to create her own major, one that combined all her interests. “I was a painter, but I was also very advanced in accounting,” she says. “I was into psychology and economic behavior.” The University didn't sign off on

her plan until her senior year when she made it clear she would rather not graduate than register a conventional major. “I got to hold my own flag at graduation because it was my own major,” she says.

After college, she attended New York's French Culinary Institute (now the International Culinary Center). She had always loved cooking in college, making regular meals for her six housemates and her boyfriend (now husband Josh Siegel C'07) and his fraternity brothers. “My Wharton guidance counselor was pretty shocked,” she says. “But it was always something I wanted to do.” She then enrolled at New York University for a four-year JD-MBA program, explaining, “It was the recession. I thought this was a great hideout plan.”

Marcus worked in restaurants on the side throughout her time at NYU, and after graduation, landed a gig running business development at Danny Meyer's Union Square Hospitality Group, which has created some of New York's most popular restaurants.

After growing frustrated with writing business plans for other restaurateurs, Marcus left to open her own establishment. West~bourne did many things differently, from

donating a percentage of profits to local hospitality training programs to setting out to be the first zero-waste restaurant in Manhattan. But it was only open for two years before Marcus had to close permanently in the spring of 2020. “Our space turned from a gem to a lemon during the pandemic,” she says. “We were very small, very narrow, an open kitchen, communal seating, very limited outdoor space.”

“We were set up to have a good year until March,” Marcus adds. She's since been focused on catering, as well as looking for her next restaurant, perhaps in Los Angeles, where she's originally from and recently moved.

It was at Union Square Hospitality Group that Marcus met many people who would later become involved in ROAR—including Adler, who was a few years behind her at Penn. “Danny Meyer used to say all the Penn people know each other,” Marcus says. “Or if you don't, you become instant friends.”

Adler had made a name for himself on the Penn campus his senior year by opening Kitchen@Penn, which provided healthy, locally sourced, home-cooked meals for takeout or delivery. “I rented a kitchen on 46th and

Baltimore,” he says. “It was 12 dollars an hour. I can’t even do the math of how much I pay in rent per hour in New York City now.”

After graduation, he worked his way up to management at Stephen Starr’s Buddakan and Danny Meyer’s Blue Smoke, before opening Gertie in Williamsburg. The fast-casual restaurant is convenient but hip—one of the few places you can dine on matzo ball soup while listening to live DJs. “My idea was to sort of bring an identity to what New York cuisine is,” he says. “It is a very personal concept for me since I grew up here. It’s named after my grandmother.”

During the pandemic, Gertie has survived with a reduced staff and a landlord who has decreased rent by 50 percent. Adler has also tried to get more diners there with pop-up events hosted by guest chefs, many of whom have lost their own restaurants, and community initiatives that have included locals writing postcards to voters before the election and fundraisers for ROAR’s employee relief program. “We need to think outside of the box to use these big, expensive spaces in more efficient ways,” he says.

While Marcus (who cooked at Gertie after losing her own restaurant) continues to lead all aspects of ROAR, Adler is focused mostly on political battles. “Even prior to COVID, I had seen all these laws getting passed, and all of these inequitable policies that restaurants literally had no say in and then had to spend

more money and become less profitable,” says Adler, who studied political science at Penn and interned for now-Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. “I was sick of it.”

One of his biggest accomplishments has been working with the state government’s economic development team to communicate what would help restaurants the most. “There was a point in the summer where they wanted to open inside dining 25 percent, and I told them the consensus at ROAR was that it’s not worth it,” he remembers. “We would rather continue to have robust outdoor dining and be able to sell liquor and wine and have some form of relief.”

Restaurants still have a long struggle ahead. Indoor dining in New York City was suspended for a couple of months in mid-December, just as the weather turned frigid. The federal stimulus package on December 27 included no industry-specific money for restaurants. Walking around the city it can feel like new restaurants are closing permanently every day. “This year has been full of unimaginable loss, core-shaking heartache, and constant confusion,” ROAR wrote to its 17,000 followers on Instagram in December.

“It has also been full of inspiring camaraderie, deep solidarity and energetic New York spirit. 2020 bought us together, as a community, and united us under one goal: supporting the New York restaurant community. ... At ROAR, we are just getting started.”

—Alyson Krueger C’07

Daniel Roy C’20



The Magic of Neuroscience

“The magic isn’t happening in my hands. It’s happening in your brain.”

“OK, here it goes,” says Daniel Roy C’20, palming the torn-off corner of a playing card, popping it into his mouth, and starting to chew.

All eyes are on him. That includes a packed theater, two audience volunteers on stage, a celebrity host, producers, directors—and the keenest observers in the room, renowned magicians Penn Jillette and Teller.

Eventually his audience will expand to anyone who tunes in to a recent episode of *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*, a CW show that challenges magicians to perform tricks that Penn & Teller can’t deconstruct. Which is why Roy is up on stage, eating a piece of a playing card. “You know,” he says, trying to swallow down the stiff paper, “no matter how many times I do this, I’ll never forget how much I hate the taste of the seven of spades.”

Yep. That was it—the card his volunteer had chosen. And Roy, who went by Daniel Fishman-Engel when he was at Penn, identified it solely by tasting a tiny piece of its corner—at least he did if you believe in magic.

“If I can get you to ask the wrong question, you’re never going to arrive at the right answer.”

Almost 10 months later, in the final days of 2020, Roy is greeting another audience, this time over Zoom. He was supposed to be working rooms as a professional magician by now. Following his television appearance, he had gigs booked, a move planned. But then came COVID-19, wiping away live performance, magic included. So instead he’s hunkered down at his two moms’ house (his two dads live about 10 minutes away), waiting out the pandemic with a slick DIY setup for virtual magic shows. “It was definitely disappointing,” he says of the pivot, “but such is the nature of an unpredictable career track.”

His sold-out Zoom show—ticketed through the Smoke and Mirrors Magic Theater in Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania (where he often performed in-person as a student at Penn)—marks one of the few performance opportunities he’s had since March.

Roy has adapted his usual sleight-of-hand routines to focus solely on card tricks, which work well over Zoom. Even in video close-ups, his hands move so fast that it’s impossible to see how he’s plucking four aces from the deck or dealing himself a full run of same-suit cards. In a sleight-of-mind trick, he reads a couple’s vocal and visual tells to deduce a random card they pulled out of their own deck at home.

A number of his tricks confound even when he’s openly explaining how they’re done. But unlike some magicians, Roy says he’s less interested in having you think he’s a wizard (even though people keep telling him he looks like Harry Potter) than he is in preying on shortcomings of the human mind—mechanics he learned about as a neurobiology major at Penn.

“The magic isn’t happening in my hands. It’s happening in your brain,” he says in a separate Zoom interview. “There are these cognitive loopholes that you can’t switch off. It doesn’t matter if you know they exist, they’re still there. I think that’s the more interesting side of how magic works—less of the nit-picky *how* and more on a brain level *why* does it work.”

“If I can get you to ask the wrong question, you’re never going to arrive at the right answer,” he adds. “And in a sense, that’s so much of what we do as magicians: getting you to pose the wrong question to yourself—hopefully a question that is unanswerable.”

It isn’t mandatory for magicians to know neuroscience. “But it’s also very helpful,” Roy says. “It can very much inform the way you handle tricks, and help you ascertain what might be tricky and what might not be. I also think it tells you a lot more about some of the meaning or philosophy behind magic.”

Long before his first neuroscience class at Penn, Roy got hooked on magic at age 10. He spent hours at a local magic shop every weekend and even more time practicing at home. Often he’d work on a trick for up to 12 hours straight, so absorbed that he’d forget all about lunch and dinner.

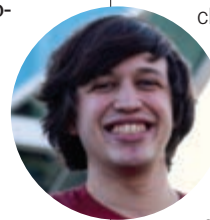
He alternated nights between his two sets of parents: a lesbian couple and a gay couple who had been close friends for years before deciding to have and coparent a child together. “I grew up in San Francisco, so I didn’t face real discrimination or push-back in any way,” he says. Still, as the only child of four parents, “it’s great on holidays and terrible if I get in trouble,” he laughs.

Roy quit doing magic for a few years in high school, sick of being labeled “The Magic Kid” and having classmates order him to perform tricks on the spot. But by the time he left for Penn, he’d found his way back. He joined the Penn Illusionist Club and refashioned it into a resource for new and aspiring magicians to learn sleight-of-hand.

He also made a sport of using magic in as many final

Early Stage

Meet Evan Weinstein EAS’19 GEng’20, who’s turning chocolate into miniature works of art at his chocolate printing start-up Cocoa Press. Visit thepenngazette.com/sweet-success to read his story.



projects as he could. How many times did it work? “More than anticipated!” he says, recalling a card trick set to a Chaucer tale, a slew of philosophy theories that also became a card trick, and a scheduled exam that he helped his whole class stall out by performing two hours of magic tricks.

Roy took off for the Chicago Magic Lounge and the Magic Castle in Los Angeles the summer after his junior year at Penn. Between the two, he performed 33 shows in 11 days. “I thought I would hate it, be totally exhausted,” he says, “and I was exhausted—but I loved it.” For the first time, he thought about delaying a career in science to work as a professional magician instead.

Only a few months after that summer tour, he became one of the youngest magicians ever to win the Milbourne Christopher Award for Close-Up Magician of the Year. By the time *Fool Us* came along, Roy had decided to follow a magic career as far as it might take him. But less than a week after he taped his TV appearance, the country began to shut down.

With in-person shows off the table, Roy has had plenty

of time to beef up his online presence over the past year. His YouTube channel offers tutorials for tricks and techniques. His website (daniel-roymagic.com) highlights a quote from Penn & Teller on the main page: "We loved you!" He films bite-sized tricks for TikTok, including grabbing four aces out of a jumble of cards he throws up in the air. He's also offering private virtual magic lessons.

"It's kind of hard to even conceive of what my next move is going to be, because we don't know what the state of the world's going to be like in three months, or even two weeks," he says. But he's still planning to get on the road once live performance is possible again.

After his Zoom show in late December, Roy sticks around for audience questions. "Have you been on Penn & Teller?" calls out a woman who must not follow him online. He says that he has. "Did you fool 'em?" asks another.

"I got very close," Roy says. "I actually have a funny story about that." When he left the stage shortly after Penn & Teller pinpointed how his trick worked, a stagehand tapped him on the shoulder. Teller wanted to talk with him. "He said, 'I just want you to know that you actually fooled both of us individually,'" Roy recalls. "'Part of the trick fooled me, part of the trick fooled Penn.'" It took both of the veteran magicians to unravel his ruse.

"It would have been cool to fool them," he adds, "but they totally got me fair and square."

—Molly Petrilla C'06



Crisis Navigators

A former attorney is building a national advocacy hotline for the country's "invisible" populations.

At various points in his life, Larry Kahn C'69 GEd'71's son has needed help.

Once, he was fired after being falsely accused of taking someone's lunch out of the group refrigerator at work. Another time, he was about to be evicted from his apartment when he left the oven on and it started smoking.

In both cases, Kahn helped resolve the situation for his son, who has schizophrenia,

simply by making a few phone calls.

Over the course of his long career as an attorney and negotiator, Kahn learned that other people with disabilities or facing different challenges need advocates too—often to fill what he calls a "tremendous gap" between what a lawyer can provide (for a fee) and what they can do for themselves. That's why he runs a nonprofit organization called Help Now! Advocacy, which provides

free advice, support, and negotiation to individuals in crisis. "A lot of times what people think is a legal crisis is actually not," Kahn says. "They just need some practical advice getting through their situation."

Since Kahn founded it in 2004, the organization has assisted more than 8,600 people, largely in the southern Oregon community where it had been based. But with most of the work being done over the phone—and with the COVID-19 pandemic amplifying the urgency of his mission—he recently decided to launch a nationwide advocacy hotline (855-4-CRISES), which he believes to be the first of its kind in the US. (While there are several existing counseling hotlines and other kinds of employee assistance programs, Kahn claims that there's never been a wide-ranging advocacy hotline designed to help anyone through life crises beyond psychological issues.)

"I think the uniqueness of what Larry's doing is that it's not focused on one specific issue; it's focused more on a process of negotiation and creating win-win solutions for people," says Ryan Roth, who in October was hired as the organization's volunteer executive director. Roth, who previously founded and sold the medical company MEDVAL, aims to scale up the technology infrastructure so they can have the capacity to take hundreds of daily calls, help Kahn recruit and train an army of volunteer advocates to take calls

from their own homes or offices around the country, and raise enough money to build out a small full-time staff, including his paid successor. “There’s really no organization doing what we’re able to do as far as breadth goes,” adds Roth, who’s pledged to donate \$50,000 himself toward a goal of \$500,000 by

“There’s really no organization doing what we’re able to do as far as breadth goes.”

the end of 2021. (For more information on how to volunteer or donate, visit helpnowadvocacy.org.)

Kahn has always tried to help others in unique ways. While at Penn’s Graduate School of Education in 1970, he taught at the old West Philadelphia Community Free School for students who had difficulty learning in a traditional classroom environment. The summer prior, he shared a two-bedroom, one-bathroom house in the Mantua neighborhood of Philly with dozens of GSE classmates, meant to simulate the conditions their students might be in. Emboldened by the experimental urban education program, which also involved working with a youth group that summer, Kahn would go on to teach inner-city Philly kids

the next three years. “By the time I finished teaching at West Philadelphia High School in 1974, students would refer to me as ‘Brother Larry,’” he recalls. “I took students on a camping trip to the Poconos overnight. I played football with them on the weekends and basketball after school hours. It was a great experience and something that broadened my perspective on things.”

Though he enjoyed teaching, Kahn left for the University of Michigan Law School and then moved to Washington, DC, where he worked as an attorney for the Federal Trade Commission and later a law firm in which he “established a reputation as being a negotiator.” In 1991 he started his own practice called Negotiated Solutions with the sole purpose of keeping legal disputes out of court—something he found to be unique at the time.

Not long after that, Kahn made a professional sacrifice by leaving the DC legal community to move to San Diego with his son, who he thought would be better off on the West Coast because of his disability. He continued to operate Negotiated Solutions for a decade, before a middle-of-the-night epiphany in 2004 led to him launching Help Now! in Medford, Oregon, where he had since moved. “People have said to me along the way, ‘If you had started this in a different city, you would have been much bigger at this point,’” he notes. “Southern Oregon is like the corner of the earth.”

Kahn initially ran the company out of his home and at hotel conference rooms, but was able to move into office space in Medford after receiving a grant from the Jackson County Health and Human Services department. Operating on a “shoestring budget,” Kahn and a small team of volunteers welcomed in clients who found them on the internet or were referred by social service agencies like the American Red Cross.

Billed by Kahn as a “one-stop shop, which can be either the first or last resort for people in crisis,” the nonprofit has over the years helped clients find urgently needed housing and food, recover money lost in scams, take on unscrupulous merchants, avert foreclosures and evictions, settle disputes with neighbors, deal with creditors, and navigate governmental bureaucracies. And they’ve done it all, an organizational fact sheet states, “for the ‘invisible’ portion of the country’s population who, for reasons of physical or mental disability, age, infirmity, lack of education, lack of finances, etc., are unable to speak up or navigate for themselves when in the throes of a crisis.”

Although Kahn closed the Oregon office in September to move to an all-virtual format, his team has been particularly active over the past year through the pandemic and last fall’s Alameda Fire. Kahn was particularly proud to have recently helped a woman with a developmental disability from being charged with food stamp

fraud in an alleged scheme too sophisticated for her to have concocted.

The organization doesn’t always resolve disputes. “Sometimes we give advice and support, and sometimes we find resources and service providers,” Kahn says, recalling a time when they got a woman into a treatment center after they smelled alcohol on her breath when she came in about a separate driver’s license issue. “If we spot another problem, we’ll address that problem,” he adds.

When it’s needed, Kahn will use his connections to find attorneys for clients who live in different locations. “We don’t have the hammer of litigation to resolve disputes,” he says. “We appeal to people’s sense of fairness.” But as he grows the organization, he’s hoping people with legal and mediation backgrounds will join the cause.

“It’s really about helping the most number of people he possibly can,” says Roth, pointing to Kahn’s work ethic as the biggest reason why Help Now! has churned forward for almost two decades ahead of its ambitious national expansion plan. “His drive is probably what’s most impressive to me. He had a pretty successful career prior to if you want to call it retiring into Help Now! From age 55 on roughly, he’s been working what I can tell is seven days a week. He just really puts everything he has into the organization and helping people. He’s got a huge heart for this thing.” —DZ

“I remain grateful to the multidisciplinary education and personal attention I received from many of my teachers at Penn ... who enriched my experience on learning and problem-solving.”

—Arup Bhattacharyya Gr'66

1949

Maureen McCauley sent this update about her father, **Edward S. McCauley G'49**: “My father received his master's in physics from the University of Pennsylvania. During his career as an electrical engineer, he worked on the backpack communications system for the moon landings and radios for fighter jets and the Trident submarine. He reads a book a day, is an avid and accomplished duplicate bridge player, and a master tomato gardener. He will turn 100 on March 19. He enjoys reading the *Gazette*.”

1954

Robert Freedman L'54 writes, “After retiring in 2008 from the practice of law for some 60 years, first at the firm of Cohen Shapiro Polisher Shiekman & Cohen and then at Drinker Biddle & Reath (only in America), I and my wife donated our collection of recorded Jewish music begun in 1963 to Penn after signing a Deed of Gift to the Robert Freedman and Molly Freedman Jewish Sound Archive at the University of Pennsylvania vesting title to

the sound recordings and ancillary material, books, sheet music, DVDs, and the like. The collection is housed at the Van Pelt Library [“Alumni Profiles,” May|Jun 2018]. I continue to work as curator even now, in spite of the pandemic, as I'm able to access my computer at Penn from home. In other news, New York Yiddish is an annual festival celebrating Yiddish language, music, and the arts. I was honored to be asked to serve on the faculty for the year 2020 to describe why the archive enjoys the premier reputation that it has. More importantly, it gave me the opportunity to bring the archive to the attention of a new audience. Because of a technical problem with Zoom, I had to give my presentation by telephone.”

1958

Steve Glickman W'58 writes, “My 1961 Harvard Law School thesis, ‘A Critique of the Law of Marijuana,’ was obviously prescient with the numerous 2020–2021 legal reversals. Since 1948, I've been photographing the ethnic/old-fashioned nooks and crannies of the world, which can be viewed at www.StilledLife.com.”

We Want to Hear from You

EMAIL gazette@ben.dev.upenn.edu

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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.

1963

Joel Levinson Ar'63 writes “When I was a student of architecture at Penn, I was struck with the realization that a new geometric motif was affecting the previously blocky, orthogonal designs of fellow students and our professors. This realization sparked an independent research project that ran parallel with my architecture and interior design practice in Philadelphia. In the fall of 2020, I shifted my attention from writing a book titled *The Daring Diagonal: Signature Geometry of the Modern Era* and began to create a website called the Daring Diagonal Virtual Museum. The eagle-eyed Dr. Kenneth Ford, a physicist, offered to edit my illustrated essays that appear in the museum's 33 galleries. My experience as a photographer and published author (*The Reluctant Hunter*—a novel, 2019) has been of great value in filling the museum galleries with engaging stories. Ike Richman has been promoting the museum and hit the jackpot when *Architectural Digest* picked up the story and promoted the museum as a ‘must-see experience’ in their online journal. That article led to the story being picked up in South America, the Middle East, and India. Happily, another story about the museum is soon to be published in Germany, a hotbed of diagonality. We welcome ideas and comments as we continue to develop new essays about how the diagonal motif has transformed art and architecture since the beginning of the 20th century. The ‘phenomenon of diago-

nality' remains robust today. Although the Daring Diagonal Virtual Museum has been a labor of love for 60 years, a trickle of support has begun to arrive through a GoFundMe campaign that is available through the museum's website. For comments and suggestions, I can be reached at joel.levinson@verizon.net. Dr. Ford and I have been working on book proposals to reach a broader audience. We also look for ways to have the museum's essays translated into other languages. The museum can be accessed through www.ddvm.org."

Bill Novelli C'63 ASC'64, cofounder of the public relations firm Porter Novelli and a professor at Georgetown University's school of business, has written *Good Business: The Talk, Fight, Win Way to Change the World*. From the press materials, "*Good Business*, which is part behind-the-scenes look at crafting social and health policy, part inspirational guide, proves that you can do well (creating economic and financial success for yourself and your company or organization) by doing good (helping to solve the world's and society's major problems)."

1964

Sandra Lotz Fisher CW'64 GED'67, co-president of the Class of 1964, and **Camille Quarrier Bradford CW'64**, class communications director, write, "Penn lost one of its greatest promoters when our copresident of the Class of 1964, **Alan Levin C'64 ASC'65** died on July 26, after a valiant fight with cancer. 'Big Al' was our humorist and joker par excellence, class motivator, and a dear friend to so many of us. Alan always made you laugh and left you feeling better about life after having spoken with him. Oy! Did we say he liked to talk? The phone and in-person contact were his modus operandi. He would dial, schmooze ... and make things happen, at Penn and in life. Alan was the recipient of the 2016 Alumni Award of Merit, in recognition of many years of distinguished service to the University. After his time at Penn, Alan had promised to give back to the University that he felt shaped him in so many ways. He successfully fun-

draised and recruited Colorado scholars and athletes to attend Penn. It is said all roads from Colorado to West Philly went through Big Al! One time he invited the Penn Singers to perform in Denver when a sudden snowstorm made it impossible for them to return to their hotel. 'No problem! Let's have a sleepover.' So he and his wife, Anna, hosted 20-plus students at their home. ("They were everywhere!" Anna said.) He volunteered for the Alumni Interview Program for over a decade and founded the Colorado Ivy+ Career Expo, an innovative career fair. He not only raised Penn's profile in Colorado by inviting professors to speak and sports teams to play, he often returned to campus to sponsor and take part in seminars at Wharton and other schools. At Homecoming, he competed in alumni swim meets and won in his class. He served as president of the Colorado Alumni Club for 17 years and was a member of the first executive committee of the Council of Regional Alumni Clubs. He was cochair of the 25th and 50th Reunion committees for the Class of 1964 and served as class copresident at the time of his death. Penn seeped into his DNA—and he loved it. He sent this note to classmates when it was medically impossible for him to attend our 55th Reunion: 'I am very disappointed not to be with you. Something magical happens to me when I reach the Penn campus. I am 21 again. My green, piercing eyes and quick, cat-like movements are back. It feels like 1964 again. This feeling sometimes lasts for as long as three days. Now I can only dream about it. Hoping you all really enjoy yourselves and take advantage of everything Penn has to offer.' As an undergraduate he was a champion varsity swimmer, played football, was a member of ROTC, Kite and Key, Beta Sigma Rho fraternity, and the Hey Day Committee; served on the Inter-Fraternity Council; wrote the Class Prophecy; and volunteered at the West Philadelphia Tutoring Project. After settling in Denver, where he lived for 55 years, he launched five companies, including Glamorene Rent-O-Mat, the first rug shampoo machine rental company in the country, and Fine Arts Indus-

Events



ALUMNI WEEKEND

Alumni Weekend 2021 will not be held as an in-person event but will be reconceived with virtual programs held May 14–15, 2021. Please visit: www.alumni.upenn.edu/alumniweekend.

VIRTUAL

In light of ongoing global health concerns, visit www.alumni.upenn.edu/clubs to find the latest information on Regional Club events in your area. And be sure to check out www.alumni.upenn.edu/govirtual for an abundance of virtual events and digital resources available for alumni.

tries, a manufacturer of framed pictures. His two sons, **Brian Levin W'94** and Ronald Levin, and his five grandchildren said he supported all of them 100 percent with anything they ever did or needed. To Brian, the younger son, he decreed, 'You have two choices. You can go to Penn or go to hell!' Wharton '94 it was! Alan, a big man with a big heart, green eyes, and cat-like moves, was generous to everyone. It will be hard to fill the hole in our hearts."

Dr. Robert Allyn Goldman C'64 has published a new book, *The Slammer: A Critique of Prison Overpopulation, A Menacing Flaw in American Culture*. He writes, "It is a critical exposition of America's decaying prison system and a wake-up call for urgent reform."

Celebrate Your Virtual Reunion, May 14–15, 2021!

1966

Arup Bhattacharyya Gr'66, CEO of ADI Associates, writes, "We've been settled in Vermont since 1968, after spending my initial professional years in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, even though the professional activities took me all over this country, Eu-

rope, and Asia. I led many an effort to transform the rudimentary silicon-based electronics technology from low-level integration to MSI->LSI->VLSI->ULSI, currently designed and produced in nanometer dimensions. This year, Wikipedia named me to its list of a couple of hundred prolific inventors—who have earned 200 or more worldwide utility patents—for my contributions in electronics (bit.ly/3qDbn1t). I remain grateful to the multidisciplinary education and personal attention I received from many of my teachers at Penn, including Robert Maddin and Professor Brown of the Laboratory for Research on the Structure of Matter; **Sol Pollack C'55 Gr'61**, professor emeritus of bioengineering; J. Robert Schrieffer Hon'73 and Professor Callen of the physics department; Professor Bolton; Professor Westdorf; and many others who enriched my experience on learning and problem-solving. Lately, my technical consultancy is solely dedicated to promoting and volunteering green science and technology applications to address global warming and sustainability solutions for the US and India (my birthplace). I have been involved and participated in such activities in the US for the past three decades. I've also successfully organized and sponsored international conferences in India, advocating green energy solutions to replace fossil fuels."

1967

Peter Bonventre C'67 has authored a new novel, *Where Have You Gone Without Me?* Peter is a former editorial director at *Entertainment Weekly*. He lives in Manhattan and Bronxville, New York, with his wife, Donna Olshan.

Michael E. Egan C'67 was elected a fellow of the Institute of Management Consulting. This fellowship recognizes "a Certified Management Consultant who has demonstrated outstanding service to clients, to the management consulting profession, to the Institute, and to the community through service on nonprofit boards or pro bono work." Michael writes, "In the past 52 years fewer than 60 profes-

sionals have received this honor, and I am very honored to be among them."

Martin Redish C'67, a law professor at Northwestern University, has been awarded the Daniel J. Meltzer Award from the Association of American Law Schools for his outstanding scholarship and teaching in the area of federal courts. In addition, Martin's 19th book, *Commercial Speech as Free Expression*, will be published this spring by Cambridge University Press.

1968

Bobbi Penneys Susselman Laufer CW'68 writes, "I am still selling travel all over the world (not during COVID) and escorting very tiny groups to exotic destinations. Recent groups have visited Madagascar, Borneo, and Tonga. Groups in 2021 will visit Uganda, Rwanda, Zanzibar, and the Marquesas, Austral, and Gambier Islands."

1969

Fred Price WG'69 has written a new novel under the pseudonym David Hirshberg. It will be released in May from Fig Tree Books. From the publisher, "*Jacobo's Rainbow* is an imaginative work of historical, literary fiction ... set primarily in the 1960s during the convulsive period of the student protest movements and the Vietnam War. It focuses on the issue of being an outsider, an altogether common circumstance that resonates with readers in today's America. Written from a Jewish perspective, it speaks to universal truths that affect us all."

1970

Mark L. Friedman C'70 L'73 writes, "I was appointed to the board of Polen Capital, a Florida-based financial firm with over \$30 billion under management."

Harvey A. Shapiro GCP'70, who has been living and working in Japan since 1970, writes, "November 20 would have been the 100th birthday of the late Professor Ian L. McHarg, founder and longtime chairman of the Department of Landscape

Architecture and Regional Planning at what is now the Weitzman School of Design. In commemoration of McHarg's birth, I have written a short biography of his life, in Japanese with English synopsis, entitled *Professor Ian L. McHarg, His Life and His Quest*. It is my way of celebrating his birthday, his long and remarkable life, and introducing him to the broader Japanese public in their language. The book was published in Kyoto, Japan, exactly on McHarg's 100th birthday. Naturally, much of the content is based on his autobiography, *A Quest for Life*, published in 1995. My book also includes information about the last few years of his life, as well as my more than three-decade relationship with him as mentor and friend." Harvey invites alumni contact at hashapiroinkiyoto@gmail.com.

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1971

Marjorie DelBello GEd'71 GED'02 writes, "I've published a new book, *Echoes of Olde Cape May*, a history of the historic New Jersey town from the perspective of my very old home (1790) up until modern times. It is available on Amazon, as is my earlier book, *Parents of Happy High Achievers*, a compendium of advice shared by parents through 30 years of work in gifted education."

Alima Dolores J. Reardon GED'71 writes, "My niece Patricia Reardon, the youngest daughter of Francis and Nancy Reardon, married her boyfriend in South Carolina on November 13. Two of her sisters traveled from Illinois to be at the wedding. Although I could not attend, I congratulate the couple!"

1972

Hon. Blaine G. Gibson C'72 writes, "I've been elected to my fifth, and last, term as a Superior Court Judge for Yakima County, Washington. This will give me four more years to figure out what I'm going to do when I retire. In addition, my wife Sandi and I recently celebrated our 39th wedding anniversary."

1974

Susan Dyshel Sommovilla G'74 has published a new book, *From Hans to Henry: A Holocaust Survivor's Story*. She writes, "A brother's disability, a yellow bicycle, a camera, a little black address book, and a pile of German maps all played a role in the challenges faced by a young German Jewish boy named Hans, who survived the Holocaust to make his mark as Henry Arno Froehlich in the business world of American photography. Proceeds of the book benefit the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania."

1975

Steven Harlem Gr'75 has written a second book, *Correcting America's Shame: The Failure of Public Education*. He writes, "It details the crass indifference to providing educational opportunities to students of color and the impoverished leading to increased poverty, despair, helplessness, violence, and a plethora of social ills. In the book, I address infant education through an anthropological model, while offering additional consequential strategies and reforms for the middle and high school years. Meeting the present needs of those currently denied equal educational opportunities in a realistic way will prepare students for economic and personal success in today's society."

David Teece Gr'75 has been appointed executive chairman at Berkeley Research Group (BRG), a global consulting firm headquartered in Emeryville, California. David cofounded BRG in 2010 and previously served as chairman and principal executive officer.

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1976

Pam Cipriano HUP'76, dean of the nursing school at University of Virginia, has been honored with a Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Fellowship. Pam is the immediate past president of the American Nurses As-

sociation and currently the first vice president of the International Council of Nurses.

Michael P. Malloy L'76 writes, "In October, I virtually attended the 81st Plenary Session of the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, UN Economic Commission for Europe. Considerable discussion was focused on proposals for sustainable housing, which is the theme of the *Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Market*, revised in 2019, for which I was a contributor."

Rosemarie Scolaro Moser C'76 GEd'77 Gr'81 was presented with the 2020 Alfred M. Wellner Lifetime Achievement Award for Clinical Excellence from the National Register of Health Service Psychologists. Rosemarie is director of the RSM Psychology Center and the Sports Concussion Center of New Jersey.

1977

Lu Anne Tracey Stewart C'77 writes, "My first novel, *Digging*, was published in December by the independent press Fat Dog Books. *Digging* tells the story of an idealistic young journalist in the post-Watergate 1970s who risks her life to expose corruption in a small New England town. Although the novel is primarily set in Rhode Island, where I worked as a reporter and editor for seven years, Penn alumni will recognize some familiar locales in West Philadelphia and the Jersey Shore as well. I am grateful to my fellow student editors and reporters at the *Daily Pennsylvanian* in that era for instilling in me a passion for the field of journalism that ultimately resulted in this book. More information can be found at luannestewartauthor.com."

1979

M. Kelly Tillery L'79 has written a new book, *Sidebar, Too: More Reflections of a Philadelphia Lawyer*.

1980

Dr. Andrew Sternlicht C'80 G'81 writes, "Living in Boston, I'm an assistant profes-

ALUMNI IN BUSINESS

A guide for Gazette readers seeking to reach

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sor of anesthesiology at Tufts University School of Medicine and I've set up two companies: HRx Nursing Care Solutions, a 20-year-old home health nursing agency employing more than 100 people; and more recently, Aisa Pharma, a biopharma development company pursuing a new treatment for patients with a somewhat rare disease called scleroderma and a more common symptom, Raynaud's disease, which is an abnormal sensitivity and painful condition experienced commonly in the fingertips upon exposure to cold or stress. Raynaud's is experienced by more than 25 million Americans, and the FDA has never approved a treatment for the condition. Aisa is starting a study in scleroderma patients in Australia in the first quarter of 2021 and will go to the FDA later this year to obtain approval to start a US multicenter study. Aisa has been approached about a possible public offering but has no plans to do so at present."

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1981

Amy S. Albert C'81 writes, "After decades as a magazine writer and editor covering food and the built world, I received an MA in clinical psychology, *summa cum laude*, from California Southern University. I'm a licensed psychotherapist in private practice in Los Angeles and am doing post-graduate training at the Colorado Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies. I can be reached via my website, amysalbert.com."

Linda A. Shepherd W'81 writes, "After 39 years of working in the insurance industry as an actuary and insurance executive, I announced my retirement on November 9. I started in the industry before I attended Penn, working summers at Buck Consultants (formerly George B. Buck Consulting Actuaries) in New York City as a retirement calculation clerk. I attended Wharton and obtained a BS in economics with a concentration in actuarial science (I remember the Colonial Penn Center). I was honored to have become the first African American female to become a fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS) in 1988. My career included stints at five insurance companies, including chief actuary roles at Prudential (Prupac), Safeco (now part of Liberty Mutual), and Fireman's Fund/Allianz. I'm looking forward to continuing volunteer work for the CAS and continuing my passion for watching classic films during my retirement years."

1982

Zenos Frudakis FA'82 GFA'83, a sculptor, was featured in the television show *Articulate with Jim Cotter*, in an episode called "The Monument Man" (season six, episode nine). The video can be viewed at bit.ly/39KTaIC.

Beth Kephart C'82 has published a new book, *Wife, Daughter, Self: A Memoir in Essays*, which explores the relationships she has with her Salvadoran-artist husband and her widowed father.

1983

Robin Cohen C'83 L'86 is chair of the new law firm Cohen Ziffer Frenchman & McKenna LLP, based in New York.

1984

Howard Sherman C'84 writes, "My first book, *Another Day's Begun: Thornton Wilder's Our Town in the 21st Century* was published on January 28 by Methuen Drama/Bloomsbury Publishing."

Kevin Stirling WEv'84 WEv'86 writes, "For the last 10 years or so, I have been making documentary films and have won numerous awards for different projects. Most recently, I produced *Go for Landing*, a documentary that recalls the final minutes of Apollo 11's 1969 lunar descent and landing, starring several of NASA's legendary flight directors, including Gene Kranz, Glynn Lunney, and Milt Windler. The film won the 2019 Platinum NASA Remi Award at the Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival. I am now producing a new television pilot and series, *Skylines*, showcasing architecture. You can find out more information at www.skylinestvshow.com."

Joseph A. Zygmunt Jr. C'84 writes, "I'm pleased to share that the second edition of my book *Venous Duplex* on ultrasound techniques was published in July. I developed a specialized interest in diagnostics and treatment in the field of phlebology (varicose veins and venous insufficiency) starting in 1988, which developed into co-owning and operating three vein clinics for about 20 years. I joined Medtronic in 2008 and have done global education as a subject matter expert since that time, lecturing and teaching on six of the seven continents. Having strong family ties to the Philadelphia area, I am a proud Quaker residing in North Carolina for the past 22 years."

1985

Karl Racine C'85, the attorney general for the District of Columbia, has been named president of the National Associa-

tion of Attorneys General, a nonpartisan organization of 56 state and territory attorneys general and their staff.

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1986

Howard Givner C'86 see **Wendy Ferber W'87 L'93**.

Betsy Rubin Glick C'86 writes, "I never imagined that my public relations accomplishments would be recognized internationally, nor that overcoming the challenges and stigma of my childhood hearing loss would be something that I would receive an award for in hopes of setting an example for others who struggle with physical impairments of any kind. The year 2020 was full of surprises—and I'm not only talking about the pandemic! In December, I was awarded the 2020 Joseph Wharton Award from the Wharton Club of DC. I was cited for my most visible accomplishment: working behind the scenes with CBS News on *The FBI: Declassified*, a six-part fall 2020 primetime series highlighting some of the FBI's most complex and heroic real efforts to rescue a kidnapped child, disrupt an espionage ring, capture a prolific scam artist, and stop a serial bomber. You can view my acceptance speech on YouTube at bit.ly/39LohUy. I was also named one of the inaugural recipients of Ragan Communications/*PR Daily's* 'Top Women in Communications,' in the Leader category. I was credited for many acts of service and innovation ... from creating a 'Most Dangerous Accident Corridors' report at the American Automobile Association; to encouraging people to create a financial safety net with the 'Life Insurance Isn't for the People Who Die—It's for the People Who Live' campaign; to honoring the World War II generation at the National World War II Memorial campaign; to developing informative Hollywood workshops and victim-focused television public service announcements for the FBI with CBS."

Arthur H. Saxon Jr. C'86 has been promoted to financial advisor at the Vanguard Group in Scottsdale, Arizona. In March of 2019, he earned the Certified Financial

Planner designation. Arthur invites alumni contact at asaxonjr@gmail.com.

1987

Wendy Ferber W'87 L'93 writes, "On October 25, I was a guest speaker on **Larry Bernstein W'87's** 'What Happens Next in 6 Minutes' webcast, along with classmates **Mitch Feinman C'87** and **Howard Givner C'86**. In addition, I've launched ConnectRcentral, a website for corporate virtual events, to help companies connect with remote employees and clients. Virtual events include games, magic and mentalism, mixology, cooking, laughter yoga, and wine tasting, with many more to come. Check out www.ConnectRcentral.com. I would love to hear from classmates."

1988

Andrew Spielman C'88 G'90 has re-joined the law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck as a shareholder in its Denver office. As a natural resources attorney, Andrew focuses his legal practice primarily on obtaining and defending development approvals for the energy, mining, and recreation industries.

1989

Timothy Chiu EE'89 W'89 writes, "After almost 13 years working as a product marketing executive at Blue Coat Systems/Symantec Corporation, I joined K2 Cyber Security as vice president of marketing in February of 2019. The company specializes in web application and application workload security and is based in Silicon Valley, California."

Dr. Michael S. Hanau C'89 writes, "I am a psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital and assistant professor of psychiatry, part-time, at Harvard Medical School. In November, I was gratified to be designated a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. While my planned trip to Philadelphia for the APA convention in April was cancelled due to COVID-19, I am hoping to be able to

visit Penn for my son's and daughter's college tours. Email me and we can catch up: mhanau@mgh.harvard.edu."

1992

Lynn Festa G'92 Gr'00 has received the Modern Language Association's James Russell Lowell Prize for her book *Fiction Without Humanity: Person, Animal, Thing in Early Enlightenment Literature and Culture* (Penn Press). The prize is awarded annually for an outstanding book written by a member of the association. Lynn is a professor of English at Rutgers University-New Brunswick.

Gary Susswein C'92 writes, "After more than a decade managing communications at the University of Texas at Austin, I stepped down as UT's chief communications officer at the end of 2020 to become a partner at New West Communications. New West is an Austin-based public relations and strategy firm that serves clients in the policy and political space on issues from education and energy to healthcare and growth. I will also continue as a special advisor to the president of UT during the state's 2021 legislative session. My wife **Melanie Rimler Susswein SW'95** and I have now lived in Austin for more than 20 years and raised our two native Texan teenagers here. You can stay in touch with me at gary@newwestcomms.com."

1993

Brad Armistead C'93 W'93 writes, "I've cofounded Salivation Snackfoods and launched a line of keto and paleo brownies that are gluten-free and have no added sugar. My business partner and I were first introduced to the keto diet when a friend was using it as part of his treatment of a very serious illness. We quickly realized just how few keto snacks there were, and even fewer that tasted delicious, so we set out to remedy that, and we started with the almighty brownie. Salivation Snackfoods quickly gained traction in the Southern California market and can now be found at health food chains including

Erewhon, Bristol Farms, Lassen's, and Clark's Nutrition. We also sell direct to consumers on our website, www.salivationssnackfoods.com."

Kasi Gardner Nu'93, a cardiac nurse at Mercy Health in Springfield, Ohio, volunteered to be one of the first frontline workers vaccinated against COVID-19 in the state of Ohio on December 15. To watch a news clip, visit bit.ly/38dvBHT.

Karen Wilcox Gr'93, a professor and chair of the department of pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Utah, has been granted the Founders Award from the American Epilepsy Society. This award recognizes members who have a record of lifetime contributions and accomplishments related to epilepsy.

1994

Kimberly Acquaviva C'94 SW'95 Gr'00, a nursing professor at the University of Virginia who was featured in our Mar|Apr 2020 issue ["Finding Life in Death"], has been named a fellow of the National Academies of Practice for social work.

Jonathan Barnett C'94 G'94 has published *Innovators, Firms, and Markets: The Organizational Logic of Intellectual Property* (Oxford University Press).

Daniel Farber Huang WG'94 has authored a new book, *Practical Cyber Security for Extremely Busy People: Protect Yourself, Your Family, and Your Career from Online Exploitation*. He writes, "Written for busy people, this guide is concise and to the point for anyone who uses a computer, mobile phone, or tablet. ... Cyber security is not only about protecting governments or companies from spies. It's so much more, and also so much more personal. ... This step-by-step guidebook is filled with helpful screenshots and insightful graphics to make the actions you can take less intimidating, more transparent, and much faster. Real-life case studies bring you into the mindset of both cyber criminals and victims to help you protect what's most important and valuable to you."

Brian Levin W'94 see **Sandra Lotz Fisher CW'64 GEd'67**.

John Miao G'94, director of business development at Brainsy.com, shares that Brainsy now offers full data privacy for consumers on social platforms with its Data Incognito mode. Read more from the company's press release at bit.ly/37iQHoU.

Laura Yehuda C'94 is a partner and principal at EY (Ernst & Young), specializing in improving employee experiences. She writes, "I help clients across sectors reimagine their organizations for the future by leading change, simplifying the complex, and breaking down silos. My latest blog post offers guidance for business leaders to transform workforce communication: bit.ly/35E9bPT." Laura lives in New Jersey with her husband and son.

1995

Jon Birger G'95 has written a new book, *Make Your Move: The New Science of Dating and Why Women Are in Charge*. Backed by scientific research, he explains why women should make the first move in finding "the one."

Carole Okun SW'95, a psychotherapist in private practice in Albany, New York, has established the Louise Shoemaker Endowed Fellowship, in honor of her mentor, **Louise Proehl Shoemaker GrS'65**, to Penn's School of Social Policy and Practice.

Melanie Rimler Susswein SW'95 see **Gary Susswein C'92**.

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1996

Heike K. Sullivan C'96 CGS'98 has been elected a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. She is a practice leader for the law firm Ballard Spahr in its private client services group.

Marcy Zipke C'96 writes, "I am currently a professor in the elementary/special education department at Providence College, and my first book will be published in March by Teachers College Press. *Playing with Language: Improving Elementary Reading Through Metalinguistic Awareness* is written for parents and teachers (or teacher

educators) who are interested in how language development interacts with reading ability. It is research-based and includes information on foundational studies in education and linguistics, as well as personal anecdotes and teaching suggestions for working with students in grades K–6."

1998

Anthonise L. Fields C'98 CGS'04 G'14 LPS'15 writes, "*Authority Magazine* asked me to participate in an interview alongside C-suite leaders and transformative innovators, and I couldn't be more thrilled. Telling my story is very important to me, as I want others who are pursuing their education and starting out in their careers to see representation of people from various backgrounds and life experiences, and I'm proud to be able to share my journey this way. Penn played a critical role in my success. My tenure was not traditional. I grew up in Brooklyn, and family challenges resulted in my bringing my two sisters to live with me while I finished my undergraduate degree. The Penn community rallied around me and my elementary school sisters, and I graduated with a degree in biological basis of behavior! If there is an opportunity to share my story of turning adversity into triumph and the enabling power of the Penn community, I will jump at it. I currently work at Bristol Myers Squibb and collaborate with Penn and other leading academic institutions to accelerate the science that will result in lifesaving solutions." Anthonise's interview can be read at bit.ly/35Sq60v.

1999

Dr. Evaline Alessandrini GM'99 has been named executive vice president, chief medical officer, and interim chief operations officer at UC Health, Greater Cincinnati's academic healthcare system.

Julie Buxbaum C'99 writes, "I just published my sixth novel, *Admission*, which is a fictional take on the college admissions scandal that rocked the country last year. The book was recently featured in the *Los Angeles Times*, and my earlier novel, *Tell Me*

Three Things, was a *New York Times* best-seller. I live in Los Angeles with my husband and two children and love to connect with fellow Penn alumni on Twitter (@juliebux)."

Liz Caskey C'99 is cofounder and CEO of Liz Caskey Culinary and Wine Experiences, which specializes in food- and wine-focused tours of South America ["Alumni Profiles," Nov/Dec 2007]. Due to the shutdown of international travel brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, she has launched a new endeavor, a podcast titled *In Search of Flavor*. Find out more about her and her podcast at lizcaskey.com.

Demetrios S. Hadgis C'99 writes, "My wife Nancy and I are thrilled to announce the birth of identical twin boys, William and Nicholas, on November 18 at Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank, New Jersey." Demetrios, Nancy, and their four sons reside in Rumson, New Jersey.

2000

Matthew Barkan C'00 has been promoted to counsel at the law firm Pryor Cashman. Matthew is a member of the litigation, intellectual property, and media and entertainment groups.

Rebecca Bauer-Kahan C'00 has been elected to a second term as assemblymember for California's 16th Assembly District, which covers parts of the East Bay Area in Northern California. In her work in the Assembly, Rebecca focuses on climate change, education, women's reproductive health, gun violence prevention, and criminal justice reform. Rebecca lives in Orinda, California, with her husband and three kids. She invites alumni contact at rebecaforassembly@gmail.com.

Kevin V. Dreyer EAS'00 writes, "My wife Anja and I are overjoyed to announce the birth of our son, Hugo Vaughn Dreyer, on June 12. Our five-year-old daughter, Ingrid, couldn't be more proud to be a big sister." Kevin is co-chief investment officer at GAMCO Investors in Rye, New York, and the family resides in New York City.

Jordan Rockwell C'00 writes, "My wife Julie and I are thrilled to announce the birth

of our daughter, Raisa 'Raiya' Linda Rockwell, born on December 3, at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles. Her big brother Jack couldn't be more thrilled, and after this terrible year, finally some hope. Much love, everyone!"

Matthew Schonholz C'00 L'05 has been elected partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson. He practices in the law firm's Los Angeles office and represents public and private companies, investment funds, founders, C-suite executives, management teams, and portfolio managers in tax and compensation matters.

2002

Lawrence Hershon C'02, an attorney at Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP, has been named to *South Carolina Lawyers Weekly's* inaugural class of "Go To Lawyers."

2005

Erin Wilson C'05 currently serves the White House staff as deputy director of political strategy and outreach. Previously, she was deputy executive director of the 2021 Presidential Inaugural Committee and a former national political director for the Biden-Harris campaign.

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2006

Kaveri Arora C'06 has been promoted to counsel at the law firm Pryor Cashman. Kaveri is a member of the litigation, intellectual property, and media and entertainment groups.

Jacqueline A. Rogers C'06 LPS'09, an attorney specializing in mergers and acquisitions litigation, corporate and stockholder disputes, and commercial litigation, has been elected partner at the law firm Potter Anderson & Corroon in Wilmington, Delaware.

2007

Jhanelle A. Graham Caldwell C'07 has been named partner at the law firm Goodell DeVries. She is a member of the firm's med-

ical malpractice team. In addition, she was selected for *Best Lawyers in America's* "Ones to Watch" list for 2021 and was named a "Rising Star" by *Maryland Super Lawyers*.

2008

Molly E. Crane C'08, an attorney, was elected partner at Blank Rome. She works out of the firm's Philadelphia office.

Dr. Jin Lee C'08 writes, "I founded FlourishAll.com to help all women flourish by female coaches. I also founded LittleMeetings.com to help kids in preschool and elementary school learn Mandarin online. Please join the Flourish Women's Online Summit on March 4-5 to learn from expert coaches and therapists."

Sean-Tamba Matthew C'08, an attorney, has been named a shareholder of the law firm Stevens & Lee.

2010

Christina Kim Suh C'10 has been promoted to counsel at the law firm Tucker Ellis LLP.

Celebrate Your Virtual Reunion, May 14-15, 2021!

2011

Danielle Lemberg L'11 has been promoted to counsel at Seward & Kissel LLP. She is a member of the firm's business transactions group.

Scott Suozzi GL'11 WEv'11 has been appointed president of the nonprofit Operation New Hope. The organization provides life and job skills training and support for people with a history of involvement with the criminal justice system. Its Ready4Work program places them in employment that offers a sustainable quality of life.

2012

Matthew Chiarello C'12 has published *Official Inaugural Medals: A Guide*. He writes, "It serves as the definitive collector's handbook for presidential inaugural commemoratives. The first edition re-

ceived positive reviews and is in relatively wide circulation."

2013

Patrick Esmonde GEx'13 is cofounder and CEO of Vestibular First, which makes Insight Infrared Video Goggles. He writes, "Our company just received FDA clearance this past November and our patent in April, and we're now officially launching our medical device that helps healthcare professionals to accurately and cost effectively diagnose the underlying cause of balance disorders, which affect more than 30 percent of adults over the age of 60. Existing diagnostic tools are cumbersome and cost 6-25 times more, which was the driving force behind designing an affordable and modular platform."

Erica Hildebrand GED'13 has been selected by the US Department of State for an English Language Specialist project focusing on remote teacher training in Honduras. Prior to this, she served as a US Department of State English Language Fellow in Sri Lanka, where she trained local teachers.

2018

Jonathan Lazar GL'18, professor of information studies at the University of Maryland, has received the 2020 SIGACCESS Award for Outstanding Contributions. This is the highest award given by ACM SIGACCESS (Special Interest Group on Accessible Computing), and it recognizes Jonathan's 20-plus years of advocacy for digital accessibility.

2020

Terri Broussard Williams SPP'20 has been named senior policy manager of Amazon's Public Policy-Americas team. As such, Terri is tasked with leading the company's social justice policy portfolio at the state and local levels. Since 2003, Terri served as a government relations executive at CGI Technologies and Solutions, and as vice president of the American Heart Association's Southwest affiliate.

1940

Edwin B. "Bud" Meissner Jr. W'40, Saint Louis, a former executive at a steel company; Oct. 17, at 101. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, and the wrestling team. One son is Edwin B. "Peter" Meissner III CGS'72 GED'73.

Dr. Zvi Rozenn D'40, Evanston, IL, Nov. 27, at 105.

1941

Ashley J. Altman W'41, Wynnewood, PA, retired owner of a construction business; Dec. 30, at 100. He established the Sandra Altman Brain Tumor Research Fellowship and Visiting Professorship of Penn Medicine's Department of Neurosurgery, in memory of his late wife. He served in the US Army during World War II. One daughter is Marjorie Altman Bershad C'79 GED'80.

1942

Jack Lock C'42, Harrisburg, PA, co-owner of a plumbing and heating supply company; Nov. 28, at 99. He served in the US Navy during World War II and the Korean War. One son is Dr. Dennis R. Lock C'73.

1945

Wilhelmina "Winnie" Schaefer Glessner DH'45, Grand Rapids, MI, a homemaker; Dec. 6.

Marillyn "Dolly" Beechman Schnall CW'45, Abington, PA, an actor, playwright, director, teacher, and philanthropist; Oct. 29. She taught theater arts at Penn State and was director of the Masque Theater at Rutgers University. Her husband is Dr. Nathan Schnall GM'50, and one stepdaughter is Ilene S. Schnall C'82.

1946

Dorothy Elizabeth "Betty" Greene Mahon OT'46, Little Rock, AR, a retired director of occupational therapy and faculty member at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center; Oct. 28.

Martin Price C'46 L'49, East Palestine, OH, owner of a construction company; Sept. 18. He served in the US Navy during

World War II. At Penn, he was a member of the basketball team.

1947

Elizabeth Burrows Allyn CW'47, New London, NC, Nov. 30. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Phyllis Weissman Haas CW'47, Bala Cynwyd, PA, May 1. At Penn, she was a member of Sigma Delta Tau sorority. Her sons are David I. Haas C'76 L'79 and Steven N. Haas C'79; and one granddaughter is Jacqueline A. Haas C'11.

Garland H. Hoover GED'47, Honey Brook, PA, a retired high school principal; Nov. 7, at 103. He served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II.

1948

Dr. Richard G. Ainley V'48, Santa Maria, CA, a retired veterinarian; Oct. 21. He served as a surgical technician in the US Army Medical Corps during World War II, treating freed Holocaust concentration camp survivors.

James E. Frick L'48, Ambler, PA, a retired corporate lawyer for Reading Railroad; Nov. 18, at 100. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

Daniel F. Healy ME'48, Seattle, a former mechanical engineer for Boeing who later became an engineering consultant; Dec. 2. At Penn, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

1949

James J. Joyce W'49, Vandalia, OH, Oct. 30. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

Dr. Harold Smulyan C'49, Syracuse, NY, a retired professor of medicine, attending physician, and chief of cardiology at SUNY Upstate Medical University, where he worked for more than 50 years; Dec. 1.

Robert E. Wachs C'49 L'52, Philadelphia, a senior partner at the law firm Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen; Dec. 23. One daughter is Carol Wachs C'78.

1950

Irwin L. Oster CE'50, Hollywood, FL, president of a structural engineering com-

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.

pany; Oct. 29. He served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II.

1951

Edith Mitchell Bickley GED'51, Redding, CT, a former secondary school teacher; April 8.

Gloria Kleinman Brissman CW'51, Springfield, VA, Dec. 21. She volunteered for the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association, as well as for a local Jewish community center. At Penn, she was a member of Sigma Delta Tau sorority and WXPEN.

Floyd L. Cranmer Jr. Ar'51, Marlton, NJ, a retired architect; April 29, 2019. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

Dr. Clyde L. Graver Jr. D'51, Lehigh-ton, PA, a retired dentist; July 14, 2019. He served in the US Air Force.

Robert Hughes C'51, East Greenwich, RI, a retired sales and marketing employee at Moore Push-Pin Company; Aug. 23. At Penn, he was a member of the swimming team.

Nancy Horlacher Roberts CW'51, St. Davids, PA, a homemaker and hospital volunteer; Dec. 20. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority, the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, and Sphinx Senior Society.

Herman P. Weinberg W'51, Philadelphia, a lawyer; Nov. 30.

1952

Victor H. Blank W'52, Warwick, RI, former owner of a women's clothing store and a pastry shop; June 18. He served in the US Army Audit Agency during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Lambda Phi fraternity.

George H. Eakins Jr. WG'52, Aurora, CO, Dec. 30.

Edward T. Kaprowski Ed'52, Stamford, CT, May 7.

Arnold H. Winicov W'52, Malvern, PA, a partner at a law firm and a profes-

sional pianist; July 17. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity. One granddaughter is Rachel E. Winicov C'21.

1953

Rose Bobbett Ayers WEv'53, Chandler, AZ, former head cashier for the accounting firm Ernst & Young; Oct. 30. She served in the Women's Army Corps during World War II. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Alpha Phi sorority.

Robert A. Erb Ch'53, Valley Forge, PA, a scientific consultant who fabricated custom silicone prostheses; June 12.

Dr. Walter F. Loeb C'53 V'55, Gaithersburg, MD, retired cofounder of a laboratory that developed clinical pathology and toxicology tests for government research, and the chemical and pharmaceutical industries; Dec. 24.

Robert K. Parmacek W'53, Bryn Mawr, PA, former chairman and CEO of Carlisle Foodservice Products; Jan. 2. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity and the fencing team. His son is Michael S. Parmacek, a professor at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine; one granddaughter is Sarah J. Parmacek C'15 W'15; and one brother is Edward I. Parmacek W'60.

Howard J. Rubenstein C'53, New York, former president of a public relations firm; Dec. 29. His high-profile clients included Donald J. Trump W'68, Rupert Murdoch, and former New York Yankees owner George M. Steinbrenner III. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity and the *Daily Pennsylvanian*. One son is Steven Gary Rubenstein C'92.

1954

Edward K. Asplundh W'54, Huntingdon Valley, PA, retired president of a utility contractor that performs tree pruning and other line clearance services; Dec. 31. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity and the ROTC. One brother is Carl H. Asplundh Jr. W'58.

Dr. Horace K. Bonsall Jr. D'54, Coatesville, PA, a retired dentist; Oct. 31. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity.

John O. Karns C'54 L'57, Pottstown, PA, a retired attorney; Nov. 6. He served in the US Army Reserve.

Dr. A. Ralph Kristeller Jr. M'54, East Hanover, NJ, a physician who later became a hospital administrator; Nov. 26. He served in the US Army Air Corps. He received the Alumni Award of Merit in 1983. His children include M. Lee Cording C'83 and Deborah Kristeller Moed C'85, who is married to Michael C. Moed EAS'85. One grandchild is Demi E. Moed EAS'18.

James L. McArdle W'54, West Chester, PA, a retired sales executive in the folding carton industry and contract packing and manufacturing; Nov. 1. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and the Navy ROTC.

Dr. Martin L. Spangler Jr. C'54, Reading, PA, retired medical director of a hospital; Nov. 6.

1955

Robert M. Christiansen Gr'55, Centennial, CO, retired manager of the environmental sciences division of an engineering company; Oct. 16. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

Anthony J. "Skip" Degeorge Jr. W'55, Stillwater, OK, retired plant manager of Moore Business Forms; Nov. 28. He served in the US Army.

Sandra Bennett Jones CW'55, Devon, PA, Nov. 6. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Ruth Husted Linn Ed'55 GEd'59, Harleysville, PA, a retired elementary school teacher and reading specialist; Nov. 5. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Patrick J. Manley WG'55, Scranton, PA, a retired faculty member at Marywood University who taught computer science and business; Oct. 29. He served in the US Army Audit Agency.

1956

Dr. Gunther B. Goldsmith D'56, Middletown, NY, a retired dentist; April 7. He served in the US Army.

Joel Lewittes C'56, New York, a retired judge and attorney; March 26, 2020. He served as assistant attorney general of the State of New York, and later was a federal bankruptcy judge in the Southern District of New York. Two sons are David I. Lewittes C'84 and Ronald J. Lewittes C'83, who is married to Suzanne J. Lewittes C'85 W'85. One grandson is Samuel R. Lewittes EAS'23.

William T. Link W'56, Los Angeles, CA, an Emmy Award-winning film and television screenwriter; Dec. 27. His projects included *Columbo* and *Murder, She Wrote*, which he cowrote with longtime collaborator Richard L. Levinson W'56. At Penn, he was a member of the *Daily Pennsylvanian* and cofounded the *Highball* humor magazine with Levinson. He served in the US Army.

Charles R. Savidge W'56, Longboat Key, FL, retired owner of a coal company and a trucking company; Nov. 19. He served in the US Army.

Lee H. Schick C'56, Laramie, WY, a retired physics professor at the University of Wyoming; Oct. 30. One sister is Mariann E. Schick CW'71 L'74.

Rocco P. Triolo G'56 Gr'59, Newtown Square, PA, a retired executive at a manufacturer of polyurethane foam; Nov. 27. One granddaughter is Regina A. Fairbanks C'21.

1957

Dr. Franklin D. Bell GD'57, Raleigh, NC, a retired oral surgeon; Oct. 30. He served in the US Navy, the US Army Reserve, and was a member of the National Guard.

Charles M. Meredith III W'57, Quakertown, PA, former owner and publisher of the newspaper *Quakertown Free Press*; Dec. 11. He also founded the *Emmaus Free Press* and the *Indian Valley Echo*, and he served as a Bucks County commissioner. He was a longtime president of his alumni class. As a student at Penn, he was a member of Mask & Wig and was his class's Bowl Award winner. His son is Charles M. Meredith IV C'83.

1958

Stanley Burns GM'58 GM'60, Shelburne, VT, professor emeritus of medicine at the University of Vermont; Oct. 21. He

served as a surgical technician in the US Army during World War II.

Lawrence Fung WG'58, Honolulu, Sept. 18. His wife is Leatrice Lock Fung Ed'57, and two sons are Lawrence Y. M. Fung W'82 and Stephen Yu Chung Fung WG'93.

Shirley Morrell Loder CW'58, Shrewsbury, NJ, co-owner of an art gallery; Dec. 12. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Gamma sorority and the field hockey and lacrosse teams.

John F. MacLeod Jr. W'58 WG'62, West Chester, PA, a retired attorney; Oct. 6. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity.

Dr. Stephen H. Rovno M'58, San Mateo, CA, a retired anesthesiologist; Nov. 1. He served as a lieutenant commander in the US Navy during the Vietnam War, establishing the anesthesia department at the US Naval Hospital in Guam. His brother is Dr. David A. Rovno M'63.

Franklin B. Thomas III WEv'58, Centerville, OH, a certified public accountant; Aug. 22. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

Barbara Minnich Zegarski HUP'58 Nu'58, York, PA, a former nursing teacher; Nov. 4.

1959

Charna Cohen Binder CW'59, Wyncote, PA, a former teacher and guidance counselor; Dec. 10. At Penn, she was a member of Penn Players and WXPB.

Richard C. Csaplar Jr. L'59, Needham, MA, a former lawyer who also taught law at Boston College; Oct. 31. He served in the US Coast Guard. One grandson is Kenneth A. Csaplar Jr. C'11.

John W. Hill GAR'59, Towson, MD, professor emeritus and founding dean of the architecture school at the University of Maryland; July 7. He served in the military during the Korean War.

Roy E. Hock GEE'59, Williamsburg, VA, retired president and CEO of the old Technitrol Incorporated, a Philadelphia-based engineering and manufacturing

firm of electronic systems and components; Oct. 25.

Sidney R. Hodes W'59, Worcester, MA, former president of his family's supermarket business; Dec. 3. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity, the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, and the fencing team.

John J. Lombard Jr. L'59, Upper Gwynedd, PA, a lawyer and longtime adviser for the Philadelphia Museum of Art; Nov. 4.

Robert W. Morgan WG'59, Hillsborough, NC, an entrepreneur who founded Morgan Industries and Conversational Voice Technologies, which offered unique means of conversing automatically with telephone callers; Nov. 9.

Elisabeth "Bunny" Uhler Neu CW'59, Lower Gwynedd, PA, a former clerical worker in the Hatboro-Horsham School District; Oct. 16. Her husband is Charles Edwin Neu MTE'61 GMT'73.

Johann A. Norstedt C'59 G'61, Blacksburg, VA, a professor of English at Virginia Tech; Oct. 28.

Dr. C. Leighton Philbrick Jr. D'59 GD'63, Cumberland Center, ME, a retired orthodontist; Nov. 2. He served in the US Army as a dentist. One son is Dr. Leighton R. Philbrick D'86 GD'87.

Edward A. Richards GAR'59, Philadelphia, a retired architect; May 29.

1960

David S. Branch WG'60, New Canaan, CT, retired president and CEO of *American Banker*, a magazine for the financial industry; Dec. 21.

Frank A. Dunn G'60, Wayne, PA, July 29, 2019.

David S. Grabel W'60, Warwick, PA, a retired certified public accountant; Sept. 22.

William A. Segraves ME'60, Sarasota, FL, a nuclear engineer for General Electric; Oct. 5. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and the heavyweight rowing team.

1961

Abdenmour Nory Abrous G'61, New York, a former leader in the Algerian inde-

pendence movement who later spent nearly two decades working for the United Nations, most recently as director of General Assembly Affairs, Decolonization, and the Trusteeship Council; April 16. He was also a member of the old Ukrainian Nationals team in Philadelphia that won the 1960-61 American Soccer League championship. One daughter is Leila Abrous Gr'01.

Gretchen Rhein Barber CW'61, Plano, TX, Oct. 1. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority and Penn Players.

David F. Bramhall Gr'61, Denver, a professor emeritus who taught radical political economics at the University of Colorado Denver; Nov. 12, 2019.

John D. Cleland WG'61, Topeka, KS, a retired executive at an investment and securities business; Nov. 7. He served in the US Army.

Dr. Kenneth Drake Gardner Jr. GM'61, Genoa, NV, a professor emeritus at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine; Nov. 16.

Victor P. Greene W'61 L'64, New York, an executive at an investment bank; March 26. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity. His sons are Samuel M. Greene C'93 and Christopher K. Greene C'96.

James D. "JD" Hammond Gr'61, State College, PA, dean emeritus of the business school at Penn State University; Nov. 23.

Dr. David E. Horner D'61, Ambler, PA, a retired orthodontist; Oct. 17. He served in the US Navy as a dentist.

Alan Kreditor GCP'61, San Marino, CA, a retired professor, administrator, and fundraiser at the University of Southern California, where he worked for 50 years and helped build the university's school of public policy; Oct. 7.

William E. Krumpe WG'61, Mason, OH, a retired manager of marketing research for Kroger; Nov. 2. He later became president of Krumpe Research Division.

Ira S. Rimerman WG'61, Boca Raton, FL, a former executive of an investment bank; Aug. 31.

Paul M. Struhl C'61, Teaneck, NJ, Oct. 23. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Nu fraternity.

George L. White Jr. WG'61, Bethesda, MD, a retired tax professional; Aug. 28.

1962

Dr. Joseph A. Besecker GM'62, Lancaster, PA, a retired pediatrician; Aug. 4, 2019.

Frederick B. Chary C'62, Gary, IN, a professor emeritus of history at Indiana University Northwest and a scholar of Bulgarian and Jewish history; Nov. 14. At Penn, he was a member of Penn Players.

George W. Meyers W'62, Cincinnati, president and CEO of Fox Reusch, a financial company; Dec. 1.

Michael R. Sandler W'62, Dedham, MA, a former University trustee and an entrepreneur who built and sold several businesses; Dec. 29. His ventures included Auto Parts Distributors, which was sold to Rite-Aid Corporation; and Eduventures, a research and consulting business for the education and financial industries ["Profiles," Jul/Aug 2010]. Most recently, he served as chairman and CEO of the Education Industry Group, an advisory company supporting social entrepreneurship in education, and as a senior advisor at the Parthenon Group. In addition to being a trustee, he was on the board of advisors of the School of Arts and Sciences. In 1964, he founded the Penn Club of Portland (Maine); and in 1987, he organized a fundraiser that led to the installation of the iconic Ben on the Bench sculpture. He also coauthored a manual on Penn reunion organization. As a student at Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity. His wife is Ellen Cooper Sandler CW'62, and one daughter is Susan Sandler Brennan C'88.

Dr. Dennis E. Winn GD'62, Grand Rapids, MI, a retired dentist; Nov. 9. He served in the US Army Reserve.

Michael N. Wood C'62, East Boston, MA, a retired airline captain for Delta Airlines; Nov. 24. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity and the squash team.

1963

Nabil H. Farhat GrE'63, Philadelphia, professor emeritus in Penn's department of electrical and systems engineering; Nov. 3.

He joined the faculty at the Moore School in 1964 as an assistant professor of electrical engineering. Soon after joining the school, he was appointed the head of the Electro-Optics and Photonic Neuroengineering Laboratory. He received a Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1970. In 1973, he was appointed the Alfred G. and Meta A. Ennis Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Moore School. In 1976, he was promoted to a full professor. He held this position until 2013, when he retired. Most recently, his research focused on the qualitative theory of nonlinear dynamics, bifurcation and chaos, and its application to the modeling and understanding of cortical dynamics in the brain. His brother is Amir H. Farhat GEE'68 GrE'77.

Dr. Herbert Hodess GD'63, West Palm Beach, FL, a retired periodontist; Oct. 1. He served in the US Army as a dentist. His daughter is Robin B. Hodess C'88.

Dr. Philip B. Temple D'63, Pepperell, MA, a retired dentist; Dec. 11. He served in the US Army Dental Corps.

Dr. Joel A. Tobias M'63, Medford, OR, a physician; Dec. 8.

Anthony R. Tomazinis Gr'63, professor emeritus of city and regional planning in Penn's Weitzman School of Design; Dec. 11. While a student at Penn Design, he worked as a teaching assistant. Joining the faculty as an assistant professor in 1961, he remained at Penn until his retirement in 2006. He served as chair of the department of city and regional planning, and in 1999 received the School of Design's G. Holmes Perkins Award for Distinguished Teaching. Outside of Penn, he was an advisor to the White House during the Carter administration, advised the United Nations on planning issues, and from 1991 to 1993 chaired a Pennsylvania commission on increasing efficiency and privatization in state government operations. His children include Christina R. Tomazinis C'87, Marina L. Tomazinis C'95 LP'S08, and Alexis R. Tomazinis C'04.

1964

Ethel M. Adams GrEd'64, Sanford, NC, Nov. 26.

Earl T. Britt L'64, Plymouth Meeting, PA, a retired attorney; Nov. 2.

R. Thomas Douglass Gr'64, North Liberty, IA, professor emeritus of Spanish at the University of Iowa; Sept. 8. He served in the US Army.

Michael B. Fein C'64, Cherry Hill, NJ, an attorney specializing in intellectual property law at Rohm & Haas; Nov. 10. At Penn, he was a member of the orchestra and WXPB.

Josephine G. Fitten SW'64, Camden, NJ, a retired supervisor at the Camden Board of Education and cofounder of a Baptist church; June 7.

Lois Foster Hirt DH'64, Los Angeles, a former dental hygienist; Nov. 17.

Joseph J. Seneca C'64 Gr'68, Cornelius, NC, a professor emeritus of economics and vice president of academic affairs emeritus at Rutgers University; Nov. 27. His wife is Rosalind Worswick Seneca Gr'71, and his son is Matthew J. Seneca C'99.

1965

Joseph G. A. Holden SW'65, Harrisburg, a retired psychotherapist at the Veterans Administration; Dec. 7. He served in the US Navy and the US Army Reserve.

Kathryn Klaus HUP'65, Feasterville Trevose, PA, a nurse; Nov. 28.

Ruth Blumenfeld McKay Gr'65, Rockville, MD, a retired employee at the General Accounting Office in Washington, DC; Oct. 24. Previously, she taught anthropology and health education at George Washington University and the University of Maryland.

1966

T. Cartter Frierson Sr. WG'66, Rising Fawn, GA, a retired IT developer who later became a consultant; Nov. 26. He served in the US Army.

Lynn Auerbach Kaplan GEd'66, Holidaysburg, PA, a former fourth-grade teacher; Sept. 17. Her husband is Dr. Stephen M. Kaplan C'58 M'62, and one daughter is Dr. Julie K. Borenstein C'91.

Robert F. Klausner WG'66, Williamsburg, VA, a retired executive at Exxon; Oct. 19.

1967

Marilyn Halperin Bender CW'67, Dobbs Ferry, NY, a retired special education secretary to Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District; Jan. 2. At Penn, she was a member of Penn Players. Her husband is David Bender L'68.

1968

Irene T. Borgogno CW'68 G'71, Bryn Mawr, PA, a retired clinical researcher in the pharmaceutical industry; Dec. 2. She led the team responsible for getting FDA approval of Tramadol, a widely used analgesic. Her husband is Frank J. Kampas C'68 G'68.

Jonathan Jewett L'68, Vero Beach, FL, a retired lawyer; July 9. At Penn, he was a member of the *Law Review*.

Lawrence "Larry" Nussdorf W'68, Washington, DC, a former University trustee, and chairman and CEO of Clark Enterprises, a real estate investment firm; Nov. 13. He brought his expertise as an attorney, certified public accountant, and real estate investor to the trustees' committees on audit and compliance, and facilities and campus planning. In 2004, he was a founding member of the advisory board of Penn Institute for Urban Research (Penn IUR), and Clark Enterprises endowed a chair at Penn IUR in his honor. He was a member and former vice chair of the Graduate School of Education's board of advisors. He also served as president of Penn's Mid-Atlantic Regional Advisory Board and a member of the Agenda for Excellence Council and the advisory board of the Wharton Club of Washington, DC. He and his wife established the Nussdorf Endowed Scholarship and the Melanie and Lawrence Nussdorf Endowed Scholarship for Students in the School of Nursing. They also provided support to numerous other departments at Penn. He received the Alumni Award of Merit in 2010. As a student at Penn, he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi. His wife is Melanie Franco Nussdorf CW'71; and his sons are Jed F. Nussdorf EAS'02 W'02 WG'03 and Benjamin A. Nussdorf C'04, who is married to Inna Dexter C'04.

1969

John Chung-Jen Chien GME'69, Westminster, CA, July 4. He had a long career in aerospace, including work at Boeing, the Aerospace Corporation, and Rockwell, where he helped design the B-1B bomber inlet.

Mark E. Lieberman W'69, Brooklyn, NY, a former *New York Daily News* reporter, banker, and senior economist at the Fox Business Network; Dec. 23. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and the *Daily Pennsylvanian*.

Wei-ping Wu Gr'69, Fairfield, CT, a retired professor of history and economics at the University of Bridgeport; Nov. 9.

1970

David B. Fahnestock WG'70, Palmyra, PA, a retired revenue officer for the IRS; Oct. 19.

Gloria M. Francis G'70 Gr'72, Allentown, PA, professor emerita of psychiatric nursing at Virginia Commonwealth University; Nov. 5. Her research focused on loneliness and the value of using therapeutic animals with hospital patients.

Maureen McKenna Platt GNu'70, Sky Valley, GA, a retired nurse and health administrator; Aug. 24.

Jean Shepsko Stephenson Nu'70, Phoenixville, PA, former director of a nursing services provider; Dec. 13.

Richard H. Stowell WG'70, Weld, ME, former chief financial officer of various businesses including an art supply store and many Wendy's franchises; Oct. 27. His wife is Nancy Holt Stowell G'71.

Jeffrey A. Tyler W'70, Haverford, PA, retired founder of a marketing firm that focused on the technology and information services industries; May 1.

Dr. Paul Morris Weinberg GM'70, Philadelphia, a professor emeritus CE (clinician-educator) of pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; Oct. 15. He joined the Penn faculty in 1977 and moved to CHOP in 1980, becoming a full professor in 2002. He also held academic appointments in radiology and pathology & labo-

ratory medicine. In 1998, he won the School of Medicine's Blockley-Osler Award for excellence in clinical teaching; and in 2009 the Robert Dunning Dripps Memorial Award for Excellence in Graduate Medical Education. He served in the US Navy as a pediatric cardiologist. His wife is Dr. Linda M. Weinberg GM'72.

1971

Dr. Robert G. Anusbigian D'71, Shrewsbury, MA, a dentist; April 16. He served in the US Navy.

Christine M. Kowalski CW'71, Moorestown, NJ, a former human resources manager at the Philadelphia Library Foundation; Dec. 12. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority and the orchestra.

Alberto Romero G'71, Snellville, GA, a retired instructor and chair of modern languages at the Hill School, a boarding school in Pottstown, PA; June 20.

Douglass R. Sawyer WG'71 Brandon, VT, owner of the Lilac Inn, a Vermont bed and breakfast; March 8, 2020.

Dr. George W. Sheer GM'71, Wilmington, DE, a retired radiologist; Oct. 25. He served in the US Army. His wife is Dr. Barbara Phelan Sheer Nu'71.

Thomas L. Stover GEE'71, Sun City Center, FL, a computer programmer who worked on several projects for the US Navy; March 4, 2020.

1972

Jonathan Black Gr'72, Lansdale, PA, former professor of orthopedic research at Penn's School of Medicine; Dec. 5. He joined the faculty in 1970 as an associate in orthopedic surgical research. In 1977, he was one of five professors named to the faculty of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania's new Center for Sports Medicine, eventually becoming the chief of biomaterials in the department of orthopedic surgery. In the late 1980s, he was part of a team that researched reliable joint implants. He left Penn to teach at Clemson and Cornell Universities and worked as a consultant in biomaterials science and engineering. One son is David L. Black C'83 EE'83 G'83.

School Abbreviations

Ar	Architecture	GEE	master's, Electrical Engineering	HUP	Nurse training (till 1978)
ASC	Annenberg	GEEng	master's, Engineering and Applied Science	L	Law
C	College (bachelor's)	GEx	master's, Engineering Executive	LAr	Landscape Architecture
CCC	College Collateral Courses	GFA	master's, Fine Arts	LPS	Liberal and Professional Studies
CE	Civil Engineering	GGs	master's, College of General Studies	M	Medicine
CGS	College of General Studies (till 2008)	GL	master's, Law	ME	Mechanical Engineering
Ch	Chemistry	GLA	master's, Landscape Architecture	MT	Medical Technology
ChE	Chemical Engineering	GME	master's, Mechanical Engineering	MtE	Metallurgical Engineering
CW	College for Women (till 1975)	GM	Medicine, post-degree	Mu	Music
D	Dental Medicine	Gmt	master's, Metallurgical Engineering	NEd	Certificate in Nursing
DH	Dental Hygiene	GNu	master's, Nursing	Nu	Nursing (bachelor's)
EAS	Engineering and Applied Science (bachelor's)	GPU	master's, Governmental Administration	OT	Occupational Therapy
Ed	Education	Gr	doctorate	PSW	Pennsylvania School of Social Work
EE	Electrical Engineering	GrC	doctorate, Civil Engineering	PT	Physical Therapy
FA	Fine Arts	GrE	doctorate, Electrical Engineering	SAMP	School of Allied Medical Professions
G	master's, Arts and Sciences	GrEd	doctorate, Education	SPP	Social Policy and Practice (master's)
GAr	master's, Architecture	GrL	doctorate, Law	SW	Social Work (master's) (till 2005)
GCE	master's, Civil Engineering	GrN	doctorate, Nursing	V	Veterinary Medicine
GCh	master's, Chemical Engineering	GRP	master's, Regional Planning	W	Wharton (bachelor's)
GCP	master's, City Planning	GrS	doctorate, Social Work	WAM	Wharton Advanced Management
GD	Dental, post-degree	GrW	doctorate, Wharton	WEF	Wharton Extension Finance
GEd	master's, Education	GV	Veterinary, post-degree	WEv	Wharton Evening School
		Hon	Honorary	WG	master's, Wharton
				WMP	Wharton Management Program

Samuel R. Brown GEd'72, Lansdowne, PA, a vice principal of a middle school; April 1.

Barbara A. Munjas Gr'72, Richmond, VA, professor emerita of nursing at Virginia Commonwealth University; Oct. 28.

Thomas D. Potter WG'72, Lincoln, NE, retired president of a life insurance company; Nov. 8. He served in the US Marine Corps.

Dr. Carole Bennett Regan Gr'72, Dana Point, CA, a retired director of career services at University of California Hastings College of the Law; March 25. Her daughters are Dr. Alison E. Regan C'86 GEd'86 and Amelia C. Regan EAS'87.

E. Ralph Walker L'72, Reno, NV, a retired attorney; Nov. 4.

1974

David L. Greene Gr'74, Cleveland, GA, professor emeritus of English at Piedmont University; Nov. 20.

Erica B. Leisenring CW'74, St. Louis, a former public defender and civic leader; April 7. Her mother is Julia Bissell Leisenring CW'70, and one son is Edward "Ned" Sears C'07.

1975

B. Mitchell Baker Gr'75, Annapolis, MD, a mathematics professor at the US Naval Academy; Dec. 20.

1976

Robert J. Astheimer C'76 Gr'84, Alexandria, VA, a retired senior technical advisor in the US Department of Energy's Office of Basic Energy Sciences; Aug. 28. Previously, he worked at Colgate-Palmolive, where he developed a human evaluation softness test for fabric softeners. At Penn, he was a member of the swimming team. His life partner is Joann W. Miliken Gr'80.

Thomas G. Buchler EE'76, New York, July 16, 2019.

Marc J. Dettmann WG'76, Charlottesville, VA, a healthcare management executive who retired as CEO of the University of Virginia Health Services Foundation (now the UVA Physicians Group); Oct. 21.

Lee M. Mayweather CE'76, Atlanta, former project manager at a construction company; July 18. At Penn, he was a member of Onyx Senior Society.

John V. Prostko C'76, Washington, DC, Sept. 23. At Penn, he was a member of the *Penn Review*.

Ilene Zurav Reilly EE'76, Luray, VA, an IT consultant who later opened a health food store; Nov. 18.

1977

Ronald C. Cherwinski WEv'77, Haverstown, PA, a retired sales manager at Lehigh Valley Farms, a dairy producer; Dec. 20.

Ronald W. Shegda W'77, Hellertown, PA, an author of many books; Nov. 7.

1978

Judith Etzel King WG'78, Arnold, MO, a retired nursing home administrator; Sept. 6, 2019.

Gail DeVerna Krieger WEv'78, Paoli, PA, Aug. 30, 2019.

1979

Sr. Susan F. Elwyn G'79 Gr'91, Orem, UT, a member of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine in Toronto; Sept. 24. Before joining the Sisterhood, she taught classical languages and English literature at Brigham Young University and West Nottingham Academy in Maryland.

1980

Dr. Bruce E. Courtright D'80, Allentown, PA, a retired dentist; Nov. 6. He served in the US Army as a dental officer.

Dr. David A. Nusblatt D'80, Dix Hills, NY, a dentist; Sept. 9. His wife is Beth F. Nusblatt Nu'80.

1985

Mark D. Santoli W'85, Lindenhurst, NY, a foreman for the highway sanitation department in Lindenhurst; Nov. 11. He was also a volunteer firefighter for more than 40 years.

Dr. Thomas P. Storey M'85, Haverstown, PA, director of ambulatory health services for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health; Dec. 31.

1987

Jason W. Tannenbaum L'87, Chicago, a real estate appraiser; Oct. 25.

1988

Dr. Lisa Kristine Cummins D'88, Bala Cynwyd, PA, a dentist and former fashion model; Nov. 30.

1991

William T. Fleming Jr. WG'91, Philadelphia, a mechanical engineer and entrepreneur; Oct. 30. He designed a patented radial pump used in medical respirators during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1999

Sari Kawana G'99 Gr'03, Brookline, MA, a professor of Japanese at the University of Massachusetts Boston; Oct. 29.

2005

Theodore Faigle WEv'05 G'09, Jim Thorpe, PA, an artist, activist, and retired LGBT grants analyst at Drexel University; Aug. 21, 2019.

Jennifer Emmi Fiorini GEd'05, Wayne, PA, a former director at Agnes Irwin School, an all-girls college preparatory school; Dec. 8.

2008

Raymond Burrell Hulse LPS'08, Coatesville, PA, a retired high school chemistry teacher; Aug. 17.

2014

Anne Fleming Gr'14, New York, a law professor at Georgetown University; Aug. 25.

Faculty & Staff

Jonathan Black. *See Class of 1972.*

Elias S. Cohen, Wynnewood, PA, Pennsylvania's first commissioner on aging, a lifelong advocate for the elderly and disabled, and a former member of the faculty of Penn's College of Medicine and College of General Studies; Nov. 24. He was first appointed the state commissioner for aging issues in the Department of Public Welfare in 1959. He held the position until 1968, then served as Pennsylvania's commissioner of family services. In 1970, he joined the faculty of Penn's College of

Medicine as an associate professor in community medicine and as Penn's Human Services Project's director of delivery. The next year he became an assistant professor. In 1979 he became a lecturer in Penn's College of General Studies (now known as the College of Liberal and Professional Sciences). He served as editor in chief of *The Gerontologist* journal from 1976 to 1981 and retired from Penn in 1996. During his career, he passionately spoke out to defend the elderly, such as in a prominent 1979 case when nine elderly people died in a fire at an unlicensed nursing home in Connelville, PA.

Nabil H. Farhat. *See Class of 1963.*

Trevor R. Hadley, professor emeritus CE (clinician-educator) of psychiatry in Penn's Perelman School of Medicine and the founder and founding director of Penn's Center for Mental Health; Oct. 29. Before coming to Penn, he served as mental health deputy commissioner for Pennsylvania, then as commissioner of mental health for Maryland. In 1986, he joined Penn's faculty as a lecturer in the School of Medicine's department of psychiatry and became a full professor in 1997. He founded the Penn Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research, today known as the Penn Center for Mental Health, which fostered collaboration between public mental health systems managing mental health services research programs. In 2007, he cofounded Kids Integrated Data System (KIDS), a collaboration between Penn, the City of Philadelphia, and the School District of Philadelphia that linked data about Philadelphia children so that researchers could tailor services to fit the children's needs. He had a secondary appointment at Penn's School of Social Policy and Practice and a senior fellowship at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. He retired in 2014. His daughter is Jennifer Borck-Hadley GEd'08.

Linda A. Hatfield, associate professor of evidence-based practice in Penn's School of Nursing; Nov. 20. In 2008, she was named the director of research and

evidence-based practice at Pennsylvania Hospital, and she also joined Penn Nursing's faculty as a lecturer in behavioral and health science. A year later, she moved to the department of family and community health as a lecturer and research associate. Later in 2009, she was promoted to assistant professor CE (clinician-educator) in family and community health. She held this position until 2018, when she became an associate professor CE in the same department. In 2016, she also became a senior fellow of Penn Nursing's Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research. Her research changed scientific perceptions about the extent to which babies feel pain while they are receiving immunizations. She was awarded Penn Nursing's inaugural Marilyn Stringer Academic Practice Award in 2013 and the 2014 Dean's Award for Exemplary Professional Practice.

Dr. Marjorie K. Jeffcoat, a professor emeritus of periodontics and former dean of Penn's School of Dental Medicine; Nov. 21. In 2003, she came to Penn as dean of the School of Dental Medicine. That same year, she also became a professor in the School's department of periodontics. During her time as dean, she brought Penn Dental's graduate scores and ranks on regional examinations to all-time highs, recruited several noteworthy faculty members, and reversed school debt and broadened the School's research portfolio during an economic recession. She stepped down as dean in 2008 but continued to serve on Penn Dental's faculty, until her retirement in 2016. During her career, she received many awards, including the prestigious Clinical Research Award and Gies Award from the American Academy of Periodontology.

Lawrence "Larry" Nussdorf. *See Class of 1968.*

Michael R. Sandler. *See Class of 1962.*

Anthony R. Tomazinis. *See Class of 1963.*

Dr. Paul Morris Weinberg. *See Class of 1970.*

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Dave Wohl drives to the basket during Penn's 103-72 win over Harvard at the Palestra 50 years ago. It was one of 28 wins for the 1970-71 Quakers—and the game, jokes Wohl, that “saved civilization.”



Harvard, Hair, and Harter's Hunt for Perfection

If you look up Dave Wohl C'71's trading card from when he played for the old Buffalo Braves of the NBA, you'll see a photo of a player with a mustache, long sideburns, and bushy hair.

He never would have looked that way a couple of years earlier when he was a senior leader on the famed 1970-71 Penn basketball team that went 28-1 before its season ended with a stunningly lopsided 90-47 loss to

Villanova in the NCAA tournament ["Almost Perfect," Mar|Apr 2011].

His coach, the late Dick Harter Ed'53, wouldn't allow it.

A former Marine who ran grueling practices and preached discipline, Harter once shocked Wohl and fellow senior guard Steve Bilsky W'71 when he told them that their hair had grown a quarter of an inch longer than he could permit. "You have to remember this was the hippie era," Wohl says, recalling

that the haircut meeting came right before the Quakers were scheduled to play at Ivy League upstart Harvard on January 7, 1971. "Harvard had these guys with long hair and beards and big afros, and it really began to be built up. It wasn't just a game to see who was better. It was, all of a sudden, if we lose discipline, civilization is going to hell."

Penn beat Harvard, 81-62, in the first matchup, and then followed that up with a 103-72 rout of the Crimson at the Palestra on February 19, with the clean-shaven Wohl logging 12 points and a then-program record 12 assists in the win. (The *New York Times* recap of that game opened: "Harvard displayed better looking hairdos, but Penn had far superior basketball ability.")

"A lot of the preseason talk was that Harvard would dethrone Penn as Ivy League champion," recalls Wohl, pointing to the emergence of the Crimson's two sophomore stars, James Brown (who went on to become a famous sportscaster) and Floyd Lewis. Yet for Wohl and his teammates, "we were more scared that Dick Harter was going to make practices harder if we lost" than they were of any Harvard player.

In his recent book, *Mad Hoops*, author Bud Withers recounts the "line-in-the-sand intransigence for which Harter became renowned" with a quote in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* from then-Harvard coach Bob Harrison, who said: "Dick Harter talks about his 'hair program.' I was a Marine, too. What's he want, hand-to-hand combat?"

For Wohl—who went on to a long coaching career in his own right ["Alumni Profiles," Mar|Apr 2007] but never had a colleague or mentor quite like Harter—the motivation was simple 50 years ago. "I think all of us had a sigh of relief after [we beat Harvard]," Wohl says. "OK, *we don't have to have any harder practices. We've saved civilization. We've kind of done enough for one night.*" —DZ



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