THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

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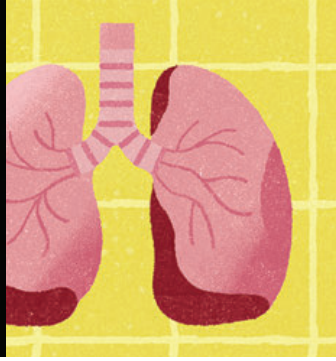

Features

Vol. 123, No. 4

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Departments

Foundational Work

It's often the condition of the roof that determines whether a deteriorating house is beyond repair, as Robert Bellinger WG'89 notes in this issue's cover story, "Building Blocks" by JoAnn Greco. But the organization Bellinger and some fellow Wharton students started while he was earning his MBA, now known as Rebuilding Together Philadelphia (RTP), laid a solid foundation for decades of work keeping people living in structurally sound homes that they are then able to pass on, meanwhile shoring up neighborhoods by avoiding the blight of abandoned housing.

"Home ownership has been shown to be the best way to build generational wealth," JoAnn quotes RTP's current president and CEO, Stefanie F. Seldin C'90, in the story. "It's also important to have neighborhoods that can keep their culture and keep their people housed."

To date, RTP has repaired and renovated some 2,300 homes in the city.

To date, RTP has repaired and renovated some 2,300 homes in the city, working through professional contractors and volunteer squads who gather three times a year for two-day "Block Builds." Penn and Penn people have been partners all along, and the University recently donated $1.7 million to help fix 75 homes over four years. JoAnn fills in the group's history, impact, and plans for the future, and also reports from a Block Build that took place last fall, where one beneficiary of the program told her, "It felt like we had hit the lottery."

Mary Ann Meyers Gr'76 wrote regularly for the *Gazette* before my time here as editor, and I'm happy to welcome her back to our pages. In "The New World of Organ Transplantation," she details the foundational work of Clyde M. Barker GM'59 and others in establishing Penn as a leader in transplant surgery and advancing research to stave off organ rejection and otherwise improve outcomes.

The article sketches significant developments since the 1960s in kidney, heart, liver, lung, and other organ transplants, as well as Penn's work on complex hand transplants—see also "The Gift" [Nov|Dec 2015]—and in a trial of uterine transplants that has resulted in five births so far. Mary Ann also talked with Penn experts on the prospects for technologies to extend the viability of donor organs, or to replace them with genetically modified animal organs (the latter of which got a boost in February when the FDA approved clinical trials using modified pig kidneys by two biotechnology companies). In a sidebar, she reviews *Surgeons and Something More,* a history of surgery at Penn from the rivalrous medical school founders William Shippen Jr. and John Morgan up to the present by Barker and his daughter Elizabeth Barker.

Also in this issue, "On Highway 67 (and Beyond)" offers a conversation with the photographer and videographer Charlie Steiner C'68 about how he got his start at Penn; his later work as a freelance photographer and photojournalist in the Phillipines, Eastern Europe, and elsewhere; ongoing video projects in India and Japan; and his forthcoming book *Highway 67 Revisited*, in which material from his years on campus plays a prominent role, including shots of figures such as Andy Warhol, Bob Dylan, Robert Kennedy, and Muhammad Ali. (Those images and more from the era will be featured in an Alumni Weekend event, "Remembering and Celebrating the 1960s at Penn," on Friday, May 16, at 3:15 p.m.)

THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

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"Course" ratings, celiac disease, Bell and Bednarik, and more.

We Welcome Letters

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Preparation for Life

I appreciated the article "Course Corrections" [Jan|Feb 2025] so much that I want to add my "*Yes!*" to its very important conclusion [as stated by College of Arts and Sciences Dean Peter Struck]—that is, that the formal courses of study we take as undergraduates "*are preparing you not just for that first job out of college, but for a lifetime of leadership in your community, embeddedness in your community, and also in your professions.*"

My husband [Stanford M. Lembeck GCP'59] and I are perfect examples. We graduated with degrees in city planning in 1959 and 1960. My husband established an adult education program in the Cooperative Extension Service at Penn State University for citizens who participate in local government bodies. It is their participation and contributions that help to create solutions to local problems and define opportunities.

My work with the League of Women Voters in the early 1960s helped to bring about a regional sewerage system in northeastern Pennsylvania where none had existed before. These were not specific lessons we learned in our coursework; they were the result of the preparation our planning education provided in *how* to define a challenge and *how* to think about problem solving.

I feel certain that our experiences are typical of many professionals whose education at Penn provided them with the theoretical framework for their chosen careers and who used that foundation to create new solutions to ever-evolving challenges in their communities.

Thank you for making this part of the discussion.

Carolyn Sehl Lembeck CP'58, State College, PA

"If we channel our students into a narrow band of professions, we make a mockery of the humanistic spirit."

Humanities Have (More Than) Market Value

Thanks to Trey Popp for his terrific piece about course registrations over time. It's a great contribution to the history of Penn and also to our broader understanding about what has changed—and what has not—in higher education in the United States.

I also agree with Peter Struck's important insight that the humanities have market value, and that we're doing our students (and ourselves) a disservice if we downplay or ignore that. But if we simultaneously channel our students into a narrow band of professions, we make a mockery of the humanistic spirit. It's supposed to make us ask about what makes for a good life! We can't advertise it to students in that idiom, then (implicitly) answer it for them: a good life means a high salary in the worlds of finance, tech, and consulting. They will see through all of that. Indeed, they already have.

Jonathan Zimmerman, faculty, Philadelphia

Smile of Recognition

Reading John Prendergast's comment ["From the Editor," Jan|Feb 2025] about missing out on Dr. Riasanovsky's Russian history course brought a smile of recognition to my face. My copy of his red-covered, four-inch-thick history was passed to me by my brother, Steven Feigenbaum W'70, who recommended the class to me. That book sat on my bookshelf for over 50 years until downsizing last summer spurred me to donate it to our local library book sale, along with various other long forgotten textbooks. I didn't find the course notes, however. Now that would have been something!

Charlotte Feigenbaum Spector CW'73, Hershey, PA

Allies in the Battle Against Celiac Disease

We read Dave Zeitlin's article "Every Bite, Every Day" [Jan|Feb 2025] with great interest. As the founder/CEO and chief scientific officer of Beyond Celiac and fellow Penn alumnae, we applaud the Bari family's efforts to raise awareness and support for celiac disease research. With their work and the Penn Institute for RNA Innovation aimed at preventing celiac disease, Penn can boast decades of support for advancing celiac disease education and research.

Beyond Celiac, based in the Philadelphia region, has been the leading patient advocacy and research-driven organization in the field for 22 years. Its origins stretch back to 2003 when founder and CEO Alice Solomon Bast C'83 attended Penn's Master of Nonprofit Leadership

program. There, she learned from esteemed mentors such as Dr. Roberta Snow, now a Beyond Celiac advisor.

In establishing the organization, Alice was motivated by her desire to prevent others from experiencing the long and difficult journey she faced during her diagnosis. In 2023, Dr. Debra Silberg GM'92, a graduate of the internal medicine residency and gastroenterology fellowship programs at the Perelman School of Medicine, joined the Beyond Celiac team as chief scientific officer.

Over the years, we have had the pleasure of hosting the Bari family at our events, where we raise funds for programs to increase diagnosis rates and expand the availability and affordability of gluten-free foods. It has been a joy to see Jax Bari and other children like him enjoying gluten-free foods safely, something impossible two decades ago.

As the article accurately notes, federal funding for celiac disease, a debilitating autoimmune disorder with no approved therapy affecting up to 3.2 million Americans, is a tiny fraction of the overall NIH budget. Recognizing the major barriers this lack of funding presents and the short- and long-term burdens celiac disease imposes on those living with it, Beyond Celiac refocused its mission in 2015 to prioritize accelerating treatments leading to a cure. Since that time, we have invested more than $3 million in research grants to investigators around the world who are advancing groundbreaking work in the areas of biomarkers, disease predictors, neurological manifestations, screening, and more, making our foundation the leading 501(3)(c) funder of celiac disease research.

We know firsthand that achieving a future beyond celiac will require collective effort from all of us and our families. Hats off to the Bari family for their dedication and advocacy and to Penn for inspiring leaders to take on important social causes, like treatments and a cure for celiac disease.

Alice Salomon Bast C'83, Fort Washington, PA
Debra Silberg GM'92, Chestertown, MD

Informative Article, But One Important Error

I found much of "Every Bite, Every Day" to be informative and as a sufferer of celiac disease myself, I was excited to learn about the progress that is being made. I am also delighted to know that Penn is a leader in this field.

However, I found one important factual error in the article. Specifically, it states that celiac disease, "disrupts the small intestine's ability to digest gluten." This is factually incorrect. Those of us with celiac disease have an immune system that responds to gluten exposure in the form of antibodies, as it would respond to a foreign invader like a virus.

These antibodies attack various systems, including the gastrointestinal and nervous systems, among others. The scarring from these antibodies results in over 300 accepted symptoms of the disease, including GI issues and peripheral neuropathy, among many more. The scarring in the small intestine results in our inability to absorb any nutrients, not just gluten. This happens because the villi, or the small, fingerlike projections in the small intestine, deflate. This significantly decreases the surface area of the intestine, compromising nutrient uptake. As such, malnutrition is a major concern for the undiagnosed which leads to secondary issues such as anemia.

Unfortunately, the confusion and misinformation surrounding this disease is rampant. The article even references the confusion between this serious disease and a fad diet. While I appreciate the article for so many reasons, this factual error merely perpetuates the lack of understanding of the disease.

Celiac disease is an autoimmune disease, not a digestive disease. Reactions are triggered from our immune system. It is not that our bodies can't digest gluten, it's that gluten causes our bodies to attack themselves. This is an extremely important distinction.

Jeff Alexander, staff, Philadelphia

Bell and Bednarik at the Varsity Shop

It is most appropriate that Penn has immortalized Bert Bell with a statue in his honor ["Sports," Jan|Feb 2025]. I met the NFL commissioner/Eagles owner in 1945, when he occupied an office on the second floor of my Dad's clothing store, The Varsity Shop, 3657 Woodland Avenue—for free!

Penn's winning football team hadn't joined the Ivy League … the stands were always full. Bell lamented that if he couldn't get 6,000 fans to an NFL game on Sunday, he couldn't make payroll! (This occurred prior to games being televised.)

Chuck Bednarik was a customer, also … with hands so big, gloves had to be specially ordered to fit him! He was the last NFL 60-minute, two-way player.

Jacqueline Zahn Nicholson W'62, Marietta, GA

Architects Unmentioned

I read with interest the article titled "Gutman. Vagelos. Ott." ["Gazetteer," Jan|Feb 2025]. All those new buildings and not one mention of who the architects were. Having graduated from Penn in architecture, I expected to see that attribution at least mentioned. I hope future articles that focus on new buildings on campus can include recognition.

Joy D. Swallow Ar'86, Kansas City, MO

An earlier article, "Under Construction" ["Gazetteer," Sep|Oct 2023] did note the architects of the Vagelos Laboratory for Energy Science and Technology and Amy Gutmann Hall—Behnisch Architekten and Lake|Flato, respectively. Cannon Design was the architect for the Ott Center.—Ed.

Just a Bit Outside

Congrats to Jake Cousins, Doug Glanville, and Mark DeRosa for achieving Major League Baseball status. The article "Baseball's Biggest Stage" ["Profiles," Jan|Feb 2025] states that they are the only alumni to play MLB in the last 60 years. I remember watching Grover Powell from Wyalusing, Pennsylvania, pitch for the New York Mets in the mid-'60s. As I recall he pitched very well but had a career shortened by injuries.

Paul S. Batterson Jr. W'66, Tolland, CT

Powell pitched in the majors in 1963—close, but technically more than 60 years ago. The Gazette *profiled him in "Shooting Star Over Flushing" ["Profiles," Nov|Dec 2015].—Ed.*

You Be the Judg

With regard to "Point, Counterpoint" ["Expert Opinion," Jan|Feb 2025], the position of quotation marks should be a matter of judgment. On the other hand, it could be a matter of judgement.

Jack May C'58, Montclair, NJ

Puzzled by PIK

I have enjoyed reading several of the articles in the Jan|Feb 2025 *Gazette*. However, one thing puzzled me in the story on Dorothy E. Roberts being honored with a MacArthur Fellowship ["Gazetteer"]. What on earth is a "PIK Professor"?

Irvine Milheim M'60, Sharon, PA

Apologies for the confusion and, for others also wondering, PIK stands for Penn Integrates Knowledge and refers to faculty with appointments in two or more schools.—Ed.

Bravo

Awake early this morning up here in Toronto, I pulled out the Nov|Dec 2025 *Gazette*. I couldn't return to sleep because of all the wonderful articles. Ranging from self-reflection on aging, to the struggle to find common sense governance rules, and finally football recollections. Bravo. And thank you.

Paul J. Brown W'77, North York, ON, Canada

True Love

The article "The Price They Paid" [Nov|Dec 2025] dealt with the Penn football team's difficult transition from big-time competition to the Ivy League in the mid-1950s. Jim Shada's recollection of Penn's loss to Notre Dame in 1955 reminded me of my painful memory of that game.

That fall I was in my second year at Penn Law and my fiancée was visiting me from Brooklyn that weekend. We had tickets for the big game, but she was tardy as usual, and we were late in our arrival. As we approached the stadium the game had already begun, and we heard a big roar from the stands. As mentioned in the article, Penn had returned the opening kickoff 108 yards for a touchdown. Of course we had missed this highlight and the Quakers lost by a score of 46–14.

Pearl and I were married in 1956, and I've never let her forget that event, even when we recently celebrated our 68th wedding anniversary.

Maurice Axelrad L'57, Bethesda, MD

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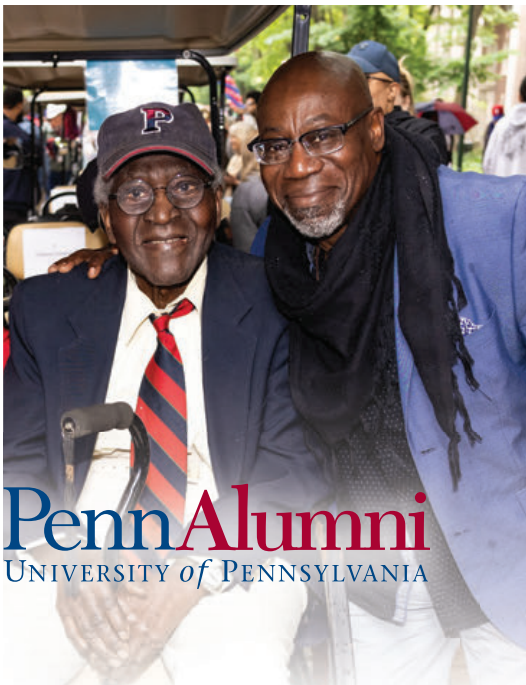

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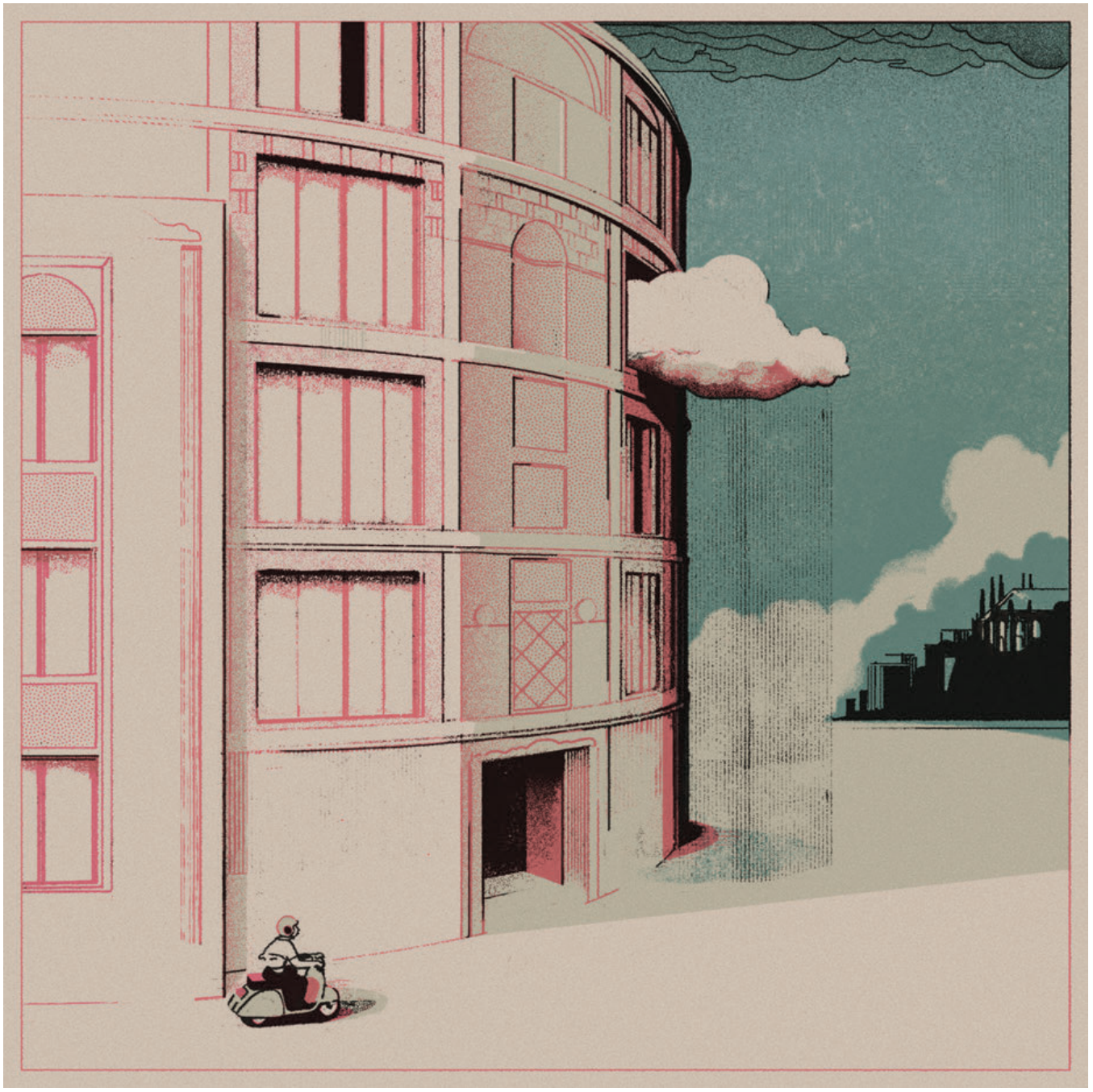


The Milan Affair

At the Pensione Pedrotti, there was one unbending rule.

By Noah Isenberg

Illustration by Juan Bernabeu

In the spring of 1988, while spending my junior year in Munich, I jumped at the opportunity to abandon the rigid, crusty Bavarian capital for a respite of sorts: a two-month stretch in Milan, Italy. The German university system offered a nine-week break between semesters, so this was my chance to get a taste of Italian living. It was, after all, a favored destination and time-honored tradition among Germans dating back to Goethe.

Unlike Goethe's journey to Italy, however, mine was less of a *Bildungsreise* than an escape hatch, a desperate search for the hedonistic pleasures of Southern Europe (even if this was one of Italy's northernmost cities). The truth of the matter—still vaguely embarrassing some four decades later—is that I was moving to Milan to work as a fashion model, for an agency with the oddly apt name Why Not. It was run by a slender, impeccably dressed, mustachioed Milanese named Giuseppe, who had big, wandering eyes and a pronounced tendency to raise his eyebrows and lower his spectacles, almost like Humphrey Bogart play-acting in *The Big Sleep*.

A couple years earlier, during my freshman year at Penn, I'd been stopped on Locust Walk by a couple of enterprising Wharton seniors, two girls from Long Island, who asked if I'd be willing to appear in the Men of Penn calendar. My ego got the best of me, and I promptly agreed, no questions asked. That fashion shoot, which had me dressed like a member of an '80s haircut band (think Spandau Ballet), led to additional print and runway work in Philadelphia, Stockholm, and New York City the following years. It was easy money, albeit more of a side hustle than a full-time job. And it was my ticket to Milan.

The journey from Munich proved more eventful than anticipated. Aboard the night train, I made something of a rookie mistake—thanks to my 20-year-old boy brain—and left my traveler's checks, along with my ticket, inside my passport; in the foggy haze of predawn inspection, the Italian conductor gladly took the unsigned checks as an American-style gratuity for his otherwise underappreciated services. Undeterred, I disembarked in the Italian city, promptly cleared things up at the American Express travel office, and marched my way to a cheap pensione, just off Via Dante not far from the Duomo metro station, that allowed bookings by the month.

The pensione was owned by an elderly couple, Signore e Signora Pedrotti, who at the time struck me as an Italian version of Archie and Edith Bunker. Grumpy to the core, with a shock of thick white hair and perpetually untucked shirt, Signore Pedrotti would patrol the hallways as the *padron* of the pensione, spouting occasional racist cracks and making the floorboards shake with his lumbering gait. His wife of half a century, Signora Pedrotti had a style entirely her own: platinum-blonde hairdo, more Mae West than Veronica Lake, thick layers of rouge and bronzer on her cheeks, fire-engine-red lipstick which invariably found its way onto her teeth, and a fluffy white angora sweater with a large black brassiere underneath, accompanied by a long black skirt. Neither Pedrotti spoke English, but the Signora would affectionately address me as "Meester Noah"—or just as often, owing to the stacks of books strewn about my room, as "Il Professore."

When I rented the room at Pensione Pedrotti, I took one that had two twin beds, covered with dark, threadbare linens that looked as if they'd been there for generations. A pair of communal toilets and showers, both barely serviceable, were in the hallway. I'd agreed to share the space with one of my classmates in the Munich program, a Georgetown foreign-affairs student from Tennessee named Erik, who'd gone off on a cycling trip with the plan to meet in Milan afterward. He figured he'd try his hand in the fashion trade and see if there was easy money to be made. After all, I'd wangled my way in; how hard could it be?

One afternoon, while reading in bed—this was the start of a protracted Kafka phase, if I recall correctly—and drinking cups of sugary Nescafe that I'd make with the old water kettle kept in my room, I heard Signore Pedrotti answer the intercom ("Pronto!!"). On the other end I could make out my roommate's voice, that vague Southern twang, increasingly agitated as the conversation unfolded. "I have a room with my friend Noah, which I've paid for," I heard Erik say, politely enough, speaking into the intercom with the slow, careful intonation of an American traveling in Europe. "Non c'é una camera libera," Signore Pedrotti quickly retorted, claiming no vacancy with an almost devilish sense of pride. This went back and forth, with me eavesdropping from the room, until I suddenly heard the only two English words ever uttered from Signore Pedrotti's mouth: "No deal!"—repeated for emphasis. To which the normally demure, genteel Southerner responded in kind: "Fuck you, mister, I have a room!"

I finally cleared up the misunderstanding, explaining to Signore Pedrotti that Erik had paid a full month's rent and thus deserved to join the ranks of the pensione dwellers. My Italian was nowhere near as fluent as my German, but I'd spent the previous summer in New York City working as a waiter at Ciao Bella, a trattoria on the Upper East Side, the only non-Italian on staff. It was run by two brothers, Alberto and Rocco, who relied on a small army of young Italian men on tourist visas to work at their cash-only establishment. With the look and swagger of Marcello Mastroianni, bedroom eyes and all, Rocco was terrifically popular among the local divorcees, known to disappear during lunch shifts for a little love in the afternoon. His less handsome brother Alberto, an inveterate prankster, wore dark black Ray-Ban Wayfarer sunglasses, even during the dinner shift, and was known to stick out his leg to try to trip the coffee boy delivering a tray of espresso, cappuccino, and other scalding beverages.

It was solid training for my journey to Milan, where I managed to hit my stride around a month into the stay. By that point, things were generally looking up for me: I did a full-page spread for *Mondo Uomo* magazine, dressed in a Moschino cashmere overcoat and dark glasses, doing my best to channel the spirit of Federico Fellini; I was indulging with reckless abandon in the promiscuous nightlife (the agencies handed out free nightclub passes, as a kind of fringe benefit, to models); and, perhaps most important, I was on good terms with the Pedrottis, who would occasionally invite me into their parlor for coffee and biscotti.

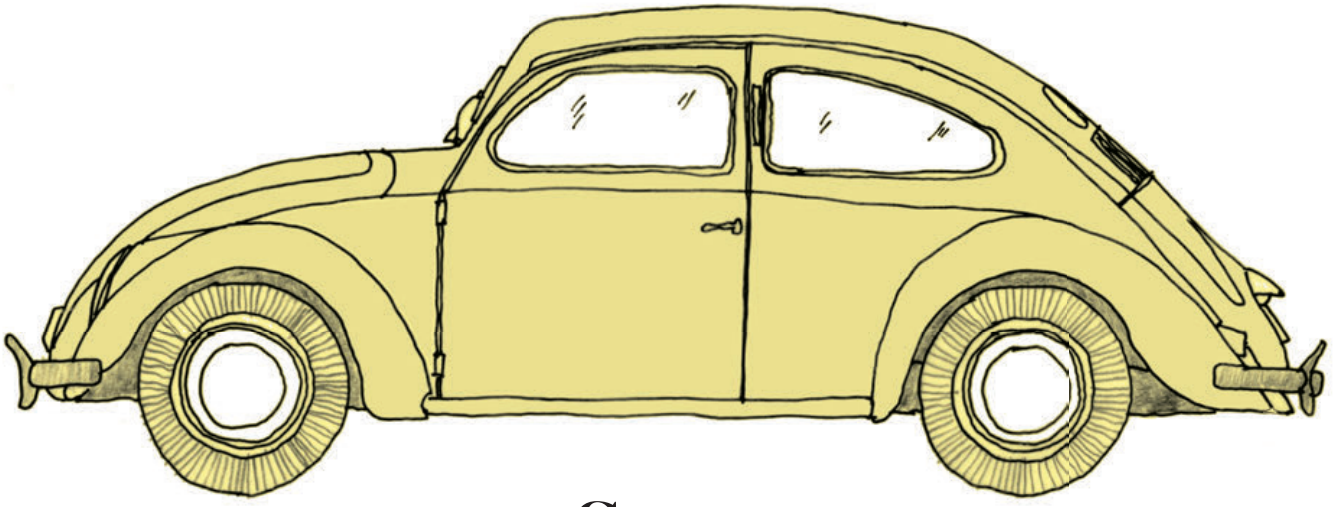
All of this changed, however, when I got a little too complacent, even cocky, and showed the same adolescent judgment I'd shown on that night train from Munich. The Pedrottis had a few ironclad rules at the pensione, one of which was that no outside guests were allowed in the rooms. But an old friend of mine from San Diego, Scott, was doing a short Eurail tour and would soon be passing through Milan. Of course, I told myself, I'd love to see him—and of course he could crash on the floor of my room at the pensione. The plan seemed foolproof. We'd spend the night out carousing at the local clubs, courtesy of free passes from Why Not, and in the predawn hours we'd sneak into the pensione and get some sleep. No problem.

What had started out as a brilliant idea—we enjoyed many sweaty hours on the dancefloor, accompanied by two very tall models from Sweden, both named Linda—quickly soured once we were crammed into the room at the pensione. We managed to toss enough blankets and pillows on the floor for Scott to sleep off the endless stream of free booze to which we had been treated, but we hadn't really thought through the bathroom issue. It was a rainy night and just when the morning light was seeping into the room, Scott realized, rather urgently, he had to pee. Given that it was still raining, and that my underdeveloped brain clearly hadn't evolved any in Milan, naturally I suggested that Scott just pee out the window.

As he perched on the windowsill, the rain providing good cover, it initially looked as though our harebrained scheme had worked. But while still kneeling, midstream, Scott turned to me and said, "Noah, there's a woman on the balcony hanging laundry. She's in a white angora sweater, a big black brassiere, and she's not happy." Within seconds, there was banging on the door, "Meester Noah! C'é un ragazzo nella sua camera. Lui ha fatto un pee-pee della finestra!" (Only in Italian could urinating from the windowsill sound so beautiful.) Not knowing what to say, I initially panicked and figured I might as well try gaslighting: "Non, non c'é un ragazzo nella mia camera." My goose was cooked. It didn't help much that Signora Pedrotti, at this point, could see Scott zipping his fly and scrambling in the darkened room to scoop up his belongings, knowing he'd soon be tossed out on the street.

From this ignominious moment onward, no more coffee and biscotti, no more "Il Professore" sobriquet. Instead, I was given notice that I'd have to vacate the premises within 72 hours. Thankfully, it happened to line up with the end of my semester break. I'd have to return to Munich to resume my studies regardless, and I was a couple inches too short for the runway season in Milan anyway. Admittedly, it was a sorry way to bid farewell to Milan, and to Pensione Pedrotti, a genuine source of shame, but I can't let go of the story or the memory—lipstick, angora, and all.

Noah Isenberg C'89 is the Charles Sapp Centennial Professor at the University of Texas at Austin and the author of *We'll Always Have 'Casablanca': The Life, Legend, and Afterlife of Hollywood's Most Beloved Movie* ["Everybody Comes to Casablanca," Nov|Dec 2017].



Sweet Chariots

Three classic cars.

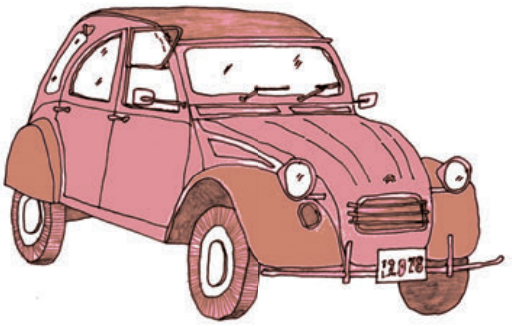
By Witold Rybczynski

MY first car was a Volkswagen Beetle. The design was already 30 years old—seven years older than I—and production would continue for another 36 years, making it the world's longest-running automobile model. I bought mine in January 1967. After college, I'd worked and saved my money, and, as many young architects had done before me, I set out on a European grand tour. My VW was seven years old, bought for $300 in Hamburg, where the freighter on which I had booked passage from Quebec City berthed. The car carried me and a friend without a hitch from Paris to Valencia (where it was stolen, but that's another story). Nine hundred miles. I'd never driven a VW, but the controls were simplicity itself. The enameled metal dashboard was dominated by a large speedometer that included an odometer, three warning lights—blue for the high beams, red for the generator, and green for low oil pressure—and an indicator for the flashing turn signal lights, which by 1960 had replaced the original semaphore indicators. There was no temperature gauge because the engine was air-cooled. There was no gas gauge, either—when the engine stuttered, it meant the tank was empty, which required flipping a lever below the dash to access the reserve—about a gallon, good for roughly 40 miles. The dashboard included two unidentified white plastic pull knobs: the one on the left controlled the headlights; on the right, the windshield wipers. I believe that there was also a choke. The turn signal was controlled by a stalk on the steering column, and the headlights were dimmed by depressing a floor switch. There was an ashtray, although no lighter. A knurled knob on the floor beside the stick shift controlled the heat, which came from an exchanger surrounding the exhaust pipe. The first time I stopped for gas, I looked in vain for the gas cap—I found it under the hood, which was actually a trunk, since the engine was in the rear.

I was reminded of my old VW the other day when my friend Jerry gave me a ride in his new Prius. Instead of a speedometer and traditional gauges, there was what Toyota calls a Multi-Information Display, an LCD touch screen swimming in icons, graphics, and numbers. The colorful array, which reminded me of a pinball machine, conveyed a range of technical information such as tire pressure and fuel consumption, as well as navigation and entertainment information and extraneous details such as time and date and whether a door was open. Somewhere, there was a number indicating the car's speed. The cost of adding digital information is minimal, and I had the impression that the designers had simply piled on the bells and whistles. Perhaps that's why Jerry's owner's manual was almost 800 pages (compared to 90 for a 1960 VW), 20 pages just on operating the lights and wipers. Jerry told me his dealer offered a course for new owners on how to manage the complicated display. No doubt one got used to the busy flat screen, but I would miss the elegant minimalism of that old VW.

The car I bought in Hamburg had distinctive oval German export license plates, and an international registration sticker marked with a *D*, for Deutschland. As I drove through Holland on my way to Paris, more than once when asking for directions I received dirty looks, especially from older persons for whom the wartime German occupation was a living memory. And, after all, my car's godfather was Adolf Hitler himself. Opening the 1933 Berlin Motor Show as the newly appointed reich chancellor, he had announced a national policy to motorize Germany, which despite having invented the automobile a half century earlier, lagged other European countries in car ownership. Hitler called on the auto industry to produce an affordable people's car, a *volkswagen*.

Drawing by Witold Rybczynski



My first *new* car was a Citroën 2CV, which the French call Deux Chevaux, or Two Horses. It wasn't actually two horsepower, although it sometimes felt that way. CV stands for *chevaux-vapeurs*, or steam horsepower, and 2CV refers to a tax category, because France, like most European countries, levies an annual road tax on car owners based on engine displacement. My car, bought in 1969 when I lived in Montreal, had a two-cylinder engine that produced 12 horsepower. That's pretty small—half as powerful as a Volkswagen and smaller than many motorcycles. It meant a top speed of about 55 miles per hour if you were lucky; less in a headwind. The day I bought the car, I gave a friend a ride, and driving across Mount Royal I had to keep downshifting as the car went slower and slower. Never mind, I loved my fire-engine-red Deux Chevaux. The Beatles' *Abbey Road* album was released that year, and in honor of their song "Here Comes the Sun," I painted a stylized yellow sun on the trunk lid. Well, it *was* the sixties.

What appealed to me about the Citroën? I like cars, although I'm not particularly adept mechanically. I can change the oil and replace spark plugs or a fan belt, but that's about the limit of my competence. It was the design of the 2CV that attracted me, the inventive way that each problem was solved in a distinctive, dare I say Gallic, fashion. For example, the car rode high and had a suspension designed to produce a smooth ride over bumpy back roads. This softness produced an alarming (but quite safe) tilt when cornering, and also meant that when there were passengers in the back seat, the rear of the car sank down. If it was nighttime, that made the headlights point up instead of illuminating the roadway. *Pas de problème*: a knurled knob under the dash rotated the bar to which the headlights were attached, lowering their angle. To reduce costs and keep the doors thin, the front windows did not roll down, but had a hinged lower portion that swung *up*, enabling the driver to make hand signals (the original 1948 version had no turn indicators) and pay tolls. An openable horizontal slot beneath the windshield extended the full width of the car and provided natural ventilation—no fan required. The lightweight seats resembled lawn chairs—thinly padded cloth over rubber bands stretched between tubular steel frames. The seats were easily detachable, and with the two rear seats removed, cargo space increased dramatically. In addition, the seats could be used as lawn chairs when picnicking or camping. The roof was fabric, because that was cheaper and lighter than metal—and the fabric could be unrolled, like a window blind. One evening, I inadvertently left the roof open and rain left an inch of water in the car; the designers had thought of that, too, and provided rubber drain plugs in the floor.

The lightweight seats resembled lawn chairs—thinly padded cloth over rubber bands stretched between tubular steel frames.

The controls were as simple as in my old Volkswagen. The speedometer and gas gauge were in a small pod behind the steering wheel, and instead of a dashboard there was a convenient shelf. The gearshift was a lever protruding over the shelf. The steering wheel was tubular steel, nothing fancy; no central horn button—instead, you beeped by pushing on the stalk that controlled the headlights. The sole luxury, installed for Canadian export models, was a large gasoline-fired heater in the engine compartment that instantaneously blasted hot air into the car.

"Have you ever driven a Quatr'elle?" the front-desk clerk at the car rental agency asked me. He gestured to a small light blue car standing outside. I had to admit that I hadn't—I wasn't sure what a Quatr'elle was. "Going far?" he asked. "Athens," I responded. He looked at me for a few seconds, then shook his head, gave a Gallic shrug, and went back to filling out the paperwork.

It was June 1964, and I was in Paris, embarking on an eight-week architectural road trip with a classmate. Ralph and I had met in the fourth year of our course at McGill University, worked together on class projects, and become friends. He was a Montrealer, a year older than I, and I deferred to his judgment in many matters, including the organization of the trip. Ralph had located youth hostels, looked into car rental agencies, and researched the itinerary. Our route would take us through Switzerland, across a corner of Italy, down the Dalmatian coast, inland across Yugoslavia, and south to Greece and Athens. In all, about 1,800 miles.

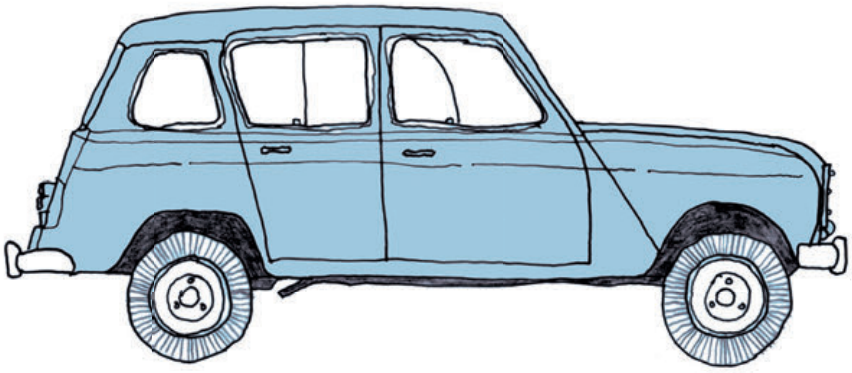
We loaded our bags into the back of the car, which had a large hatch. It was decided that today I would drive and Ralph would navigate. I got in the car and had a moment of confusion. I had learned to drive with a stick shift, but where was it? Not on the steering column, as in my father's Vauxhall, and not on the floor. Ah, it must be that lever with the white plastic knob that was sticking out of the dashboard. There was a large speedometer, stalk controls on each side of the steering column, one of which turned out to be the horn, and a bunch of toggle switches for

Drawing by Witold Rybczynski

lights and heating that I would figure out later. A helpful mechanic leaned in and explained the operation of the mysterious gearshift, and we were off. We first had to get out of the city, and I remember zipping up the Champs-Élysées and whizzing around the Place de l'Étoile, as it was then called. "Perhaps we should slow down a little. No need to drive like the Parisians," Ralph observed in his usual calm manner. I eased off the accelerator.

The car I was driving was a Renault 4L (pronounced *quatr'elle*). The *L* stood for "luxe," although there wasn't much luxury to be seen in the rudimentary interior—no fancy finishes, mostly painted metal, sliding instead of roll-down windows, a rubber floor mat. And who needed a radio? The hammock seats, made out of padded fabric supported by curved steel tubes, were surprisingly comfortable. So was the car's soft ride, heeling over in corners and gliding over bumps. I didn't give this much thought as we drove out of Paris, but the suspension would serve us well on the rough back roads of Yugoslavia. In fact, the Quatr'elle was a proficient off-road vehicle, and would place second in the demanding 1979 Paris–Dakar rally, right behind a Range Rover.

"Not too many frills and a workhorse" was how Ralph later described the car. The Quatr'elle was Renault's answer to the Citroën 2CV. When Pierre Dreyfus (1907–1994), the new chairman of Renault, launched the project in 1956, he described what he had in mind: "I want a versatile car, one that's urban and rural at the same time, and one that suits the needs of everyone. Call it the blue-jeans car." Like the 2CV, the Renault 4 was a four-door four-seater with a front-mounted engine driving the front wheels. The four-cylinder engine, a reliable Renault standby, produced 27 horsepower and a top speed of about 55 miles per hour. The engine was water-cooled, but to minimize maintenance the Renault engineers had devised an ingenious sealed cooling system that never needed topping up, and unlike many cars at that time, the Renault had no lubrication points. The car had a soft and supple suspension, and rack-and-pinion steering. The roof was steel. Instead of the Citroën's rounded body, the utilitarian Renault was boxy—actually, two boxes: a big one for the people and a small one for the engine. Less character but more space. Despite being eight inches shorter than a 2CV, the boxy Renault 4 had more room, and removing the back seat created plenty of storage space. Access to the rear was by a top-hinged glazed hatch, making the Quatr'elle arguably the first hatchback. The design lacked the Deux Chevaux's quirky charm, but it had the schematic simplicity of a toy car in a children's coloring book.



Drawing by Witold Rybczynski

I had learned to drive with a stick shift, but where was it? Not on the steering column, as in my father's Vauxhall, and not on the floor.

The Quatr'elle had been on the market for four years when we rented it, and Renault would sell 8 million of this unprepossessing little car worldwide by the end of its run in 1994, making the Renault 4 the world's number three car in terms of total production, just behind the Ford Model T and the Volkswagen Beetle. This success was due in large part to the car's adaptability and versatility. The Renault 4 wasn't a car to impress the neighbors or play boy racer. It was for transporting families, large dogs, and bags of groceries. And two wide-eyed architectural tyros.

It took Ralph and me almost three weeks to reach Athens. We were not in a hurry, and we made many stops along the way, including visits to the world's fair in Lausanne, Diocletian's Palace in Split, the medieval monasteries of Meteora, and the shrine of Delphi, the first of many ancient sites. We spent two weeks in Greece, and on the strength of reading *Zorba the Greek* I made a four-day side trip to Crete. The return journey took us across the Adriatic and up the Italian boot, with a visit to Pompeii and extended stays in Rome and Florence. The last week driving through the French Riviera was hurried, with brief stops in Cannes for a dip, and Marseille to see Le Corbusier's famous *Unité d'habitation*. We took the motorway up to Paris, arriving in the city the day before we were due to return the car. The little Renault had performed admirably, especially on mountainous backcountry roads. "Driving on dirt is a little like driving in powder snow," I noted in my journal, adding with the insouciance of youth, "I nearly drove off the road once or twice, which could be serious when there is no guard rail and a hundred-foot drop."

Witold Rybczysnki is the Martin and Margy Meyerson Professor Emeritus of Urbanism.

Postcard Time Machine

The satisfaction of three sentences, a signature, and a stamp.

By Lisa S. Greene

There were no postcards at the Philadelphia airport.

I had left a rabbinic conference in time to pick up a snack and postcards before my flight, but amidst the Phillies, Eagles, Flyers, and Liberty Bell paraphernalia, I could not find a single postcard. A wave of unsettledness set in—what did this mean for the state of humanity and the future of the written word?

It's not too much to say that postcards define me. I always write to my kids when I travel. Sitting down to write on the road—or even downtown on my day off—provides a mindful practice of reflection on conversations, art, and history. And sending postcards strengthens my connection with friends across the map.

I endured the pandemic by writing at least one personal note each day, reaching out like the elusively extended hands in Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling. Late at night I'd sit at my desk, the stillness allowing me to sense who I wanted to connect with. I'd pull out a fitting card, write, address, and stamp it, and place it in the mailbox before heading to bed, knowing that despite the world tumult, in this moment, there was calm.

There's a deep family history behind my need to write. My grandparents wrote longhand letters, and my parents were prolific postcard and letter writers. When Dad traveled—or even just popped into Manhattan for a meeting—he wrote to us in his slanting lefty script reporting on who he ran into on Lexington Avenue. When my sister Jackie and I went to summer camp, Mom sent postcards in her kindergarten-teacher print—"At the Whitney with Barbara and Joan," or "In Maine with Harriet"—messages light in content but big on love. Finding Mom and Dad's cards today, often as bookmarks in favorite volumes, summons their faces and voices, and reminds me how they encouraged us to look out at the world to see and learn.

When I was little, Mom started placing postcards we received in a metallic box. I wonder now if she and Dad asked their globe-trotting friends to send Jackie and me cards, or if that was just what everyone did back then. Last summer, after Mom died, Jackie and I packed up the old house with our cousin Amy. I found the box. Memories came rushing back. Before me again were Uncle Joe's mystery cards, signed with a question mark. Here was one from Amy's late father, my Uncle Fred—a professor who made frog noises with his hands. On a postcard depicting Lady Liberty, he had signed a note to me using our childhood nickname for him: "I am in New York…Who is the lady on this card? Amy once called her the Liberty of Statue. Love, Froggy."

Since college I've kept my own collection of received postcards. Recently, I came across buried treasure: a blue Pendaflex folder labeled "correspondence." It contained a card from Kristi, the hiking guide who kept me going at 12,000 feet in Durango while we backpacked with teenagers in 1996. And one from Andreas, the German PhD student I met in Kyiv during my last summer of rabbinical school. I was teaching in nascent Jewish communities, and on a day I really needed someone to understand me, I stumbled upon Andreas on a street corner. We spoke English, cooked spaghetti and meat sauce, and made enough of a connection to merit an airmail stamp. Other cards bore the wry humor of Ariel, whom I met at her parents' Passover seder in London during my junior semester abroad, and elegantly penned notes from my Korean soul sister Hye Won, a dormmate at Andover when we were 16.

Photo courtesy Lisa S. Greene

I meditatively read and moved these cards from one side of my desk to the other for a while, and then encountered one that stopped me cold. There was the familiar handwriting I'd not seen in years, on a card Matthew had sent from Cape Verde. "Dear Lisa," he wrote. "I know it's been ages since I last dropped you a line. Even though I haven't been good [about writing], thank you so much for sending cards and letters. Well, I'm about 1/3 of the way finished with Peace Corps training …"

I'd been Matthew's resident advisor in the Quad when I was a senior. He was a tall, lanky freshman rower from Boston: good-looking, blond, preppy. I was a short Jewish girl with dark curly hair from New Jersey. We shared a certain mix of idealism and cynicism. He'd stand in his doorway in Brooks-Leidy watching his hallmates' antics with a bemused smile, then sit at the feet of our other friend Lisa, a literature-loving sophomore, and discuss his love of RC Cola, which her father bottled in Chicago. Matthew pledged a fraternity known for WASPy elitism, while I headed home for Rosh Hashanah. We developed an unlikely crush that brought on late-night conversations but no action. I was a rule-following RA, after all.

But our friendship—nay, curiosity—lingered, and after I graduated we remained friends. We visited one another in Boston and Manhattan; he picked me up at the train on his motorbike, and I let him sleep on my couch, even lending him my coveted Levi's jean jacket. But more than anything, we exchanged letters and cards.

Then we'd lost touch. Several years ago, I found out why. Reading the *Gazette*, I learned that he had died from ALS. Finding Matt's cards brought back a friendship that made me laugh and buoyed me to take risks, even as reading his mail aroused regrets. What if I hadn't been such a rule follower?

The cards in that stack transported me. I saw the faces and heard the voices of the writers—some of whom I still talk to all the time, others I'd have to scour the internet to locate, a few I will never see again. I hold onto these missives in a way that I cannot keep track of a text or email.

And this treasure trove inspires me to keep fresh cards close at hand, in my desk drawer or my purse, each a blank slate awaiting the perfect moment and message.

When I open my card drawer, I can select one that seems right for the recipient and the occasion. I have nearly 70 years to choose from.

Stashing postcards is a familiar habit, too. In my parents' house postcards had a designated drawer in Dad's desk. A kid could sit there, open the drawer, and be whisked away—to Japan, Jerusalem, Munich, Cincinnati, Illinois. There were ink drawings and faded photographs of double-decker buses and El Al flight attendants, unlabeled art, antiquities, and midcentury hotels. The obverse sides were mostly blank—surplus cards transformed into a historic repository of family travels.

After Dad died suddenly in 2008, Mom reorganized his desk, moving the cards from the top drawer to the bottom. This gave her grandchildren easy access. So my own kids sifted through the cards on visits—even as Mom kept using them too, writing to the grandchildren at summer camp, until Parkinson's Disease put an end to her inimitable penmanship.

When it came time to empty the desk after Mom died, Jackie told me to choose the cards I wanted before she took the rest. I imagine that she, too, feels the tug of connection to our parents who slid those cards into suitcase pockets while traveling.

So now my parents' unused postcards are merged chaotically with mine, mixed in with the dozens my kids and I have brought back from our own travels. When I open my card drawer, I can select one that seems right for the recipient and the occasion. I have nearly 70 years to choose from.

I don't write with an expectation of response, but sometimes I open my mailbox after work and discover a handwritten missive on the back of a glossy image. In recent months, they've arrived from New Orleans, California, and London. And my friend Debbie wrote from Manhattan—as she has for years. We met sophomore year in High Rise North and spent the rest of our Penn tenure sneaking snacks from Skolniks Bagels into the Van Pelt stacks.

Debbie credits me with starting her postcard habit 30 years ago. I was heading to Israel as a first-year rabbinic student. She wanted to stay in touch but worried that she wouldn't write anything because of the pressure to say it all. "Write a postcard," I told her. "Tell me one thing about your day." It worked—and still does! The other day I got a fuchsia orchid postcard saying, simply, "Know you always appreciate a handwritten communication."

And then there was the miraculous postcard from Austin. "Mom," wrote my college-age daughter Noa. "Today I went to a place that may be one of my favorite places …" The card recounted in meticulous, tiny print the natural rock pool she'd jumped into in Texas, and detailed her Seattle meanderings. I could picture her gleefully plunging in to swim, and exploring bookstores with friends.

But the salutation was what really got me: "Mom." I'd managed the best part of the postcard-writing ritual: passing it on.

Rabbi Lisa S. Greene W'87 serves North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, Illinois.

Joy in Mudville

A new Penn study digs into the science behind baseball's "magic mud."

Illustration by Chris Gash

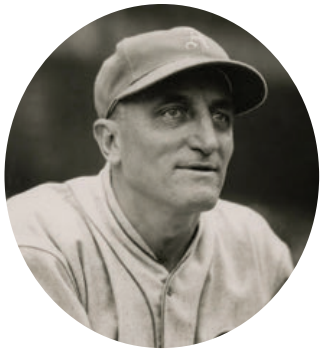
As **a principal investigator at the Penn Soft Earth Dynamics Lab** (Penn SED), Douglas Jerolmack has studied everything from the flow of rivers to the shifts of dunes. But his latest research project really knocked it out of the park.

Seeking to understand the secret sauce behind the celebrated "magic mud" that professional pitchers apply to baseballs to improve their grips, Jerolmack and his research colleagues at Penn's School of Engineering and Applied Science and School of Arts and Sciences found that the mud contains just the right mixture of clay and water to uniformly coat the baseballs with an adhesive residue, and just enough sand grains to enhance friction. "There's essentially two things the mud needs to do," he elaborates. "First, it has to be spreadable, so you can smear it on and thin it out. Think of shaving cream, or ketchup. Then, once it dries, it has to enhance your grip but not inhibit your ability to let go of the ball, so it can't be sticky."

For Jerolmack and his coauthors on the study that appeared in November in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*—including Penn SED postdoctoral researchers Shravan Pradeep and Xiangyu Chen EAS'25 and Penn Engineering professor Paulo E. Arratia—unpacking the mud wasn't just a sporty endeavor. It may also be useful in understanding why some environments are more susceptible to natural hazards such as mudslides, as well as in improving sustainable building techniques, Jerolmack says.

Jerolmack, who's also the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Endowed Term Professor of Earth and Environmental Science, wasn't all that keen on baseball when he was introduced to the mud by way of a query from a curious sportswriter a few years ago. Sifting through the many articles that have been written on the goop, "I found zero science," he says. "They just assumed it scuffs the baseball and removes the sheen. But … how? No one bothered to go look. We smeared the mud on a baseball and then wiped it off—and there were no marks, not a scratch. It turns out that what everyone reports is not correct. So, I sat up and said, *Now, I'm interested*."

The legacy of the mysterious mud has captivated baseball's notoriously superstitious fans for almost a century. The history stretches back to the 1920s, when Major League Baseball's honchos began requiring that balls be roughed up after a pitch killed a batter. They tried infield dirt and saliva from chewing tobacco and neither did the trick, but eventually Lena Blackburne, a former player and then a third base coach for the Philadelphia Athletics, thought of the New Jersey mudbanks along the Delaware River where he had played as a kid. The mud scooped from that site worked so well that it's been used by Major League Baseball (and most minor leagues) since 1938.



Lena Blackburne was a longtime MLB player and coach—but is best known for the creation of his baseball rubbing mud in 1938.

The legacy of the mysterious mud has captivated baseball's notoriously superstitious fans for almost a century.

Today, Lena Blackburne Rubbing Mud is run by the same family (the Bintliff family) to whom Blackburne's successor passed the business, and both the location and specific contents of the mud remain closely guarded secrets. Even Jerolmack has never visited the site. "Of course, I'm always very interested in being in the field or on the river to understand the processes and deposition in nature," he says. "When I learned that the family keeps the source secret and that there's been talk about Major League Baseball one day replacing it with a synthetic version, it all seemed so loaded that it seemed insensitive of me to threaten this tradition." Choosing among two research directions—the specific site characteristics that make the mud special, and how the mud works—he opted for the latter. "Interestingly, at that point, it became important *not* to talk to the family," Jerolmack says. "We wanted to buy it from the website like anyone else, then take it and blindly subject it to rigorous tests in the lab."

Opening the Vaseline-sized jar that arrived in the mail, he grabbed a dollop of the substance, which looked like "straight-up mud, though I could tell it had been processed because of its uniform, non-clumpy consistency," he recalls. "We held it upside down and it didn't drip, it didn't feel gritty, and it smeared and spread easily." All mud has common properties, he adds: it contains clay, the amount of which varies from site to site; it contains water; and it usually contains some kind of larger particles, like silt. Jerolmack and the other researchers played with, if not in, the muck for two years of continuous experimentation to get to the bottom of it.

First, they measured friction by pressing a baseball into an instrument and then spinning it to measure the resistance that produces friction. "But in this case, it knocked the sand grains off the baseball, which isn't what a hand would do since fingers are squishy and moveable," explains Jerolmack. So, using a polymer, the team created a 'finger' they dabbed with an oil called squalene to simulate the fluids emitted by a sweaty pitching paw.

Their conclusions, as reported in the paper, indicate that the mud creates a smooth baseball surface by filling in pores in the leather,

Photo by Charles M. Conlon courtesy National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

and that a small amount of angular sand grains bond to the baseball, leaving a studded surface that enhances friction. "The proportions of cohesive, frictional, and viscous elements create a soft material with an unusual mix of properties, that could find other applications in the development of sustainable geomaterials," the authors wrote.

Meanwhile, the extra *je ne sais quoi* of this particular mud remains a mystery. "This family harvests the mud naturally, but we know they drain and sieve it a bit and they report that they add a proprietary compound," Jerolmack says. "We don't know what that is, but we suspect they need to add a disinfectant and then maybe a polymer or something that makes it clump and behave in a certain way. We didn't look for that; it's proprietary but also outside of our wheelhouse. The family relies on an extraordinary amount of knowledge to get everything just right and bring it to the required sweet spot."

While Jerolmack expresses surprise that MLB hasn't yet come calling, he suggests that there's not much sense in muddying up the works. "This is a 90-year-old tradition, sustainably produced in small batches by one family-owned business," he says. "It's doing fine. Why would you want to replace it with something that would require some sort of production? It's been one of the most consistent things in baseball and that seems important."

—JoAnn Greco

Cultivating Crop Resilience

Using cutting-edge tech, a new center is studying climate change effects on a basic element of human survival—food.

Penn is well-known for its broad spectrum of initiatives to address climate change, but one significant piece was missing until recently: the study of how changing weather patterns affect the world's plants and, by extension, its food supply.

"There are a lot of initiatives focused on energy, economics, design, and various other really important disciplines, but we lacked a living organism or biology component," says Doris Wagner, the University's DiMaura Professor of Biology and director of the Plant Adaptability and Resilience Center, known as Plant ARC. Launched in October by the School of Arts & Sciences, Plant ARC's mission is to develop research-based methods to boost plant resilience and food security in ecosystems facing extreme heatwaves, droughts, and floods.

Rising temperatures and unpredictable precipitation are changing the way plants develop and reproduce, raising questions about the future of global agriculture. Plant ARC is committed to developing plants with long-lasting resilience that can adapt to environments disrupted by climate change.

Certain crops that sustain the planet are in particular trouble, according to climate models by scientific environmental organizations. In the United States, the country's two biggest crops are expected to suffer significant losses in coming decades, with corn harvests expected to drop by 13 to 60 percent and soybean harvests falling by as much as 57 percent by 2050, Wagner says. Globally, climate models predict a reduction in corn yield by 25 percent by 2050.

"Crop failures are due to excessive water loss and wilting. This can lead to plant death, loss of much of its foliage, or poor seed set, which is especially frequent in hot and dry conditions," Wagner explains. "These events are even more devastating if they occur when crops are about to set seed, because it leads to the loss of an entire cropping cycle." Additional crop losses are expected because elevated temperatures in warmer latitudes distort growing cycles. In some places where two harvests per year were possible, now only one harvest is occurring because the climate has become too hot or dry to yield a second harvest.

Plant ARC aims to improve specific traits to make crops that feed people and animals more resistant to climate extremes. The center will build on existing research to advance plant adaptability and resilience in the Brassicaceae family, including leafy vegetables like kale, collards, and cabbages; Fabaceae family, including beans, peas, and alfalfa; and

Illustration by Hadley Hooper

Poaceae family, including corn, rice, wheat, and sorghum, as well as grasses consumed by grazing animals.

Anchored in the Department of Biology, Plant ARC has seven labs where researchers study plants' fundamental processes to improve their architecture and yield, enhance adaptability and resilience to changing climates, and understand the mechanisms by which plants survive stress, among other goals. Plans are underway to construct a building for the center, which currently has seven faculty and three staff members drawn from the biology department. Plant ARC will need the extra space—future research will be conducted using six walk-in programmable plant growth chambers called phytotrons.

Future research will be conducted using six walk-in programmable plant growth chambers called phytotrons.

Wagner says phytotrons allow researchers to manipulate climate scenarios by adding, adjusting, and removing variables. Programmable variables include daily temperature fluctuations; air and soil humidity and water content; carbon dioxide levels; light changes during the day and season; and changes in ultraviolet radiation levels due to fluctuations in the ozone layer, she adds.

Plant ARC is currently using three refrigerator-sized phytotron prototypes to conduct research until the larger growth chambers are built to its specifications. In addition to allowing researchers to test different climate scenarios, the larger phytotrons will have groundbreaking new capabilities, such as the ability to add ultraviolet A and B radiation levels; draw on eight different spectrums of light color to mimic dawn, dusk, and seasonal light changes; and change humidity over a large temperature gradient. "All of these are major engineering feats that enable the phytotrons to reproduce climates precisely," Wagner says. "We've really tried to push the envelope."

Meanwhile, Plant ARC is establishing its place among Penn's other climate change initiatives through interdisciplinary partnerships. In its first event in November 2024, Plant ARC convened a "Climate Solutions for the Living World" symposium featuring speakers from the School of Arts & Sciences, Weitzman School of Design, Perelman School of Medicine, the School of Veterinary Medicine, and the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

"I've learned so much about other initiatives at the University that are of interest to us," says Wagner, noting that the opportunities to collaborate will help Plant ARC contribute to mitigating climate change problems. "There are so many areas of overlap where we can work together. That's made the campus for me a completely different landscape."

— Samantha Drake CGS'06

Rethinking US Fiscal Policy

The Penn Wharton Budget Model outlines steps to reduce the national debt and boost the economy.

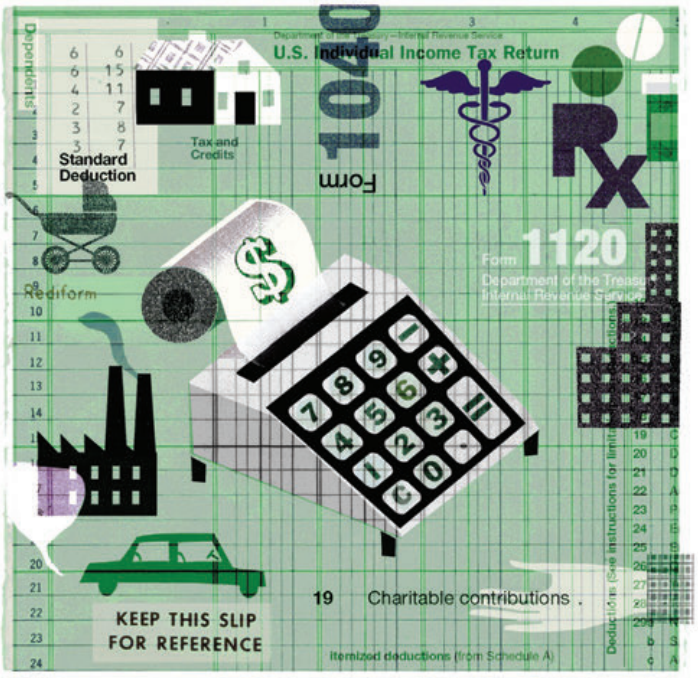


Illustration by Rich Lillash

The Penn Wharton Budget Model (PWBM)—a nonpartisan collective comprising researchers at Penn and Wharton as well as outside experts including policymakers, scholars, and analysts at federal agencies—has put forward a set of proposals designed to "rethink US federal debt policy" in the face of expanding federal debt while also keeping in mind broader goals like growing the economy and maintaining social insurance programs.

US Fiscal Policy: Lowering Debt, Growing the Economy, and Enhancing Social Insurance, published in December, examined a "policy bundle" consisting of 13 significant reforms. The PWBM team strived to steer clear of partisan points of view by selecting policies "based on widely accepted economic principles." In the analysis, the twin pillars of taxing and spending play their usual dominant roles, but the calculations also shed light on indications of household-level welfare, such as productivity, income, and access to health insurance.

The policy bundle stretches across four broad categories, with several overarching goals that include reforming the tax code while ensuring

the solvency of benefit programs like Social Security and Medicare—all while maintaining healthy economic growth. A sampling of the policy initiatives include:

• **Simplifying the tax code.** Among the adjustments considered for US tax filers, income generated by long-term capital gains would no longer be treated as *preferred income* and would no longer be taxed at relatively lower rates than ordinary income. Meanwhile, itemized deductions, which are used to reduce taxable income, would be disallowed (except for charitable donations). Such deductions would be replaced by a partially refundable tax credit, which filers could use to directly reduce taxes due.

• **Taxation of carbon emissions.** By taxing harmful pollutants, the policy would generate revenue while aiming to reduce major contributors to global warming. The tax would be levied on a per-ton basis (at a rate of $50 per ton, say) and would seek "to reduce emissions by seven percent in the short run and by approximately 16 percent by 2054."

• **Promoting the solvency of Social Security and Medicare.** "The United States cannot grow its way out of the shortfalls facing these two major spending programs," the research team says. A multipronged remedy is therefore prescribed, consisting of adjustments that include: raising the Social Security retirement age from 67 to 70; establishing new minimum and maximum benefits; raising the eligibility age for Medicare (except for patients with certain disabilities); and transitioning Medicare to a system in which participants choose from competing insurance plans and the government helps pay premiums directly to insurers.

To simulate the combined effects of these changes, the PWBM is fed data on hundreds of thousands of different types of households that are, collectively, representative of the US population. It then calculates the economic effects of the new policies (in the aggregate as well as at household level), essentially capturing a long cascade of events: a change in one policy inevitably stimulates economic reactions and behavioral responses, which in turn beget further changes, all of which are captured in the final analysis.

Taken together, the reforms are shown to generate positive outcomes across several economic dimensions. The federal budget deficit, for instance, is notably reduced, by a sum of $10 trillion over a period of 10 years (and by $59 trillion over 30 years). Economic output, meanwhile, is shown to grow by an additional 21 percent over 30 years when compared against current policy settings. The federal debt likewise benefits from the policy bundle, declining by 38 percent when observed over the same 30-year period. The significance of this decline, the research team says, goes beyond what meets the eye, because such reductions allow households "to allocate more of their savings toward productive capital rather than government bonds." With more capital flowing through the economy (instead of being invested in government securities), economic well-being would be expected to improve via gains in areas like wages and consumption.

The results generated by the PWBM differ from conventional analysis in that they account for the effects of taxing *and* spending, rather than focusing primarily on tax provisions. This more-inclusive approach helps paint a clearer picture of household-level outcomes, providing insight into which households benefit more and which benefit less (or indeed sustain losses).

The household-level results reveal (among other findings) that most Americans, across all combinations of ages and incomes, "stand to benefit from implementing [the] policy bundle." This is particularly true for future generations, including people not yet born. The analysis concluded that future low-income households could gain the equivalent of $300,000 in lifetime value from the reforms, which would be worth as much as $700,000 to those in the richest quintile. Such gains are partially driven, the PWBM brief says, by higher wages and lower healthcare costs.

While the policy bundle would set in motion welfare improvements for future generations, there are tradeoffs to be aware of, and some generations would fare better than others. For instance, people in their 20s through 40s at the time of the policy change would probably lose more than they'd gain, in part because they'd have to contend with lower Social Security benefits.

As the brief makes clear, no single policy action should be considered in a vacuum, given the interwoven relationships to consider. The PWBM team plans to make its framework more accessible in the coming years, so that more users can test policy reforms that are based on rich datasets, agile modeling, and state-of-the-art computing tools. *—Andrew Carr*

GIFT

Large Estate Gift for Undergraduate Aid

The University announced that the late William J. Levy W'57 L'64 has contributed $50 million in support of undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences, most recently through an estate gift of more than $42 million.

The gift will enable the William J. Levy Endowed Scholarship Fund to support more than 40 "civic-minded" students in the College annually, regardless of their financial backgrounds.

Levy, who died on July 27, 2023, was an attorney for the US Department of Justice and later founded a private investment firm. In the announcement, Penn Interim President J. Larry Jameson called him a "dedicated friend to Penn" whose "legacy will not only uplift future leaders but will also touch societies far beyond Penn's campus."

Missions and Acquisitions

A Penn Cultural Heritage Center initiative aims to bolster ethical museum collecting.

"This has been a long time coming."

So says Brian Daniels, the director of research and programs for the Penn Museum's Penn Cultural Heritage Center (PennCHC), which is undertaking a three-year national study that, per an October announcement, will "create an evidence-based framework for the future collecting decisions of US museums."

The new effort—called the Museums: Missions and Acquisitions (M2A) Project and funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services—aims to identify the ways in which museums acquire objects and create a guide for ethical collecting practices and accountability.

"What we're really trying to understand is, OK, what are museums doing at these spaces?" says Daniels, who serves as the M2A Project's principal investigator. "And if there are barriers to more ethical futures, what do they look like? So we can offer recommendations to overcome them."

Many museums already adhere to some standards for collecting artifacts and objects, such as the International Council of Museums' Code of Ethics, although this is currently being revised. American museums have an additional code from the American Alliance of Museums. But the M2A is trying to go beyond just a set of rules or guidelines, with Daniels noting that the kind of information they're collecting "has never been brought together on this scale and made available to museum leadership and policymakers."

"One of the biggest challenges" of the project, Daniels says, will be coaxing museums to be transparent about their current practices. Art and antiquities markets are often opaque. But through the Cultural Property Experts on Call (CPEOC) Program—which is a partnership between PennCHC and the US Department of State's Cultural Heritage Coordinating Committee that works to protect international cultural property from looting, theft, and trafficking—M2A researchers have already built relationships with museum leaders and other experts in the field. Be-

Preserving Assyria

On February 8, the Penn Museum opened a new exhibition, called *Preserving Assyria*, that "showcases archaeology's role in safeguarding cultural heritage from targeted destruction." It features select artifacts from the museum's Near East collections, images of ongoing excavations in Iraq, and touchable 3D replicas of monumental relief carvings that were recently excavated at Mashki Gate in Nineveh, Iraq—a site from the ancient Assyrian empire that was mostly destroyed by ISIS in 2016. Highlighting the collaborative restoration effort to protect Iraqi cultural heritage, the exhibition was curated by Michael Danti and Richard L. Zettler of Penn's Iraq Heritage Stabilization Program and will be on display until February 2026.

Rendering courtesy Penn Museum

cause of these established connections, Daniels says that he's "feeling very confident that we're actually going to be able to kind of overcome the reticence to talk about some of the challenges and problems over the past 25 years."

Researchers will examine more than 450 American museums that have historically held cultural objects—such as art, archaeological, and ethnographic collections. By 2027, the PennCHC will share the M2A Project's findings through a "state-of-the-field report that synthesizes the current collecting practices and spotlights innovative case studies across the US museum sector," according to the announcement, which notes that the project "comes at a critical moment as museums across the country grapple with the ownership histories of their collections and as the illegal trafficking of objects places global cultural heritage at increasing risk." The report is intended to help museum staff at all levels, as well as cultural leaders, trustees, grant makers, and others.

"We're really trying to shift the needle on museum practice by pointing to directions that museums can go," says Daniels, who notes that the Penn Museum is "known internationally for its strong stance on the ethical acquisition of cultural heritage."

"We're also really trying to galvanize philanthropy and other donors in the space toward ways that they may be able to support these kinds of museum transformations," he adds. *—Hannah Chang C'27*

Back to Beauty

Wendy Steiner returned to her roots—and to Penn—to discuss her latest book on aesthetics and female agency.

Wendy Steiner had been asking nuanced questions about beauty, women's taste, and freedom of choice for more than a decade—and had even written several books and operas on them—when she almost stopped entirely.

It was the 2010s, and she'd just published *The Real Real Thing*, which explores our cultural fixation on models and posing. Still, "I was getting sort of discouraged about the whole enterprise," Steiner recalled at a recent Kelly Writer's House appearance. "The world was being confronted with all kinds of terrible situations," she added, "and it wasn't clear that another book on beauty was important enough to worry about at this time."

After she told a stranger at a party that she studied aesthetics and the woman raved about a recent facial she'd had, mistaking Steiner for an esthetician, "I figured this is it," she recalled. "The world does not need my services in this way."

But then an evolutionary biologist changed her mind, and helped lead to her new book, *The Beauty of Choice: On Women, Art, and Freedom*, which came out last July. The Richard L. Fisher Professor of English Emerita at Penn, Steiner returned to the Writer's House in late January to share her latest work and discuss it with Penn English professor Heather Love.

Steiner said that she spent a decade and several books, including *The Trouble with Beauty* (1999) and *Venus in Exile* (2001), developing a theory of beauty as "a special interaction between a person and something else." In Steiner's view, by discovering their taste—whether for an object or another person—women also forge their sense of identity. It's a shift from rationalism to emotion and pleasure, she said: *I think, therefore I am* becomes *I like, therefore I am*.

Steiner has traced that idea back over a thousand years, through myriad women writers, artists, and characters. Around the year 1000, for instance, a Japanese lady-in-waiting catalogued everything she liked and disliked in *The Pillow Book*. She even reflected on her own preoccupation with taste, writing: "If I can spread out a finely woven, green straw mat and examine the white bordering with its vivid black patterns, I somehow feel that I cannot turn my back on this world, and life actually seems precious to me."

A story rooted in female

Illustration by Melinda Beck

agency from *The Canterbury Tales* inspired Steiner to pen her first opera libretto, *The Loathly Lady* ["The Wife, the Lady, and the Book of Dames," Mar|Apr 2007]. She's written five more operas since, "all of which are concerned in one way or another with these questions of female taste and freedom of choice," she said.

Steiner's *Beauty of Choice* spans ancient texts, postmodern fiction, contemporary visual artists, and other sources that interest and inspire her.

Still, as 2020 approached, Steiner was questioning the value of these deep dives into aesthetics. Then she picked up ornithologist Richard O. Prum's 2017 book, *The Evolution of Beauty*. "I ordered it and was astonished," she said. "It traversed exactly the same ground in considering beauty in the world of animals as I had been considering beauty in the human and artistic sphere."

Leaning into Darwin's theory of sexual selection, Prum posits that across species, female birds' preferences actually drive evolution. Males can display themselves, hoping to be chosen as mates, but females make the final decision—and it's often based on aesthetics. Great argus pheasants have evolved giant feathers covered in 3-D golden orbs because females like them. Club-winged manakins have learned to seduce by producing violin-like tones with their wings.

Reinvigorated by Prum's work, "I began to think that aesthetics is not irrelevant to important matters in the world," Steiner said. "The 'I like,' the expression of taste, the response to beauty … they actually change the species."

The result is a book that touts the importance of both aesthetics and women's freedom of choice. As it blends art criticism with evolutionary theory, aesthetics, and political history, Steiner's *Beauty of Choice* spans ancient texts, postmodern fiction, contemporary visual artists, and other sources that interest and inspire her.

She walked the Writer's House audience through several of the artworks featured in her new book, starting with the cover: a zoomed-in shot of the monument "Heroinat" (Heroines). The large relief of a woman's head was erected in 2015 to honor rape victims in the Kosovo war of the late 1990s. Its face is a computer-generated composite of many Kosovar women, formed into a sculpture by 20,000 pins—each with an image of the same face on them. Every pin represents a rape victim, but here they're recast as medals that honor 20,000 heroines.

Irish-born artist Barbara MacCallum appears in the book, too. She creates casts of her husband's body, then dresses them in intricate clothing made from printouts of his physics articles. Each work's title is named for that particular physics paper. "She thinks of her artworks as representations and expressions of her marriage," Steiner said. "They've been married for 50 years, and her art is an ongoing interaction with him."

She also showed several pieces by the contemporary painter Marlene Dumas, whose work often interacts with that of modernist male artists—as evidenced by Picasso's "The Weeping Woman" (1937) and Dumas's answer, "Dora Maar (The Woman Who Saw Picasso Cry)" (2008).

Noting the book's broad array of artists, Love asked if Steiner ever encounters art that is "beyond the pale for you"—that is, "misogynist or negative forms of art that you think don't serve this function of democracy."

Steiner thought back to 1995, when she was giving talks on her book *The Scandal of Pleasure*. Someone in every audience would inevitably bring up Andre Serrano's "Piss Christ" as an offensive piece that shouldn't be shown. "My response was, Well, I'm offended by a lot of things in the world, but so what?" Steiner said. "Why is it that people feel that if they are offended, it's a catastrophe?"

Antisemitism, racism, and other "material that is appalling" so often flood the classic texts that English majors and scholars study, she said, but "we wouldn't ever want to stop them from being read." It traces back to her idea of *I like, therefore I am*. Whether it's deeply offensive or sublimely beautiful, all art gives us a chance to examine our individual tastes, aesthetics, and even ethics.

"The most disgusting screed in art can still cause you to say *that's the most disgusting screed I've ever seen in art*," she said. "And that's a valuable thing."

—Molly Petrilla C'06

Photo by Tommy Leonardi C'89

MLK SYMPOSIUM

Call to Service

The University held its 30th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and Symposium on Social Change in January, which included a beautification project at Laura Sims Skate House in West Philadelphia, attended by Penn Medicine research fellow Ting-Wei Ernie Liao (center left) and Penn senior Joey Wu (center right).

Other symposium events included the MLK Social Justice Lecture and Award with historian Orlando Patterson, who delivered a presentation on slavery and genocide in the US and Jamaica; and an interfaith awards commemoration with author and pundit Eddie Glaude giving a keynote address and telling an audience at Houston Hall, "Let's choose the America that Dr. King gave his life for."

Swedish Survivor

Four thousand miles from home, Stina Almqvist has overcome homesickness and hardship to enjoy a standout basketball career at Penn.

In Kinna, Sweden, "everyone knows everyone," Stina Almqvist says. Her father, Fredrik, a longtime basketball coach, once won a "Citizen of the Year" award in the town of roughly 15,000 people. And Stina is somewhat of a celebrity there—known now as a standout senior on the Penn women's basketball team but, prior to that, as "the girl in the accident."

It was April 2017. Stina and 50 of her eighth-grade classmates and teachers were on their way to a ski resort when the double-decker bus they were on tipped over on an icy highway, falling on its side into a ditch. Three students were killed and 20 were injured.

One of the students who died was a close childhood friend of Stina's, someone she used to bike to school with and play basketball with every day. Another had walked onto the bus at the same time as Stina and, when they were picking seats, ended up sitting right behind her. "It literally could have been me," she says.

The accident became national—and international—news. Fredrik was quoted in an article, picked up by the Associated Press, that he had been awakened by a call from his "panic-stricken" daughter who "screamed and screamed." The prime minister of Sweden came to visit and speak to her town. Television stations, radio stations, and newspapers interviewed Stina. Everyone in Kinna, it seemed, knew that Stina had been on the bus. She would go to the store and be recognized and reminded of the accident almost every day until she left for college. "Am I supposed to have fun and laugh?" she recalls wondering. "But I know if I died, I wouldn't want anyone else to be miserable for the rest of their lives."

Basketball became her refuge, "the only thing that could keep me out of those thoughts." And the accident served as a constant reminder to never to slack off on the court, because her classmates who died "would have done anything to do that one more time."

Stina had hurt her shoulder and arm in the crash and initially feared that she would never be able to play basketball again. But after a few days, she was able to start moving her arm again. And about a month later, she resumed playing the sport that means so much to her and her family.

Senior Stina Almqvist became the 26th player in program history to reach the career 1,000-point milestone in a win over Brown at the Palestra on February 15.

Photo by Tommy Leonardi C'89

Although soccer and ice hockey dominate Swedish sports, basketball has always loomed largest for the Almqvists. Fredrik played in Sweden's professional basketball league for three years and has coached for the past 40. Marie, Stina's mother, is a board member of the local basketball club where Fredrik coaches. Stina's older sister, Jonna, has been playing professionally in Sweden since 2020, and her younger sister, Penny (named after former NBA great Penny Hardaway) plays too, with Stina often staying up late to watch her games on YouTube. Growing up, Stina remembers, "it was either you sit and watch it or you participate."

Fredrik was her first coach, always emphasizing "fun first and basketball second." But he quickly noticed a potent competitive streak. "She hates to lose," he says. "So in that way she's more American than Swedish."

Her competitiveness, dedication, and skills propelled her to Sweden's youth national teams from the U15 to U20 levels, racking up medals and accolades along the way. Game film found its way to the Penn women's program, where associate head coach and recruiting coordinator Kelly Killion was impressed with her poise against older competition. Stina hadn't heard of Penn when the Quakers began recruiting her. She got offers from other schools, but a friend of Fredrik's praised Penn's reputation, so she committed, joining the class of 2025.

The first in her family to attend college in the US, Stina struggled early on with the transition. Moving from Kinna to Philadelphia was overwhelming. So was studying in English and figuring out little things like the mathematical terms used in American classrooms, which differed from the ones she had used before. When Penn head coach Mike McLaughlin once told her to be on the balls of her feet, Stina translated the phrase literally in her head, leaving her confused. "I was having a hard time [making] friends in the beginning," Stina says, "because I think it was hard to speak English and crack a joke and all that."

"She looks at the bright side—because she is living. The accident changed her. She was an adult immediately."

One day, during her first semester, Fredrik flew over to surprise her. When McLaughlin called her in for a meeting, she walked into the room, saw him, and started to sob. "It was unreal," she says. "It was like an out-of-body experience." Had he not come and stayed for a week at a cheap hotel in Chinatown, Stina believes she might have left Penn for good. "Now, I love it here," she says, "so thank God he did that."

Fredrik knew Stina was having a hard time in college. "She called every night," he remembers, because "she needed to talk to us." But that didn't mean he regretted sending her so far away. "I encourage her all the time that she needs to fly with her own wings," he says.

Stina has gradually spread her wings beyond the basketball court and her Wharton studies. She is copresident of Penn's International Student Athlete Association, where she plans events like Friendsgiving for international student athletes who can't go home for Thanksgiving break. And she's a member of the Friars Senior Society, where she's come to see "a whole new side of campus," supporting fellow Friars at their Mask and Wig shows and punk dance workshops. "You're only on this Earth one time," she says. "I never say no to anything." One of the most memorable things she said yes to was accompanying a friend to a Natives at Penn powwow. Though she initially just came to watch, Stina found herself drawn into the dance. "How did I just end up in a powwow?" the blonde-haired, blue-eyed Swede recalls thinking.

On the basketball court, the 6-foot-1 guard has emerged as one of the Ivy League's top scorers and rebounders this season after leading the Quakers in scoring as a junior and garnering second team all-Ivy plaudits. And she's become a leader, a co-captain who's gutted through games on a sprained ankle, gobbled up rebounds, encouraged her teammates, and organized team dinners. Teammate Mataya Gayle, a sophomore guard, remembers after one brutal loss to Princeton last season, "the locker room was just silent, and it was just me and Stina bawling our eyes out. And that just told me, *OK, you care*. I think as a competitor, seeing someone else that competitive, gave me a lot of respect for her."

"We expected her to be pretty good," Killion says, "but I don't know if anyone expected her to be as good as she's been." Killion has marveled at Almqvist's work ethic and coachability. "She brings people together. So I think it's not just one story. I think it's a collection of stories about how she's brought her community together and brought our team together."

After the season ends in March and she graduates from Penn in May, Stina hopes to keep playing basketball, instead of immediately pursuing a career with her Wharton degree. Her father, who watches every one of her Penn games live, even though most are on in the middle of the night in Sweden, believes she can have a long and successful playing career in Europe—especially after all she's been through and the perspective she's gained.

"She looks at the bright side—because she is living," he says. "The accident changed her. She was an adult immediately."

Stina often thinks about her friend who died. *Where would he be now? What college would he have gone to?* Whenever she returns home, she visits his family. She also has learned to embrace all of the small things in Kinna, from the Christmas tradition of playing basketball with friends at her local club to hanging out with her 12-year-old sister Penny, who rarely calls her older sister because seeing her on the phone makes her sad. But "I'm home for 20 minutes and it's like, *Oh, I'm arguing with my sister again*," Stina laughs.

Yet even these moments Stina doesn't take for granted. As her intrepid journey continues, she has "needed to see" her home that never seems to change, even as she does.

"Stina is very strong," Fredrik says. "She is a special one."

—Hannah Chang C'27

BUILDING BLOCKS

Rebuilding Together Philadelphia is repairing homes one at a time to strengthen neighborhoods and build generational wealth.

By JoAnn Greco

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL BRANSCOM

Opening spread: 5900 Block of Irving Street, site of a "Block Build" last October by Rebuilding Together Philadelphia. Below: Homeowner Carol Pettis (center) with Penn EVP Craig Carnaroli and RTP CEO Stefanie Seldin.

Sitting on a sofa in her West Philadelphia living room, Carol Pettis folds her hands in her lap and smiles politely at the prospect of being interviewed. Suddenly, though, her face breaks into a broad smile.

"I'm so happy," the 74-year-old retiree says. "I'm just so happy with this program. When I first heard about it, I thought it was a scam. I thought, somebody is trying to take my house away!"

The program she's talking about, Rebuilding Together Philadelphia (RTP), can certainly sound too good to be true. Founded in 1988 by a bunch of enterprising Wharton students, it was an early entrant into what's now a nationwide nonprofit with 120 affiliates. The program repairs—for free and with no strings attached—the houses of low-income homeowners who aren't able to afford the necessary work that will allow them to stay in—and eventually pass on—safe, healthy, and energy-efficient homes.

The leader of those students and founder of what became RTP, Robert Bellinger WG'89, was introduced to the idea—dubbed "Christmas in April"—after a fellow parishioner at his church outside of Washington, DC, shared the story of a Midland, Texas, church that had started an annual day of service targeted at helping to fix up neighbors' homes.

"I wasn't part of the formulation at my church, but I was an early volunteer, and I loved it," he says. "If the heating wasn't working, we'd focus on that, or we'd concentrate on safety issues." Roofing was a particular concern, he adds. "Across the urban landscape, the real reason a lot of these homes are lost is due to roof failure. Keeping a home dry is the most cost-effective way to preserve the affordable housing that we're losing more and more of every year—which has become a huge crisis. I mean, what more fundamental need is there than to live somewhere clean and safe so you can raise a family and care for an invaluable asset? It's such an integral part of a person's dignity and heritage. It's a big part of the American dream."

Bellinger—who's still based in the Washington area, where he heads up ASB Real Estate Investments, and who also serves on the executive committee of Wharton's Zell/Lurie Real Estate Center—says he first came to understand the joy of "creating something useful and beautiful out of nothing" as a young man over a summer in DC when he worked as an apprentice carpenter. "I did a lot of finish work in homes, building shelves and cabinets, and developed a lifelong interest and love for woodworking," he recalls.

"What more fundamental need is there than to live somewhere clean and safe?"

—RTP founder Robert Bellinger

Bellinger earned his undergraduate degree from Haverford College, and afterward found a job as a commercial lender back home in DC. He was attracted to the real estate field, which "brought in that need for creativity and reinvention and combined it with finance and business skills," he says, "and I decided I really wanted to segue into that. But I was perceived as a banker and had a hard time getting a job with a developer. I knew I had to go to business school to change that and I knew I had a lot to learn, so I chose Wharton for its exceptional real estate program."

As he became immersed in issues of economic development and housing affordability, Bellinger thought again of his church's "Christmas in April" project. Might something like that work in Philadelphia?

Over the 35 years since Bellinger and his fellow Wharton students launched the program, RTP has brought some 2,300 homes up to snuff in Philadelphia. Professional contractors do the heavy lifting, but three times a year RTP stages what it calls a "Block Build," a two-day effort that relies on a force of volunteers to show up ready to wield hammers and paintbrushes.

Given its Penn roots, and the fact that RTP often returns to West Philadelphia,

Top photo by Michael Branscom; portrait courtesy ASB Real Estate Investments

volunteers routinely include University staff, students, and faculty. "It's great to chat with homeowners and hear about how this program has eased their worries and allowed them to enjoy their homes for longer than they might have," says Weitzman School of Design student Sarah Curry GCP'25, who volunteered in April 2024 and intends to return again this spring. "We read a lot of stats and theory in planning school, but the opportunity to meet actual residents and feel a part of the neighborhood is really impactful."

New in 2025, the University is putting more than muscle into its long-standing partnership by donating $1.7 million over four years towards the repair of 75 homes in the neighborhood. "Housing has always been a key component in Penn's involvement in West Philadelphia," says Craig R. Carnaroli W'85, the University's senior executive vice president. "More than ever, though, we are thinking about how we can use our resources for positive impact in the face of threats like displacement and a lack of affordable housing. The most affordable house is the one that you're already in."

Stefanie F. Seldin C'90, RTP's president and CEO, expands on that. "Ideally, we're doing this to help older folks age in place, if that's what they want," she says. "Home ownership has been shown to be the best way to build generational wealth. It's also important to have neighborhoods that can keep their culture and keep their people housed." She's been attending Block Builds for the last decade or so and the feedback she gets from people like Pettis has stayed with her. "I'll never forget one homeowner who said to me, 'Before you guys came in, this was a house. After everyone left, it was a home,'" she says. Including vacant buildings, Philadelphia has upwards of 27,000 homes with no full kitchen and/or plumbing, Seldin adds. "When someone tells me that they hadn't had a working oven in 10 years until RTP stepped in, it really speaks to the tangible impact that we're after."

"I'll never forget one homeowner who said to me, 'Before you guys came in, this was a house. After everyone left, it was a home,'" Seldin says.

Among large cities, Philadelphia is known for its high percentage of home ownership. According to a 2020 report from the Pew Charitable Trusts, 38 percent of low-income Philadelphians live in owner-occupied homes, which is one of the highest rates among the nation's largest and poorest cities. However, the report also noted that about 231,000 Philadelphia households—or some 529,000 people—were cost-burdened (meaning they spent 30 percent or more of their income on housing costs) in 2018, the last year for which data was available. Digging deeper, the report went on to observe that "housing cost burden is well above the citywide average of 40% in much of North, West and Southwest Philadelphia. These sections of the city are also home to a large share of the city's lower-income, Black, and Hispanic populations, all of which have high rates of cost burden."

These are the people and the neighborhoods that RTP is concentrating on. "Historically people of color have less opportunity to take advantage of generational wealth," Seldin says. And as the rate of Black homeownership has slipped from above 50 percent during the mid-1970s through the mid-2000s to 47 percent in 2019, according to data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia—hanging on to the home you already have becomes vital. "RTP is addressing that housing inequity by stemming the tide of asset loss," says Seldin.

"I still can't believe this is happening," Pettis murmurs. "It's like a dream."

Not long ago, the two-story home in Cobbs Creek that she shares with her 10-year-old grandson was more like a nightmare. "I could feel the wind blowing from the front of the house right through to the back," Pettis says, of her rotting bay window. "I just knew that one day the whole facade was going to cave in." Down below, her unventilated basement was so "nasty and out of control" that it triggered her asthma whenever she did the laundry. She didn't go out to her backyard anymore because she feared falling on crumbling steps that lacked handrails.

But on this sunny autumn morning, all that is well on the way to being just an unpleasant memory. Earlier in the year, construction crews had been in and out of the place for weeks, tackling mold remediation and adding dryer vents in the basement. Repairing the leaky roof and water-logged ceiling. Installing a skylight and rebuilding that terrifying bay window. After they wrestled her backyard into shape, she says, "I enjoyed it all summer." And, she adds, since they removed dust-magnetic carpeting from her upstairs bedrooms, she and her grandson "have been breathing so much better."

Soon, dozens of volunteers would arrive to finish the job at her house and eight others on her block. Some would hunch over floors to remove the recalcitrant tacking strips holding down moldy carpeting. Others would climb on ladders to install smoke detectors and house numbers. Dozens would arrive with paint cans and trash bags. Many of them would leave with new skills and perhaps new friends.

Best of all, none of this would cost Pettis or her neighbors a dime.

Photo by Michael Branscom

Block captain Marla Oliver, with her dog Princess. When RTP came, "It felt like we had hit the lottery," she says.

Their lives had changed shortly after the turn of the year when Marla Oliver, 61, their block captain, received a call from ACHIEVEability, a community development corporation, saying that RTP had asked them to start identifying homes in dire need of repair. "I was like, 'For real!? For real!?'" laughs Oliver. "It felt like we had hit the lottery." After several years on a waiting list, the 5900 block of Irving Street was about to receive the royal RTP treatment.

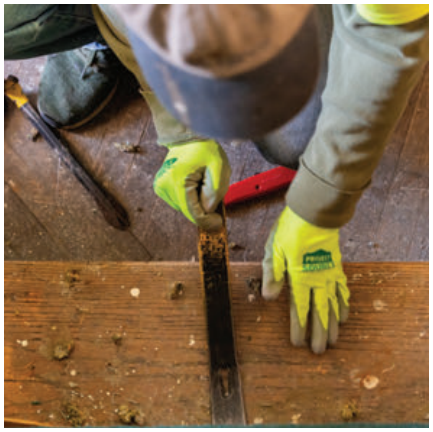
"It's very important for us to have a community partner that the neighbors trust do the initial outreach," Seldin says. The next step, after introducing the program to neighbors, is to determine interest and eligibility. Homeowners must prove that they retain title to their home and reside at the property, that the home is in need of health and safety repairs, and that their household income does not exceed 80 percent of HUD's area median income. (According to Seldin, the average household income of the 150 homes served by RTP each year is around $25,000.)

Once a home is selected, an RTP staff member will do an initial walkthrough to identify trouble spots, working off of a checklist of 25 priorities that includes a watertight roof; no tripping hazards; working plumbing; and properly operating smoke and carbon dioxide detectors, windows, and electricity. At the beginning of the process, candidates generally meet just half of those health and safety standards. The average spent to repair a home is $17,000, though it can go higher when something like a new kitchen is installed—as was done in Oliver's and three of the other qualifying houses on Irving Street.

Since a cluster of homes on the block had signed on, they were slated for one of RTP's three annual Block Builds. That's when the fun really begins—and that's where we find Pettis and Oliver, each holding a squirming small dog, on an atypically warm October afternoon. Taking it all in and trying to stay out of the way, they stand in the middle of the street as some 50 Wells Fargo volunteers (bright red T-shirts) and RTP staffers (neon yellow) swarm in and out of the houses that are participating. Theirs is a tidy, intact block with no gaps, except for a corner lot that was recently listed for sale at $1.5 million and approved for development of up to 100 rental units. It had previously been occupied by a garage building that, neighbors suspected, was housing a meth lab—and where, one night a few Octobers ago, an explosion caused the whole thing to go up in flames.

Directly across the street, Oliver's windows shattered. The house next door to the site was destroyed and had to be rebuilt. In the next house over, Teresa

Photo by Michael Branscom



The average spent to repair a home is $17,000, though it can go higher when something like a new kitchen is installed.

After 30 years in her house, Teresa Armstrong felt like she was losing control of its condition. Now, "I'm staying. This is my home—it's me."

Armstrong wondered how much longer she could stay on the block. Even setting aside the frightening explosion, she felt she was losing control of her house—a suspicion that was confirmed when RTP came through at the beginning of the project and an inspector removed a few ripped tiles from Armstrong's roof and pointed at the sky peeking through.

Now, looking on as volunteers applied black paint to the chain link fence out front, Armstrong declares, "I'm so proud. Thirty years in this house—and I'm staying. This is my home—it's me."

A few moments later, surveying the scene from Pettis's porch, Seldin begins to make a few remarks. Volunteers grab boxed lunches and plop down on stoops and squat along curbs, while officials—including Pennsylvania State Senator Anthony H. Williams and City Councilmember Jamie Gauthier MCP'04—wait their turn to address the crowd. "I know there are some people building planter boxes today," Seldin says. "And tomorrow we'll be making them nice and beautiful and filling them with plants. Studies show that this kind of landscaping actually deters crime. That's just one crime-reduction effort."

Seldin quotes a Penn study finding that structural home repairs on a block can reduce crime there by 22 percent, and adds, "But what about the things you *cannot* measure, like being able to have a family meal together? What about knowing that you can age in place safely or knowing that you have a home that you can pass on to the next generation to give them a leg up and economic mobility?"

Seldin, who went to law school at Georgetown University after Penn, has spent much of her career working in community services, including stints at the Philadelphia City Solicitor's office representing abused children, the Support Center

Photos by Michael Branscom

for Child Advocates in Philadelphia, and the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance. "I worked one summer at a law firm," she says, "but other than that I've been very fortunate to be able to dedicate myself to serving communities. You meet people like Ms. Pettis, and you think, 'Who wouldn't want to do that?'"

Before joining RTP in 2013, she was managing attorney for Philadelphia VIP, which trains legal volunteers to represent low-income Philadelphians who can't afford a lawyer. During her 10 years there she learned about the huge problem of tangled titles in Philadelphia. Without clear ownership, she says, even if residents stay up to date on their tax payments, they will be unable to tap into their home's value—or even get homeowner's insurance or qualify for city programs aimed at helping low-income households.

Her time at VIP cemented her interest in issues like these that affect low-income homeowners; since moving to RTP, she's emphasized ensuring that the homeowners who benefit from the nonprofit's largesse have wills in place, so their homes can be easily passed on to the next generation. The program is big on other training, too, such as home maintenance (including how to be alert in spotting potential problems) and budgetary matters like saving for rainy day emergencies.

"When we started, we called ourselves Christmas in April Philadelphia," recalls Bellinger of the program's early days. "We got help and advice from the DC group but remained a separate entity. That was not only entrepreneurial, but it allowed us the spontaneity and nimbleness to respond to local concerns. Eventually, we decided to get away from a name that seemed faith-based for one with broader appeal." In 2003, according to RTP's website, they became a local, independent affiliate of the national nonprofit Rebuilding Together.

"Penn was very supportive of us right from the beginning and RTP evolved to be a big part of campus life," Bellinger says. And his. He's remained on the board for most of the time since the organization's founding and still comes up from DC every spring for the Penn Block Build. RTP has, he says, "been a wonderful part of my life for almost 40 years now."

Does it all work? Does making a few homeowners happy and comfortable in their homes lead to solidifying a neighborhood and then on to building generational wealth for marginalized populations?

WHAT LIES BENEATH

Archaeology students and community members uncover tales and artifacts close to home.

There's a certain surface parking lot in University City where, if you glanced its way at all, you'd see a few dumpsters and some patches of grass growing over kicked-up gravel, and a dozen or so cars lined up against the back of its most interesting feature: an old red brick Quaker meeting house that now serves as the Community Education Center (CEC) at 3500 Lancaster Avenue. But this vestige of a few misguided bulldozers has stories to tell about the neighborhood's past, when it was known as Black Bottom.

Recently, a community archaeology project called Heritage West brought together students, faculty, and community members to uncover that narrative, literally. Their findings—all 19,236 of them—excavated from the sites of several 19th-century homes and one privy, include shards of bottles and plates, fragments of pipe stems and

Photo courtesy Heritage West

vinyl records, food evidence like oyster shells and cow bones, rubble and debris from building demolition, architectural remnants such as walls, curbstones and fire pits, and many, many bits of coal.

"We've learned about the abundance and importance of coal for heating the homes," wrote Qi Liu, one of the Penn undergraduates who participated in the excavation, in a blog post for Heritage West. "We've learned that people painted their walls in a huge variety of beautiful colors. We've learned about some of the various ways residents cooked and ate their meals, made their livings, and entertained themselves with hobbies … and we have learned more about the violent destruction of their community."

At one time a half-dozen houses, built between the 1850s and 1870s, filled this lot. They were part of a wedge-shaped area, roughly bounded by 33rd to 40th Streets, from Lancaster Avenue to Market Street, that held a segregated and densely occupied neighborhood where Blacks owned and rented homes and—despite exclusionary practices like redlining—managed to open stores, services, and restaurants; keep their real estate in their families; and raise kids who became doctors, teachers, and politicians.

Eventually though, in the familiar narrative of mid-20th-century urban renewal, this neighborhood came to be viewed as a "slum" and the bulldozers arrived, displacing more than 5,000 residents. While the sad end of the story is well known, Heritage West, founded by three Penn faculty members in 2019, aimed to flesh out what life was like leading up to that.

"There are plenty of oral histories about how neighborhoods like this were destroyed and families were dispersed" in the 1960s, says cofounder Sarah Linn Gr'18, assistant director of academic

Two years ago, with the support of the Oak Foundation, RTP engaged the Housing Initiative at Penn (HIP) ["Gazetteer," Sep|Oct 2021] to find out if its concentrated, block-by-block approach works. The ongoing project involves collecting data on 40 households before they received the repair and then looking at them six months after the repairs are complete. "We'll be looking at how the repairs are impacting the physical and mental well-being of homeowners, their housing and financial stability, and the connections between neighbors," says HIP director Rebecca Yae. "So far, we've studied 10 households at the 'before' stages, trying to understand how difficult it is to live with subpar housing and how they use their home, and what their Plan B would've been if they didn't have access to this kind of program."

RTP engaged the Housing Initiative at Penn to find out if its concentrated, block-by-block approach works. The ongoing project involves collecting data on 40 households before and six months after repairs are complete.

Looking to the future, Seldin is "super excited about the prospect of getting real data on unwanted home displacement." Other plans include growing RTP's subcontractor pool (which currently stands at about 20 companies, 77 percent of which are minority and/or women-owned) and continuing to investigate ways in which RTP can incorporate energy retrofits into old houses. Lastly, Seldin is eager for the advisory council that RTP set up about four years ago to blossom. Consisting of about a dozen homeowners who have gone through the nonprofit's repair program, it's already worked with RTP on making subcontractor agreements more consumer-friendly and helped create a video for volunteers that focuses on treating homeowners with dignity. "The council is also a pipeline to the board of directors," Seldin says, pointing out that two council members have recently joined the board, and that she hopes to see a third added soon.

Her overall goal is embedded in all of these initiatives, Seldin suggests. "I think it's important for people to know the state of housing in the city," she says. "You have a very poor city with a lot of old homes, and it all adds up to a lot of people living in unsafe, unhealthy conditions."

JoAnn Greco is a frequent contributor to the *Gazette*.

engagement at the Penn Museum. "Since living memories don't stretch back much further than that," she adds, "we hoped that architecture and other material components could push us deeper in time."

First, though, "we wanted to just listen, especially since Penn has had such a complicated relationship with the community," adds Megan Kassabaum, another cofounder and the Weingarten Associate Curator for North America and associate professor and graduate chair in the Department of Anthropology. In the Fall of 2021, on Parking Day—a global project where organizations temporarily repurpose curbside parking spots and convert them into parks and other social spaces—they kicked off their outreach by setting up an installation on Lancaster Avenue and asking the community to help create a timeline of neighborhood history.

"We entered a few key events, from pre-contact to the early Lenape groups and all the way up into the unknown future," Kassabaum says. "Then, as we talked to people who stopped by, we added in their memories, mostly from the 1950s but extending to kids writing in their birthdays a couple years ago." The event, she observes "reinforced our goal of democratizing the project by learning what the community was interested in knowing more about": the daily lives of the people who lived in the wooden twin homes, which were built in the 1850s before the area was consolidated into Philadelphia, and of those who lived in the post-Civil War brick row homes until the 1960s.

From that parking spot it was a short leap to the parking lot. "Finding a site was tough because the development of University City has covered over and made inaccessible much of any archaeological resources that might have still been underground," says Linn. "But during this process, we had a great relationship with the CEC, hosting workshops with organizations like the Penn Libraries and the African American Genealogy Group. In the course of walking through their parking lot over and over again, we realized it might be a great place to excavate since gravel is a lot easier to handle than paving."

Anthropology lecturer Doug Smit, a third cofounder of Heritage West who has since left Penn, burrowed into neighborhood-related archives and learned that seven homes had once stood on the lot and an adjacent parcel in the CEC's front yard. Then the real digging began. Using ground penetrating radar, researchers discerned that even just beneath a foot or two, a huge amount of construction rubble and everyday detritus was waiting. A coterie of Penn students, project staffers, and 20 community members worked at the site during the Fall 2023 semester, slowly digging with shovels and meticulously sifting buckets of dirt through 1/4-inch mesh.

Findings like butchered animal bones or tiny plant matter "encouraged us to have conversations about past and present foodways in the neighborhood," says Kassabaum. "Everyone was excited about uncovering oyster shells and many wanted to share the recipes that came up from the south during the great migration." Smaller items elicited tangential memories, she adds, such as when a stray button brought to mind a person who everyone in the neighborhood called Buttons and Bows because they always got dressed up for church. "These were amazing moments that really grounded the project in the daily lives of how folks lived when the neighborhood thrived," Kassabaum says.

Community members and student participants were invited to return to the museum the following semester to help wash, sort, count, and weigh the items. "We still have to finish publishing the material and thinking about how to share it," says Linn. One idea is to digitize all of the objects, another is to put together an exhibit either at the museum or somewhere else in the neighborhood. The community, she says, will play a key part in these discussions.

"I always tell my students that excavation represents just about 20 percent of a project like this," adds Kassabaum. "The whole point is to make public the story of what life was like prior to the violent end that we all know about." —*JG*

On Highway 67 (and Beyond)

In a varied and decades-long career as a photographer and videographer Charlie Steiner has traveled around the world. But he still keeps coming back to the 1960s on Penn's campus, where he got his start.

By John Prendergast

For years the photographer and videographer Charlie Steiner C'68 has been tinkering with a project he calls *Highway 67 Revisited*. Still very much a work-in-progress (though he hopes to pull together a book before too long), it's taken on various forms as he's thought and rethought the concept—sometimes expanding to incorporate seminal texts and era-defining photographs produced by others, and sometimes spilling into subsequent decades to take in later artists and events spiritually, if not chronologically, *of* the '60s—but always having at its heart the photos Steiner took as an enterprising student photographer working for the campus monthly *Penn Comment* and other venues. Those include images of Andy Warhol in his first solo exhibit at Penn's Institute of Contemporary Art, Bob Dylan on stage at the Academy of Music, and Robert F. Kennedy speaking in the Palestra, among others.

The title of the project obviously derives from Dylan's 1965 album *Highway 61 Revisited*, which itself paid homage to an old blues song, "61 Highway Blues," recorded by Mississippi Fred McDowell and others. "That's where Dylan got it. It's interesting because Highway 61 goes from Minnesota, where he grew up, to New Orleans, and it goes through the Mississippi Delta," says Steiner, a longtime New Yorker who relocated to New Orleans a decade or so ago. "And now I live at the end of it. When I first moved here, I lived about six blocks from Highway 61."

The *67* is there "because, to me, looking at the '60s—for the purpose of the book I'm calling "the '60s" 1965 to 72—but '67 was the peak of what most people think of as the '60s," before the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy in 1968 and the killing and other violence at the Altamont Speedway concert in 1969 soured the vision of "peace and love and community," he says. "There's a lot of things you could say is the *end* of the '60s, but '67 was a high point in the cultural and music scene."

Others have different perspectives on that, and about the period in general, he acknowledges. "I've had arguments with people a little younger than me who say, 'Well, it wasn't really a big deal. Things didn't change that much. It was a continuation of the '50s, and it continued into the '80s.'" On the other hand are people like his neighbor—a DJ at the New Orleans radio station where he now works, and formerly at stations in the "hippie central" of Santa Cruz, California. "I asked her when she thought the '60s ended, and she had this real quizzical look on her face. '*It never ended*.'"

Steiner grew up in "the Oranges, in suburban New Jersey—about 40 minutes from Manhattan," he says. His mother was a Penn grad, and he thinks that helped him get in, despite decent but "not at all great" grades in high school. His father was a doctor, and Steiner's first plan was to major in electrical engineering with an eye toward a related career

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLES STEINER

Previous page: Contact sheet from Bob Dylan show at the Academy of Music, February 1966. Below: Mick Jagger at Asbury Park Convention Hall, 1966; Janis Joplin on stage in Irvine Auditorium, February 1968; Joan Baez at an event promoting peace in Vietnam, November 1967.

in medical engineering—until he discovered that curriculum would leave him with almost no electives. "I had broader interests," he says, and transferred to the College, majoring in psychology.

His four years at Penn were a time of dramatic change. The big issue his freshman year, as he recalls, involved the extension of the curfew for women students from midnight to 1 a.m. on weekends. That was followed in his sophomore year by protests against campus construction and early environmental activism by the group Save Open Space (SOS). "And then by the third year, the administration building was taken over by protesters about germ warfare research," he says.

The pace of change, reflected as well in the broader culture—"the Beatles, and Dylan going electric, and the Rolling Stones taking over from Frankie Avalon"—was in many ways "really traumatic," he adds. Attitudes toward the war in Vietnam were also more divided than popular memory often paints it. "There were activities about protesting the war, and there were also pro-war people." He recalls the graffiti on a construction fence: "People were spray-painting 'Bomb Hanoi'—people who were more pro-war than Lyndon Johnson," he says. "The first pictures I have of an anti-war demonstration, there are also pro-war people [present], and they were talking to each other. It's almost unimaginable now."

BY the time he got to Penn, Steiner had been taking pictures for years. "I started as a kid," he says. "I used my father's Rolleicord, and I might have had a Brownie or something like that." When he was 11, his grandfather gave him a developing kit as a Christmas present. *LIFE* magazine was a powerful early influence. "I clearly remember coming home from school every Friday and picking it out of the pile of mail and taking it to the living room and going through the whole issue," he says. "I was especially taken with the photos by W. Eugene Smith and still remember his story about Albert Schweitzer," published in the magazine in 1954.

While in high school, Steiner worked for the yearbook and also scored his first professional assignments. "The *Newark Star Ledger* would hire freelancers in football season to cover the high school games, because there were so many," he recalls. "I did that two or three times, got paid $5."

During his first year at Penn, he doesn't think he took any pictures. "I don't have anything" from that period, he says. But in the fall of 1965, his sophomore year, he met someone who was a photographer for the yearbook, which led to his doing work there as well, and then to taking pictures for a monthly student magazine called *Penn Comment*. Ultimately he became photo editor for both publications.

One day between classes he happened to meet his photographer friend, who mentioned that there was something happening in the Furness building (now Fisher Fine Arts Library), which was the first home of the Institute of Contemporary Art. "He said, 'You should get a camera and go,' and he might have mentioned Andy Warhol, I forget, but that's how I got to that."

Steiner thinks this was probably a day or two *after* the show's famous opening night, when Warhol and his entourage escaped through the roof because of the crush of the crowd. But it was still a lively scene. "It was a party. And they had loud music playing, and people were dancing,

Pro-war graffiti on a construction fence calls for bombing then-North Vietnam's capital Hanoi and the Student Peace Union (SPU); Muhammad Ali on campus in March 1968 before a speech in Irvine Auditorium; Robert F. Kennedy speaking in the Palestra in April, two months before his assassination.

and he came through the crowd and that's when I got the picture of him from very close autographing a Campbell's soup can."

The photo was published in *Penn Comment*—"It might have been the cover," he says—and later was used, without attribution, in the first book about Warhol. "They just copied it out of *Penn Comment* and took off the graphic." Steiner saw the photo again after Warhol's death in 1987. "I was living in New York, and I went to my local newsstand. I looked down and there was my picture on the cover of *Artforum* magazine—the preeminent high-end art magazine," he says. "They had copied it out of the book, which I found out later. So I contacted them, and the editor was very apologetic." And *Artforum* "did pay me something and they put a credit in a future issue," he adds.

During the winter break in 1965–66, Steiner also participated in "Project Mississippi," organized by the campus chapter of the NAACP, in which Penn volunteers helped build a community center in Strike City, an encampment set up by a group of tenant farmers who had formed a union and gone on strike for better wages and working conditions. "My parents reluctantly gave the necessary written permission—Mississippi was a scary place then," he says. "One of the reasons I may have been accepted was my offer to photograph the project," and it likely also helped that he was able to take along his father's circular saw, he says. "I brought my camera and shot what I thought was interesting."

On February 28, 1966, Steiner was in the audience at the Academy of Music when he got a shot of Bob Dylan playing

guitar that would later be used in the artwork for Dylan's 1966 double album *Blonde on Blonde*. That came about, believe it or not, after one of his fraternity brothers saw the photos and encouraged him to show them to Dylan.

"I went to Columbia Records," Steiner recalls, a little incredulously. "I forget how, but I got to someone named Virginia Smith in the art department during winter break." He left the photos with her and heard back in a few days: they liked them but weren't really looking for performance photos. "So I went to pick them up, and while I was in her office just getting my stuff to go, Dylan walked by. I went out into some hallway and got my nerve up and went back and found him, and I said, 'I have some pictures.' And he looked at them. The picture that he used, he was attracted to it particularly because it showed him playing guitar." Coincidentally, Dylan had been going over the artwork for the album and realized there were no pictures showing him with the instrument, "and he thought he wanted to have that."

Steiner didn't get a photo credit or any payment for that one, either, though the shot appeared in multiple releases of the album, even as others originally included fell by the wayside. Three decades later, he managed to get back the copyright. "Because when something's published without a copyright notice, it's in the public domain," he says. "I could prove that it was mine."

In the summer of 1967, between Steiner's junior and senior years, he made another significant music connection, with Frank Zappa's band the Mothers of Invention. Though based in Los Angeles, "they had played in New York a year earlier, and I read about them, probably in the *Village Voice*, which I got in Philadelphia because my mother's friend gave it to me as a high school graduation present," Steiner says. "And so I was very in touch with what was happening in New York."

He took some photos of the band's first show from his seat and returned with the prints the following weekend. After

Andy Warhol autographs a Campbell's Soup can at his ICA show. After appearing in *Penn Comment*, this photo was appropriated by *Artforum* magazine after Warhol's death.

Zappa looked at the photos "he invited me to come anytime I wanted, and I could roam around on the stage, go anywhere I wanted. So I did that several times because they played in the same theater from the spring into the fall."

One day backstage, he noticed "this cute girl," he says. "In all my years as a photographer, I do not go up to cute girls and take their pictures. It's not my thing. But this one, I just spontaneously said, 'Hey, can I take your picture?' And she gave a big smile and was happy that I asked and looked up, because she was short. I'm only five six. She was much shorter.

"And that was that. Anyway, I showed that picture to the Mothers the following week and asked, 'You know who that was?' 'Oh, that's the chick that sings with the Stone Poneys.' So that was Linda Ronstadt. Real star power."

After graduation, Steiner moved to Boston for graduate school at Boston University's School of Graduate Medicine, partly out of "fear of the draft" as well as a lingering desire to do something related to his major in psychology. It was a rigorous program designed for people interested in going into medical

Top: The Steiner photo from Dylan's Academy of Music performance that appeared (uncredited) in the inside jacket artwork for *Blonde on Blonde*. "He was attracted to it particularly because it showed him playing guitar." Below: Linda Ronstadt. "Real star power."

research, with a curriculum similar to the first year of medical school, he says. "I dropped out after a year and just started doing photography, which is what I wanted to do anyway."

He found work with a local magazine called *Fusion* that "was like a Boston version of *Rolling Stone*," he says. "I could call them up and say, 'Hey, I want to go see Van Morrison,' and they put me on the list. So I have a lot of pictures from the green room at the Boston Tea Party," a concert venue that operated from 1967 to 1970.

To supplement his income, for a while Steiner drove a cab, which was "a great thing for a freelancer," he says. "If you showed up at eight in the morning, they gave you a cab—nothing decided ahead of time, no schedule. If you showed up, you worked. So I did that and tried to make a career in photography."

He also found a job teaching photography in a summer camp. The person who hired him also worked for a community college in New York and helped Steiner get a job teaching there. At first he was commuting weekly, but eventually moved to New York to start a new life. "I was a freelance photographer from 1969 or '70, until in the '80s I got into photojournalism. I was doing all kinds of different photography: architectural, corporate annual reports, a little advertising," he says. "By a 'simple twist of fate,' I became a photojournalist in '79 and did that exclusively for at least a decade into the '90s."

Among his subjects were Lech Walesa in Poland, Norman Mailer, and Corazon Aquino when she was running for president of the Philippines. He made multiple trips to the Philippines in that period, he says, "working mostly for *Newsweek*, sometimes on assignment, sometimes just on spec, as they call it. You just go and do something and see if you can sell it." His work also appeared in *LIFE,* the *New York Times Magazine, TIME,* and the European publications *Paris Match* and *Stern*.

After visiting Europe for the first time on his own in the mid-1970s, he went to Paris and began a documentary fine art project. That also sparked a lasting interest in the connections between painting and photography. "I tried to learn about color and composition from the Impressionists and post-Impressionists, especially Van Gogh and Manet," he says, "as well as from Japanese Ukiyo-E artists," of whom Katsushika Hokusai—whose *The Great Wave off Kanagawa* has graced generations of dorm room walls—is probably most familiar.

Steiner expanded his photojournalism to video starting in 1985. "I started literally carrying the photo bag on my left side and the video bag on the right side," he recalls, and footage he shot appeared on all the major US network newscasts, as well as stations in Canada and Japan.

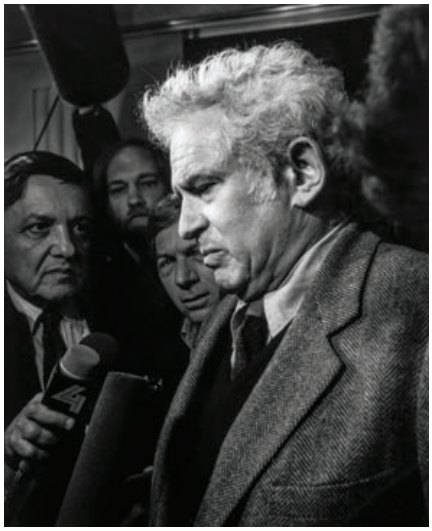
In the Philippines, he was able to sell some video he shot to the networks "because I got exclusives. I was with Communist rebels in the mountains," he says. "It took months to arrange, and to get there and get back. The networks weren't going to send somebody there for three months." Interest in the country's politics picked up in America especially with the 1986 election campaign between Ferdinand Marcos and Aquino, "and so I was able to sell footage of that stuff. And so I was moving into video documentary."

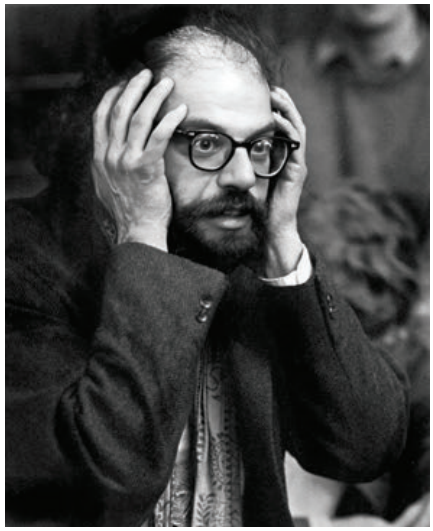
He first became interested in Filipino politics "because I was getting regular work from the Japanese edition of *Playboy*." Along with the "girlie pictures" that mimicked the US edition, in every issue "they had a kind of *LIFE* magazine-type photojournalistic story, and I got to do some of that. They sent me to Jamaica to cover Reggae Sunsplash 79 [a music festival in Montego Bay, Jamaica] and I met Bob Marley," photographing him at his house.

Lech Walesa in Gdansk, Poland, 1987; Norman Mailer outside a New York courtroom, 1982; Allen Ginsberg during a visit to Penn, 1968.

The *Playboy* assignment was for an interview with Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, the husband of Corazon Aquino and "the principal opposition to the dictator Marcos" until his assassination, Steiner says. "I got very interested in his stories." Using some contacts from Aquino, he returned to the Philippines and "kept going back. And so I covered that for a long time."

He also traveled to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union "during the Gorbachev years, when it was still Communist." Though he was "mostly interested in cultural things," politics intruded—and paid the bills. "When Gorbachev was kidnapped by the military, and Yeltsin took over and declared the end of the Communist Party, there was, like, no government—so journalists couldn't get a visa because there was no one to talk to," he recalls. "I already had a visa because I wanted to do a cultural story about this state of Georgia, that was now a country. So I was able to go right away. And I got there, like a day after the end of Communism. And I covered that for two months, and then I finally went to Georgia."





Earlier, in 1980, he had embarked on what turned out to be a long-term project following a sect of Bengali mystic musicians in India that he first encountered at a reading by the poet Allen Ginsberg. "I first read *Howl* when I discovered it hidden—my father had it hidden in his bedroom. I don't know why it was there, but I found it, and I read some of that stuff." That "mind expanding" poem became a big part of his entry to the 1960s,

Steiner has amassed 300 hours of video of the Japanese *avant garde* dancer Min Tanaka for a planned feature-length documentary.

Steiner says. The mystics he met at a Ginsberg reading in New York became a fascination that lasted several decades more. He followed up with them a few months later—and then kept reconnecting. "I just went back [most recently] in December 2023. So that's 43 years, over 43, and I'm starting to work on finishing that project now." Titled *Ami Pagol (I Am Crazy)* it will encompass music as well as "culture, spirituality, and religion, and life in rural India," he says.

"I was also going to Asia a lot. Besides India, I was going to Japan. I have a major project about a Japanese *avant garde* dancer who moved to the countryside to do farming as body work, Min Tanaka. And I have 300 hours of video of him," he says, with plans for a feature-length documentary to be titled *Moving Man*.

Since 2014, he's been the video director at New Orleans radio station WWOZ 90.7 FM. "There's a big music festival in the spring that I was going to for years and years," Steiner says, "and anyway, long story short, I had met the general manager and become friends, and he just called me up and said, 'We're starting a video department, and I want you to do it.' So my wife and I were looking for a warmer place to live, and our parents were all dead, so we were free to go anywhere. And we moved, so I've been here since then."

Looking back at the early days of his career in the 1970s, "photography was really big, and it was a good time to be a photographer, because there were a lot of events for photographers and where people got together and showed each other's work and discussed it," Steiner says. "And when I got into photojournalism, it was kind of the end of the golden era of the photojournalist—because the money disappeared after that."

Besides *LIFE* magazine as an inspiration, Steiner points to such exemplars of "street photography" as Henri Cartier-Bresson, of "the Decisive Moment"; the documentarian of Paris Eugene Atget; and later practitioners of the 1960s and 1970s like Lee Friedlander and Garry Winogrand. But he also admires Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, and the West Coast-based f.64 school, known for their exquisitely composed black and white prints of natural settings, one of whose members, Minor White, was teaching at MIT when he lived in Boston.

As he wrestles with how to tell his story of the 1960s, Steiner seems poised between the street photographer's aim of capturing an essence and the instinct of an encyclopedist to get it all in. He has his beginning—"I start with the Penn project to go to Mississippi—because in terms of political movements, everything came from the Civil Rights movement," he says—but after that he's been weighing a variety of lengths and approaches.

"In movies, there's an expression: a stringout. A stringout is when you're editing a movie and you just put everything down that you shot kind of in the basic order. And it might be three or four hours, and you need to cut it down to 90 minutes. So the book is like a stringout."

Steiner's description also brings to mind the experience of watching a passing landscape from a car window. Dylan references aside, "I like the word *highway*," he says. "That's the American thing, you know, driving down the highway. That going forward is kind of the American mythology. And I don't want to ever sound nostalgic—I'm anti-nostalgia, but *revisiting* sounds like, 'Okay, we're just visiting. We're not like, dreaming about how wonderful it was or something.'"

This Alumni Weekend, Charlie Steiner C'68 (www.charliesteiner.com) will be featured in conversation with Gazette *editor John Prendergast C'80 about his career and his ongoing project* Highway 67 Revisited *at "Remembering and Celebrating the 1960s at Penn" at 3:15 pm on Friday, May 16, in Cohen (formerly Logan) Hall auditorium. To register for this and other Alumni Weekend events visit www.alumni.upenn.edu/alumniweekend.*

The New World of Organ Transplantation

Penn's latest advances and future hopes for saving and improving lives through transplant technologies build on a foundation laid down by pioneering surgeons and scientists going back to the 1960s.

By Mary Ann Meyers

Two thousand miles from Philadelphia, two brothers, Telden, age three, and Stetson, two, are growing up in Billings, Montana, a city on the banks of the Yellowstone River with a view of seven mountain ranges. Both boys, the longed-for children of Chelsea and Jake Jovanovich, were conceived and born at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP). Their lives came about through the generosity of a woman named Cheryl Urban who felt called to donate her uterus so a childless couple could experience the joy she and her husband, Brian, have had in raising their now teenaged daughter and son.

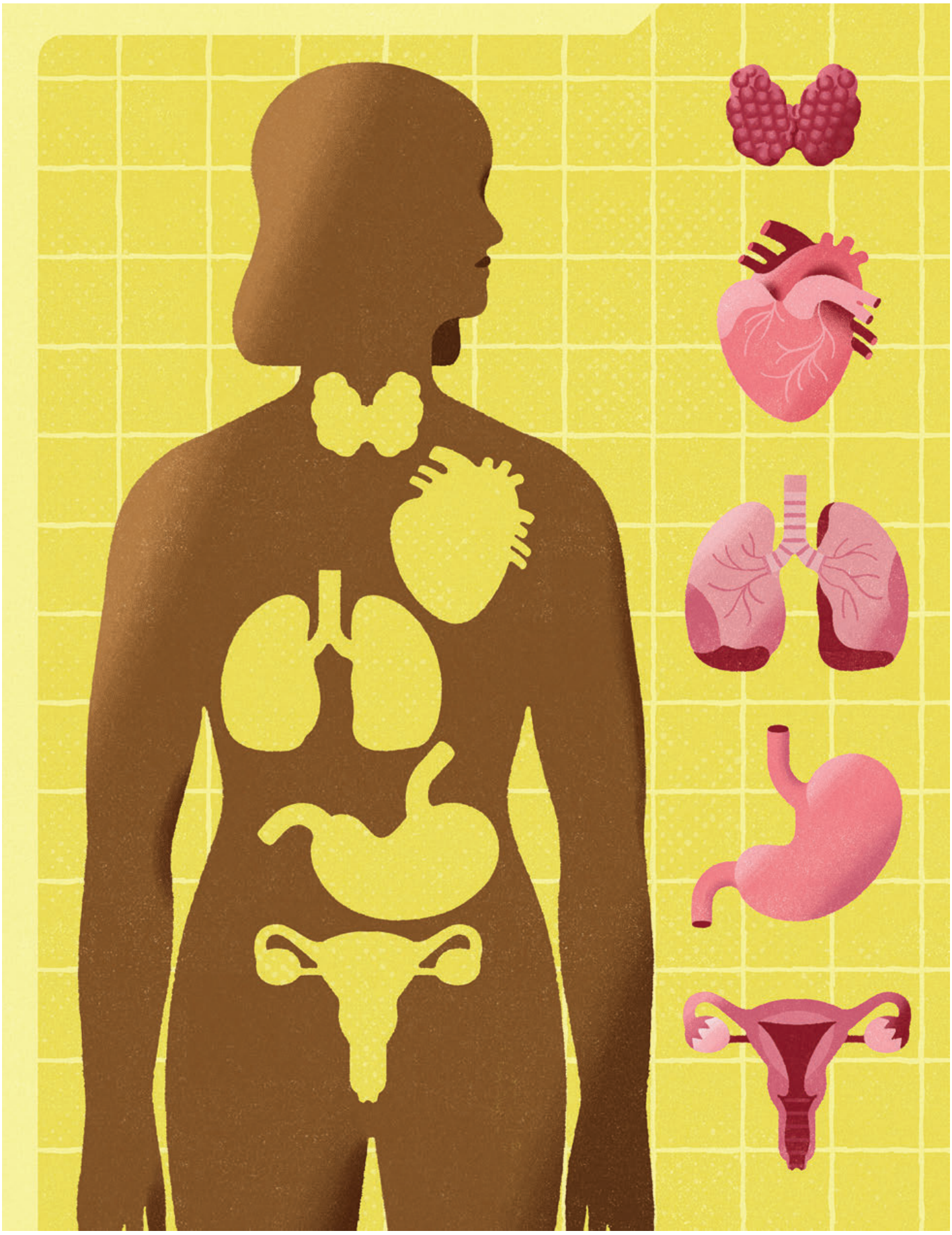
Uterus transplantation is an experimental procedure. It is sought by women who, like Chelsea Jovanovich, were born without a functional womb but have functioning ovaries, or women whose wombs have been removed because of cancer. Acceptance as a candidate involves rigorous screening and then an extensive level of medical oversight and clinical care. There have been some 100 uterus transplants performed in the world, almost half in the United States.

Kathleen E. O'Neill Gr'15, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology in Penn's Perelman School of Medicine, is the coprincipal investigator of the Uterus Transplantation for Uterine Factor Infertility (UNTIL) clinical trial. She worked with the Jovanoviches throughout the long process that gave them their sons. Telden's birth in July 2021 was the first to result from a living donor uterus donation at Penn Medicine. The first baby to be born in the trial was Benjamin Gobrecht, who arrived in November 2019 and was the second baby in the nation to be born following a uterus transplantation from a deceased donor.

Six women are enrolled in the Penn program. The second woman enrolled also gave birth to two children. There were no complications in any of the five births to date in the UNTIL trials and all the children are healthy. As of the fall of 2024, the fourth and fifth recipients of donated uteruses were pregnant, and the sixth was undergoing an embryo transfer procedure. The last two women are Black, and they are the second and third uterus recipients in the world who are women of color. The University of Pennsylvania Health System funded the trial, which was designed from the start to be of limited duration and will end with the sixth recipient's last delivery. Neither government nor private insurance generally pay for fertility care nor for organ transplantation deemed experimental.

"What we are demonstrating is that the procedure is safe and reliable," Kate O'Neill says. A mother of three who earned her medical degree at the University of Michigan and came to Penn as an OB/GYN fellow in 2012, O'Neill acknowledges that uterus transplantation is not lifesaving surgery, but she makes a strong case, supported by the recipients of donated uteruses, that it is "a life enhancing" one that contributes immeasurably to human flourishing. Three other trials are ongoing at academic medical centers (Baylor, Cleveland Clinic, and the University of Alabama). Penn's audacious experiment is a testimony to its leadership in organ transplantation—one which goes back to the mid-20th century.

ILLUSTRATION BY GRACIA LAM



The University's transplantation program began in 1966 when Clyde F. Barker GM'59, then a postdoctoral fellow in medical genetics, transplanted a kidney donated by a relative into a man with end-stage renal disease at a time when the city had only one dialysis machine. It was known by then that a kidney from a living related donor provided better overall results than cadaveric donations, and advances in histocompatibility typing, including blood tests he devised himself, helped Barker find the right match. His patient lived for 48 more years with a normally functioning organ and died of coronary occlusion in his sixties. Barker, a vascular surgeon, went on to serve as chief of the transplant program he founded until 2001, as well as serving as John Rhea Barton Professor and chair of surgery for three six-year terms, the longest tenure of anyone in that leadership position in the oldest medical school and oldest university hospital in the United States.

A graduate of Cornell and its medical college, Barker came to Penn for his surgical residency in 1958. As he was finishing it, he took advantage of a month's vacation to visit some of the country's few extant transplant programs precisely because human organ transplantation was a lacuna in Penn's medical landscape. "The University was a very conservative place back then and the general view was transplantation wasn't going to work and shouldn't be undertaken," Barker says. But after scrubbing with Thomas Starzl, a pioneer in modern transplant surgery, at the Denver VA Hospital on a kidney transplantation case, he was sure that he wanted to initiate the experimental surgery at Penn.

Barker's chance to pursue his dream came after he began working as a postdoc and junior faculty member with another pioneer, Rupert Billingham, a British biologist who had been a research assistant to Nobel Prize winner Sir Peter Medawar, whose experimental demonstration of acquired immunological tolerance laid the foundation for human organ transplantation. Penn had recruited Billingham from the neighboring Wistar Institute to head the medical school's Department of Human Genetics.

A classic paper by Barker and Billingham, published in 1968 in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, established a fundamental law of transplantation immunology known as immunological ignorance. It means that the immune system cannot recognize the presence of a foreign body that fails to reach the host lymphoid tissue. Their collaboration helped establish Barker as one of the best-known researchers in the early years of transplantation biology, and his mentor's clout persuaded Jonathan Rhoads, Barton Professor and chair of the Department of Surgery, to let him establish a transplant program, the first in Philadelphia.

Penn nephrologists were skeptical that the new venture would succeed, as the outcome of kidney transplantation, even with a living donor, was at the time no better than 50 percent. But Barker persisted as the University's sole surgeon performing kidney transplants because he believed that the "surgical replacement of a diseased organ constituted a paradigm shift" that would "forever alter the practice of medicine while enriching multiple areas of basic and clinical science."

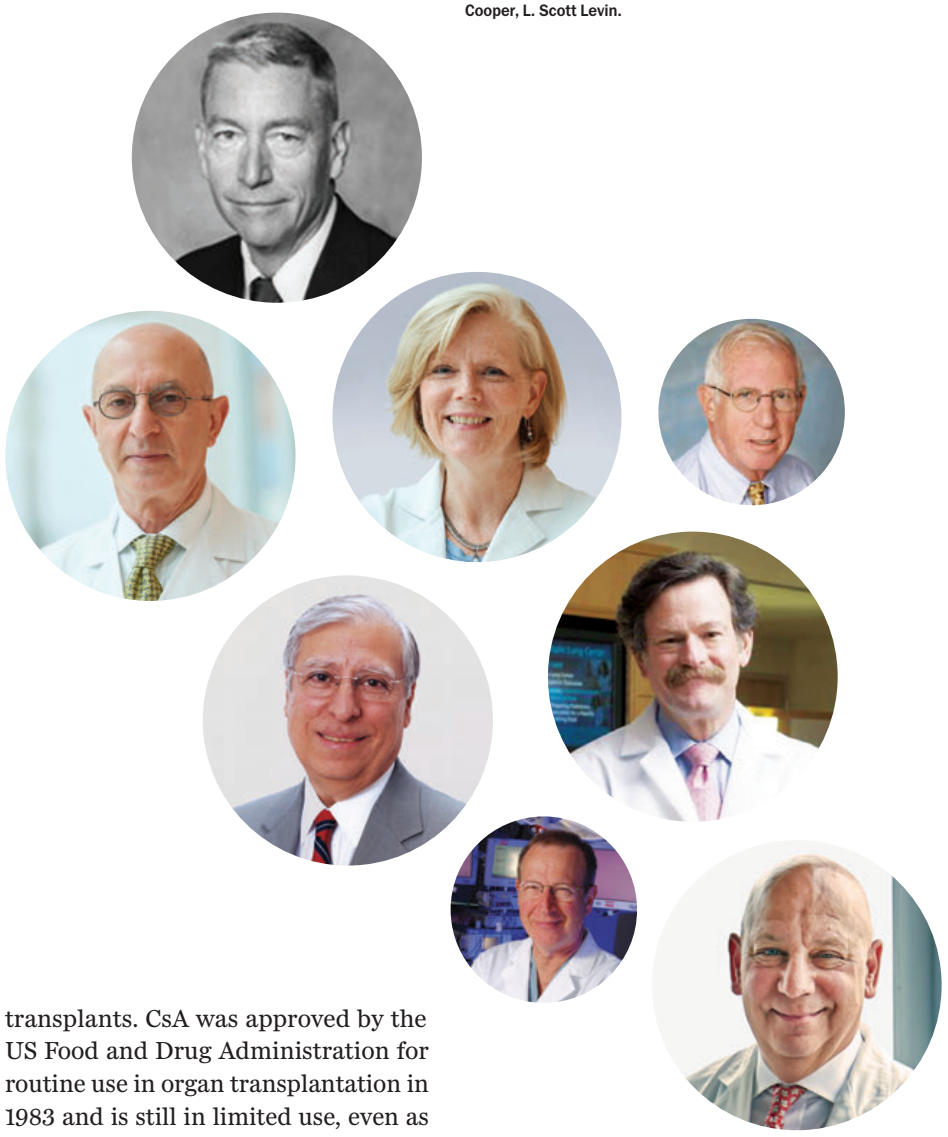
The patient survival rate for kidney transplants from a living donor is now nearly 100 percent after one year, and if a transplanted kidney is rejected over a longer term, a second, third, or even fourth transplant is possible. Half a century ago, however, the road ahead for Clyde Barker was marked with setbacks—as well as spectacular advances.

In 1972, he transplanted a liver from a cadaveric donor to a desperately ill recipient. While the patient survived the surgery, he died soon afterwards, and Barker called a moratorium on liver transplantation at Penn until better immunosuppressive drugs were available. In 1995, with the recruitment from UCLA of Abraham (Avi) Shaked, now the Eldridge L. Eliason Professor of Surgery and current director of the Penn Transplant Institute, and Kim Marie Olthoff, the Donald Guthrie Professor in Surgery, the program became one of the largest and most respected in the nation.

The two surgeons take particular pride in Penn Medicine's living donor program in which 60 to 70 percent of a healthy donor's liver is removed and transplanted to a recipient before "the patient is too sick," Olthoff emphasizes. The liver's ability to regenerate makes the procedure possible, but she credits the transplant infrastructure that the living donor team has built for Penn's having the best survival rates in the US—more than 90 percent five years after surgery—and very low donor complication rates for living donor liver transplants.

Pancreas and small bowel transplants were pioneered at Penn by Barker in the late 1980s. For many years one of his chief research collaborators was Ali Naji Gr'81, who came to HUP as a general surgery resident and vascular fellow, earned a PhD in immunology, and is now the Jonathan E. Rhoads Professor of Surgical Science II. Naji performed the first pancreatic islet transplantation at Penn in 2001 for the treatment of Type I diabetes. Using animal models, his research has helped unravel the mechanisms regulating the maintenance and loss of immune tolerance to tissue specific antigens—substances that induce the production of antibodies because they are recognized by the body as a threat—in autoimmune diseases and transplantation, a discovery that is paving the way for new approaches in immunotherapy for islet transplant patients.

The first heart transplant at HUP took place two years after L. Henry Edmunds joined the faculty in 1985 as W.M. Measey Professor and chief of cardiothoracic surgery. Edmunds, who became the Julian Johnson Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery in 1995 and is now professor emeritus of surgery, recalls that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania required Penn to do 12 heart transplants annually for accreditation as a heart transplantation



From top left to right: Clyde F. Barker, Abraham Shaked, Kim Marie Olthoff, L. Henry Edmunds, Ali Naji, Larry Keiser, Joel Cooper, L. Scott Levin.

center. But donor organs were scarce, often depending "on a young life snuffed out in an automobile accident," Edmunds says. The last two transplants done in the first year of his program's operation took place in the nick of time just before the end of December. Today Penn does more than 50 heart transplants annually. Its cardiac transplant program is the largest in the region and among the half dozen busiest in the country with outcomes exceeding national benchmarks.

Penn Medicine surgeons also perform high-risk heart-lung and liver-lung transplants, one of the few medical centers in the US offering these exceedingly complex dual-organ procedures. Larry Keiser, who was recruited to Penn in 1991 to start a lung transplant program and would succeed Barker as Barton Professor and chair of surgery upon the latter's retirement, carried out Penn's first lung transplant. In 2005, Keiser recruited his mentor at the University of Toronto, Joel Cooper, who performed the world's first successful lung transplant in 1983 at Toronto General Hospital. Cooper, now professor emeritus of surgery, counseled younger Perelman faculty members for a decade.

Staving off organ rejection is the proximate goal of all transplant surgeons. Attempts to thwart graft rejection have gone hand in hand with progress in the field of human organ transplantation. By 1950, when laboratory scientists had increased their understanding of tissue transplantation mechanisms, no usable method had emerged of preventing rejection in clinical practice. Barker has argued that "transplantation created the field of modern immunology rather than the other way around."

After a slow start, a fungal extract, Cyclosporine A (CsA), developed in a Swiss lab in 1976, proved transformative. The new immunosuppressive agent seemed to override major mismatches in tissue typing, and this finding cleared the way for the first use of mismatched family members and other donors for kidney transplants. CsA was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for routine use in organ transplantation in 1983 and is still in limited use, even as pharmaceutical companies have developed a newer generation of improved immunosuppression agents. But all anti-rejection medicines can have adverse side effects, notably increased risk of infections and some cancers, skin and gastrointestinal issues, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes, among other complications.

Upper extremity transplants, which were first reported in 1988, have been described as a technical and immunological tour de force. As vascularized composite allografts, unlike single organ transplants, they include skin, muscle, nerve, tendon, and bone. Skin is the most antigenic organ in the human body and elicits a strong immune response when recognized as foreign tissue. Preventing rejection has required high doses of immunosuppressants, and concern over the long-term effects of such therapy has been a major impediment to the growth of the only successful limb transplantation yet undertaken in the world—the transplant of cadaveric hands.

The first documented attempt at a human hand transplant occurred in Ecuador in 1964. While the procedure failed due to acute rejection requiring amputation of the transplanted hand after several weeks, a successful human hand transplant was performed in Lyon, France, in 1998, marking a significant breakthrough in the field of limb transplantation. But this technical triumph

Photos courtesy Penn Medicine, Temple University Health System

was not one the patient could handle psychologically, and the hand was removed when he stopped taking his anti-rejection medicine. In 1999, however, surgeons at the University of Louisville succeeded in what would ultimately be the first American upper extremity transplant, and that patient is currently the longest surviving hand transplant recipient in the world.

At Penn, L. Scott Levin, the Paul D. Magnuson Professor of Bone and Joint Surgery, professor of plastic surgery, and former chair of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, assembled a large and highly experienced team that has carried out five successful hand transplants since 2011. After 27 years on the faculty of the Duke University School of Medicine, where he served as the division chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery and established Duke's human tissue laboratory, Levin was recruited to Penn in 2009 with the promise that he could establish a vascularized composite allotransplantation (VCA) program. With the support of Penn Transplant Institute director Avi Shaked, he quickly set up Penn Medicine's human tissue laboratory to serve as a teaching, research, and, not least, rehearsal facility where surgeries could be practiced on non-human models.

Noting that the "loss of a single upper limb is an emotionally and physically devastating event that results in significant impairment," Levin has written that "patients who lose both upper extremities experience profound disability that affects nearly every aspect of their lives." His first hand transplant patient, Lindsay Ess, who Levin describes as a "beautiful fashion model and designer who had just graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University," had become a quadrimembral amputee when an intestinal blockage, resulting from Crohn's Disease, caused an infection that turned her extremities into dead tissue and led to the loss of both legs below the knee and both arms below the elbow. Once engaged to be married, she had also lost her fiancé and, initially, was totally dependent on her mother for bodily care as well as assistance in all the activities essential for daily living.

But when she visited Levin at Penn after first seeing him at Duke, Ess had learned how to brush her teeth, apply makeup, drink from a cup using just her arms, and even how to text on her cellphone without fingers. She was able to walk with prosthetic legs, but living the rest of her life without hands was unfathomable. She found her prosthetic hands too heavy and of limited utility. Levin was now in a position to help her, but she had to wait for a donor, preferably a woman who had similar sized hands and skin color to the ones she once had in addition to the right blood type. The emotional burden of knowing that someone had to die for the operation to take place was hard for her to bear.

Two years after his arrival at the University, Levin was able to lead two teams of doctors and nurses, one dedicated to the right hand, the other to the left, in a bilateral transplant that took 12 hours and restored the dream of his 29-year-old patient for a mostly independent life ["Gazetteer," Jan|Feb 2012]. Her recovery, as her nerves grew into new muscle, amazed him. Now almost 14 years after her surgery, Lindsay Ess lives alone, drives a car, and competes in CrossFit competitions with wounded veterans. She remains profoundly grateful to the family of an anonymous donor even as she continues her rigorous regimen of immunosuppressive drugs, with all their attendant risks.

Given the current state of anti-rejection therapy, Levin explains, "performing an upper extremity transplant involves a different ethical calculus than solid organ transplantation, which is a lifesaving procedure. It requires weighing the benefit of improved quality of life against the cost of lifelong immunosuppression." These are difficult decisions to make, and when he joined the Penn faculty, one of the first people Levin consulted was Arthur Caplan, the founder of the University's Center for Bioethics and the Department of Medical Ethics, who was then the Sidney D. Caplan Professor of Bioethics, the first holder of a chair named for his father.

Caplan was initially skeptical when Levin described the proposed VCA program. "Risk and cost were considerations, and it has not been shown that you can replace a failed transplant. Nor did anyone know then if you could perform hand transplants on a person who hasn't stopped growing," he explains. "Furthermore, insurance companies were not willing to pay for the procedure without more data." But that data "wasn't going to be produced without further clinical experimentation," Caplan adds. For that reason, he didn't discourage Levin.

Caplan had left Penn for New York University a few months before Ess's surgery, but he has continued to follow Levin's work. The bioethicist and the surgeon agree that better outcome studies and accepted standards of clinical success must be developed, along with refining indications for transplantation, even as pharmacologists search for less toxic drugs and biologic agents to prevent rejection. Both are serving on a consensus panel at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to establish standards for face and arm transplantation in the United States.

Levin's other hand transplant patients include two French women referred to him by Laurent Lantieri, a friend and the director of plastic surgery at Georges Pompidou University Descartes Hospital in Paris. Laura Nataf, a quadrimembral amputee, received a double hand transplant in 2016, flying from Corsica to Philadelphia upon learning that donor hands and forearms were available. A visual artist and fashion designer, she gave birth to a daughter, now two years old, and her surgeon has a video of her changing diapers with her transplanted appendages. In 2019, Priscilla Dray's left hand and right forearm were transplant-

ed to replace body parts she lost to sepsis. Last summer Levin attended her son's bar mitzvah in Bordeaux, where he watched mother and son dance together, hands touching, in a joyous rite of passage. His most recent bilateral transplant was successfully carried out last fall when he replaced the hands and forearms of a young man from Switzerland.

No story of limb transplantation at Penn is complete or, indeed, comparable to that of Zion Harvey's ["The Gift," Nov|Dec 2015]. Zion, who had both hands and his legs below the knee amputated at age two because of staphylococcal sepsis resulting from flu, was the first child in the world to undergo a bilateral hand transplant. In 2015, at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Levin's team worked with a CHOP team codirected by Benjamin Chang, then an associate professor of clinical surgery at Perelman, along with the chief of staff at Shriner's Hospital for Children Philadelphia, 40 people in all, to attach donated hands and forearms to the then eight-year-old boy from Baltimore. The ethical issues posed by the decision to proceed with the surgery were mitigated by the fact that Zion was already taking immunosuppressive drugs because the infection that robbed him of his limbs also caused his kidneys to fail, and he had received a kidney transplant from his mother.

Intensive physical therapy and occupational therapy, as Zion's brain relearned how to communicate with his hands and his muscles and tendons gained strength and flexibility, were an essential part of the healing process after his transplant surgery. He faced and overcame hurdles, with the help of his doctors, when his body tried to reject his new hands eight times, and the Penn and CHOP teams adjusted his medications to reverse the episodes. His therapists tapped into his keen interest in sports. He progressed from tossing basketballs to baseballs, culminating in throwing out the first pitch at an Orioles home game 13 months following his life-changing operation.

The exuberant personality of the child has not deserted him in adolescence. Proud that he could dress himself without help and heat up a pizza at 10; at 18, he attends high school, holds a part-time job, drives, climbs rock walls, and plays the cello. Levin and his colleagues, and their successors, will follow Zion as long as he lives, attending to his physical condition and providing psychosocial support, with particular attention to how he continues to cope with the demands of therapy and treatments. The Penn surgeon hopes that "hand transplants will become the standard of care," a cause he has been championing at the NASEM and a designation that will make the procedures more easily insurable.

Gratefulness to donors is a thread that runs through the responses of organ recipients to questions about their experience. Since 1986, the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) has managed the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. Created by Congress, it is the place that medical centers turn to for donors. The Gift of Life Program coordinates the operating phase of donations in the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, and Delaware. Predating UNOS, it was founded in 1974 by Clyde Barker and other area transplant surgeons and is the largest organ procurement organization in the United States.

Because UNTIL was a research study to determine the efficacy and safety of transplantation as a treatment for women with a previously irreversible form of female infertility, Cheryl Urban's path to donating her uterus to Chelsea Jovanovich did not go through UNOS but began when she contacted Penn directly in April 2019 after seeing a television newscast about the program, which was seeking donations from both living and deceased donors, as she was leaving for work. On the way there, she called her husband and related the story. That evening they discussed her strong inclination to donate the uterus that had carried their two children, and the next day she filled out an application online. "I was propelled toward my decision by the sense that I was being presented with an additional purpose for the wonderful life I was living as a wife and mother," she says.

The two women's procedures took place three weeks before the world shut down in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cheryl, who had studied nursing before switching to a business major in college, was invited for an interview with Kate O'Neill. They discussed the nature of the hysterectomy a woman donating her uterus would need to undergo and the risks. After a battery of tests, she was accepted as a donor.

Just before Christmas 2019, Cheryl got a call saying she was a match for a potential uterine transplant recipient. Looking ahead at her children's winter sports schedules, the Bucks County, Pennsylvania, mother said she could undergo the procedure on February 21, 2020, two months before the date originally proposed by O'Neill. Chelsea had previously undergone an *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) procedure at Penn, during which her eggs were harvested and fertilized to create embryos that were then cryopreserved for transfer into her new uterus following transplantation. She and her husband had been living in Philadelphia since November 2019 waiting for a donor. The two women's procedures took place three weeks before the world shut down in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their operations were performed in two different wings of HUP. Nawar Latif Gr'18, an OB/GYN assistant professor and O'Neill's coprincipal investigator in the UNTIL trial, described Cheryl as "the most altruistic person I have ever met." Chelsea had given her doctors permission to tell her then-anonymous donor the one thing she wanted to know: Did the transplant

work? The answer was yes. Cheryl describes her reaction as "pure elation."

But it would be several weeks before doctors could be sure the transplanted organ would not be rejected, and Chelsea would have to heal from her surgery before one of her three embryos could be transferred to her new womb. The first transfer failed, but on the second try, she became pregnant. A month later, she reached out to Cheryl through her social worker. The joyfully received contact led to an exchange of emails, then telephone calls and meetings on Zoom. Just before Chelsea's delivery of her first son, Telden, by C-section on May 18, 2021, the two women met at Penn Commons. They hugged, and cried, and sat on a bench and talked for three hours.

Chelsea and Jake Jovanovich stayed close to Penn throughout the 20 months it took to create their family. They first stayed in the Clyde F. Barker Penn Transplant House, a small guest house a few blocks from HUP. A rented house in Ocean City, New Jersey, was their next home away from the home they had built in Montana in 2019, and eventually they bought a house in Lumberton, New Jersey, before Chelsea's third and last embryo was implanted, resulting in Stetson's birth on October 20, 2022. His mother had been on immunosuppressive drugs since receiving her donor uterus, and with its removal at the time of her second delivery, she was able to stop taking them. The Urbans had become family. Cheryl flew to Montana to celebrate Stetson's first birthday and shared in his second via video chat.

O'Neill is, and will always be, the boys' "Aunt Kate." Their photographs are on her phone along with those of her own children and her other four transplant babies. "Women with uterine factor infertility, an estimated 200,000 of reproductive age in the United States, have limited pathways to parenthood," she says. "There is adoption and surrogacy. My goal was to provide them an additional option—the only option that allows them the opportunity to carry and deliver their own babies."

Organs from animals, or xenografts, represent the "next new frontier" in organ transplantation's future, Markmann says.

All organ transplantation runs up against two vexing problems: the need for toxic immunosuppressive agents, if even for a relatively brief time with uterus transplants, and of chronic donor shortage. But that the procedure is entering an auspicious stage of growth is the firm conviction of Penn Medicine's Vice President for Transplantation Services, James Markmann M'87 Gr'89 GM'96, who was recruited for the newly created position in 2023 from Harvard—where he served as chief of the division of transplant surgery and director of clinical operations at the Transplant Center at Massachusetts General Hospital. Markmann, the William Maul Measey Professor in Surgical Research, has an active clinical practice in liver, kidney, and kidney-pancreas transplantation, and his laboratory works on transplantation immunology.

Markmann sees three very tangible rays of hope for meeting the challenges of toxicity and shortage. As to the former, he is optimistic that his research on strategies to improve graft survival, on immunoregulatory T cells as a means to induce tolerance to an allograft, and just-begun clinical trials of human stem cell derived islet transplantation, along with planned studies involving the simultaneous transplantation of donor bone marrow, could lead to a future for organ transplantation less dependent on immunosuppressive drugs.

To improve the availability of organs, Markmann looks to two possible sources, one of which became part of clinical practice in advanced transplant centers like Penn in 2022. "Organs taken from cadavers slowly die without oxygen," he explains. "Historically the organs were put on ice, which only sustained them for a limited period of time as, left too long, cold storage caused graft dysfunction and chronic complications for recipients. Human trials, begun in 2016, have led to the availability of *ex vivo* organ prefusion devices for each transplanted organ."

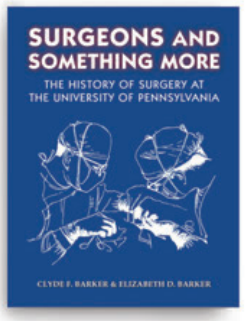
Such devices, "currently in various stages of clinical trials, mean donated organs receive oxygen and nutrients until they can be given to the recipient, thereby increasing availability of suitable organs and impacting the success of transplant procedures," Markmann says. "In liver transplants, for example, approaches with a lack of oxygenation led to a 30 percent organ failure rate. With these pumps, the quality of an organ can be assessed before transplantation, a practice that has already led to thousands of saved lives."

Organs from animals, or xenografts, represent the "next new frontier" in organ transplantation's future, Markmann adds. "CRISPR made all the difference," he says, referring to the transformative biological innovation for gene editing. It allowed scientists to knock out a retrovirus in pigs that can infect human cells in culture along with pig antigens to which humans have antibodies that could trigger an acute rejection response.

And Markmann drove to Boston last March to witness the first transfer of a genetically altered pig kidney into a male patient at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). "A biotech company had inactivated three genes from the pig kidney involved in potential rejection of the organ," he recalls, "and seven human genes were inserted to enhance human compatibility."

Two transplants of pig hearts into terminally ill men had previously taken place at the University of Maryland, and in April of 2024, a woman received the genetically modified kidney of a pig at New York University. The MGH patient, who was discharged from the hospital

Deep Cut



Surgeons and Something More: The History of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania
By Clyde F. Barker GM'59 and Elizabeth D. Barker
American Philosophical Society Press, 2024, $75

"Knock it off, fellows" was, in effect, the satirical plea of a Philadelphia newspaper in 1780 to the feuding founders of the nation's first medical school. The public quarreling of William Shippen Jr. and John Morgan over personal and professional matters would "poison the air" of Penn's School of Medicine from its start in 1765 until their deaths, Clyde Barker GM'59 and his daughter, Elizabeth Barker, tell us in *Surgeons and Something More*, their masterful tale of the evolution at Penn of the art and science of healing the sick by invading, with all the attendant risks, their bodies.

Hard to hold in your hands at nearly 600 pages but very readable, the hefty, handsomely illustrated book, at once detailed and entertaining, about the techniques, tools, and, most importantly, people that shaped a branch of medicine in which the University can justly claim eminence has as its lead author the surgeon who played a key role in this history [see accompanying story]. The "something more" here is the broader context in which the development of the department of surgery is set and the fascinating biographical material highlighting the foibles as well as the feats of the 19 departmental chairs (all men so far).

Timelines help readers grasp the sweep of the story that moves from the disastrous bloodletting used by Benjamin Rush to treat yellow fever patients through the invention of absorbable sutures made from kid gloves or catgut by Philip Syng Physick—whose lecture notes were collected to produce the first comprehensive surgery text (1813) written in America—to the reign of D. Hayes Agnew M1838, beloved by his students who, upon his retirement in 1889, commissioned an unemployed artist (Thomas Eakins) to paint his portrait, now viewed as representing the transition to modern medicine through the acceptance of antisepsis.

During the short chairmanship of the crusty John Deaver M1878, we learn that surgeons returning from service in World War I were assigned to specific portions of the body, a concept ahead of its time, though motivated by Deaver's interest in maintaining his monopoly on abdominal surgery. His chief resident was I.S. Ravdin M1918, who, in pursuing basic research abroad, learned the value of collaboration with basic scientists and returned to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) to focus on laboratory investigation, pioneered the practice of blood transfusions to alleviate shock from intra- and postoperative bleeding, and in 1942 organized the US Army's famed 20th General Hospital in India staffed by HUP personnel.

The brilliant and colorful Ravdin headed the department for 15 years after World War II—and ran his fiefdom, the Barkers say, like "a commanding general." His handpicked successor was Jonathan Rhoads GrM'40 Hon'60, and the authors recount his role in the development of intravenous nutrition, which was rapidly accepted and employed around the world, and, as a "stateman of science and medicine," in securing federal support for cancer research.

What the Barkers call the "turbulence" caused by the University's move to consolidate and integrate the clinical practices came to an end for surgery, a guest contributor declares, under Clyde Barker's chairmanship, a tenure marked by the dissolution of the bogus boundary between basic and clinical science.

But the story doesn't end there. In their concluding chapters, the authors highlight the work of younger surgeons—men and, at last, women, who are charting the future of Penn Medicine in its 260th year. —*MAM*

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two weeks after his surgery, died two months after the historic procedure. There was no indication that his new kidney contributed to the patient's death, but Markmann is waiting to see a full report on the case. The second porcine kidney transplant had to be removed from the recipient because it interfered with her blood flow; she died two months later. There was some evidence that the 2022 and 2023 heart xenografts were in the process of being rejected when the patients died only weeks after their surgeries. But Markmann believes that xenografts may yet provide an answer to the organ supply problem, noting that fully half of the more than 100,000 people on organ transplant lists die waiting.

Avi Shaked leads a team of researchers that in December 2023 completed an experiment to circulate a recently deceased donor's blood through a genetically engineered pig liver outside the body—a milestone in the quest for a more effective "bridge" option to support critically ill patients until a human liver transplant is available for them. Could it work for other body parts? The needs of transplant surgeons and their patients are driving innovation.

Shaked believes that "organ transplantation will continue to revolutionize medicine." The risk-reward calculus in the surgery must always be a crucial consideration. As Art Caplan has pointed out, "new forms of transplants require doctors, patients, regulators, and the public to rethink the tradeoffs between saving life, extending life, and risking the loss of life to achieve improvements in the quality of life." Some 20 years ago, in an address as president of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons in 2003–04, Shaked told his colleagues: "For our revolution to succeed we must have a clear vision of the new world we are building."

Mary Ann Meyers Gr'76, former secretary of the University of Pennsylvania, president of the Annenberg Foundation, and senior fellow at the John Templeton Foundation, is the author of *Art, Education, and African American Culture: Albert Barnes and the Science of Philanthropy* (2004 and 2006) among other works.

Calendar

Annenberg Center
pennlivearts.org
Ricercar Consort & Céline Scheen Mar. 6
Jontavious Willis Mar. 7
Legacy on Broad 2025 Mar. 8
DENTRO Mar. 13–15
Rennie Harris Puremovement Mar. 14–15
Angélique Kidjo Mar. 22
Kronos Quartet Mar. 30
The 7 Fingers Apr. 5
Jordi Savall & Hespèrion XXI Apr. 10
Patty Griffin Apr. 27

Arthur Ross Gallery
arthurrossgallery.org
open Tues.–Sun.
After Modernism
Through Apr. 13

ICA
icaphila.org
Carl Cheng: Nature Never Loses
Through Apr. 6

Above: Shadow puppets courtesy Penn Museum.

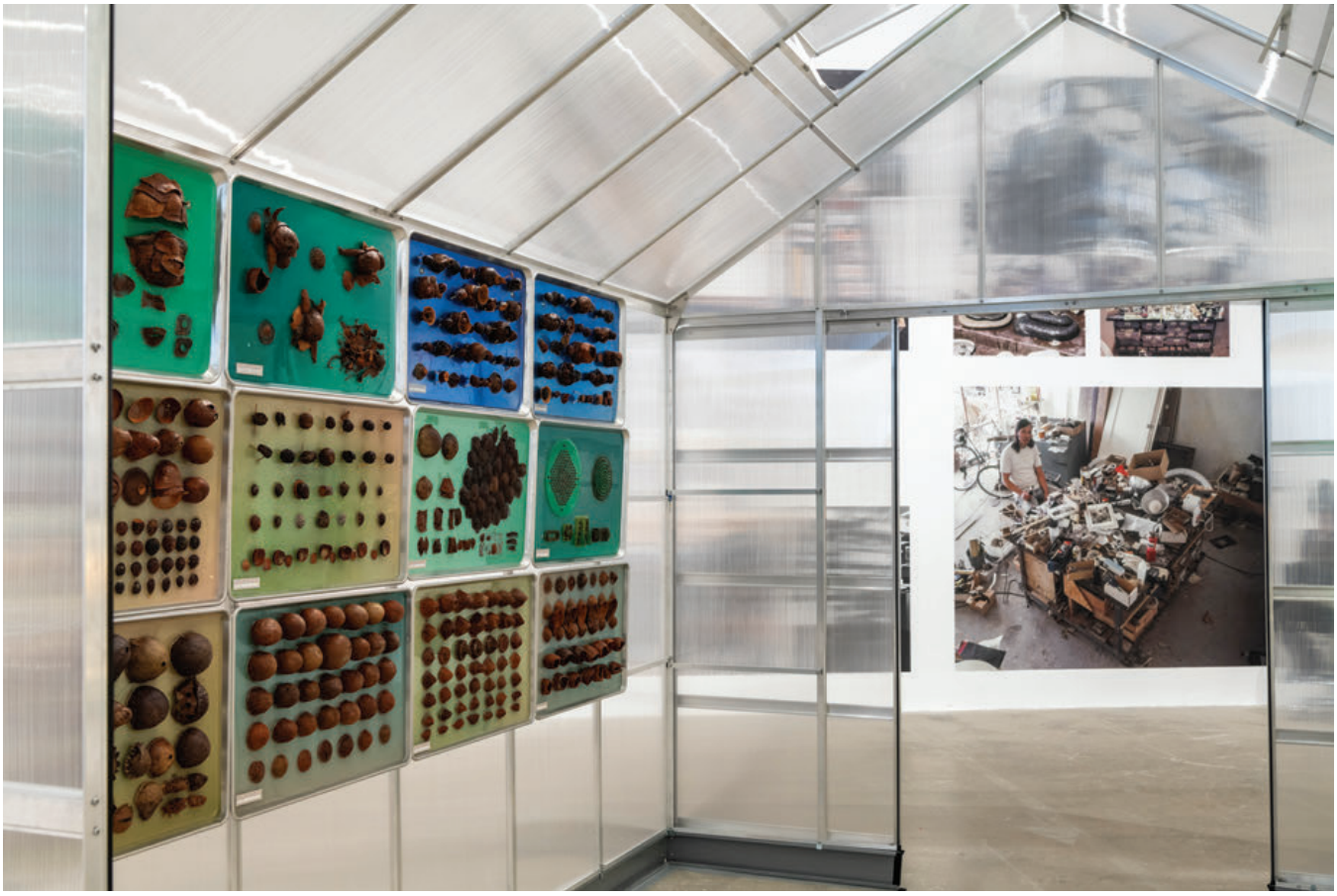
Kelly Writers House
writing.upenn.edu/wh
Beethoven in Beijing (roundtable discussion) Mar. 4
Celebration of Lyn Hejinian Mar. 18
Carmen Maria Machado (reading) Mar. 31
Carmen Maria Machado (conversation) Apr. 1
Sawako Nakayasu Apr. 9
Emma Copley Eisenberg Apr. 22
Alice Notley (reading) Apr. 28
Alice Notley (conversation) Apr. 29

Morris Arboretum and Gardens
morrisarboretum.org
Open daily, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Penn Libraries
library.upenn.edu
Politics of Yellow Fever in Alexander Hamilton's America
Through Mar. 15
Vanitas: Still Life Photographs of Audrey Flack
Through May 19
From Manuscript to Manga: Ainu Representation in Media
Through May 19
Revolution at Penn?
Through May 27
"My Soul is Anchored in the Lord": Marian Anderson and Florence Price
Through Dec. 15

Penn Museum
penn.museum
Preserving Assyria
Through February 2026
Jewelry Through Time: Ancient Wearers and Modern Makers Mar. 8
CultureFest! Holi Mar. 15
Diving into Maritime Archaeology Mar. 19
Bygone Booze Tour & Tasting Mar. 22
Uncovering the Social and Political History of Ancient Egypt Apr. 2
Shadow Forms: Indonesian Shadow Puppets Apr. 16

World Café Live
worldcafelive.com
The Moth StorySLAM: Beef Mar. 4
John Byrne Band Mar. 7
Aron Magner & Jon "The Barber" Gutwillig Mar. 8
Glenn Bryan & Friends Mar. 9
Jeff Wittek Mar. 14
WILLIS Mar. 15
Hazlett Mar. 18
EMEL Mar. 19
SAMOHT Mar. 20
The Soul Rebels Mar. 21
Basia Bulat Mar. 22
Donna the Buffalo Mar. 29
The Moth StorySLAM: Bloom Apr. 1
Chris Knight Apr. 3
The Slackers Apr. 4
John Grant Apr. 8
Minas Apr. 11
Eilen Jewell Apr. 12
Tank and the Bangas Apr. 13
Valerie June Apr. 15
Ana Tijoux Apr. 16
Steven Page Apr. 22
ALO Apr. 24
Matt Hansen Apr. 25
Ben Vaughn Quintet Apr. 26



For *Avocado Laboratory* (1998–2024), Cheng ate all the soft innards.

Art Tools and Nature Machines

Carl Cheng's ruminations on the Anthropocene epoch take over the ICA.

Carl Cheng's first in-depth museum survey, at Penn's Institute of Contemporary Art through April 6, may be overdue. As a commentary on the precarity of human claims on the environment, *Carl Cheng: Nature Never Loses* is also eerily timely.

With fires still ravaging Southern California when the show opened in January, the 83-year-old, Santa Monica–based artist seemed to be directly addressing his community's most pressing concerns. But, in fact, those same concerns have animated him for more than six decades.

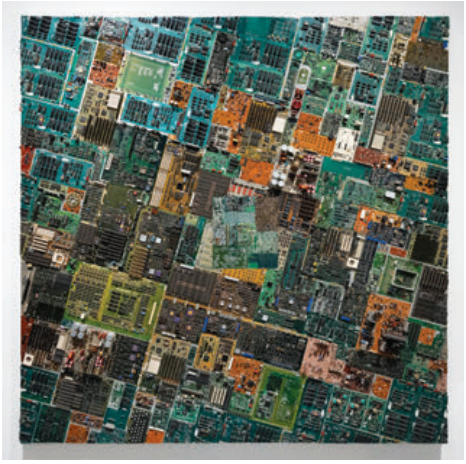
"I don't feel like I'm predicting the future for anybody," Cheng says. "It's just that I'm living our present. I am documenting what we are doing."

Born in San Francisco, one of five sons in a Chinese American immigrant family, Cheng has long wrestled with the complicated interactions between human beings and nature. He was "creating work about global climate change before the term 'global warming' was even born," says Hallie Ringle, interim director and Daniel and Brett Sundheim Chief Curator at the ICA. "And his practice feels so much more resonant today, especially as we collectively grapple with the increasing impact of global warming."

While Cheng has experimented with a variety of media, many of his themes have remained constant: the perils and promise of technology, the notion of identity, the role of art institutions as gatekeepers. Schooled in art and industrial design (at UCLA) and the Bauhaus tradition (at the Folkwang Hochschule in Essen, Germany), he has hand-crafted "art tools" and "nature machines" whose functions include creating sand sculptures and replicating the process of erosion.

In recent years Cheng has turned to public art commissions to secure funding and reach larger audiences. Not incidentally, those public installations, whether intended as permanent or evanescent, often thrust his art into direct conversation with natural environments.

Photo by Constance Mensch courtesy ICA



From left: *Anthropocene Landscape 1* (2006); *Imaginary Landscape 1* (2025)

Cheng's preoccupations include sand sculptures and erosion.

In *Santa Monica Art Tool (Walk on L.A.)* (1983–88), a massive, tractor-driven concrete cylinder stamped a design corresponding to the topography of Los Angeles onto the Santa Monica beach. The intricate relief, a sort of elaborate sandcastle, included recognizable city landmarks and even the requisite traffic jam.

Santa Monica beachgoers were not meant to be passive viewers. In ironic defiance of the shibboleth that nobody walks in Los Angeles, they were invited to participate in the artwork by treading on it, mimicking the depredations of Godzilla. A video in *Nature Never Loses* captures the project's cycle of creation and destruction.

The thematically organized Cheng exhibition represents the culmination of a five-year labor of love for its curator, Alex Klein, former senior curator at the ICA and now head curator and director of curatorial affairs at the Contemporary Austin, where the exhibition debuted. Denise Ryner, the ICA's Andrea B. Laporte Curator, organized the display in Philadelphia.

The show will travel to two European venues—Bonnefanten in Maastricht, Netherlands, and Museum Tinguely, in Basel, Switzerland—before ending its tour at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Apart from six loans, all of the roughly 60 items come from the artist's studio, Klein says.

"It's been a heavy week installing this show, which is so much about Los Angeles and comes so much out of Carl's experience growing up there and living there," she says.

Divided into six sections, *Nature Never Loses* begins with *Anthropocene Landscape 1* and *Anthropocene Landscape 2*, both from 2006, two particularly beautiful works that sum up Cheng's preoccupations. Each is constructed of computer parts—printed circuit boards and rivets on aluminum. The second piece reflects the industry's increasing miniaturization. With their geometric designs and colors, the works evoke aerial landscapes as seen from different elevations—an unintentional reminder of recent views of the dev-

From left: photos by Eddie Yang; Constance Mensch courtesy ICA

astation of Pacific Palisades, Altadena, and other Southern California neighborhoods. (The term "Anthropocene" refers to a geological epoch in which humans have begun to impact climate and the environment.)

Much of Cheng's early work interrogated the conventions of photography. He used plastic, wood and plexiglass to construct photographic sculptures, and photocollage to juxtapose different images of a Pacific Coast landscape. In his *Scroll Series*, he cut rectangular holes in scrolls and had participants use them to frame views of the Great Wall of China and other iconic vistas, underlining the subjectivity and artifice of photography.

Klein first encountered Cheng through his photographic sculptures. When she saw his weirdly idiosyncratic *Erosion Machines,* "my mind was blown," she says. For these contraptions, one for each of the five Cheng brothers, the artist fabricated "human rocks" out of organic and inorganic materials and subjected some to streams of water to produce erosion.

One gallery is anchored by Cheng's *Avocado Laboratory* (1998–2024), a greenhouse filled with whimsical avocado sculptures constructed from dried-out avocado pits, skins, and other materials. Cheng says he ate every avocado involved. Klein describes him as "a consummate recycler."

Another gallery displays work attributed to John Doe Co., an alter ego Cheng adopted in the late 1960s for both practical and symbolic reasons. The name originated from the advice of a tax accountant, and its corporate gloss helped him obtain industrial materials. It also served, Klein suggests, as a commentary on anonymous Vietnam War deaths, the commodification of art, and his own marginalization as an Asian American artist. Finally, it represented an homage to Marcel Duchamp and his alter ego, Rrose Sélavy. "There's a lot of humor in Carl's work, but at the same time there's this kind of biting critique," Klein says.

One John Doe Co. project was *Early Warning System* (1967–2024), a mechanized sculpture featuring sheaves of wheat, a radio playing maritime weather, and a projector showing human-caused natural disasters. *First Generation Family Entertainment Center* (1968–2020), a water tank with a motorized wave generator, LED lighting, and sound, both satirizes and replicates the allure of television. "It's also an apt metaphor for the hypnotic glow of the screens on our phones," Klein says. Cheng exhibited the piece at a gallery, as part of a mock living room, then marketed it at the California State Fair as a consumer product in what Klein calls a "humorous intervention" intended to highlight the ambiguity between artistic and consumerist modes of production.

Over time, Klein says, "Carl started questioning who art was for and where it was located." One early public art initiative was *Natural Museum of Modern Art* (1978–80). Imitating an old-fangled automat, it allowed visitors to the Santa Monica Pier to pay a quarter and turn a dial to choose among 10 miniature dioramas made of organic materials. Gazing through a window, viewers would then observe the movement of an art tool sketching designs on a table of sand. "They had no explanation," says Cheng. "It was quite abstract."

A forerunner to his Santa Monica beach project, *Natural Museum* was inspired in part by Cheng's travels in the early 1970s around Japan, Indonesia, and India with his longtime partner, the graphic designer Felice Mataré. In India, he says, he was struck by "people using art in public realms and not worrying about whether it was art or not."

The ICA exhibition concludes with *Art Tool: Rake 924* (1979–2024) and *Human Landscapes – Imaginary Landscape 1* (2025). At each tour venue, Cheng will use the mechanized rake, which he fabricated, to sculpt a different design in sand, inviting meditations on technology, art, nature, and the idea of impermanence. The ICA landscape is a tableau of abstract symbols, evoking an alien language. "You just play around till it turns into something," Cheng says. "What I like about it is there's no such thing as a mistake." *—Julia M. Klein*

Amateur Hour

With *Zahav Home*, Michael Solomonov and Steven Cook adapt their flagship restaurant's flavors for the harried weeknight home cook.

Zahav Home
By Michael Solomonov & Steven Cook W'95
Harvest, 384 pages, $40

Broadly speaking, cookbooks come in two flavors. One looks great on a coffee table but can be a bear in the kitchen, be it because of impossible-to-source ingredients or intimidating techniques. Think of Thomas Keller calling for 1.5 kilograms of dried grapevine knots and 250 grams of "dark raisins, dried on the vine, preferably from Paradigm Winery" for his *Per Se* rendition of venison rack—which already likely necessitates a hunting license or a friend with one. And that's before you even get into immersion circulators and agar-agar. The other variety stakes out the opposite end of the spectrum: *The Easy 5-Ingredient Slow Cooker Cookbook*; Jamie Oliver's *5 Ingredients Mediterranean*; Milk Street's *Cookish: Throw It Together*.

Zahav Home, the latest volume from Philadelphia-based restaurateurs Mi-

chael Solomonov and Steven Cook W'95, manages to tick both boxes. Its soul resides in an opening Pantry section whose foundational ingredients include a decent number that require a trip beyond a conventional supermarket: preserved lemons, black limes, date molasses, Urfa pepper, a pickled mango condiment called amba. So the book is best suited to cooks with access to stores like West Philly's Makkah Market and International Foods and Spices, or Kalustyan's in New York (which ships nationwide). But the recipes that follow are simple, family-friendly, and frequently outperform expectations.

The busy fathers relearned what the rest of us know: "Some days are Tuesdays, and you get home after dark and the kids are melting down." Their solution: Pep up your pantry.

Weeknight cooks can thank the pandemic. When restaurants shut down in March 2020, Solomonov and Cook's CookNSolo restaurant empire "went from more than four hundred employees to zero," as they write in an introduction. As the founders struggled to keep their business afloat, they sought respite in their home kitchens, cooking for one another and their families. The busy fathers relearned what the rest of us know: "Some days are Tuesdays, and you get home after dark and the kids are melting down. And some days are Fridays when you will do almost anything to avoid washing dishes." Their attempts to adapt their flagship restaurant's flavors for the home setting paved the way for this book.

In place of the crispy lamb's tongue or duck and foie gras kebabs that helped their 2015 *Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking* win the James Beard Society's Book of the Year Award, *Zahav Home* serves up three foolproof spins on a spatchcocked chicken, butternut squash baba ganoush that takes less than 10 minutes of active preparation, and Yemenite cauliflower wedges that a 12-year-old could carry off in half that time before stealing the show. Harder-to-find pantry items repay the shopping effort with depth charges of umami (like amba-inflected braised cabbage) and funky fruitiness (from preserved lemons in a crispy-garlic and pine nut dressing for broccolini; or the Urfa and date molasses glaze on oven-baked chicken wings). And the only thing better than a cardamom-scented pecan cake's morning-after iteration alongside coffee was a set of directions featuring the repeated phrase "using the same food processor bowl (no need to rinse)…"

As my family's default cook, I've been surprised by how often I've turned to this book since it came out in late 2024. Partly because I'm someone who already stocked tahina, sumac, pomegranate molasses, black limes, and many other ingredients—though not amba or hawaij, my new favorite spice blend—I was a little underwhelmed when I first paged through it. But Solomonov and Cook turn out to have a winning knack for simplification. Their recipe for Swiss chard and feta burekas convinced me that maybe rolling up phyllo dough cigars was less of a pain than I'd always assumed—and next thing I knew, I was cranking them out week after week almost as an afterthought. The same went for oven-baked chicken wings with three dead-easy but utterly delicious glazes, and a kale salad technique that dispenses with much fussy slicing and massaging. With flavor profiles that depart just enough from my usual fare to breathe new life into family dinner—even, or perhaps especially, during the winter doldrums, when a well-stocked pantry can make all the difference—*Zahav Home* hits the sweet spot. As handsome as it looks on a coffee table, it's been spending more time in my kitchen.—*TP*

Television

West Wing Forever

An ode to one of TV's most beloved shows—and a call to service for its devotees.

What's Next: A Backstage Pass to the West Wing, Its Cast and Crew, and Its Enduring Legacy of Service
Melissa Fitzgerald C'87 and Mary McCormack
Dutton, 608 pages, $35

Melissa Fitzgerald C'87 has been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm that has greeted the book she cowrote with Mary McCormack, *What's Next: A Backstage Pass to The West Wing, Its Cast and Crew, and Its Enduring Legacy of Service*, released last August.

But nothing beat the phone call she received from the president—well, the fictitious president in *The West Wing*, played memorably by Emmy Award–winning actor Martin Sheen on the acclaimed political drama television series that aired from 1999 to 2006.

"I'll never forget it," says Fitzgerald, who shared the screen with Sheen, albeit in brief moments, as Carol Fitzpatrick, the assistant to the White House press secretary. "I was sitting upstairs on the couch and the phone rang, and it was Martin. I was really nervous. And he said, 'I love it. I'm so proud of you both. You've honored the show. You've honored the work we did together.' And that was *everything*."

Although Fitzgerald had a minor role on the show, her relationship with Sheen is anything but. Sheen, to whom Fitzgerald refers as a role model and a "second father" in the book, went on a book tour with Fitzgerald and McCormack (who acted in the show's later seasons), and has remained supportive of his fellow cast members long after the show's run ended. "He's a remarkable human being, and I just feel so fortunate that in this lifetime, I've gotten to know somebody like him," Fitzgerald says. "That's one of the many gifts of *The West Wing*."

Fitzgerald has remained close with several other cast members, including Allison Janney, who portrayed White House press secretary C. J. Cregg in the show. "I may have played Melissa's boss on *The West Wing*, but in real life, she's my boss, no doubt about it," Janney said in the book. Janel Moloney, who played West Wing staffer Donna Moss, was equally effusive, saying, "Melissa and I have always been family. I just codified it by making her godmother to [my son] Julian."

"The show's been off the air for 18 years, but I don't think that a day goes by without me hearing from somebody in the cast in some capacity," Fitzgerald says. Because of those friendships the show forged, the book is "not written from a journalistic perspective," Fitzgerald says. "We really embrace the fact that we're insiders writing this book." Still, she and McCormack spent "hundreds of hours" doing interviews, mostly over Zoom during the pandemic, and four-and-a-half years to complete the book, which offers behind-the-scenes accounts of how the series was conceived and cast, revisits iconic episodes, and more, including old photographs the coauthors unearthed from boxes and drawers. "We thought we would have about a 300-page book, and it's almost 600 pages," Fitzgerald says. "And there's a whole 'nother book on the [cutting room] floor. I joke that this book is called *What's Next* and we could do a part two and call it *What's Left*."

While *West Wing* fans ("wingnuts" as they're sometimes called) will surely gobble up the off-camera anecdotes, it's the deeper analysis of the show's legacy told through cast members' "service stories" outside of TV that galvanized the authors throughout the writing process and, they say, provide the heartbeat of the book.

"For Mary and me, there would have been no book without that," says Fitzgerald. "The through line of service—we have come back together over the years supporting each other's issues and causes—has been a critical piece, I believe, of the strength and the longevity of our friendships."

In 1995 Fitzgerald started a nonprofit called Voices in Harmony, which uses theater to mentor at-risk teens. Following her run on *The West Wing*, she took that program to war-torn Uganda.

No cast member has been called to a life of service more than Fitzgerald. In 1995 she started a nonprofit called Voices in Harmony, which uses theater to mentor at-risk teens. Following her run on *The West Wing*, she took that program to war-torn northern Uganda and coproduced a documentary on former abducted child soldiers transforming trauma into theater ["Profiles," Mar|Apr 2012]. And in 2013 she made the "very big move" to leave Hollywood for Washington, DC, where she advocates for treatment courts at a nonprofit organization called All Rise. "We promote treatment and recovery support for individuals impacted by substance use and mental health disorders, instead of incarceration," says Fitzgerald, who serves as All Rise's director of strategic engagement. "We measure success by the number of lives saved, families reunited, and communities made safer."

Fitzgerald was inspired to pursue this line of work by Martin Sheen, who's been "a champion of treatment courts since the early days," she says, and her father James J. Fitzgerald III C'62, a retired senior judge on the Pennsylvania Superior Court who helped establish the state's first mental health court in Philadelphia. Her dad also encouraged her to go to Penn, where he met his wife and Melissa's mom, Carol M. Fitzgerald CW'63.

Penn proved to be a good launching pad for Melissa, who performed in Penn Singers and Penn Players, catching the acting bug that a decade later would lead to being cast in what some critics rank among the best shows ever. At the time, however, few people thought a show on American politics could work, given how many had failed before. "But you have to factor in Aaron Sorkin's unreasonable talent," Fitzgerald says of the famed screenwriter and creator of *The West Wing*, "and his extraordinary ability to tell stories that were not only smart, aspirational, and funny—but also deeply romantic in the hopes and dreams of what government and citizenship can be."

The title of the book is derived from Sheen's President Jed Bartlet's catchphrase but also is meant to signify that the "work is never done"—a message aimed at fans of the show that Fitzgerald calls "passionate, intelligent, and committed."

"For us, we feel that the work of service is never done," Fitzgerald says. "There's always a *what's next*. The readers are the ones that are going to change the world. The readers are what's next.

"I cannot overstate the positive impact that being part of *The West Wing* has had on my life," she continues. "I got to be a small part of something that is not only a part of television history but has also had a real-world impact by inspiring so many people to go into lives of public service. And I got a family out of it—a wonderful, beautiful, crazy family." *—DZ*

Refreshing the Met's American Wing

A 100th anniversary renovation presents the museum's iconic collection in a modern light.

Photo by Eileen Travell courtesy The Met

Even the most venerable of cultural institutions can benefit from an occasional overhaul, and this has recently been the case with the American Wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. One of the finest collections of its kind in the country, it turned 100 in November.

To mark this milestone, Sylvia Yount G'90 Gr'95—the wing's Lawrence A. Fleischman Curator in Charge—led a judicious campaign of reinstallation and reinterpretation. The changes remain true to the wing's founding spirit but at the same time offer visitors a broader, more nuanced view of the American past, incorporating diverse voices and previously untold stories.

The wing was conceived during the height of the Colonial Revival architectural movement that was originally sparked by the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 in Philadelphia. During a period when large numbers of immigrants were arriving in New York, the American Wing's mission in part was to build cultural identity by promoting a British-American historical narrative.

"The idea was you would go through those rooms, and you would learn the stories of those early families," Yount says, "and this would contribute to the Americanization of those new Americans by telling what was considered to be the proper, the true history of this country."

Yount's curatorial career took shape an ocean away in Urbino, Italy. As an NYU undergrad, she majored in Italian, and while she initially considered working for the UN, a semester abroad opened her eyes to the world of material culture. "Urbino is a beautiful Renaissance jewel of a town, and it was something about being in that environment that made me think, *Wow, I really want to work with the objects, with art, and not just with language and literature*. I took an art history course as well and realized that this could be a career path for me."

Back in the US, she landed a job at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, and it was there that she decided to become an Americanist. "I thought I would work on the Italian Renaissance, but I ended up becoming very interested in Mrs. Gardner as a patron and in her wonderful collection of American art. I really fell in love with the American story and decided at that point that I wanted to become a curator and would need to go for a graduate degree, and to do it in a city that had a great art museum."

Philadelphia, and Penn, fit the bill. "Philadelphia, for all intents and purposes, is the birthplace of American art, so that was a real draw for me," Yount says. "And Penn had and continues to have a very strong art history program. And while I was there, I had an opportunity to go outside the department—I think I was one of the first graduates in art history to actually make an argument for taking a class in the history department, or in comparative literature or in English, and so that really helped me flesh out what I really wanted to study, which was more cultural history centered around objects."

"I really fell in love with the American story and decided at that point that I wanted to become a curator."

After completing her dissertation on the Ashcan School of painters, Yount realized her goal of becoming a curator, first at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, followed by stints at the High Museum in Atlanta, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, and, since 2014, the Met.

Although the American Wing had undergone major renovations between 2002 and 2012, Yount and her colleagues saw its approaching centennial as an opportunity for further evolution. One of their first decisions was to reinstall the founding collection of 18th-century furniture, and they did so in a permanent gallery called the Calculated Curve. "We knew we wanted to address something that had not been done the last time, so our curator of furniture worked with a designer to think about a fresh way to present that material," Yount says. "There's the canard about how no one's interested in brown furniture anymore, but we beg to differ—we think it's very interesting if you consider the backstories and put that material in a much broader sociohistorical context, in addition to thinking about its beauty and artistry." The stunning result elevates classic Chippendale and Queen Anne furniture on plinths to eye level, allowing visitors to view it in the round, as sculpture. Special lighting and shortened text also contribute to the innovative, contemporary presentation style.

A second component of the reinstallation was simply making the American Wing easier to locate. "We had long known that finding us was an issue, being at the northernmost point of the building. Our entrances weren't very clear, and we didn't have any welcoming signage, and we needed to address that," Yount observes. In addition, Yount and her colleagues turned their attention to the tone set by the wing once visitors did manage to find it—in particular, the gallery encountered through the neoclassical doorway of its largest and first artifact, Martin Euclid Thompson's iconic 1824 Second Branch Bank of the United States façade.

"Visitors didn't really have an understanding of what they were entering into when they walked into the bank façade," Yount explains. "It had been a high-style Federal-style space that kind of felt like a dining room, and a lot of people apparently assumed it was one, and that all the related period rooms were all from one house. I wanted to do one project that all 11 curators in my department could all work on together, and we recognized that we needed to do a better job of introducing

Installation view of *The Calculated Curve: Eighteenth-Century American Furniture*, at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

with objects what people were going to see once they entered the galleries, so we came up with this concept of having either origin stories or founding narratives space, which is what you now encounter when you go in."

In addition to its traditional legacy pieces, such as a silver teapot made by Paul Revere, the new space also displays Native American objects (a nod to the Charles and Valerie Diker collection, on view in a separate gallery), as well as a monumental stoneware storage vessel by the enslaved potter Dave Drake. "It's been very well received and a great way to note that these are the kinds of different art forms that you're going to see throughout the three floors of the wing, and they're works that tell really rich and interesting, and sometimes very complicated and open-ended histories."

The third component of the campaign was a reworking of the paintings and sculpture galleries. "We decided to refocus some of the narratives, and we've been acquiring quite a bit," says Yount. "In the 10 years that I've been here, we've expanded the collection and brought in a lot of artists that are not as well known, and we wanted to make sure to create clear dialogues. Of course, you're going to encounter those famous paintings—the Coles, the Churches, the Sargents, the Homers, the Cassatts—but also artists you haven't met before, and so thinking about new gallery narratives allows for those conversations."

Perhaps the most notable and visible of the wing's recent acquisitions is a monumental three-part Tiffany Studios stained glass window designed in 1912 by the artist Agnes Northrop, originally created for a house called Linden Hall in Dawson, Pennsylvania. The window was unveiled to great fanfare at a glittering reception in its new permanent home, the Charles Engelhard Court, and is a fitting addition since Northrop's preparatory sketches for it reside in the Met as well.

Overall, the changes are subtle but meaningful. "They're inviting closer looking, and certainly the furniture presentation feels very fresh and striking to a lot of people," Yount says. "But it doesn't feel like a brand-new space when you walk through it. We really wanted the work to be front and center; that's been the aesthetic of the Met for a long time."

—David Perrelli C'01

Photo by Paul Lachenauer courtesy The Met

Jamaican track fans show their spirit during the 125th running of the Penn Relays in 2019.

From the Caribbean to Franklin Field

How the Penn Relays is boosted by its distinctive Jamaican flair.

If you've been to the Penn Relays, you've undoubtedly seen Jamaican athletes sprinting around the Franklin Field track and Jamaican fans happily singing and screaming in the stands.

For several decades, Blane Stoddart W'87 has helped give the country's oldest and largest track and field competition that dynamic Jamaican sparkle.

When the Penn Relays holds its 129th running this April, it will mark Stoddart's 30th year as a participant. He won't be there running, jumping, or throwing. Instead, he'll once again team up with Team Jamaica Bickle (TJB), a charity organized by expatriate Jamaicans and West Indies natives that has helped thousands of student-athletes of modest means travel to Philadelphia to compete since 1994.

A Jamaica native, the 60-year-old Stoddart is TJB's cofounder and pro bono director of its Philadelphia chapter. His full-time job is running the construction management company BFW Group.

According to Stoddart, Team Jamaica Bickle provides meals, lodging, and local transportation each year to upwards of 500 athletes and coaches arriving from Jamaica and six other Caribbean countries. At the 2024 Relays, there were nearly 700 men and women under TJB's care.

Besides food, transportation, and hotel rooms, TJB provides opportunities for Caribbean athletes to network with US college coaches and demonstrate their track and field skills that sometimes lead to college scholarships. "We don't keep an exact count of all the scholarships offered," Stoddart says. "But after 30 years it's certainly in the hundreds. Ten to 20 a year is normal. Or put it this way: if we hear only about two or three scholarships, that's a disappointing year."

Over the years, high schoolers from Jamaica, Trinidad, and other track-mad Caribbean nations have indeed leveraged strong performances at the Penn Relays into four-year degrees that have returned them to Franklin Field as college athletes, or even later as coaches. Many have gone on to naturalize as US citizens and enjoy careers in medicine, engineering, academia, and the arts.

Stoddart's passage to Team Jamaica Bickle—the word is Jamaican slang for a picnic or potluck dinner—began as a high schooler, when he emigrated from Jamaica's Spanish Town district. After graduating from Philadelphia's Martin Luther King High School, where he was the 1982 valedictorian, he matriculated to Wharton, studying marketing and economics in expectation of becoming "a big Wall Street trader."

For a while, New York was home as Stoddart worked as a foreign currency options broker. But ultimately he returned to Philadelphia and shifted toward community improvement work, in 1991 becoming CEO of The Partnership Community Development Corporation, catching a wave of urban renewal west of Penn's campus. He focused on affordable housing, collaborating with Penn's efforts to improve safety and real estate values in University City. Stoddart's team helped add some 300 new housing units to the community.

This was in many ways a continuation of Stoddart's undergraduate years, when he impressed faculty with his volunteer anti-poverty work. "He was my student in the 1980s," recalls Ira Harkavy C'70 Gr'79, founder and director of Penn's Netter Center for Community Partnerships. "He has always had a deep commitment to making a difference and contributing to a better community."

That commitment has manifested with Team Jamaica Bickle, which has helped the Penn Relays flourish, both as an athletic showcase and as an opportunity for Caribbean natives in West Philadelphia to support their homelands' young athletes. Some expats who help TJB raise money—over $3 million since 1994—are also Penn employees. In TJB's early years they often welcomed athletes into their homes near campus. Among those hosted: star sprinter

Penn Relays photo by Tommy Leonardi C'89; portrait courtesy Blane Stoddart

Usain Bolt, who made his Penn Relays debut as a high schooler in 2003, before returning to the meet in 2010 as an Olympic champion.

During the Penn Relays, the Palestra becomes the command center for Team Jamaica Bickle, hosting a cafeteria for athletes as well as massage services, music, and meeting spaces for teams arriving from seven Caribbean nations. Nearby on Shoemaker Green, Caribbean food trucks cater to diaspora fans arriving from as far afield as Miami and Toronto. And inside and outside Franklin Field, Jamaicans wave their country's flag, blast air horns, and add jubilant cheers to help turn the track meet into a true carnival ["Penn Relays at 125," Jul|Aug 2019].

Each April, Caribbean track fans flock to Franklin Field by the thousands. Sprinters from Jamaica dominate many events, especially in high school competition, both male and female. And many Jamaicans remain fiercely loyal to their own high schools' track programs, even decades after graduation.

That led Rainford "Perry" Bloomfield WEv'07 G'14 LPS'16 SPP'19, an IT specialist at Penn, to launch another charity, called Fortis & Friends, to provide TJB with bus transportation and shuttle service to Franklin Field. "These are life-changing opportunities for these athletes," Bloomfield says.

Bloomfield is a graduate of Jamaica's prestigious Kingston College, which in 1964 became the Caribbean's first high school to send athletes to the Penn Relays. One of them, sprinter Lennox Miller, went on to medal for Jamaica in the Olympics in 1968 and 1972. His California-born daughter, Inger Miller, captured Olympic gold for a USA relay team in 1996, making them the first father-daughter duo to win Olympic track and field medals.

Seeing Jamaicans descend on Franklin Field year after year is especially meaningful to Penn assistant track coach Chené Townsend, who competed at the Penn Relays for Kingston's Convent of Mercy from 2006 to 2009. Townsend recalls the familiar aroma of TJB's food helping her relax during her first visit to University City. "Just creating a space that feels very safe and very comfortable is so important," says Townsend, who was 16 when she made her Penn Relays debut. That began a journey to West Virginia University, where she met Shelly-Ann Gallimore, another Penn Relays veteran from Jamaica, who became her college coach and mentor.

Stoddart notes that a similar Penn Relays connection has enriched him for decades. "I was still in my teens, a kid born in Jamaica and just out of high school, when Penn changed my life," he says. "All these years later, thanks to the Penn Relays, I'm still fully engaged with the island, and pushing other teens to find their futures."

—Joel Millman C'76

Will Stephan Connell C'13

Jersey Boy

Actor hopes dream role as Frankie Valli will set the stage for more breakthroughs.

For Will Stephan Connell C'13, the sixth time was the charm.

A Jersey boy himself, Connell grew up steeped in the music of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. At 14, blessed with the requisite high tenor, he sang Valli's hit, "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You," in a solo showcase at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, New Jersey. In 2018, he performed a Four Seasons tribute concert at New Hampshire's Interlakes Theatre.

But when Connell tried out for *Jersey Boys*, the sleek jukebox musical dramatizing the band's triumphs and travails, he kept hitting dead ends. He never landed even an ensemble part. It was only after vainly auditioning for the Broadway national tour (twice), an off-Broadway revival (where he was one of two finalists to understudy

Photos courtesy Will Stephan Connell

the lead), and two regional productions that the 33-year-old Connell finally got the chance to play his dream role.

At Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre this past fall, under the direction of Richard Stafford, Connell's Valli evolved from shy Italian American street kid to confident, charismatic star, with a voice to match. Writing in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, one critic noted approvingly that Connell "nails the famous falsetto every time."

The songs in *Jersey Boys* were never the problem, Connell says. But Valli's life arc, with its tragic reversals, would have been more of a challenge for his younger self. "Emotionally, as an actor, I would not have been ready any sooner to do the part," he says.

An enthusiast of both Sondheim and Shakespeare, Connell majored in theatre arts at Penn, where he was president of Penn Singers. He has been performing professionally ever since, toggling between Philadelphia and other East Coast venues. Over the years, his roles have included Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance,* Laurie in *Little Women,* Jack in *Into the Woods,* Bobby in *Company*, and Harry Houdini in *Ragtime*.

From April 25 to May 18, Connell will appear in the chamber musical *Forever Plaid,* a bittersweet comedy about the afterlife of a 1950s boy band, at the Fulton Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. One of his costars is his husband, Sam Nagel, whom he met about 12 years ago in a production of *Legally Blonde* at a Delaware dinner theater and married in 2019.

Connell, who lives in South Philadelphia, also plays a "neurotic, superstitious" Italian chef in the new nautical musical *The Chequerboard Watch*, which had a December workshop at New York's off-Broadway AMT Theater and is looking for backers. "The music is so exciting—it's a combination of sea chanties, folk songs from different backgrounds, contemporary musical theater," he says. "Right up my alley."

Connell, whose family relocated from Brooklyn to Plainfield, New Jersey, when he was about seven, can't remember not wanting to be onstage. He told inquiring grown-ups that his career ambition was to be "an actor—the kind who sings and dances." (He's still working on "the dancing part," he says.)

At 13, Connell saw *Jersey Boys* on Broadway, and "realized I could try to sing like that. It didn't feel like something so daunting." After being chosen for the Paper Mill solo, he and his mother returned to the show, and waited for its Tony Award–winning star, John Lloyd Young, at the stage door. (*Jersey Boys* had debuted at Paper Mill, a laboratory for new musicals that recently launched *The Great Gatsby* to Broadway.) Young generously offered the teenager vocal advice on breath support and phrasing, "things I still remembered every night doing it 20 years later," Connell says.

At Penn, Connell plunged into the vibrant, student-run theater community. Along

"You can have someone who sounds beautiful, but if there's nothing going on behind the eyes, it's not so exciting to watch."

with Penn Singers, he performed with Penn Players, Quadramics Theatre Company, and Front Row Theatre Company, appearing in some 20 shows. He also sang with the a cappella group Counterparts, which specializes in jazz and pop, an experience he says enabled him to "learn complicated harmonies on the fly."

During his junior year, he directed a production of *King Lear*, a "real highlight," he says. "I'm such a complete nerd for Shakespeare. There is such a musicality and theatricality to it."

Penn "planted so many of the seeds for me," Connell says, including leadership and intellectual exploration—"always wanting to understand the why." At the University, that meant taking courses in English and religious studies. Now, he says, "I ask a lot of questions in the rehearsal process," a tendency that not every director appreciates. Still, he says, "that's been a major thing for me as an artist."

Since graduation, "I've gone where the job has been," Connell says. While he loves "actor-driven" musicals—specifically Sondheim's work—he also enjoys "standing centerstage and singing your heart out" in pieces such as *Les Misérables* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. "The idea of storytelling is so important to me," he says. "You can have someone who sounds beautiful, but if there's nothing going on behind the eyes, it's not so exciting to watch."

Connell serves as a camp and special projects director for the Wolf Performing Arts Center in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, a full-time job that allows him the flexibility to pursue his stage career. Besides running programs for students of all ages, he has abridged, written, and directed plays for the center. "It's so nice to be in charge of something," Connell says. "It's not a bad thing to want to have your cake and eat it too, and I've been able to. I couldn't do it without them, and I now don't want to."

Will Connell's breakout role as Frankie Valli lead to the next big thing? The theater is a fickle god, but Connell is optimistic. "I spent a long time trying to carve out a place for myself in the Philadelphia theater community," he says. With the success of *Jersey Boys,* it "finally feels like a lot of the seeds that I have planted in different ways are coming to fruition."

—Julia M. Klein

"For two years, I traveled around the world attempting to understand where American and European trash winds up and why."

—Alexander Clapp C'13

1953

George L. Hachar W'53 shares that he "took a nasty fall in May that required extensive surgery to repair." He has "graduated from wheelchair to walker" and he and his wife, San Juanita, are "back to Vegas on a monthly basis taking in the shows."

1957

Richard A. Silver C'57 is senior partner of Silver Golub & Teitell, whose main law office is in Stamford, Connecticut. He concentrates his practice on medical malpractice and personal injury cases. Richard writes, "A number of years ago I decided to make a choice to either retire or to continue active practice. I chose to continue my practice. For me, it was the right decision. ... Practicing has great personal rewards. There is great satisfaction in assisting clients who have incurred significant injury and financial need. The legal issues are mentally stimulating and help to delay the 'aging syndrome.'" Richard is active in the trial bar associations, the American Law Institute, and he cochairs the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association's Medical Malpractice Committee. He adds, "It is my firm belief that the policies of many large law firms that require retirement at an age when lawyers are still productive is a loss to that person, the firm, and clients. Many of my colleagues who have been forced to retire have indicated to me how 'fortunate' I am to be able to continue active practice."

1958

Robert Cassway Ar'58 has published two new photography books, *The Vanishing West Part Two* and *Elegant Decay*. The first book documents the quickly disappearing structures of the Western US in the 19th and early 20th centuries. These buildings include gold, silver, and copper mining communities, ghost towns, wooden grain elevators, abandoned homesteads, churches, and schools. The second book features the beauty found in old and decaying buildings and other built objects of the US and Europe. "As an architect, my photographs are about buildings or details of buildings," he writes. "Hardly a person is ever seen in my images." In addition to these endeavors, Robert shares that he is still teaching at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Ringling College of Art and Design. He writes, "My subject this year is Women in Modern Architecture."

1963

Dr. Bertrand Giulian C'63, a retired radiologist, calls himself "a Philadelphia street kid who became one of the world's authorities on 18th-century corkscrews." He writes, "I had never collected anything before, but I was an avid wine drinker. Forty years ago, for Christmas, my wife gave me a book on wine antiques. After reading the chapter on corkscrews, I asked her to give me a dedicated book on the subject." Soon after, he became a collector and purchased a small collection of 18th-century examples. Little information was available at the time, he writes, but his research eventually led to the publication of seven books. Bertrand's initial book, *Corkscrews of the Eighteenth Century, Artistry in Iron and Steel*, remains the definitive book on the subject, and he has since written six more.

1964

Stuart Resor C'64 writes, "As a young high schooler, my family decided to gift me my great-great-grandfather George Mendenhall's 1823 University of Pennsylvania large parchment diploma. It is still my most treasured possession and historic artifact! ... So I knew what the University of Pennsylvania was from an early age. [Mendenhall] went on to become deeply involved in the Cincinnati [community] and was the first to join the American Medical Association and to help found the University of Cincinnati Medical School. The Mendenhalls descend from Thomas Mendenhall, a Quaker who maybe came over to Pennsylvania with William Penn? Anyone know more about that?" Stuart continues that George Mendenhall's Penn diploma "is in perfect condition and I have scanned it, if anyone would like a copy. I will email that to you. It's all hand-drawn Latin script and signed by several faculty." Stuart can be contacted at stuartresor@gmail.com.

We Want to Hear from You

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

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

1966

Steve Robinson C'66, an architect, land-use planner, and community activist, is the author of a new book, *Turf War: How a Band of Activists Saved New York from Donald Trump's "Masterpiece"—An Insider's Account*. From the press materials: "In the 1980s, a band of New York civic groups set out to stop the real estate developer's attempt to erect his masterpiece, a half-mile of gargantuan buildings overlooking the Hudson River on Manhattan's West Side he called 'Television City.' ... Robinson was an organizer of the community group of neighbors who founded 'Westpride' the nonprofit that initiated the defeat of the project. He was then tapped to be a designer on the replacement civic-oriented master plan for the site."

1968

Bobbi Penneys Susselman Laufer CW'68 writes, "I continue to be obsessed with the travel business and still work 24/7, even while traveling. I escort tiny groups to remote areas three times a year. Please contact me if you're interested in the Pantanal in May 2025, the South Pacific in July 2025, or West Africa in October 2025." Bobbi can be emailed at bobbilaufer@yahoo.com.

1972

John Delaney C'72 writes, "My book of poems and color photographs about Egypt, *Nile*, came out this past spring. Next spring I will publish *Filing Order: Sonnets*—both available from Finishing Line Press."

Hon. Blaine G. Gibson C'72 has retired after serving for 20 years as a Superior Court judge for Yakima County, Washington. During his judicial tenure he was active in the leadership of the Washington State Superior Court Judges' Association as a member and president of its board of trustees. He was in the private practice of law for 27 years prior to being elected judge. During that time, he was a member of several Washington State Bar Association committees, including the Ethics Committee, which he chaired. He now hopes to spend his time traveling with his wife Sandi, when he can pull her away from her garden.

Richard Seltzer C'72 G'72 was honored at the Peggy Browning Fund New York City Awards Reception on September 16, in recognition of his more than four decades of representing unions, benefit funds, and workers. He has been a partner at Cohen Weiss and Simon LLP in New York City since 1987, where much of his focus has been in representing labor unions and funds in employer bankruptcy proceedings. The Peggy Browning Fund seeks to promote law students' entry into the practice of public interest labor law.

1974

Tony McKinley C'74 writes, "My recently published *Ancient Classics User Guide* is dedicated to my grandsons and written for the intellectually curious of all ages. The book is an invitation to dive into the wisdom and wonder of the Western canon, offering a syllabus of ancient history, philosophy, and poetry. Over 30 classical authors are surveyed, and each chapter provides a short bio and overview of their times, with a narrated tour of generous samples of their work. Also included are recommended sources on paper and the Web, with tailored reviews to guide readers in their enjoyment of the original works. The book is now available on Amazon. On a personal note, it was great to see so many old friends at our 50th Reunion."

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 16–19, 2025!

1975

Stewart Bruce Greenberg C'75, professor emeritus in radiology and pediatrics at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, was awarded the Gold Medal by the North American Society of Cardiovascular Imaging at the organization's annual meeting held in Boston in September.

Susan Molofsky Todres CW'75 WG'77 will be making an online presentation of Penn memorabilia that she has collected for the University Archives on Thursday, April 29, 12–1 p.m. She writes, "Among some of my favorite finds that will be highlighted: 1890's J. E. Caldwell silver and enamel pennant pins; ... and glass lantern slides from the Medical School Class of 1889, shown at their 50th Reunion celebration (mine's coming up)!" Register online at libcal.library.upenn.edu/event/13441660. See some examples of Susan's collection in "Gazetteer," Mar|Apr 2007.

1977

David E. Gross C'77 GAr'80, executive and cofounding partner at GF55 Architects, was the partner-in-charge of designing the Remington Boys & Girls Clubhouse in New Rochelle, New York. The building has received multiple accolades, including an award from an academic publication, *Learning by Design*, for Outstanding Project; and an AIA Design Award from the American Institute of Architects. David's architecture firm celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2024.

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 16–19, 2025!

1980

Andrea Kremer C'80, a television sports journalist ["Alumni Profiles," Mar|Apr 2019], has been inducted into the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame. A video of her acceptance speech can be seen at sportsbroadcastinghalloffame.org, by searching for her name in the 2024 inductees.

1982

Michael Karsch W'82 L'85 writes, "I am pleased to announce that I joined the law firm of DarrowEverett LLP in its newly opened Boca Raton, Florida, office, where I am a partner in the Corporate and Business Transactions, Commercial Real Estate, and Private Equity and Capital Markets Practice Groups, continuing my transactional practice in my 40th year. I have been married to **Andrea Weisberg Karsch W'82** for 39 years, and two sons are also alums: **Brandon Karsch W'12** and **Dr. Jordan Karsch C'15**."

Jonathan "Jack" Madrid W'82 writes, "I've been the president and CEO of the IT & Business Process Association of the Philippines, the trade industry group for the IT-BPM industry, since 2021. The industry is composed of over 1,000 organizations employing 1.82 million people. I am based

in Manila, Philippines, after relocating from Vancouver, British Columbia."

1983

Shaun Eli Breidbart W'83 is back on campus (part-time) as a graduate student in Penn's Masters of Applied Positive Psychology program. He continues his career as a corporate and theatre stand-up comedian. He shares "tons of original comedy (print and video)" on his website, www.BrainChampagne.com. "Why Brain Champagne?" Shaun asks. "He majored in marketing and wanted a memorable URL."

1988

Mark J. Pincus W'88, founder of the social gaming company Zyngus, donated $5 million to Wharton to launch the Pincus Artificial Intelligence Lab for Organizational Innovation. Led by professors Ethan and Lilach Mollick, the lab will "design innovative AI-driven tools to redefine organizational practices and empower business leaders," according to the Wharton announcement in December.

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 16–19, 2025!

1990

Mark J. Drozdowski C'90, a senior writer with BestColleges.com who teaches writing at Johns Hopkins University, is the author of a new book, *Postcards from Pillston: Reflections on America's Crappiest College*. Mark writes, "The book satirizes university life in America, providing the loser's perspective on current issues in higher ed."

1991

Bruce Chapple W'91 has been appointed CEO and managing partner of McMillan LLP, a Canadian business law firm. In the announcement, Bruce stated, "I am really excited for the coming years. Our firm is almost 125 years old and it's truly an honour to step into the CEO role during this next phase of national growth and success."

William Hudders GFA'91 presented a solo show of new collages, titled *Fables of the Reconstruction,* at the Baum School of Art in Allentown, Pennsylvania, from January 13 through February 6.

Allison Musante C'91, an attorney at Swerdlow Florence Sanchez Swerdlow & Wimmer, a labor and employment law firm, has been promoted to partner.

1992

Kristine Jackson C'92 SW'93 is a therapist and author of *Be You: Using the Pain Pinball to Go from Wound to Wonder*. From the press materials: "Just like the old pinball machines, life can bounce us around, sometimes leaving us feeling lost and trapped in the chaos. But here's the secret: we hold the power to shape our own path and create a life that resonates with our true selves." She shares that her book was recently featured in the "Staff Recommended" section of a Barnes & Noble in New York City.

1993

Gemini Wahhaj MTE'93 has authored a collection of short stories, titled *Katy Family*, to be released on April 14 by Jack-Leg Press. From the press materials: "The stories weave between Bangladeshi characters experiencing the reality of the immigrant experience in America and those still in Bangladesh, wishing for the mythos of the American dream."

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 16–19, 2025!

1995

James Newsom W'95 has been elected as a New Hampshire State Representative from the towns Hopkinton and Bow, in Merrimack County District 9, "the Fightin' Ninth," he writes.

Dr. Bijal Patel C'95 was recently honored with a proclamation from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, declaring August 23 as "Doctor Bijal Patel Day" in recognition of his innovative healthcare leadership and dedication to improving kidney care. Bijal is CEO and president of Balboa Nephrology and is renowned for his expertise in home dialysis, creating the Home Training Center of San Diego. He is a staunch advocate for expanding living donor kidney transplants to improve patient outcomes. Bijal is also a fellow of the Johns Hopkins Center for Innovative Leadership and mentors MBA students in the Foundations of the Business of Health.

1996

Kerry Luisi-Redican EAS'96, the former deputy for program and project management for the Institute for Water Resources (IWR), US Army Corps of Engineers, traveled to Antarctica in January for a leadership program for women in STEMM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine) through Homeward Bound. She writes, "This program is dedicated to fostering leadership, collaboration, and innovative approaches to address sustainability challenges facing our planet."

1997

Melissa Shingles C'97 GCP'00 WEv'06, an attorney in the Phoenix office of Littler, has been promoted to shareholder.

1998

Dr. Natasha Kapoor Sriraman C'98, a pediatrician and physician-advocate, was named president of the Virginia chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics as of July 1, 2024. She writes, "It is an honor to lead this amazing group of pediatricians after having so many wonderful mentors who helped get me here. I feel fortunate to help lead this organization, who, as fierce advocates of children, adolescents, families, and pediatricians all across the Commonwealth of Virginia, are truly making a difference."

1999

Michael Malvey C'99, an attorney at Galfand Berger, LLP, has been named a managing partner.

2001

Tahneer Oksman C'01 is an associate professor of writing, literature, and language at Marymount Manhattan College. She recently published an Audible lecture series through The Great Courses, titled *Why Memoir Matters: Learning from the*

Lives of Others. She writes, "The course is broken up into six lectures, and in each I break down some of the central theories and concepts related to memoir as well as delve into some of my favorites. It's meant for a general audience, and I developed the series based on some of the undergraduate courses I've been teaching over the last decade or so." The series can be found by searching for her name on Amazon.com, and more information about Tahneer is available on her website, tahneeroksman.com.

Mitchell Tepper Gr'01 is the producer, director, and writer of a new documentary film on PBS, *Love After War: Saving Love, Saving Lives*. The story follows "injured veterans and their romantic partners who are winning the battle for love," he writes. More information and the film's trailer can be found at loveafterwar.org.

2003

Jeff Huggins GAr'03 has been promoted to senior partner at Safdie Architects. From the company's press release: "For over two decades, Huggins has been instrumental in managing and orchestrating the design of programmatically complex, large-scale projects, playing a pivotal role in realizing some of the firm's most iconic projects."

Mimi Stillman G'03, a flutist ["Arts," Nov|Dec 2013], gave the world premiere of Grammy-nominated composer Zhou Tian's *Concerto for Flute and Orchestra*, written for her, with the Marine Chamber Orchestra (also known as "The President's Own"), directed by Col. Jason K. Fettig in 2022. The work was commissioned by a consortium of seven American orchestras, with whom Mimi is performing the work (2022–2025). She writes, "After getting my bachelor of music at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music, where at 12 I was the youngest wind player ever accepted, I received my master's in history at Penn. As the founding artistic director of the popular Philadelphia-based Dolce Suono Ensemble chamber music group, founded in 2005, I present programs from Baroque to Latin and new music, setting music in its broadest historical and cultural context. My Penn friends, I invite you to join us as we celebrate Dolce Suono Ensemble's 20th anniversary! For information, please see dolcesuono.com, and mimistillman.com, and be sure to say hello to me at our concerts!"

2004

Ross Clark C'04 has been named CEO of Adventure Media Holdings, a holding company composed of leading special interest-oriented media and events companies serving specialized audiences and verticals. He was profiled on our website for his astrological reading app, Sanctuary (thepenngazette.com/relying-on-the-stars).

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 16–19, 2025!

2005

Elizabeth Overbay WG'05, chief financial officer of Goldman Sachs Bank USA, has been named partner at Goldman Sachs.

2006

Pamela Codo-Lotti WG'06, global chief operating officer of Activism and Shareholder Advisory and head of Cross Markets Activism and Shareholder Advisory at Goldman Sachs, has been named partner at the firm.

Dave Cowen C'06 has published a debut graphic novel, 11 years in the making. He writes, "Authored by a politically left writer and illustrated by a politically right artist, *Should We Buy a Gun?* is about a couple and guns in America that aims to help heal our polarized divide."

Alex Finston C'06 W'06, cohead of US Credit Trading at Goldman Sachs, has been named partner at the firm.

Fletcher Wilson EAS'06 is the cofounder and CEO of Throne Labs, a start-up that has created the first smart, portable, solar-powered public bathroom. Fletcher previously founded and ran a medical device start-up, Intervene, which raised $30 million and is currently in clinical trials.

2008

Daniel Kiczek C'08 and Patty Riady are happy to announce the birth of their sec-

ond child, Lucas Riady Kiczek, on November 26, in Pasadena, California. Lucas was welcomed home by his older brother, Caleb. Patty is a managing director in the nonprofit audit practice of Deloitte & Touche, and Daniel is a senior director at the strategy consulting firm EY-Parthenon.

Matthew Leskowitz C'08 W'08, a partner in the Healthcare Group within Investment Banking at Goldman Sachs, has been named partner at the firm.

2009

Thomas Plank GrW'09 GrW'10, cohead of Global Currencies and Emerging Markets (GCEM) in Asia Pacific at Goldman Sachs, has been named partner at the firm.

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2010

Matt Curtin WG'10 has been appointed president of NFL Players Incorporated, which is the group licensing arm of the NFL Players Association. He lives with his three children in Yardley, Pennsylvania.

2011

Laura Keen C'11 is senior program manager of GiveDirectly, a nonprofit that specializes in giving unconditional cash to people in poverty. She was recently profiled on the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy's website for her work overseeing the organization's emergency relief and disaster response. Laura is a 2020 graduate of the Harris School's master of public policy program. Read the article at tinyurl.com/LKeenUC.

Nathaniel R. Miller C'11, an attorney, has been promoted to of counsel at Caplin & Drysdale. Nathaniel is part of the Bankruptcy and Complex Litigation practice groups. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, with a particular emphasis on creditors' rights and bankruptcy litigation.

Leah Mintz C'11 has been promoted to partner at Duane Morris. Leah is an appellate lawyer in the Trial Practice Group. She works out of the firm's Philadelphia office.

2012

Brandon Karsch W'12 see **Michael Karsch W'82 L'85.**

2013

Alexander Clapp C'13, a journalist based in Greece, is the author of a new book, *Waste Wars: The Wild Afterlife of Your Trash*. He writes, "It is about the global garbage trade—the strange business whereby rich countries ship their trash to poor countries. It started in the 1980s and, even though many at the time acknowledged that it was wrong, it never stopped. For two years, I traveled around the world attempting to understand where American and European trash winds up and why."

2014

Naomi A. Zwillenberg L'14 has been promoted to partner at Blank Rome LLP. Naomi focuses on corporate litigation out of the firm's Philadelphia office. Last year, her dedication to pro bono work was recognized when she received the firm's Edwin P. Rome Pro Bono Achievement Award for her work to secure the release of William Bailey, who was wrongfully convicted and served 36 years in prison.

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2015

Dr. Jordan Karsch C'15 see **Michael Karsch W'82 L'85.**

Monique Rollins WG'15, chief operating officer of GS Bank USA and international treasurer for Corporate Treasury at Goldman Sachs, has been named partner at the firm.

2016

Angelique Johnson GEd'16 is an academic advisor in the College of Health at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

2017

Dr. Ayoosh Pareek M'17 has joined the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York as a sports medicine surgeon. He specializes in hip, knee, and shoulder surgery, with advanced training and expertise in complex reconstructive surgery, arthroscopic surgery, and joint preservation procedures.

2018

Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez C'18 has written a memoir recounting her unstable upbringing as a second-generation immigrant, titled *My Side of the River*. At 15, when her parents' visas expired and they were forced to return to Mexico, Elizabeth made the decision to stay in the US, navigating homelessness while pursuing her education. Upon graduating from Penn, Elizabeth worked in finance for Wells Fargo before transitioning to the technology sector, where she is currently a product manager at Meta. More information can be found on her website, elizabethcamarillo.com.

2019

Matthew Doherty W'19, head of the Alternative Capital Markets (ACM) Group in the Americas and EMEA at Goldman Sachs, has been named partner at the firm.

Carin Gan W'19 is cofounder and chief technology officer of CoffeeSpace, a platform that connects aspiring founders to cofounders, which she describes as "essentially Hinge for cofounders and early hires." The startup was recently featured in *TechCrunch* (tinyurl.com/CoffeeSpace1) and *Tech in Asia* (tinyurl.com/CoffeeSpace2) for its rapid growth and impact in the cofounder-matching space.

2021

Joe Kemp GEd'21, founder of Games That Matter, has been named to the most recent *Forbes*' 30 Under 30 list. He writes, "Our mission is to empower the public and support students in need—using the power of play to make a difference. This recognition reflects the foundation I built during my time at Penn, and I'm deeply grateful for the education and opportunities I received there."

1944

Arthur E. Greene C'44, Voorhees, NJ, head of the cell biology department at the Coriell Institute for Medical Research and an adjunct professor at several colleges and universities; Oct. 19. He served in the US Army during World War II.

1945

Harry O. Schulze C'45, Towanda, PA, a retired research and development chemist for a manufacturer of tungsten and tungsten carbide powders; Nov. 22, at 100. He served in the US Navy during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

1948

Joseph P. Moore Jr. W'48, Gladwyne, PA, owner of a ski resort; Sept. 26. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. His children include Joseph P. Moore III W'74 and Elizabeth Moore Mahoney C'79.

1949

Richard A. Easterlin WG'49 WGr'53, Pasadena, CA, a former professor of economics in the Wharton School and the former associate dean for budget and planning in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences; Dec. 16. While working toward his master's degree, he became an instructor in economics at Penn in 1948 and a full professor in 1960. From 1974 until 1980, he served as the associate dean for budget and planning for SAS. Named the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor in Economics in 1978, he continued to teach at Wharton until 1982 when he left Penn for the University of Southern California (USC) Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. He retired from USC in 2018. He formulated the Easterlin paradox, the economic theory that higher levels of income do not equal more happiness at a societal level. His children include John D. Easterlin C'78, Nancy L. Easterlin C'78, and Susan P. Easterlin C'82.

Dr. Robert J. Sutton C'49 D'52, Lansdale, PA, a retired dentist; Nov. 3, at 99. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

1950

Angelo P. "Ange" Demos C'50, Pinecrest, FL, a retired lawyer and former attorney for the Diocese of Atlanta; Nov. 7, at 100. He served in the US Army during World War II and the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, Mask & Wig, and Penn Players.

Frederick E. Thompson W'50, Barrington, RI, a retired investment executive; Oct. 14. He served in the US Army and the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity and the sprint football team.

1951

Barney K. Schwalberg W'51, Brunswick, ME, professor emeritus of economics at Brandeis University; Nov. 17. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

John A. Trainer Jr. Ed'51 GEd'52, Havertown, PA, a longtime music director at Haverford High School and a musician in a variety of bands; Oct. 29. He served in the US Air Force Band as a trombonist. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, Glee Club, the Orchestra, and Penn Band.

1952

Harold R. Graden WG'52, Longboat Key, FL, founder of a company that sold specialty chemicals; March 22, 2021. He served in the US Army.

Florence Korostoff Gussman CW'52 GEd'67, Toano, VA, an elementary school teacher; Oct. 23. One daughter is Dr. Debra Gussman M'82 GM'86.

Donald R. McIlvain ChE'52 GCh'59, Mount Pleasant, SC, a retired executive at an international project management consulting firm; Oct. 23. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Chi fraternity and the Penn Band. His son is Bradford McIlvain L'84.

Charlotte Anderson Meng Ed'52, Limerick, PA, a retired elementary school teacher and principal; Dec. 12. She and her husband were also longtime owners of Beachside Snacks in Ocean City, NJ. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority, and the basketball, field hockey, softball, and swimming teams. One son is Robert F. Meng ChE'78.

Shirley Taylor Phillips SW'52, Milford, DE, a children's social worker; April 28.

Robert Scheff WG'52, New York, a lawyer specializing in tax law; Oct. 10. He served in the US Air Force.

Dr. Bertram H. Shapiro C'52, Livingston, NJ, a retired physician; Dec. 1. He served in the US Army Reserve.

Phyllis Fitterman Topchik Ed'52, Manchester, VT, an artist, actor, and former director of volunteer services at a hospital; April 29, 2024. At Penn, she was a member of Sigma Delta Tau sorority. Her children include Meryl J. Topchik CW'72 and David L. Topchik C'76 WG'79.

Stanton P. Zelznick W'52, Chicago, a retired tax lawyer; Aug. 6. He served in the US military during the Korean War.

1953

Robert L. Bauer EE'53, Charlotte, NC, retired owner of his family's electrical contracting business; Nov. 19. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Psi Upsilon fraternity and the football and track teams.

Ernest J. "Ernie" Beck W'53, West Chester, PA, a retired teacher, former NBA player, and one of the most accomplished athletes in Penn history; Dec. 12. A three-year star for the Penn men's basketball team from 1951–53, he held the program's scoring record for 67 years, with 1,827 career points. Among other records, he also holds the program mark for the top scoring average, most points in a season, the two-highest scoring games, rebounds in a career and season, and free throws made and attempted in a season. As a senior, he was

Notifications

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EMAIL record@ben.dev.upenn.edu

Newspaper obits are appreciated.

a first team All-American and led the Quakers to an Eastern Intercollegiate League title and to the first NCAA tournament appearance in school history. He was picked by the Philadelphia Warriors in the 1953 NBA Draft and played six seasons with the Warriors, winning an NBA championship with them in 1956. He also played for the St. Louis Hawks and Syracuse Nationals, before being inducted into the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame, the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, and the Penn Athletics Hall of Fame as an inaugural inductee. He later was a history teacher and basketball and tennis coach at Edward W. Bok Technical High School in Philadelphia and worked at Aqua, PA, for 30 years before retirement. He served in the US Navy. In addition to starring for the basketball team, he was a member of Sphinx Senior Society at Penn and won a Spoon Award. He remained close to the Penn basketball program for the last 70 years and was in attendance and cheering when AJ Brodeur W'20 broke his career scoring record in 2020 ["Sports," May|Jun 2020], later writing to the *Gazette*, "The smile on my face is sincere for I had the record long enough" ["Letters," Jul|Aug 2020]. Penn men's basketball head coach Steve Donahue called Beck "the greatest Quaker of them all."

Bernard H. Cross W'53, Hanover, VA, a retired attorney; Dec. 14. At Penn, he was a member of Acacia fraternity.

Warren E. Davidson W'53, Sarasota, FL, Dec. 4. He retired from the Sarasota County (FL) Sheriff's Department. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Howard K. Dreizler W'53, Plainfield, NJ, a former manager at a telecommunications company; Nov. 7. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Chi fraternity, the choral society, and the ROTC. His daughter is Anne Dreizler Bullitt GEE'80.

Robert E. Elbertson WEv'53, Ballston Spa, NY, Sept. 15. He was a former Methodist minister and worked for a machinery parts manufacturer. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

Richard A. Eliasberg W'53, Baltimore, a former insurance executive; Oct. 12. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, ROTC, and the swimming team.

James E. Hirsch W'53, Stowe, VT, former assistant attorney general of Vermont; Oct. 14. He served in the US Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, ROTC, the Debate Council, and the *Daily Pennsylvanian*.

Alexander M. "Sandy" Levine W'53, Needham, MA, a venture capital investor; Nov. 22. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity and the fencing team.

Jeanne Knobloch Lewis Ed'53 GEd'56, Glenside, PA, a retired elementary and junior high school teacher; Oct. 24. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Robert S. Pinnock C'53, Elizabethtown, PA, retired manager of the Federal Aviation Administration's New England Region office; Aug. 24. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

Betty Kilbert Rathbun G'53, Prince Frederick, MD, Dec. 19.

Muriel "Mollie" Metlitz Tinkleman Ed'53, Jenkintown, PA, Dec. 24. At Penn, she was a member of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority.

Samuel R. Vallerio C'53, Southampton, PA, a former finance manager; Dec. 5.

1954

Jerome R. Balka L'54, Bala Cynwyd, PA, a retired attorney specializing in real estate and estate law; Oct. 10. He served in the US Army. His wife is Arleen Berg Balka CW'55.

Dr. Robert S. Chavkin C'54, Victor, NY, a retired pediatrician; Nov. 22. He served in the New York Army National Guard.

Laurence J. Cohen W'54, Bethesda, MD, a retired lawyer specializing in labor law; Dec. 24. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity. His son is Harold L. Cohen C'88.

Dr. Alfred P. Doyle M'54, Sewickley, PA, a retired physician; Oct. 20. He served in the US Army Medical Corps.

Hon. David G. Eynon L'54, Medford, NJ, a retired judge in Camden County, NJ; Nov. 16.

Dr. Sherwood J. Hewitt D'54, Exton, PA, a retired dentist; March 29, 2022. He served in the US Navy. His wife is Carol Kurtz Hewitt DH'60, who died Oct. 20 (see Class of 1960).

Thomas R. Lionetti WG'54, Hendersonville, NC, Oct. 27, 2022. He was a longtime employee of Exxon Mobil and a Korean War veteran.

Salustiano Alvarez Mendez W'54, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, March 17, 2023. At Penn, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

Joel Popkin W'54 Gr'65, Abington, PA, a retired economist; Dec. 24. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity, Friars Senior Society, the ROTC, and the *Daily Pennsylvanian*. One brother is Dr. I. David Popkin C'59 D'63.

William D. Zellen W'54, Wayland, MA, retired owner of a travel company; Dec. 18. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity and the tennis team.

1955

Lee N. Allen Gr'55, Mountain Brook, AL, a retired history professor at Samford University; Dec. 16. He served in the US Army during World War II.

John J. Bond L'55, Haddonfield, NJ, Oct. 28. He served in the US Army during World War II.

Gerald Citron W'55, Wellington, FL, a retired executive in the video facilities and services industry; Nov. 25. He served in the US Navy.

Dr. Ralph G. Frick GD'55, Largo, FL, a retired oral surgeon; Nov. 12. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

1956

William J. Edwards EE'56 GEE'61, Xenia, OH, retired electronic technology laboratory director at Wright-Patterson Air

Force Base; Nov. 10. Along with his civil service, he also served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of the football team.

Karl F. Lukens Jr. MTE'56 GMT'59 Gr'65, Cape May, NJ, a civilian in the US Army; Nov. 14.

Burton M. Mirsky W'56 L'59, Morristown, NJ, a former instructor at Penn and retired partner at a tax advisory firm; Nov. 24. He also served as president of the Charles A. Dana Foundation. During his time as a law student, he taught accounting at Wharton, and then returned to Penn in the 1990s to teach taxation. As a student at Penn, he was a member of the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, the Debate Council, the Lewis Law Club, and the Beta Alpha Psi, Beta Gamma Sigma, and Delta Sigma Rho honor societies. His children include Dr. Polly Mirsky Krupnick C'87, who is married to Dr. Matthew E. Krupnick C'86; Andrew Mirsky C'90 L'93; Peter Mirsky C'92; and Wendy Mirsky Araten L'96.

Charles K. Plotnick L'56, Ambler, PA, an attorney; Dec. 2. His son is Steven L. Plotnick W'78.

Diane Slavic Sprung Ed'56, Marlborough, MA, a former reading specialist, director of community theater, and theater and restaurant reviewer for various newspapers; Aug. 1. At Penn, she was a member of Sigma Delta Tau sorority and Penn Players. Her husband is Dr. Cecil Sprung V'56.

Dr. William Waterfield Jr. M'56, Los Altos, CA, a retired psychiatrist; Oct. 13. He served in the US Army Medical Corps.

1957

Dr. Phillip Z. Aronow ME'57 GME'59, Haddonfield, NJ, a retired general surgeon; March 9. Earlier in his career, he served in the US Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service Division, and as chief of surgery and chief of staff at Hastings Hospital.

Dr. John S. Davis IV M'57 GM'61, Charlottesville, VA, a retired physician and professor emeritus of medicine in the division of rheumatology at the University of Virginia; Dec. 20.

Monroe E. Garthwaite C'57, Oxford, PA, an insurance underwriter; Oct. 15. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity.

Clara Garfield Hernes Ed'57, Jenkintown, PA, a former department supervisor at a social services organization; Dec. 24. At Penn, she was a member of Sigma Delta Tau sorority, the Penn Band, and the volleyball team. Her daughters are Sharon Hernes Silverman C'81, who is married to Alan B. Silverman W'81, and Helene Hernes Silverman W'85.

John W. Schnepp Jr. W'57, Wilbraham, MA, retired regional administrator of the Western Regional Office of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection; Oct. 28. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Psi Upsilon fraternity.

Joanne Brown Simpson Nu'57 GEd'61, Fullerton, CA, a former faculty member in Penn's School of Nursing; Nov. 5. As a student at Penn, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority and Penn Players.

Adelaide "Laddie" Davis Snyder Ed'57, San Diego, CA, a retired high school teacher; Dec. 16. At Penn, she was a member of the basketball and field hockey teams.

Dr. Murray Stein GD'57, Shaker Heights, OH, professor emeritus of oral surgery at Case Western Reserve University; Dec. 2, 2023, at 99. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean War.

Carole Dragan Vogue Nu'57, Pittsburgh, a retired nurse; Nov. 6. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

Dr. Thomas G. Woodman D'57, Auburn, ME, a retired dentist; Oct. 14.

1958

June Frankland Baker G'58, Richland, WA, a poet and former middle school and high school teacher of history and language arts; July 2.

James C. Brennan L'58, Media, PA, an attorney; June 1.

Joseph P. Cabrelli WEv'58, Monroe Township, NJ, a retired executive at the old Ohrbach's department store in New York City; Oct. 27, 2023. He served in the US Army.

Jean D. Cameron GEd'58, Brookhaven, NY, a retired elementary school teacher; Nov. 23. One granddaughter is Nicole D. Weldon Nu'18.

David P. Campbell W'58, Richmond, VA, a retired investment bank executive; Nov. 28. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity, Mask & Wig, and the rowing team.

Courtney A. Close Sr. ME'58, Dunmore, PA, a retired mechanical engineer for the US Department of Defense; Oct. 27. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Edward L. Farrell Jr. W'58, Franklin Lakes, NJ, a retired tax accountant; Jan. 4. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. His daughter is Marie Farrell Coleman C'89.

Dr. George L. Flickinger Jr. V'58 Gr'63, State College, PA, a former research professor in obstetrics and gynecology in Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine; Oct. 9. In 1961, he joined Penn's faculty as an instructor in pathology and became a full research professor in 1987. While at Penn Vet, he helped design and then oversaw the in vitro fertilization program for the department of obstetrics and gynecology. He left Penn in 1991 to become head of the in vitro fertilization program at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas and then returned to Philadelphia to assist at his daughter Dr. Barbara J. Flickinger C'81 V'85's veterinary practice until his retirement.

Rhea Menin Mandell CW'58 CGS'07, Wynnewood, PA, a former coordinator in Penn's College of General Studies (the precursor to today's College of Liberal and Professional Studies); Oct. 12. She joined the staff of CGS in 1987, counseling and advising students. She also ran the Bread Upon the Waters scholarship fund, which allowed low-income women to attend Penn. She worked at Penn until 2002. Her husband is Dr. Morton S. Mandell M'59, and two children are Jonathan Ira Mandell GFA'90 and Robin Mandell Green C'82, who is married to David Z. Green W'81 WG'82.

Capt. Charles J. McKinney Jr. C'58, Mount Pleasant, SC, a retired senior officer in the US Navy; Nov. 1. Later in his career, he was a prosecution coordinator in the Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office in Charleston, SC. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Psi fraternity, the ROTC, and the football and track teams.

Mary J. "Molly" McLaughlin Nu'58, Wynnewood, PA, a retired nurse at the Philadelphia VA Hospital; Nov. 27.

Clifford A. Mestel W'58, Buena Vista, CO, a former accountant and longtime volunteer EMT; Sept. 15.

Letty Chertoff Schacht W'58, Rochester, NY, a retired accountant; Oct. 1.

Alan F. Scribner C'58, Contoocook, NH, a retired attorney and novelist; Nov. 13.

1959

Marshall J. Becker C'59 Gr'71, West Chester, PA, a professor of anthropology at West Chester University; Nov. 27. At Penn, he was a member of ROTC and the rowing team, and he was a Franklin Scholar.

Alan D. Brier W'59, Providence, RI, a retired accountant; Dec. 20.

Dr. Jay I. Glat D'59, White Plains, NY, a retired dentist and professor of dentistry at New York University; March 23, 2023. One son is Neil D. Glat W'89, and two grandchildren are Isabelle S. Glat W'25 and Ashley M. Glat W'25.

William E. Pelham Ar'59, Wilmington, DE, a retired architect; Nov. 5. At Penn, he was a member of the sailing club.

Dr. Conrad B. Richter V'59, New Oxford, PA, a veterinarian specializing in pathology and laboratory animal Medicine; Nov. 25. He served in the US Army.

Dr. Florencio Saez Jr. GM'59, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, Dec. 1.

Marian Metzler Schroeder HUP'59, Havertown, PA, a retired nurse; Nov. 9.

1960

Dr. Barry Benn D'60, San Diego, a retired officer in the US Navy Dental Corps; Oct. 21. He served in Vietnam and the Gulf War.

Victor F. Dosch GEE'60, Margate City, NJ, retired chief of the Airports Branch of what is now the FAA Technical Center; Nov. 7. He served in the US Navy.

Carol Kurtz Hewitt DH'60, Riverview, FL, a retired dental hygienist; Oct. 20. Her husband is Dr. Sherwood J. Hewitt D'54, who died March 29, 2022 (see Class of 1954).

Grace Bonnert Logan G'60, Kitchener, ON, Canada; a former English and computing teacher at the University of Waterloo; Nov. 26.

Leo D. Rudnytzky G'60, Elkins Park, PA, professor emeritus of Slavic language and literature at La Salle University; Dec. 8. He also taught at other universities, including Penn.

Richard F. Schmidt WG'60, Bronxville, NY, a retired finance and planning executive at a business analytics firm; Oct. 19.

Barbara Hoffman Steinberg CW'60, Atlantic City, NJ, a longtime social worker and psychotherapist; Nov. 18.

Dr. John R. "Bob" Strawn GM'60, Houston, a retired physician; Dec. 7, 2023. He served in the US Air Force.

Dr. Edward D. Viner M'60 GM'65, Haverford, PA, retired acting chief of medicine at Pennsylvania Hospital and chief of medicine emeritus at Cooper University Hospital; Dec. 1. He served in the US Army Reserve. His wife is Judith Viner HUP'62, and his children include Beth A. Viner C'83, Dr. Carol Viner Coldren M'88, and Kathryn Viner Lester C'02.

Dr. Harvey Wenick D'60, Alexandria, VA, a retired dentist; Sept. 17. He served in the US Army.

1961

Stephen A. Cozen C'61 L'64, Boca Raton, FL, founder and chairman of the international law firm Cozen O'Connor; Dec. 19. The firm began in Philadelphia more than 50 years ago with four lawyers and has grown to more than 900 attorneys across North America and the UK. Some of the high-profile cases that he successfully litigated included the Three Mile Island nuclear disaster, the Hyatt Regency Kansas City walkway collapse, and Philadelphia's One Meridian Plaza high-rise fire in 1991. In 2003, his firm filed the first lawsuit against the government of Saudi Arabia for the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the United States; the litigation is still ongoing. His family and his law firm were major contributors to the University and Penn Carey Law. In 2003, Cozen O'Connor endowed the Stephen A. Cozen Professor of Law Chair at Penn Carey Law; and in 2021, he and his wife Sandra "Sandy" Wexler supported the Cozen Family Voting Rights Fellowship at Penn Carey Law. As a student at Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity and the baseball and basketball teams. One daughter is Cathi C. Snyder L'92, and his grandchildren include Samantha C. Resnik C'16, Maya C. Rosenberg C'18, and Talia C. Rosenberg C'21.

David G. Fleshman C'61, Discovery Bay, CA, a former manager at General Electric who later owned a water treatment company; July 4. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Pearl Millman Grika CW'61, Cherry Hill, NJ, a former historian at Independence National Historical Park; Dec. 16. At Penn, she was a member of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority.

Edward A. Hellegers G'61, Germantown, WI, a former economics and sociology instructor at Madison College; Dec. 16.

Roger S. Loeb W'61, East Hartford, CT, a retired executive at a wine and spirits wholesaler; Nov. 12. He served in the US Army National Guard. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity and the swimming team. His son is Bruce S. Loeb W'86, who is married to Ann Goldberg Loeb C'86.

Lounette Braswell Nicol GFA'61, Decatur, GA, an artist and retired special education art teacher; Nov. 17.

Dr. Wylie L. Overly M'61, Greensburg, PA, a physician and former clinical assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Oct. 21. He served in the US Air Force.

I. Edmund Stevenson Jr. Gr'61, Glen Mills, PA, a retired research biochemist at DuPont; Dec. 16. He served in the US Army.

William P. Whitaker W'61, Leawood, KS, a pharmaceutical executive; Oct. 22. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the baseball team.

Natividad Guadalupe Young Nu'61, West Covina, CA, a former supervisor at a hospital; Sept. 20.

1962

Claire C. Cantono CW'62, Paoli, PA, a retired real estate agent; Nov. 5. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Myron A. "Michael" Guran GAr'62, Boston, a retired architect who taught at several universities, Oct. 12.

Dr. Joni Lahr Magee CW'62 GM'69, Merion Station, PA, a former obstetrician-gynecologist; Nov. 7. At Penn, she was a member of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority.

Donald R. Marquis WG'62, Arlington, MA, retired town manager of Arlington, MA; Nov. 16.

Robert H. Nichols WG'62, Young Harris, GA, a retired math teacher and tennis coach at Young Harris College; Dec. 20.

Dr. Donald A. Shalan D'62, Haworth, NJ, a former dentist; Dec. 15, 2023.

Porter G. Shreve C'62, Washington, DC, a retired educator, mental health counselor, and therapist; Dec. 2. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity, Sphinx Senior Society, and the baseball and football teams. His former wife is Susan Richards Shreve CW'61.

1963

John Burke Asher W'63, Plano, TX, a retired oil executive; Nov. 17. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War and in the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, the ROTC, and the basketball, baseball, and sprint football teams.

Edward J. Bergman C'63, Princeton, NJ, director of the clinical ethics mediation program in the Perelman School of Medicine and a professor of legal studies and business ethics in the Wharton School; Nov. 22. After receiving his law degree from Columbia University, he was a graduate fellow at Penn's Annenberg School of Communications, where he worked in the documentary film laboratory and received the American Film Institute Independent Filmmaker Award. After his fellowship, he began his career as a lawyer, and eventually cofounded Bergman & Barrett, in Princeton, NJ. In 1995, he returned to Penn and began teaching undergraduate courses on negotiation and dispute resolution in Wharton's department of legal studies and business ethics. Later, in 2005, he founded the Management of Clinical Conflict program in the Perelman School of Medicine, today called the Clinical Ethics Mediation Program. He regularly taught bioethics courses in the program. In 2011, he was awarded the William G. Whitney Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Education from Wharton for his book *Court-Annexed Mediation: Critical Perspectives on Selective Federal and State Programs*.

James C. Clayton D'63, Camden, ME, a former dentist, real estate agent, and owner of a bed and breakfast; Nov. 28. He served in the US Army.

John M. Flackett GL'63, Cambridge, MA, professor emeritus and former associate dean of Boston College Law School; Nov. 9.

Samuel M. Gerber C'63, Philadelphia, a former systems engineer for IBM; Nov. 6.

Patricia Zadroga Hansford HUP'63 Nu'70, Fogelsville, PA, a retired nurse; Dec. 25.

Joseph B. Kilbourn Jr. CGS'63, Bronxville, NY, a former advertising executive who worked for American Express, RJ Donnelly, and various private colleges and universities; Sept. 12.

Charles M. Mattia W'63, Exton, PA, a retired executive at a steel company; Oct. 12. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

James P. McDonald W'63 WG'65, Alexandria, VA, a retired finance executive for Fairfax County, Virginia; Nov. 7. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. One daughter is Laura S. McDonald C'95.

Peter O. Offenhartz Gr'63, Wellesley, MA, retired founder of several software companies; Dec. 20. His wife is Barbara Hopf Offenhartz Gr'63.

Dr. Donald G. Sebesta M'63, Othello, WA, a retired physician; Oct. 26. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War, and he also served in the US Air Force Reserve.

Merle Dzick Treisman Ed'63, Boca Raton, FL, Oct. 8. At Penn, she was a member of Sigma Delta Tau sorority. Her children are Blair Treisman Rosenfeld C'89 and Michael B. Treisman C'94, and one grandchild is Olivia F. Rosenfeld C'25.

David J. Walsh WG'63, New York, a retired executive at the publishing company Scholastic; Oct. 21. He served in the US Air Force.

1964

Dr. Bruce E. Burnham M'64, South Windsor, CT, a retired plastic surgeon; Dec. 16.

Edward G. Drimak EE'64, Johnson City, NY, a retired senior technical staff member at IBM; Dec. 13. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity.

Dr. Alexander W. Hochheiser C'64 D'67, Vero Beach, FL, a retired dentist; Oct. 27. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Nu fraternity and the rowing team.

Dean Neil H. Porterfield GLA'64, Centre Hall, PA, dean emeritus of the College of Arts and Architecture at Penn State University; Nov. 23.

Alan L. Rachins W'64, Los Angeles, a screen actor who starred in television shows such as *L.A. Law* and *Dharma & Greg*; Nov. 2. One son is Robert E. Rachins C04, G'04 CGS'05.

Dr. Robert M. Toborowsky M'64 GM'68, Philadelphia, a former clinical associate professor of psychiatry in Penn's Perelman School of Medicine; Oct. 17. He was recruited to Penn in 1970 to serve as medical director of the Hall-Mercer Community Mental Health Center, as vice chair of psychiatry at Pennsylvania Hospital, and as an instructor

of psychology at the hospital. From 1997 until his retirement in 2017, he served as a clinical associate professor of psychology in the Perelman School of Medicine. Outside of his duties at Penn, he provided forensic consultation and expert testimony for law firms. He served in the US Air Force. His children include Dr. Carl J. Toborowsky V'17 and Elizabeth Toborowsky Pollard C'91, and his former spouse is Joan Toborowsky CGS'89.

1965

Robert H. Dembner W'65 WG'66, Scarsdale, NY, a retired consultant and chief financial officer; Sept. 28. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity and the golf team, of which he was captain in 1965. He served in the US Marine Corps Reserve. His daughter is Lindsay Dembner C'04.

Norman K. Dorn GEd'65, Green Bay, WI, a retired high school math teacher and wrestling coach; Dec. 17. He served in the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

Rosemary McGranery Dougherty GEd'65, Media, PA, a retired high school guidance counselor; Dec. 22.

Robert B. Dyer WG'65, Houston, a former investment executive and operations director for a Presbyterian church; Sept. 26. He served in the US Air Force. His daughter is Kathryn Dyer-Bendheim WG'90.

William E. Morter GEd'65, Richland, MO, a chiropractor; Dec. 2.

W. Marlin Pickett W'65, Salisbury, MD, a retired dean of the financial leadership program at AT&T; Dec. 10. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. At Penn, he was a member of the ROTC. His daughter is Debra Pickett C'95 G'95.

James E. Walker Jr. SW'65, Naples, FL, a former federal background investigator for the US Department of Defense; Jan. 26, 2023.

1966

Bill B. Benton Jr. WG'66, Ellicott City, MD, founder of a firm specializing in the management and financing of state and local health and human service programs; Oct. 27.

Terrence M. Boyle L'66, Schenectady, NY, a retired tax attorney for the New York State Department of Tax and Finance; Oct. 28. He served in the US Army.

Mary Hines Clarke G'66, Baltimore, a former teacher and president of the Baltimore City Council; Nov. 10.

Jerry R. Dempsey L'66, Summit, NJ, a retired attorney; Dec. 13.

Gertrude Dittmar CW'66, Colts Neck, NJ, a nature writer and essayist; Dec. 12.

Neva Hansen GFA'66, Provincetown, MA, an artist; Oct. 11, 2023.

Nancy R. LaPelle CW'66, Westborough, MA, a researcher and data analyst in the medical field; Oct. 20. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority, the Choral Society, and the basketball team.

Dr. Kenneth H. Rosenfield D'66, Sarasota, FL, a retired dentist; Dec. 1, 2023.

Dr. Stephen A. Schechner C'66, Virginia Beach, VA, a retired surgeon; Dec. 25. He served in the US Navy as a surgeon.

James E. Ulland WG'66, Minneapolis, a retired investment banker; Nov. 29. Earlier in his career, he served in the Minnesota House of Representatives and as commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

1967

Martin V. Aydelott C'67, Wilmington, DE, a retired trusts and estates attorney; Oct. 21. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity, Mask & Wig, and the rowing team. His brother is Alfred L. Aydelott III C'65.

Irene Haluska Bentz Nu'67, Perth Amboy, NJ, a retired nurse and nursing instructor; Dec. 11. Earlier in her career, she was a nurse educator at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. William L. Cohen C'67, Chadds Ford, PA, a retired physician; Dec. 10.

Robert P. deBussy GCh'67, St. Pete Beach, FL, Oct. 20. He served in the US Air Force and retired from the DuPont Company.

Rosalie M. Hart Nu'67 GNu'69, Devon, PA, retired vice president of the Institute of the Pennsylvania Hospital, a former inpatient psychiatric facility; Sept. 18.

Dov Jaron GrE'67, Philadelphia, professor emeritus of engineering at Drexel University; Sept. 24. As a bioengineer, he studied how artificial devices interacted with the body's natural cardiovascular system.

William C. Riley W'67, Bryn Mawr, PA, a retired executive at his family's food brokerage business; Oct. 8. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, and the football and squash teams. His wife is Hope Brown Riley GEd'70, Gr'89, and one daughter is Lorin Riley C'06 GEd'07.

Ward R. "Buck" Scull III WG'67, Newport News, VA, former owner and president of Virginia Transfer and Storage Company; Nov. 12. He served in the US Army.

Robert A. Simmers ChE'67, West Chester, PA, Dec. 8. He retired from an engineering and construction business. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

Thomas B. Swartley PT'67, Doylestown, PA, a retired physical therapist; Sept. 24. He served in the US Army.

Olga Gacsi Tigano CW'67, Philadelphia, a high school history and German teacher; Jan. 16, 2024.

1968

Wayne E. Anderson W'68, Ormond Beach, FL, a hand-tool manufacturing executive; Dec. 2. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and the football team. His sons include Andrew A. Anderson EAS'98 GEng'00 and Glenn Osten Anderson C'02.

Bernard J. Fisken WG'68, Bethesda, MD, founder of an accounting firm; Nov. 16. He served in the US Army as a military police officer.

Douglas A. Lobel W'68 WG'70, Westhampton Beach, NY, an attorney; Oct. 7. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity. One sister is Bonnie Lobel CW'65.

Stephen T. Matraszek EE'68 GEE'72, North Wales, PA, Aug. 2.

Dr. Lawrence J. Mayer M'68 GM'74, Bryn Mawr, PA, a retired general surgeon; Nov. 10. He served in the US Army.

Frank A. Orban III L'68, Lancaster, PA, a retired lawyer and former chief operating officer and executive vice president of the Institute of World Politics in Washington, DC; Oct. 10.

Wesley D. Scovanner C'68 WG'73, St Augustine, FL, retired chief financial officer for an insurance agency; Sept. 28. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, Sphinx Senior Society, and the football and baseball teams. One brother is Dennis P. Scovanner W'72, who is married to Jane Worsley Scovanner DH'72.

Bruce H. Seymour C'68, San Francisco, a retired attorney for the US Department of Health and Human Services; Sept. 18. He served in the US Air Force during the Vietnam War.

Dickson H. Spencer WG'68, Staunton, VA, a retired sales executive at a glass bottle manufacturer; Dec. 20. He served in the US Army National Guard.

Miner H. Warner L'68, New York, cofounder of a financial advisory firm; Nov. 26.

1969

Henry A. Bayard GEE'69, Carlsbad CA, a retired director at the MITRE Corporation, a not-for-profit that manages federally funded research and development centers; Oct. 23.

Robert D. Hume Gr'69, State College, PA, professor emeritus of English at Penn State University; Nov. 20, 2023.

Joseph A. Loverro GEd'69, Philadelphia, a retired teacher at a vocational and technical high school; Dec. 24.

Rajesh K. Mohindru Gr'69, Baltimore, a retired professor of economics at Bloomsburg University; Oct. 14.

Dr. Jacob A. Orbock GM'69, Winston Salem, NC, a retired cardiologist; Nov. 24. He served in the US Army Medical Corps.

Nina Gumpert Parris G'69 Gr'79, Burlington, VT, a retired curator of the Columbia Museum of Art in South Carolina; Oct. 21. She was also a professor of art history and fine art at Burlington College and the Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Steven M. Shufro GCP'69, Newton, MA, retired vice president of operations for Atrius Health; Oct. 5.

Rabbi Jonathan A. Stein W'69, San Diego, CA, a rabbi who also taught at Hebrew Union College in New York; Nov. 22. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity.

1970

Rudolph Abel Jr. WG'70, Sarasota, FL, a retired investment banker; Sept. 21. He served in the US Navy and the US Navy Reserve.

Helen Williams Ayres Nu'70 GNu'72, Durham, NC, director of the nursing program at Durham Technical Community College; May 12.

Donald W. Glazer GL'70, Newton, MA, a lawyer and cofounder of a biotech company, BeiGene, that develops cancer treatments; Oct. 25.

Col. Phyllis Noreen Goins Nu'70, Fletcher, NC, a retired colonel in the US Air Force and a retired professor at the University of Texas; Nov. 10. She served in the Vietnam War.

Margaret Stewart Hacker CGS'70, Portland, OR, a retired head labor and delivery nurse at a hospital; Oct. 23.

Dr. Charles E. "Chuck" Kinsley V'70, Hallstead, PA, a retired veterinarian; Oct. 4.

William H. Langdon WG'70, Marietta, GA, Oct. 13. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

Peter R. Lawrance WG'70, Long Beach Township, NJ, retired acting state treasurer for New Jersey; Sept. 29.

Dwo Lynm Gr'70, Winston-Salem, NC, July 19, 2023.

Dr. Donald A. L. Miele V'70, Virginia Beach, VA, a retired veterinarian; Dec. 1. He served in the US Army.

Richard A. Neville GEd'70 GrEd'79, Gladwyne, PA, retired vice president of student affairs at Villanova University; Nov. 26.

John W. Repsher PT'70, Loudonville, NY, owner of a physical therapy practice; Dec. 1.

William H. Roberts III L'70, Philadelphia, a retired lawyer; Aug. 30.

Dr. Paul J. Steinberg C'70, Washington, DC, a psychiatrist; Dec. 10. At Penn, he was a member of WXPN. One daughter is Miritte R. Steinberg C'00.

Robert F. Strosser WG'70, Middletown, DE, a retired executive at the tech company Unisys; Dec. 8.

Susan Martin Tucker Nu'70, Windsor, CA, a retired director of patient care services at a hospital; Oct. 1.

1971

Penny Kiselik Breitstein OT'71, Tampa, FL, a development officer at Goucher College; Oct. 26. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority.

George H. Conklin Gr'71, Raleigh, NC, a retired sociology professor at North Carolina Central University; Dec. 13.

Richard W. Crenshaw GLA'71, Shady Side, MD, a former researcher for the US Department of Energy and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and a Buddhist priest; Sept. 15. He served in the US Navy.

Wayne S. DeSarbo W'71 Gr'78, Centre Hall, PA, a retired professor of marketing at Penn State University; Nov. 20. Earlier in his career, he taught at Penn.

Deborah Gingrich HUP'71, Carlisle, PA, a former nurse; Nov. 7.

Alfred A. Plamann WG'71, La Canada, CA, retired CEO of Unified Grocers, a retailer-owned wholesale grocery cooperative; Oct. 13. He served in the US Navy.

Clark B. Schor WG'71, Belleville, NJ, an attorney; Nov. 12.

1972

Richard L. Dagenhart GAr'72 GCP'72 GFA'72, Atlanta, an architect and professor in the College of Design at Georgia Tech; Dec. 5.

David K. Erickson GCE'72, Philadelphia, a retired engineer for the US Army Corps of Engineers; May 20.

Dr. Kenneth J. Felix V'72, Millcreek Township, PA, former owner of a veterinary practice; Dec. 26.

Agnes Fister "Acee" Hughes Nu'72, Hendersonville, NC, a retired nurse; Oct. 21.

Kathryn C. Hughes-Downs Nu'72, Cinnaminson, NJ, a retired nurse and administrative director at several healthcare facilities; Dec. 7, 2022.

Charles N. Jaffee W'72 GEd'73, Grass Valley, CA, a writer and retired analyst for Hewlett-Packard; Oct. 31.

Pamela Kresge Kassner DH'72, Harrisburg, PA, a retired dental hygienist; Oct. 9.

Stephen Denison "Deni" Keeney ME'72, Langhorne, PA, a retired mechanical engineer; July 10. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity. One brother is Timothy R. E. Keeney W'70.

Oliver W. Lewis C'72, Reston, VA, Oct. 27. He worked for the US Government Accountability Office. At Penn, he was a member of the Glee Club. His wife is Maryann Allen Lewis CW'69.

Patrick J. O'Dowd Jr. WEv'72, Haverford, PA, owner and chief financial officer of a manufacturer of water quality monitoring systems; Oct. 8.

Emmett N. Roden III L'72, Rockville, MD, retired assistant general counsel for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development; Sept. 28. He served in the US Air Force.

Carl R. Sadler WG'72, Stuarts Draft, VA, a former transportation insurance consultant; Dec. 15.

Mariah Snyder GNu'72, Saint Paul, MN, professor emeritus of nursing at the University of Minnesota; Oct. 22.

Luther L. "Luke" Terry Jr. WG'72, Vero Beach, FL, a retired managing director at an investment bank; Aug. 3. He served in the US Army and the US Army Reserve.

1973

Maceo N. Davis WG'73, Philadelphia, a former manager of international business development for the Philadelphia Commerce Department and founder of Quoin Capital LLC; Oct. 5.

Julius W. Fertig GAr'73, Old Orchard Beach, ME, a former executive assistant at LL Bean and a property manager for a housing complex; Oct. 25.

William C. Kunkelman III WG'73, Mohnton, PA, a retired advertising executive; Nov. 10.

Sharon L. Link HUP'73, Coatesville, PA, a retired nurse; Oct. 15.

Melvin H. Shelly GEd'73, Providence, RI, a school psychologist and teacher educator; Dec. 7.

Kenneth K. Wieland C'73, Lansdale, PA, a pharmaceutical educational specialist at the biopharmaceutical company Merck Sharp & Dohme; Oct. 25. At Penn, he was a member of the tennis team. His wife is Diane Moyer Wieland Nu'78 GNu'80 Gr'98.

1974

Chellise C. "Shelley" Dunham-McBride SW'74, Philadelphia, a retired psychotherapist at Pennsylvania Hospital and longtime reading specialist for the School District of Philadelphia; Sept. 20.

Dr. Neal B. Forbes D'74, Mentor, OH, a retired dentist; Feb. 25.

Lee F. Steiger WG'74, Salt Lake City, UT, an accountant; Oct. 28.

Douglas H. Zanzot WG'74, Charlottesville, VA, a retired systems analyst for the defense contractor Raytheon and a part-time tax preparer for H&R Block; Nov. 15. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War.

1975

James R. Bellune G'75, Maryville, TN, a retired human resources manager; Oct. 17.

Ebadollah S. Mahmoodian Gr'75, Tehran, Iran, a mathematics professor at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran; Dec. 1.

Kevin J. Malloy C'75, Cincinnati, chief operating officer of a pharmaceutical company; Oct. 3.

Ellen A. O'Donnell Gr'75, Sarasota, FL, a former teacher; Nov. 18.

Susan Cooper Sargent WG'75, Philadelphia, founder and president of a healthcare management advisory firm; November 28. She was an active board member and officer of the Wharton Healthcare Management Alumni Club. Her husband is C. Mitchell Goldman WG'75.

1976

Dr. Norman A. "Chip" Ernst Jr. C'76 M'80, Garden City, NY, a retired police surgeon for New York State and Amtrak; Oct. 17. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Bernadine L. "Berni" DeCampli GEd'76, Media, PA, former head of the social studies program in the Haverford (PA) School District and cofounder of its gifted program; Nov. 25.

1977

John L. McCarthy WG'77, Naples, FL, former president of the Risk Management Foundation of Harvard Medical Institutions; Nov. 2. He served in the US Air Force during the Vietnam War.

John D. Rulon GAr'77, Celina, TX, an architect; Aug. 25.

Arnold Schlein GAr'77, Wynnewood, PA, an architect; Sept. 27. One daughter is Marney Schlein Margules C'88.

1978

Dr. Mehadin K. Aarafeh GM'78, Middletown, CT, a retired physician; Nov. 6.

Dr. William F. Cosulich ChE'78, Marlboro, NJ, a dermatologist; March 31. His wife is Nancy Shen EE'78, and one son is Michael T. Cosulich EAS'07.

Francis J. Dollarton Jr. WG'78, Cherry Hill, NJ, former director of a metallurgical company; July 9, 2023. He served in the US Army. His wife is Barbara Anne Madison Dollarton CW'63 CGS'86 GGS'94.

Gayle D. Nelson L'78, Rockville, MD, a retired health policy analyst at the Hilltop Institute at the University of Maryland; Sept. 26. Her husband is Michael L. Wheet L'79.

Banu Onaral Gr'78, Philadelphia, a professor of biomedical engineering and electrical engineering at Drexel University; Dec. 17.

Albert J. "Chippy" Sims Jr. W'78, Woodbury, NJ, a longtime employee in Penn's Stu-

dent Registration and Financial Services; Nov. 7. He joined Penn's staff in 1980 in the department of student information and systems and in 2001, his position was moved to Penn's Office of Student Registration and Financial Services. In 2006, he became a senior record assistant. He retired in 2023.

1979

Susan Komisar Hausman C'79, Stoughton, MA, founder of No Secrets No Shame, a company dedicated to promoting awareness and prevention of child sexual abuse; Nov. 26.

Henry J. "Harry" McHugh WG'79, Exton, PA, a retired executive at Wawa; March 5, 2024. He served in the US Army. One son is Fintan McHugh C'95, who is married to Julie Dillon McHugh G'04.

Jacqueline M. Moore GNu'79, Sedona, AZ, a nurse and healthcare advocate who cofounded Prison Health Services and later consulted on correctional healthcare; Aug. 11.

John J. Stehle EE'79, Hockessin, DE, an innovation manager at the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca; Oct. 4.

1980

Dr. Robert H. Birchenough M'80, Queensbury, NY, a physician and investment manager; Dec. 14.

Ming Yeh Blinn G'80 Gr'85, Bronxville, NY, May 14. Her husband is James D. Blinn WG'80.

Timothy D. Cherney G'80, Brewerton, NY, a software engineer at Lockheed Martin; Oct. 19.

Michael J. Mentzel L'80, Huntingdon Valley, PA, an attorney; Aug. 7.

John E. Murphy C'80, Hyannis, MA, an attorney; Nov. 16.

Steven R. Noone EAS'80, Glenmoore, PA, retired senior vice president of information technology at a construction consulting firm; Nov. 26. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity.

Joseph F. Pennisi G'80, Bradenton, FL, founding executive director of the Florida Policy Institute; Dec. 7.

Dr. Theodore Sanders GM'80, Brunswick, ME, a physician, retired vice president of a behavioral health and addictions clinic, and a former associate professor of medicine at Penn; Dec. 15. He joined Penn in 1965 as associate professor of medicine. He worked at Penn for 17 years, later becoming director of nuclear medicine at the old Graduate Hospital. He then focused his practice on working with communities in recovery, directing two methadone clinics and serving as vice president of Girard Medical Center Behavioral and Addiction Services. He retired from medicine in 1998. He served in the US Army.

1981

Thierry E. Abitbol C'81, Long Beach, NY, June 23.

Randi K. Brightman PT'81, Austin, TX, a pediatric physical therapist; Oct. 1. Her husband is Stuart M. Brightman W'78 WG'82.

Howard J. Podell C'81, New York, an attorney; Oct. 17. At Penn, he was a member of the rowing team.

James C. Reed WEv'81, Pflugerville, TX, former CEO of CranGrow and Eddy Foods; Nov. 12.

1982

Heather G. Boyd-Monk Nu'82, Philadelphia, retired Assistant Director of Nursing for Ophthalmic Education Programs at Wills Eye Hospital; Sept. 28. In 1997, she was awarded the Outstanding Alumni Award from Penn Nursing.

Diane Gentile-Rufino C'82, Greenville, NC, a political activist who started a local Tea Party group; Dec. 3.

James B. Grosvenor WG'82, Newport, RI, founder and CEO of a business consultancy; Nov. 12.

John R. McConnell Jr. WG'82, Saint Davids, PA, founding president of Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School; Nov. 4.

1983

Eugene M. Baldwin GrEd'83, Mechanicsburg, PA, a retired middle school principal; Oct. 29.

Dr. Eugene A. Fink Jr. V'83, Matawan, NJ, a veterinarian; Oct. 10.

Robert D. Hewell WG'83, Philadelphia, a former regional commissioner for the US General Services Administration; Nov. 2.

Roscoe C. Little III WG'83, Reston, VA, an investment advisor and professor of finance at the US Naval Academy; Dec. 4. One child is David A. Little WG'23.

Eugene A. Studer GL'83, Vashon, WA, an attorney; Nov. 1. He served in the US Army for 22 years, retiring as a Lt. Col. Judge Advocate General. His son is Dr. Matthew A. Studer C'95 M'99.

Walter B. Szamatowicz CGS'83, Philadelphia, a retired Philadelphia police officer; Dec. 1.

1984

Jo Anne Chambers GEd'84, Carbondale, PA, a retired reading specialist; Nov. 1.

Paul Cheselka W'84, Park Ridge, NJ, a finance executive; Nov. 29. At Penn, he was a member of the ROTC. He served in the US Army Reserve.

1985

Patricia Offley Dougherty Wood CGS'85 GEd'93, Haverford, PA, Nov. 27.

1987

Edward A. Ballard WEv'87, Phoenixville, PA, Sept. 15.

Mark J. Bassett GAr'87 GFA'87, Washington, DC, an architect; Oct. 13. His wife is Diana C. Mendes GCP'84.

Lyndon J. Charles C'87, Brooklyn, NY, retired deputy director of the Human Resources Administration for the City of New York; Nov. 7. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Alpha Society fraternity and the rugby team.

Gertrude Devose WEv'87 WEv'91 G'00 G'06, Philadelphia, a former systems analyst for CIGNA Corporation; Oct. 1. Two siblings are Paulette Devose WEv'89 and Michael V. Devose C'91.

Maryann Evanko GNu'87 GNC'94, Scranton, PA, a former nurse practitioner

in the neonatal department of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; Oct. 10.

Hon. Raymond C. Headen L'87, Cleveland, OH, a former judge; May 21.

David K. Nagourney W'87, New York, a former head of marketing at an investment bank; Feb. 28, 2024. At Penn, he was a member of the *Daily Pennsylvanian*.

Yuzhou Wang GEng'87 Gr'91, Cherry Hill, NJ, chief technology officer at a multiplatform startup; Oct. 28.

1989

Leo C. Lefebvre Jr. G'89, Atco, NJ, former executive director of fiscal affairs for the Department of Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; Nov. 29.

1990

Harry B. "Brad" Montgomery III G'90, Mohnton, PA a college educator; Oct. 11. He served in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

1992

David R. Sotomayor C'92, New York, NY, a planner for various brand names of apparel; Nov. 5.

1993

Michael W. Lehman W'93, Rumson, NJ, a financial executive; Sept. 26. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity and the rowing team. His father is Jack H. Lehman W'68, and one sister is Katherine A. Lehman W'97.

1994

Scott T. Brower WG'94, Hagerstown, MD, Dec. 19. He worked in the investment banking, corporate development, strategic planning, and marketing industries.

1995

Kevin J. Gault G'95 G'04, Landenberg, PA, a freelance writer for corporations; Dec. 11.

Renee M. Kulba GEd'95, Allentown, PA, a program director at Drexel University's College of Nursing and Health Professions; Nov. 25.

David W. Mohler G'95, Manteo, NC, a deputy assistant secretary of energy for the US government; Sept. 23.

1996

Karen A. Maguire WG'96, Jersey City, NJ, a retired executive at Verizon; Oct. 23.

1998

Peter E. Steiner G'98, Philadelphia, professor emeritus of Russian and East European studies in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences; Nov. 26. He came to Penn in 1978 as an assistant professor in the department of Slavic languages and literatures, ascending the ranks to full professor in 2000. He also taught in the master of science in organizational dynamics program in the College of General Studies (a precursor to today's College of Liberal and Professional Studies). He retired from Penn in 2015. Two children are Emil G. Steiner C'01 and Emma C. Steiner C'04 SPP'06.

2001

Savita P. Nair Gr'01, Travelers Rest, SC, professor emeritus of Asian studies and history at Furman University; Nov. 2.

2003

Claudia M. Jones C'03 G'04, San Jose, CA, Sept. 22.

2004

Dr. Michael J. Anthony V'04, Cherry Hill, NJ, a veterinarian; Dec. 10.

2005

Derek P. Hunsberger G'05 G'08, West Deptford, NJ, former associate director of residential operations at Penn; Oct. 18. He joined Penn in 2002 as manager of the information center at the division of housing and conference services. The next year, he became a senior residential services advisor. In 2011, he became associate director of housing services, overseeing residential operations and managing the logistics of campus housing. In 2015, he became associate director of residential operations. He left Penn in 2019. In addition to his roles at Penn, he was also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Delaware and Rowan University.

2020

Tolulope Opeyemi Oyetunde Gr'20 SPP'20, Philadelphia, Oct. 4.

2023

John Ferrari McKain SPP'23, Philadelphia, Oct. 12.

Faculty & Staff

Irene Haluska Bentz. *See Class of 1967.*

Edward J. Bergman. *See Class of 1963.*

James "Jim" C. Coyne, Oakland, CA, professor emeritus of psychology in the department of psychiatry in Penn's Perelman School of Medicine; Nov. 10. He joined Penn's faculty in 1998 as an instructor in psychiatry. The next year, he became a professor clinician-educator in the departments of psychiatry and family medicine at Penn; he held these positions, both teaching and fulfilling clinical duties, until retiring from Penn in 2013. His work evaluating psychological assessment, depression screening, and suicide prevention programs was highly influential. He also conducted research on the care of women suffering from perinatal period depression and on the combined influence of gender, marital status, and race in identifying patients with cancer at risk for poor outcomes.

Stuart Curran, New York, professor emeritus of English in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences (SAS); Oct. 7. In 1974, he joined Penn's faculty as a professor of English in SAS and in what is now the College of Liberal and Professional Studies. In 1996, he was appointed the inaugural Vartan Gregorian Professor of English, in honor of the first dean of SAS who later served as Penn provost. A romanticist, he authored two critical studies of Percy Bysshe Shelley and was supported with fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities

and the Guggenheim Foundation, among others. In 2004, he received Penn's Provost's Award for Distinguished PhD Teaching and Mentoring, awarded for the first time in that year. He retired in 2009.

Wayne S. DeSarbo. *See Class of 1971.*

Chellise C. "Shelley" Dunham-McBride. *See Class of 1974.*

Richard A. Easterlin. *See Class of 1949.*

Maryann Evanko. *See Class of 1987.*

Dr. George L. Flickinger Jr. *See Class of 1958.*

Gloria A. Hagopian, Naples, FL, a former associate professor of nursing in Penn Nursing; Oct. 3. In 1979, she joined the faculty of Penn Nursing as an associate professor of nursing; she also held a joint appointment as a clinician-educator in the radiation therapy department at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. In 1994, she left Penn to become a professor of nursing at the University of North Carolina.

Rosalie M. Hart. *See Class of 1967.*

Alan W. Heston, Upper Darby, PA, professor emeritus of economics and South Asia studies in the School of Arts and Sciences; Oct. 25. He joined Penn's faculty as a professor of economics in 1962. Along with collaborators Robert Summers and Irving Kravis Ed'38 Gr'47, he developed the International Comparison Program (ICP) and the Penn World Table. These resources introduced a methodology for comparing prices and real incomes across countries, transforming the field of international economics. The ICP, currently administered by the World Bank, stands as a major legacy of this work. He also codirected (with Summers) Penn's Center for International Comparisons, a successor to the ICP. He retired from Penn in 2004. His wife is Bettina H. Aten WG'86 Gr'92, and his son is Alex W. Heston ME'80 GME'83.

Derek P. Hunsberger. *See Class of 2005.*

William Labov, Philadelphia, a former professor of linguistics in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) and a widely recognized pioneer in the field of sociolinguistics; Dec. 17. He joined Penn in 1969 as a professor of linguistics in SAS. His research argued that regional and urban English dialects, even ones considered uncouth, were valid accents that merited study. In the early 1970s, he was one of the first academic researchers to study African American Vernacular English (AAVE), and he taught classes at Penn wherein students tutored young children in West Philadelphia schools and churches, simultaneously learning about the dialects these children spoke. In 1972, he published the book *Language in the Inner City: Studies in Black English Vernacular* about this work. In 1979, he testified in favor of Black students in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in a federal lawsuit they brought against their elementary school alleging a language barrier between teachers and students. The *Gazette* wrote about his *North American Atlas of American English* in 2006 ["Continental Drift," May|Jun 2006]. He retired in 2014 but continued to conduct and publish research. His wife is Gillian E. Sankoff, a retired professor of linguistics at Penn; and two daughters are Alice T. Goffman C'06 and Rebecca E. Labov C'09.

Leo C. Lefebvre Jr. *See Class of 1989.*

Rhea Menin Mandell. *See Class of 1958.*

Burton M. Mirsky. *See Class of 1956.*

Edward M. Peters Jr., Guilford, CT, the Henry Charles Lea Professor Emeritus in the School of Arts and Sciences and curator of the Penn Libraries' Henry Charles Lea Library; Nov. 6. He came to Penn in 1968 as the Henry C. Lea Assistant Professor of Medieval History, advancing to full professor in 1981. He also taught in what is now the College of Liberal & Professional Studies, in the Master of Science in Organizational Dynamics program, and at Wharton's Lauder Institute. He also curated Penn's Henry Charles Lea Library and edited the Penn Press's book series on the Middle Ages for 25 years. He retired from his teaching duties at Penn in 1999 but continued his work at the Penn Libraries until 2009. He was profiled in the *Gazette* in "The Immeasurable Curiosity of Edward Peters" [May|Jun 2003].

Leo D. Rudnytzky. *See Class of 1960.*

Joseph Rykwert, London, an architectural historian and the Paul Philippe Cret Professor Emeritus of Architecture at Penn; Oct. 17. In 1988, he was appointed the Paul Philippe Cret Professor of Architecture, a post he occupied for 10 years. He was also a visiting lecturer at a number of other universities, including Harvard and Princeton, and author of several books ["Arts," Jul|Aug 2001].

Dr. Theodore Sanders. *See Class of 1980.*

Joanne Brown Simpson. *See Class of 1957.*

Albert J. "Chippy" Sims. *See Class of 1978.*

Peter E. Steiner. *See Class of 1998.*

Dr. Robert M. Toborowsky. *See Class of 1964.*

Dr. Edward D. Viner. *See Class of 1960.*

Joseph Washington Jr., Garnet Valley, PA, professor emeritus of religious studies in the School of Arts and Sciences; Oct. 7. He came to Penn in 1977 as a professor of religious thought and as the new director of what was then called the Afro-American studies program. During his time at Penn, he also taught in the department of English and in the College of Liberal and Professional Studies. Throughout his career, he made significant scholarly contributions to the study of Black religion. He retired from Penn in 1997. One son is David E. Washington C'87.

Becky Young, a former lecturer and adjunct professor of photography of fine arts in the Weitzman School of Design; Oct. 24. She joined Penn's faculty in 1975 and spent 30 years building Penn's photography program, making it one of Penn's most popular fine arts offerings. She led courses ranging from Photography I to her acclaimed Visual Diary course, where students explored personal themes visually. This course typified her teaching style, which extended beyond the classroom as she hosted students at her home and studio. She retired from Penn in 2005, the same year that she received the Weitzman School's G. Holmes Perkins Award for Distinguished Teaching in Undergraduate Programs.

Classifieds

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John Hansen-Flaschen GM'82's portraits of Penn Medicine physicians connecting during the COVID-19 pandemic can be viewed at behance.net/gallery/105870875/Medical-Intensivists-(COVID-19).

Meeting Danger with Courage and Grace

Five years ago this month, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, and stay-at-home orders started fanning out across the nation.

"Effective Monday, March 16, the University is strongly encouraging remote work," wrote then Provost Wendell Pritchett Gr'97 and Executive Vice President Craig Carnaroli W'85 in a March 13, 2020, message to Penn faculty and staff.

Like many frontline workers throughout the world, Penn Medicine physicians and staff had to find a way to connect and keep hospitals running as they treated an influx of patients with COVID-19.

John Hansen-Flaschen GM'82, the Paul F. Harron Jr. Family Professor Emeritus of Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine, was working with a team devoted to procuring mechanical ventilators at the time. Also a photographer, he captured this moment in history by photographing colleagues he "met" with on his home computer. What resulted was this collection of portraits he calls *Medical Intensivists (COVID-19)*.

"These photographs show physicians conferring with one another from home kitchen tables, bedrooms and sunrooms, hotel rooms, and quieter corners of open hospital spaces," he writes in an introduction to the online exhibit.

"In these photographic portraits of friends and colleagues, I see the vulnerability that invariably accompanies mastery. I see fortitude, the strength of mind and moral sense of duty that enable well-prepared people to encounter danger with courage and grace." —*NP*

Photos by John Hansen-Flaschen GM'82

Photo Courtesy of the Office of University Communications

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