

# THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

MAY | JUN  
2024

## Colin Campbell Finds the Words

Christopher Payne's  
*Made in America*

What Paideia Means

Implications of  
a Warming World







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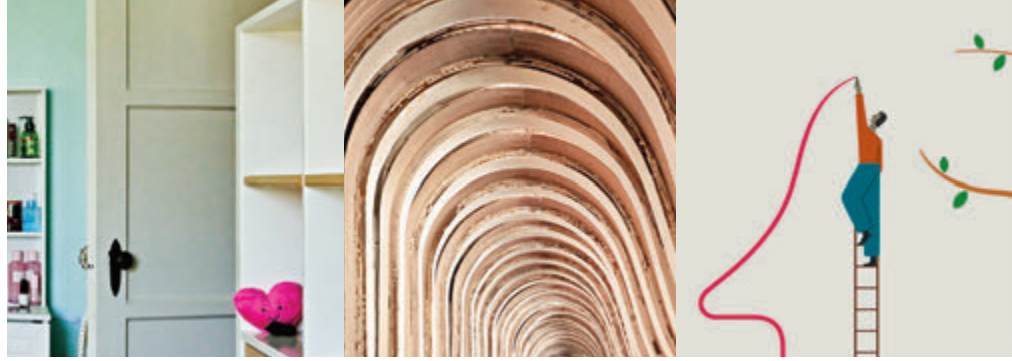
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By **Caren Lissner**

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# Hard Work

**T**owards the end of Caren Lissner C'93's cover story "Good Grief" on Colin Campbell C'91, whose two teenage children died in a car crash five years ago, she recounts Campbell's response on a podcast to a caller who spoke of continuing to think about a childhood friend who had died years before. Campbell urged her to put aside any fears of reopening old wounds and reach out to the friend's family to let them know that their child was still remembered. "Grief doesn't need reigniting," he said. "It's already there."

Since the deaths of his son Hart and daughter Ruby—killed by a drunk driver on the way to a family vacation home in a car with Campbell and his wife Gail Lerner—Campbell has worked in various ways to reach a point of modeling what he calls "good grief" (the source for the article title). He talks about overcoming the initial fear that his grief would drive him insane, pouring his raw feelings into a performance piece subtitled "a one-man shitshow," and writing his book *Finding the Words: Working Through Profound Loss With Hope and Purpose* to share his experience and help others facing their own losses, a brief excerpt from which accompanies the story.

Tragedies like this can split couples, but Campbell and Lerner have managed to stay close both through times when their feelings were in sync and when they were at different stages, and even to do things like revive an annual party including Hart's and Ruby's friends and families and move toward adopting two children from the foster care system. But the loss is always present. "It doesn't feel like I ever have pure joy," he told Caren. "It's always joy mixed with grief."

Another kind of loss—of American jobs and traditional industries to globalization—is one component of photographer Christopher Payne GAR'96's new collection *Made In*

*America*. But the main focus is on the resilience and variety of US manufacturing, which Payne conveys in extraordinary images that powerfully communicate what it's like to make things.

**Campbell has worked to model what he calls "good grief."**

His subjects range from spaces for the production of pencils and Peeps, Martin guitars and Steinway pianos; to the multimillion-square-foot factory floors where jet aircraft, nuclear submarines, and washing machines are assembled; to the climate-controlled, lab-like spaces where newer materials—ribbon ceramics, silicon wafers, "carbon-negative" carpet backing—are created. In all of them, Payne more than meets his stated goal of providing "useful information—and beauty!" in his photographs.

In our increasingly polarized world, the philosophy behind the Penn SNF Paideia Program can seem a bit farfetched, but the experiment has been gaining adherents on campus since the program was established some five years ago. In addition to a focus on "dialogue across difference," the program is built around the pillars of citizenship, service, and wellness.

In "Creating Civil Citizens," Julia M. Klein talks with Paideia's inaugural director Michael X. Delli Carpini C'75 G'75 and current director Sigal R. Ben-Porath about the program's history and future, as well as sampling some of the 70 or so "Paideia-designated" courses and interviewing students on what they've gotten out of their participation. The controversies erupting at Penn and elsewhere since October 7 have presented new challenges to Paideia's goals, but Ben-Porath expressed the hope that the program can provide a template for respectful dialogue—with an emphasis on listening as well as speech—for others on campus.



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# The Future is Unpredictable

Penn has a plan.

By Interim President J. Larry Jameson

**F**our years ago this spring, COVID-19 upended the world. We raced to adjust our ways, adopt new tools, and pivot our plans. To save lives and protect livelihoods, we adapted at top speed.

More recently, the events of the past several months have tested and continue testing many of us, globally and here at Penn. We've again had to adapt, responding to great challenges and addressing pressing needs.

Some might wonder, then, what's the point of planning at all? Why strategize five years, 10 years, or even further down the road when some new global reality could so disrupt the route? Why invest energy, engage in a community-driven planning process, and implement a strategic framework for Penn's future like *In Principle and Practice*?

Two Penn examples help illustrate why.

The world now knows the extraordinary story of Drs. Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman, Penn scientists who won the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their mRNA breakthroughs [*"Gazetteer,"* Nov/Dec 2023]. Their research made possible the COVID-19 vaccines that got the world moving again. Their work on mRNA technology continues opening new frontiers of medical science.

When Drs. Karikó and Weissman first met in 2005, though, this future could not have been predicted. While we could not foresee their specific breakthrough discovery, Penn Medicine had prioritized research on gene therapy, focused on translational research that linked basic discovery to clinical applications, and created a culture that valued collaboration.

These features, combined with the creativity and persistence of the scientists, laid the groundwork for their dis-

covery and the lightning-fast development and deployment of COVID-19 vaccines—the speed of which ranks among the most incredible accomplishments in modern medicine.

My second example stretches across 1,600 acres of former farmland in central Pennsylvania. On those acres sit an amazing number (485,000) of new solar panels, the largest solar power project in the state.

Called the Great Cove I and II facilities and now fully operational, these panels will produce enough energy to meet 70 percent of Penn's power demand across our campus and Health System in the Philadelphia area. We recently celebrated this milestone and the Power Purchase Agreement that made it possible, signed in February 2020.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change cautions that the world must limit global warming to 1.5°C by the end of this century. To heed this call, the world's greenhouse gas emissions must decline by nearly half by 2030.

As the sun shines on those 1,600 acres in central PA, Penn not only takes an enormous step toward our own institutional goal of 100 percent carbon neutrality by 2042. We prepare for an unpredictable global future that can and will be met with Penn leadership. Such leadership was also on full display at the 28th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference in December, attended by an interdisciplinary delegation of more than two dozen Penn researchers.

It's no coincidence that Penn's strategic framework names climate and health among the great challenges that our University is uniquely equipped to tackle. Across our relatively compact campus, we bring expertise in policy, engi-

neering, design, chemistry, health, and animal science in ways that are both distinctive and empowering.

We cannot know with certainty the contours of the next great healthcare crisis or paradigm shift in medical treatment, just as we cannot predict with finality what the world's climate-related realities and needs will be in 2050. This, though, we do know. Penn's planning today positions us for tomorrow, whatever it might bring. Penn's actions now ensure that the world's finest faculty, students, alumni, and staff are well-prepared and supported to lead.

*In Principle and Practice* announces and advances Penn's values and strengths. It channels our academic missions and the power of our world-class schools, centers, and Health System. It also encompasses how we're combating hate and ensuring safety and wellbeing on campus. We are moving with speed and care to ensure that Penn is a higher education leader on these issues in the short and long term. I am grateful to the members of the University Task Force on Antisemitism and the Presidential Commission on Countering Hate and Building Community, as well as our Student Advisory Groups for their time and dedication.

In a rapidly changing world, Penn must adapt rapidly as well. We are called—as Penn has always been—to bring our missions to bear for humanity. This is why *In Principle and Practice* is critically important to Penn's future and why I strongly encourage all our alumni and everyone who loves Penn to read it and see themselves in it.

Of course, that's the one thing driving all our strength, all our goals, all the good we do in the world: Our people and especially our global alumni community. I am profoundly grateful for the close ties you keep with Penn and with each other.

The future may be unpredictable. But Penn has a plan. I look forward to doing all that I can and partnering closely with you to bring *In Principle and Practice* to life.



Unfriendly response, Wilson's incomparable (or not) *Iliad*, recruiting conservatives, task force questions, and more.

### **“Breaking Balls” Isn’t “Love Language”**

I read “We Should Be Friends” [Mar|Apr 2024] by Dave Zeitlin, which celebrates the careers and friendships of Aaron Karo and Matt Ritter, Penn alumni who have become conspirators in the “Love you, buddy” genre of yearly group dinners and brocasts. I tried to listen to an episode of their *The Man of the Year* podcast before I wrote this letter but found it too pedantic and labored to finish.

While Zeitlin's writing is fine, the content is pretty ho-hum, except maybe for Karo and Ritter's large number of almost-hits in the world of entertainment, and their dogged determination to never give up. But there is a deeper level of infantilism and sophomoric philosophy that seems to be attempting to rise to legitimate relevancy regarding the maturing of American male development. It doesn't. The annual Man of the Year dinners—Michelin Star-less affairs at Peter Luger's Steakhouse, a carnivore haunt of faux alphas—offer little guidance for friendship growth. They are rather attempts to relive the Blink-182 bad boy days of their high school years. (The band's video of its three naked members running around town comes to mind.) But what is most depressing about their post-Penn journey is the revelation of their reliance on “breaking balls” as the foundation of their friendships, or as Karo puts it, “Breaking balls is love language.” Just the visual of what that phrase entails should tell you what it really is: mockery, pointing out deficiencies, highlighting life mistakes,



**“The annual Man of the Year dinners—Michelin Star-less affairs at Peter Luger's Steakhouse, a carnivore haunt of faux alphas—offer little guidance for friendship growth.”**

personal put downs, making fun of, and all the other devices insecure males use to feign love, but which are really designed to make them feel superior.

For two guys who are so obsessed with friendship, including selling We Should Be Friends merch, they recommend friends occasionally engage in a friendship audit. If you have to audit your friendship-ness, you're destined for a low

## **We Welcome Letters**

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score. The most uplifting aspect of the article is that eight of the nine members of the Man of the Year group got married, presumably to their BFFs. Probably not a lot of ball breaking in those relationships.

*David Rockwell C'72, Miami*

### **Zien Was a Mask and Wig Star, But Not the First Jewish Chair**

I'm a big fan of Chip Zien and thought your story was excellent [“The Chip Zien Show,” Mar|Apr 2024]. But there's one glaring error. Chip was not the first Jewish undergraduate chair of Mask and Wig. I was. In 1964. This was a momentous, tumultuous event, causing numerous people to roll over in their graves in various Main Line cemeteries. I returned to Penn to attend Wharton grad, so I was fortunate to see Chip perform in Mask and Wig shows and am not surprised he took his considerable talents to Broadway and beyond.

I look forward to attending my 60th Reunion in May and making a visit to the downtown Clubhouse to see if my caricature and beer mug are still on the wall.

*Bob Gardner C'64 WG'67, Sonoma, CA*

*A search in the Daily Pennsylvanian archives yields an article from March 1962 reporting on the selection of Mask and Wig board members—Bob Gardner included—under a new system in which undergraduates alone did the selecting, following “controversy last year over supposed discrimination against Jewish students on the part of the alumni group.” And a December 1963*



piece on the forthcoming production “Sorry Charlie, Your Time Is Up” referred to the “quite urbane, Bob Gardner, Undergraduate Chairman.” We apologize for the error.—Ed.

### No Translation Has Come Close

Before coming to Penn in the 1970s to complete my MA and PhD in the Folklore and Folklife Program, I had the privilege of taking Albert Lord’s Oral and Early Literature course and Gregory Nagy’s *Odyssey* course as an undergraduate at Harvard. Professor Lord’s groundbreaking book *The Singer of Tales* established the theory that the Homeric epics were first performed as oral poetry, and Nagy’s work emphasized the “song culture” essential to understanding the poems.

No translation of the *Iliad* or the *Odyssey* that I have read over the last 50 years has come as close to capturing the beauty and the flow of the works as they would have been performed by ancient singers as the recent efforts of Emily Wilson [“Shattering Violence, Shimmering Prizes,” Mar|Apr 2024]. Her use of plain English, her studied selection of “shimmering” vocabulary, and her attention to the meter of the poems should make Homer’s works more accessible to new readers for years to come!

Robert T. Teske G’72 Gr’74, Mequon, WI

### No Ranking Needed

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Emily Wilson’s translations of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. This Wharton student developed a lifelong interest in Greek literature after taking two courses at Penn in Greek literature in translation in the mid-1960s. (I’ve also enjoyed online courses on the *Iliad* and related topics by Peter Struck, another prominent classical studies professor at Penn.) I take some exception to the suggestions by the article’s author that one translation of Homer is “better” than others. All of the translators mentioned by the author did work of consummate skill, and produced works that will be read for many years. No one is the best translator of Homer, and one

of the pleasures of later life is the ability to compare the different styles of these translators without ranking them.

Robert H. Louis W’69, North Wales, PA

### A 10 for Lattimore’s “Tens”

Congratulations on a beautiful translation for yet another generation of readers of the *Iliad*. However, there is no need for qualitative comparisons of “sharper focus,” “clarity,” “impenetrable tangle,” or “ornate language” with previous efforts at translation. My affair with Homer began with Lattimore’s 1951 translation, and I still find his line referenced by the reviewer—“Of two tens Thalpios and Amphinachos were leaders”—to be extremely well considered, powerful, and aware of military culture. Lattimore identifies the whole concept of “band of brothers” in one word by citing the two as leaders of the basic fighting unit, the squad, from the shores of Troy to the shores of Normandy. “Tens,” today called squads, are where brotherly bonds are the glue that bind the team of 10 soldiers and their sergeant together. Lattimore gives heart, soul, and deep meaning to the roles of Thalpios and Amphinachos with his choice of one word—“tens”—the basic building block of armies.

William G. Stead CE’69 GCE’70 G’81,  
Chambersburg, PA

### Despite Data, SAT Debate Continues

Regarding the interview with Admissions Dean Whitney Soule [“Admissions in Transition,” Mar|Apr 2024] and the question of whether Penn will reinstitute testing requirements, it would be interesting to learn Soule’s opinion about Bates College’s 20-year, landmark study regarding the SAT. Released in 2005, it found virtually no differences between 7,000 submitters and non-submitters in their academic performance and on-time graduation rates. Apparently, the controversy will continue unabated despite the results.

Walt Gardner C’57, Los Angeles

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Shortly after the issue published, the Office of Admissions announced that Penn would remain test-optional for the 2024–25 admissions cycle.—Ed.

### Affirmative Action for Conservatives Needed

I am an alumna living in London and a Penn parent. Looking across the ocean at what has been happening to our university has been heartbreaking to me, and to many others. What happened to the open culture I experienced at Penn in the 1990s, where the Campus Republicans could have an Affirmative Action Bake Sale and the Democrats could openly talk about an Armenian genocide when the President of Turkey came to campus?

What happened at Penn is what has happened at many elite universities: a left-wing groupthink has emerged, silencing dissenting voices not only as incorrect, but as illegitimate and morally wrong. This absurd result in what should be a bastion of free and exploratory thinking, happily, has a remedy: Penn needs to introduce an affirmative action plan for conservatives.

The *DP* reported that 99.7 percent (that is not a typo) of faculty donations have gone to Democrats. This is laughable in a country basically split 50/50 between the main two political parties. The *DP* also reported (back in 2003) that the faculty was 12:1 Democrat versus Republican. We can be sure that ratio has only gone more Democratic.



How can a major research university exist when it is so far removed from the society it serves? The simple answer, as we have seen, is that it will have serious problems, as it should.

We have a Penn Biden Center. Where is the Penn Trump Center? The University seems to represent only one half of current American thought. And so a determined and concerted effort by any new administration to hire declared conservatives is the way to bring Penn back towards the mainstream. While the Supreme Court has outlawed affirmative action based on race, it is still legal to hire people based on their political views.

Imagine a campus in which conservative students are not afraid to say what they believe. Imagine a classroom run by a Trump supporter who challenges the views of younger people. This is how intellectual progress happens: by contrasting ideas and by argument. If we all agreed with each other we'd still be living in caves and eating nuts and berries.

And so I call on the administration to do the commonsense thing and align the faculty's views more with the views of the American public. Penn has closed down debate far too often in the last few years and the University, and its students, are poorer for it.

*Vincent DeLorenzo C'93 W'93, parent, London*

### Eying Pernicious Evil

Interesting to see the diversity in "Letters" [Mar|Apr 2024] regarding resignation, antisemitism, Israel, Palestine, etc. The article "Fighting a Pernicious Evil" ["Gazetteer"] in the same issue had me thinking. For me, as an educated Jew (Harvard BA 1970, Penn MA 1975), the Holocaust is just the tip of an iceberg. Though the public often seems tired of hearing about the Holocaust, the campus could benefit from a greater understanding of the many years that led up to it.

I would like to see, for instance, a display on campus of the face of Shakespeare above the question: Did you

know that when the Bard created the negative character of the Jew Shylock in his drama *The Merchant of Venice*, there were very few Jews in England, as they had been expelled from English territory in 1290 and not readmitted for over 300 years, and even then under questionable motives?

And how about a display showing the face of Columbus over the question: Did you know that Columbus had all his crew members board the night before August 13, 1492, because the following day all Jews were to be expelled from Spain? Or that his interpreter Luis de Torres (born Yosef ben Halevi Halvri) was chosen for his knowledge of Hebrew, Chaldaic, and Arabic?

Or how about showing the face of Martin Luther with the question: Did you know that this great Protestant reformer of Christianity was the author of a stridently antisemitic treatise in 1543 entitled "The Jews and their Lies," urging synagogues and schools be set on fire, prayer books be destroyed, property confiscated, and Jews be driven into forced labor or expulsion?

Think of a Renoir painting near the question: Did you know that Jews were expelled repeatedly from France until the "enlightened" years of the 18th century? The Franco-Prussian War encouraged an eruption of antisemitism in the Dreyfus affair of 1894–1906, when the Jewish French Army Officer Alfred Dreyfus was falsely accused of treason and imprisoned. Did you know that artists like Renoir, Degas, and Manet voiced strong antisemitism in the tumultuous French social upheaval that helped turn the Viennese journalist Theodor Herzl into the founder of Zionism?

Naturally many readers will find these (and other) overlooked points of history inappropriate for common campus consumption. Ironically it is easier perhaps to just focus on the Holocaust in considering antisemitism. Nevertheless, Jews and non-Jews alike should perhaps become more aware of the many events

that necessitated the establishment of a Jewish democratic state.

*Susan Dyshel Sommovilla Gr'75, Elkins Park, PA*

### Return to Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship

When did Penn abandon its defining principles and transition to an identity grievance platform? Just pick up the *Gazette* and read "Fighting a Pernicious Evil" (a task force formed to perfume Liz Magill's failings over antisemitism), "Facing Hate with Allyship" (identity politics), and "Reproducing Racism" (structural racism that must be addressed by affirmative action) [all "Gazetteer," Mar|Apr 2024], together with the first eight letters to the editor (ethnic and racial conflict).

Penn throws garlands at the feet of the agents of the "marginalized" and helps them tell their stories of victimhood. Maybe Penn would do better (and its alumni would be more supportive) if it returned to teaching, learning, and scholarship.

*Creighton Meland W'78, Hinsdale, IL*

### Stopped at Pit

Although I enjoyed Kathryn Levy Feldman's essay, "House Keeping" ["Alumni Voices," Mar|Apr 2024], I struggled to parse the first sentence. Feldman "got a pit" in the stomach with every bridge crossing? I doubted this referred to a series of small ulcers, but ... what? Poking through the web suggested an answer—perhaps Feldman felt anxiety "in the pit of her stomach" during those bridge crossings.

Languages are living things and always evolving, and maybe this expression has moved on past my antiquated understanding, but I can't help wondering if this is something the Angry Grammarian might choose to sing about.

*M. Jill McCracken V'88, Wilmington, DE*

*We did not consult the Angry Grammarian [see "Arts," Mar|Apr 2024 for his story], but assistant editor Nicole Perry, our resident expert, confirms that the phrase is increasingly used in American English. —Ed.*





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# Siblings, Interrupted

“Even then I knew some things would never be the same.” ▶

By Hannah Chang



I don't remember saying goodbye. I can't recall what I said, if I cried, or whether I hugged him. Even the red copper gate closing after the car vanished from view is fuzzy in my memory. I mainly remember walking to the couch, clutching my knees against my chest, and letting my head hang down. I sat silent and curled up tight, as if bracing myself for a lonely future.

It all seems rather dramatic, but even if some of that day's details are blurred, I will never forget the *feeling* that gripped me the day my brother moved out.

If you'd have asked me two years before it happened, I might have regarded his departure with some relief. My brother was six years and three months older than me. He seemed to love nothing more than tickling me without mercy or ignoring my singing as he played computer games.

Distance had always loomed large in our relationship. He was young when my parents moved from Korea to the US, where I was born three years later. Our age difference made our interactions sweet, awkward, and limited. It was like he didn't know whether to act like a friend or a second dad. Then, in 2012, my parents decided to serve as Christian missionaries overseas, and our family moved from Boston to a small island in Southeast Asia. There the dynamic shifted. I had many other fellow missionary children to play with, so I didn't necessarily *need* my brother.

Life there gradually came to seem ordinary and predictable. But in 2014 my parents decided to send my brother back to America for high school. He was 15; I was 8. That was the day I don't remember saying goodbye. Yet even then I knew some things would never be the same.

Soon after, while my brother was playing varsity basketball and scarfing down Chipotle in America, my parents and I moved to the country of Georgia. I grew up there, soaking in its culture and history—albeit not, alas, its language. I fell in love with *khinkali* dumplings, and

the white-barked trees lining Rustaveli Street, and the playground where I ran around with neighborhood friends, communicating through hand gestures. Our new city, with its weirdly shaped buildings and extravagant Christmas lights, was my home. There I cooked my first meal, held my first piano concert, had my first ski lessons.

My brother's firsts were all in America.

He came to visit us every summer, renewing his visa so that as a Korean citizen he could study in the States. I cherished every visit. By this time I'd realized that his teasing had been his own way of expressing brotherly affection. It took time, maturity, and living on separate continents to realize that—but now I missed it all. So I put up with him tousling my hair, even when I'd just taken a shower and carefully brushed it.

When I was 16, my parents and I decided that I should go to America to attend high school. My brother worried for me. "Hannah, you need to have Street 101 with me," he declared the summer before my move, and proceeded to teach me what American kids meant when they said things like, "That's lit!" or "What's your snap?"

My Korean-citizen brother was teaching me—a US citizen—how to fit into American culture. After all, he'd lived all but five years of his life in the States, while I lived most my life outside it.

If that was ironic, I'd had plenty of time to wrestle with it. I was in seventh grade when I realized just how unique our situation was. My brother was a freshman at Penn at the time. My parents were about as wealthy as most missionaries are, which is to say, not at all. And I had just been diagnosed with epilepsy. The hospital visits, tests, and medicine were costly. On top of that, my brother, as a foreign national, did not receive any financial aid from Penn. (The University may assist other foreigners, for all I know, but my brother was not so lucky.) And my parents couldn't come close to paying the tuition bill.

Faced with that reality, my brother considered transferring to another university. I remember the video call when he told me. As I stared at the screen, my brother suddenly smiled at me. That was the moment I realized citizenship mattered. A lot.

I wished that I could somehow give my American citizenship to him. It felt useless to me, a girl more attached to Georgia than to the country listed on my passport. But it made all the difference to him. With US citizenship, he could get financial aid and stay at Penn, a place he had worked so hard to reach, and which we believed God had led him to.

It felt ridiculous. He'd taught me basically everything I knew about American life, from how to navigate political correctness to the fact that some Subways were not transit stations but fast-food joints. Yet in America's eyes, I was the citizen, and he was a foreigner. I wanted to scream.

Fortunately, my brother was able to stay at Penn thanks to a lot of people's prayers, and financial help from my grandparents and uncle, whose determination to see him graduate outweighed family differences over the religious path my parents had chosen. He earned a degree from the College of Arts and Sciences in 2021. Our family can never forget our gratitude.

When I got into Penn, the difference was stark. As I read my acceptance letter, my brother was the first to notice that Penn would be covering all tuition fees. He was overjoyed, of course. But for me, it was a strange mixture of gratitude for God's provision and awkwardness of knowing full well the disparity between my brother's experience and mine.

Ten years after that red copper gate closed shut, another one has opened. I'm a Penn freshman and my brother is a third-year PhD student at Drexel—so the two of us are finally living on the same continent again. This winter we celebrated each other's birthdays in person for the first time in a decade.

But the same old thoughts remain, as stubborn and unresolved as sentence fragments. The idea of citizenship. The irony of my brother's and my tangled, complicated lives. Our roots and ties to Korea, America, and the countries in between. My hesitation every time someone asks me where I'm from.

Identity is never clear-cut, and sometimes I still wish I could give my citizenship to my brother. So that he wouldn't have to serve in the Korean army, a mandatory obligation he can't postpone much longer. So that he could get a job more easily. Even just to save him from the long line at customs, while I cruise through to baggage claim.

Everyone has their own struggle, their own "thorn in the flesh," as the Apostle Paul put it. And we wish to give something to help them, even a part of ourselves. But my family has concluded, like Paul, that God's grace is sufficient for each of us.

I've also realized that the feeling runs both ways. When he learned that I'd been diagnosed with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy, which many doctors believe is genetic, my brother asked, "Why her and not me? Why couldn't I have gotten it?"

I want to give him my American citizenship; he wanted to take my epilepsy.

But you can't deal or trade with anyone in this life. We both firmly believe that we get what we are given for a reason only God knows. And we have both learned through our respective struggles that God knows best. Our citizenship may divide us, but we are united by faith and our last names. When we're sharing what Bible verses we've been thinking about, or telling our parents what we've been doing, passports and visas and all they determine never enter my mind. We're just people engaging with God, and one another.

Identity is a messy thing; I'm still figuring mine out. But that work, I've decided, can be a source of beauty—and profoundly felt connection.

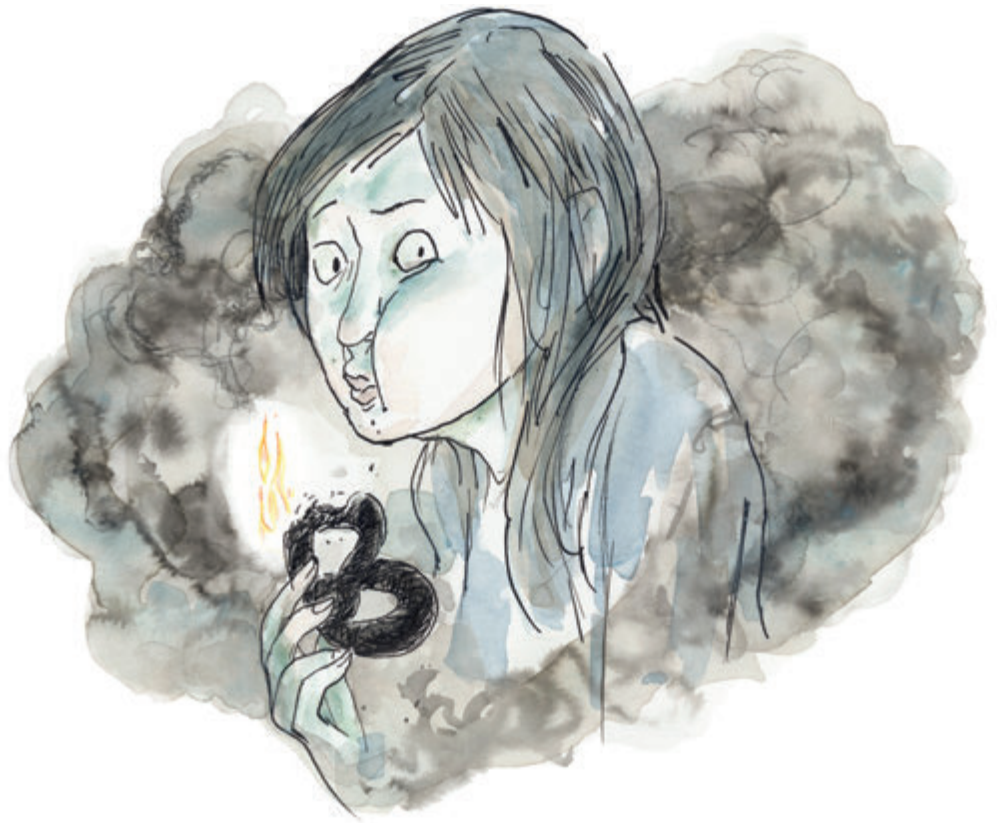
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Hannah Chang is a College freshman.

## Microwaving in the Ivy League

"I saw a stampede of bodies galloping down the stairs. The building was being evacuated."

By Martha Cooney



**W**hen I went to college at the University of Pennsylvania, the Penn kids and I did not understand each other. They didn't know what a beef 'n' beer was. I didn't know what they meant when they talked about "unpaid internships."

Where I grew up in Northeast Philly, the uniform was simple. Clothing was dictated by season. Eagles shirt in the fall, Phillies shirt in the spring, and your best jersey for church on Sunday. Add gray sweatpants and a necklace with your name spelled out in fake gold and you were good.

At Penn, jewelry wasn't fake and sweatpants were only for kids headed to lacrosse practice. There were lots of shirts that said *Patagonia*. I was afraid to ask what that was. Was it the name of a country? How was it possible that *all* these students had been to Patagonia on vacation?

Guys wore pants with small animals on them: turtles, whales, dogs, flamingos. They topped them with pastel polo shirts. I was mortified for them, but the confusing part was, these dudes walked with a swagger. I didn't know what was real anymore. I resisted a continual urge to grab them by the shoulders and shake



them, warning them that if they walked off campus into Philadelphia they would get their asses kicked.

The food was different too. For the first time in my life, I heard people say that pasta was not healthy. In the dining hall, girls didn't go back for seconds. They looked at me blankly when I reminded them they could go ahead, it's all you can eat.

My freshman hall was populated with characters. One of the gems was my next-door neighbor John, a wholesome square with a dry wit and a heart of gold.

John was straight out of a J. D. Salinger novel—a prep school Catholic who drank whole milk by the glass. He pinned the flag of Maryland to his dorm room wall, and sported his purple high school letterman's jacket. John “did crew.” This meant he got up early to row a boat on the Schuylkill River with a bunch of other guys while another guy yelled at them from a separate boat telling them which way to turn. I don't know. Seems like the system could be improved.

John was very quiet. The rest of our group was a loud gang of keyed-up 18-year-olds trying to out-clown each other, and John was the dad of the pack. He watched the pranking with a pensive face, occasionally recording on his Panasonic camcorder. Although he didn't say much, John had a steady confidence—a satisfying type of person to have around. While the rest of us roasted each other constantly, John paced himself with well-timed zingers that were the most on point due to so much time observing.

Because he was so unshakable, we loved trying to provoke him. On April Fool's Day, his roommate switched their two halves of the room, measuring things to the centimeter so everything on the walls would be a bizarro-world mirror image when John walked in after crew practice. John took it in slowly, nodded and said, “Well.” Getting a rise out of him was a real win. Whenever he was frustrated with me, he'd sputter, “God bless it, Martha!”

After freshman year, a bunch of us from the hall moved to Harrison College House, or High Rise South, as most people called it. Four of us girls shared three bedrooms, and John and his roommate lived next door. We were on the seventh floor of a 24-story building, with a living room overlooking four frat houses. Being seven floors up was high enough for me. I had an intense fear of heights, especially if I was near open windows in high places; what if I lost control of my senses and decided to bust through the screen and jump out? So I never opened any of the windows or stood near them if I could help it.

I felt like I lived in a luxurious hotel. We had a black-and-white theme in the living room, with posters of James Dean, Marilyn Monroe, and *The Godfather*. We had a VCR/DVD combo player. My roommates had brought an ice cream maker, sandwich griller, espresso machine, and microwave.

We didn't have a microwave growing up. My Italian mother found the idea sacrilegious. “I cook from scratch! I use a pot!” she liked to say. “Those things give off laser beams!” (She did eventually get a microwave, but for years she unplugged it between uses.)

Having the microwave in the apartment opened a whole new world to me. I watched with fascination as my roommate Jen used it to cook bacon. Incredible! Every week I experimented with a new microwavable option. One week I bought a bag of frozen SuperPretzel soft pretzels, like the ones we used to get from the hot display case on the boardwalk down the shore. I looked forward to making a pretzel in the microwave for the first time.

It was a bitter night in December, the last night of finals week. Jen and I were in the apartment, putting off studying, and our other roommates were out. There was a knock at the door. “John, you don't have to knock!” Jen said when she opened it. “Just come in!”

“A gentleman always knocks,” John said. He sat down on the cow print elastic-

## An enraged mob of type A's had descended 24 flights to stand outside in 18 degrees in their underwear and pajamas.

covered futon. The three of us bullshitted for a while. We debated walking to the library to get work done, but decided it was way too cold.

“I'm going to the rooftop lounge to outline all my Poli Sci reading before the exam tomorrow.” Jen rose to get her backpack. “If anyone interrupts me, I will be very angry.”

John had to study for “MacroEcon,” whatever that was, and I had to write a paper. Everyone dispersed. It was rare to be alone in the apartment, so instead of working in my room, I spread out at our little dining table. The string of red chili pepper lights blinked above me. At 11:30 p.m. I remembered the SuperPretzels.

I pulled the bag from the freezer and carefully wet the top of a pretzel, as directed, to apply the salt crystals. I put the pretzel in the microwave, glanced at the bag, saw the 3, set the timer for three minutes, and pushed the button. Just enough time to listen all the way through to Mariah Carey's “All I Want for Christmas is You.”

Mariah was hitting a *Yowwwwuuuu* and I was stabbing the air above me with my pointer finger when I noticed a burning smell.

The microwave beeped. I pushed the button to open it, and a rush of black smoke poured into the room. It was like a bomb had dropped. Through the haze inside the microwave, I barely made out a melted, charred black lump of pretzel. I grabbed the bag, blinking stinging eyes at the directions. *Heat for 30 seconds.*

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Thirty seconds. Not three minutes! Why, why, why didn't I have the common cultural knowledge of how long a pretzel should be cooked in a microwave?! That space in my brain was probably taken up by the schedule for the 67 SEPTA bus.

The room was so thick with smoke now that I couldn't breathe. *Smoke inhalation is a thing. This is a situation.* I ran over to the windows to open them, but one glance down seven stories and I backed away. I couldn't bring myself to do it. I ran back to the microwave through the smoke. I went back to the window. I went back to the microwave.

There was a knock at the door.

I flung it open. There was John, a polo-shirt-clad Oliver Twist holding a bowl of dry Cinnamon Toast Crunch. "Martha. Do you have any milk? I drank all of—What is going on?" Smoke billowed behind my head and surged out of the apartment into the hallway. John stood with his mouth slightly open, looking at me with the expression of a father who finds his child on the bathroom floor, having discovered scissors and cut off all her hair.

"Come in! I need to close the door!" I said. The black cloud of smoke was filling up the corridor. "Before the—"

The fire alarm in the hallway went off.

"I'm not going in there!" John said. He was still holding his cereal bowl with two hands. "Martha, you need to get out of there!"

The alarm screamed and flashed. Doors started opening and heads poked out. Eric, our RA, ran hysterically out of his apartment, exhilarated to assume his post after a dormant semester of self-sufficient sophomore residents ignoring his invitations to "let me know if you need anything." He ran up and down the hall, banging doors and yelling importantly in his best FEMA voice.

I had to stop this. It was midnight on the last night of finals. The 796 other residents of this building were either sleeping because their morning exam would determine if their grades were good enough for med school, or, if they

did things more my speed, they were cramming a semester's worth of unattended History of Ancient Greece class material into a three-hour study block fueled only by Mountain Dew Code Red. Nobody had time for this right now.

People were already streaming for the exits. The elevators had shut down in automatic response to the alarm, and as someone opened the door to the stairwell, I saw a stampede of bodies galloping down the stairs. The building was being evacuated.

Shit.

If there was one thing I had learned about Penn kids by now, it was that they did not love to be inconvenienced.

I started running, before things got ugly. Down seven flights and into the lobby, straight to the front desk where two student staffers appeared less than confident. I leaned over the desk and spoke in a whisper. "It was me," I said. "I set off the alarm. There's no fire. It's fine. You can turn it off."

The boy blinked and pointed to the front door. Multiple fire engines flashing in front of the building were parked at opposing angles, ready for a standoff. Guys on the truck unwound a hose. Firefighters pushed their way in through the revolving door and headed for where I was standing at the desk.

I looked the other way. Waves of students poured into the lobby from both stairwells and rolled out the front doors under security's direction. It was an enraged mob of type A's who had just descended 24 flights to stand outside in 18 degrees in their underwear and pajamas. Each was angrier than the last, ready to kill the idiot who'd set off the fire alarm.

This would cement my legacy, and not in a good way. They wouldn't forget something like this. These kids were currently living page 125 of their autobiography and this interruption was not in the plan. Who knew what they were capable of at this hour, hopped up on caffeine and Adderall? My body would be found at the bottom of the library steps, Sharpied up and covered in sticky notes, each one bearing the name

of a victim who had to retake Statistics after having their all-nighter disrupted. I wondered in passing if the Ivy League had a witness protection program.

I was out of time to make a plan. The firemen were talking to the front desk guy, and the front desk guy was pointing to me. Head lowered, I gave the firefighters the apartment number, then went back to the stairs, swimming upstream against the risk takers who were last to leave. At the seventh floor stairwell, I stood facing the cinder block wall, hands in the pockets of my gray sweatpants, and hid. I couldn't face it. I didn't know how to use a microwave, I was afraid of open windows in high places, and I still didn't know where or what Patagonia was.

The alarm stopped. Within minutes, the horde was stamping past me back up the stairs. I stayed in my corner, trying to look casual.

I waited until the corridors emptied, then opened the heavy stairwell door and returned to our apartment. Two firemen were in the living room with Jen and John. The room still had a gauzy curtain of smoke, but the windows were open, and freezing gusts of air came in through the screen. Everyone looked at me.

I raised my hand meekly to the firefighters. "Hey, uh, I was the one that did it."

"Yeah, we got it," one of them said. "Just leave the windows open for a while."

They left.

"Don't worry," Jen said. "We already instant messaged everybody and told them it was you."

I didn't want to make another pretzel in front of everyone, so I waited until the next day. It worked out fine.

John has two kids now. He hasn't changed at all. When I was visiting his family and Sullivan, the six-year-old, farted in my face, John slapped his knee and said, "God bless it, Sullivan!" He still drinks milk by the glass.

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



# Barça Days

“Camp Nou became my living room.”

By Andrew Pollen



When Emili told me it would cost 600 euros to rent an *abono* at Camp Nou—a season pass at the home stadium of FC Barcelona—I was as giddy as a kid being given a puppy. It was 2011. Barcelona had just been crowned kings of Europe by winning the Champions League with a Lionel Messi-led squad widely considered one of the greatest of all time. A handshake agreement with the *abono*'s rightful owner, a new father who wanted someone trustworthy to keep his seat warm for the season, would entitle us to a Row 15 view of Messi, Pedro, and David Villa feeding off the midfield wizardry of Xavi, Andrés Iniesta, and Sergio Busquets—three of the most sublime passers ever to suit up.

It felt like winning a lottery. Most *abonos* are passed down from generation to generation. A few hundred turn over every year—but the waiting list was 10,000 deep. And even joining the end of that queue was an ordeal. You had to turn up at the club offices for an in-person

interview, and then repeat the process annually lest you lose your place in line.

Without hesitation, I told Emili I was all in.

The two of us had met in 2006, during my semester abroad as a Penn student. At that time Barça were the reigning European champions and Messi was a precocious teenager. I went to three matches at Camp Nou that year. My budget dictated the cheapest tickets high in the nosebleed sections of the stadium's outer bowl, which were often half-empty. Even an attendance of 65,000 was only two-thirds of cavernous Camp Nou's capacity, and the 2006–07 campaign turned out to be underwhelming. But I was sitting at the perfect angle behind the goal when Brazilian legend Ronaldinho curled an incomparable free kick into the upper right corner against Zaragoza on November 12, 2006, and I was hooked. Cheap seats to contests against mid-table opponents were all well and good, but I left Catalonia wanting more—Champions

League matches and *El Clásicos* against rival Real Madrid.

Fast forward to 2011 and our *abono* included entry to all Barça's league and cup competitions, even the prestigious Champions League. Barça B, the reserve team, was also on the table—which was nothing to sneeze at since they were one of the better sides in Spain's second division.

With so much football to watch, I learned to optimize: the shortest route from the metro to my seat; where to stop en route for a *bocadillo*; how to sneak in a beer if I fancied one; what to wear given the wind chill. I familiarized myself with the cheers—and ditto the heckles, especially for Sergio Ramos and Pepe, the villainous defenders for Real Madrid. I learned the second verse of the Barça hymn.

Camp Nou became my living room, a place to drop by on a whim. Sometimes I popped in between engagements for half an hour, arriving 15 minutes late or at halftime to avoid the crowds. If the

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contest was dull, I did homework. I was now an MBA student at Barcelona's Esade Business School.

As the season progressed I cataloged the characters in our section. In front: the referee hater. *"Fill de puta, collons!"* "You're blind!" "Your mother!" Regardless of the scoreline, his repertoire married ingeniously foul language with bloodthirsty relentlessness. On the right: the cold-shoulder couple. He tuned in to the radio broadcast but she didn't. They attended the matches together—who could say why?—but hardly spoke. A few rows back, an elderly gentleman furtively soundtracked the match on his trumpet. I ran into him one day at a neighborhood olive oil festival. *"Ja no em deixen passar la trompeta!"* ("They're not letting me take in my trumpet anymore!"), he sobbed in a state of drunken bereavement. I got his next round and commiserated about the cruel struggles honest men faced squirreling brass instruments into football grounds. I learned later that this man was Ferran Estrada, a diehard *culé* who ran for club president several times, without the slightest success.

Being a Camp Nou denizen made me feel more connected to the city than ever. Barça truly is "more than a club," as its slogan asserts. It's an extension of the city's personality: proud, modern, artistic, a little uptight. Sinking into the rhythms of Row 15 deepened my immersion, which stretched from joining a neighborhood youth organization to learning Catalan well enough to pick up on the way the Franco dictatorship's ban on regional languages had smudged the syntax of Catalonians of a certain age.

Much has been written elsewhere about Messi, who won a club-record 34 trophies for Barça and the 2022 World Cup with Argentina before taking his otherworldly talents to the US and Inter Miami. Watching him live, his close control, speed, vision, and finishing were simply breathtaking. Once or twice a game he did something that made the

Camp Nou faithful bow and chant, "Messi, Messi," in a descending minor third. As far as I could tell, this adulation was invented for Messi and reserved for him alone, save for its occasional extension to the majestic Iniesta.

Yet Messi's sheer magnificence was beginning to warp Camp Nou—and by extension the city itself—in unsettling ways. An explosion of football tourism threatened to eclipse the organic atmosphere that had enraptured me in 2006. Fueled by the rise of budget airlines, Airbnb, and online ticket brokers, tourists descended upon Barcelona on package deals that included a Barça match. Although these trends affected all of Europe, Barcelona had the added advantage of sunshine, cheap sangria, and an enormous stadium where local fans, spoiled by success, were happy to sell off some of their tickets to fat-walleted foreigners seeking a glimpse of the Great One.

After earning my MBA and leaving Barcelona I fell more in love with football, if that was possible. Whenever an opportunity arose, I canvassed the continent devouring whatever I could—top-flight matches across England and Spain; Champions League tilts in Porto, Valencia, and Villarreal; and even more exotic fare, like the English second tier and Spanish third tier. But nothing compared to the cauldron of Camp Nou on a significant night, with 95,000 rising as one to serenade Messi, Iniesta, Xavi, Puyol, and many other all-time greats.

Yet no cauldron boils forever. Back at Camp Nou in 2016 to watch Barça trounce Getafe 6-0, I was struck by how the listless crowd barely mustered polite cheers for the goals. "A comfortable rout of a hopeless opponent," chuffed one fan blog, perhaps unaware of the extent to which the same adjectives also described the home supporters. Complacency seemed to permeate every level of the club—which soon began to crumple beneath staggering financial debts incurred in pursuit of marquee talents it hoped would reenergize a fan base that

yawned at anything less than beautiful football and spectacular results.

Turning to Joan Laporta, a Spanish politician who'd led the club at the beginning of the Messi era, FC Barcelona tackled its financial crisis with a series of compromises that, like all such compromises, mixed undeniable prudence with a prick of pain familiar to any American football fan who wakes up one day to discover that the Citrus Bowl has been renamed after Cheez-It crackers.

Emili insisted to me that Laporta was defending the club's culture against the worst depredations. And far be it from me to question my oldest Barça buddy. Yet on my most recent visit to the newly christened Spotify Camp Nou in 2022, with Emili and my friend Eric Schwartz C'08, the experience was more commercial than ever. We marveled at the slick Estrella Damm-branded fan zone; the new restaurants and shops; the penalty-kick simulator where kids can face a robotic goalie for five euros. Each element was doubtless an obvious business proposition, but the corporate vibe felt novel in a country where many stadiums retain the gritty, improvised feel of a county fair—the very atmosphere that pulled me into football fandom, and Barcelona itself, to begin with.

They say you can't step in the same river twice. Yet I can't help thinking that Catalonia's flagship football club is too deeply interwoven with its host city to fall victim to the flavor of any one moment. What's new gets old, what's old becomes new.

Messi, after all, decamped to Paris Saint-Germain in 2021—the same year that the trumpeter Ferran Estrada, aged 87, again ran for Barça's presidency. If you want a beer while you watch, you'll still have to sneak it in. And the old cheer continues to rain down from Camp Nou's nosebleeds: *"Ser del Barça és el millor que hi ha"*—Rooting for Barça is the best thing there is.

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Andrew Pollen C'08 W'08 lives in Alicante, Spain. FC Barcelona, now coached by Xavi, won its first league title in four years in 2022–23.





# For My Oldest Friend

An ode to book inscriptions.

By Lauren Otis

**O**n a recent trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico, my wife and I stopped by the Libros Libres wall on Calle Loiza, one of the pleasures of the Ocean Park neighborhood where we usually stay. Here books of every shape, subject, and condition—in Spanish and English—are on display, free for the taking. I picked up a copy of *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran, one of the most widely published books on the planet, which for some reason I’d never read. The volume bore an inscription on the front endpaper which began, “For my oldest friend / I hope to keep your / friendship forever...”

The presence of an inscription wasn’t surprising. Given its supposed status as one of the most gifted books on earth, *The Prophet* is likely also one of the most inscribed. Yet the inked note drew me in,

as book inscriptions always do, piquing my curiosity not only about the book itself but about the people whose lives had intersected with this particular copy.

Whereas an uninscribed book is a blank slate—its previous readers, if any, an abstract group—an inscribed book tells us about the journey it has taken to us, not with an “audience” or “readership,” but via an individual person—perhaps several, but usually just one. An inscription is an invitation to conduct a sort of conversation with that person. It imbues the experience of reading with an extra layer of conjecture and rumination—about what you think about this book, what you imagine they thought, when and why the book grew special in their hands, and how it came to fly from their grasp and into yours.

I have books inscribed by my father, who would usually simply sign his name followed by the year he acquired them, a common practice of his and previous generations. Yet even that spare notation transforms these books into something more than esoteric tracts on urban planning or American history—favorite subjects for my father. It goes beyond his simple ownership of them, opening a window into the time when he bought each book, and my relation to it. How old was I? Where was I? What was happening in the world, and in the life of our family?

I still have paperback copies of V. S. Naipaul’s *A Bend in the River*, Graham Greene’s *The Quiet American*, and E. M. Forster’s *A Passage to India*, all signed by me, simply: “Lauren H. Otis, 1980,” in obvious imitation of my dad. They were assigned reading for a course on the post-colonial British novel I took that year with David Espey (who I’m happy to see still teaches in the English department at Penn). I had spent the previous year

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abroad at the University of Edinburgh, where my eyes had been opened for the first time to the sprawling, polyglot diaspora of cultures converging in the United Kingdom, often uneasily, because of its colonial past. Espey's course still remains memorable for me all these years later, furthering as it did my insights into the complicated histories of Britain along with the African and Asian states it had colonized through the personalized narratives of these famous novels, as well as firing my curiosity about these faraway places and my desire to visit them.

An inscription is an invitation to conduct a sort of conversation. It imbues the experience of reading with an extra layer of conjecture and rumination.

In the intervening years I have been lucky to travel to some of these places, and along the way have also reread these books. I now feel better able to situate them in the context of the time they were written and the cultures in which they were set, and to make space alongside them for newer generations of writers native to these places who continue to grapple with the evolving and unfinished business of colonialism's legacy. When I look at those inscriptions I wrote so many years ago, I can discern a trajectory of my life, a life of reading, writing, travel, and more, running through 1980 to the present, rather than just a set of old paperback novels.

The best-known, and perhaps most treasured, kind of book inscription is one written by the author themselves. What I have in mind are not the rote scribbles

of book-signing events, but personalized offerings that may arise from friendship, love, duty, ego, or a desire to extend the reach of their creation. Yet as cool as these can be, I can't help feeling that author-inscribed books are more about the author's relationship to their book than the reader's. Which is why I am partial to inscriptions penned by non-authors—from one reader to another, or one reader to themselves. These are written by people who had no stake in a book but thought enough of it to want to pass it on to others, or create a permanent place for it in their library.

I suspect that the habit of signing books we acquire, or inscribing those we gift, is fading, going the way of the printed word. Certainly a signed or inscribed book does very much come to us from the past. It can remind us of a moment in time, and of all the changes in the world, and in ourselves, since—windows into intimate worlds that are now lost or have disappeared.

I still keep volumes of children's books inscribed for Christmas and birthdays to my children by my parents. My children now long grown, my parents long gone, these are bittersweet reminders of past shared lives and intimacy, and of the ever evolving nature of our relationships, of their importance, their impermanence, and their continuity. When my own children have children, I hope to pass these inscribed books on to them.

On the flight back from Puerto Rico, I read *The Prophet*. After I'd finished, I turned back to the inscription. In faded blue pen and a flowing cursive, it read:

12/90

For my oldest Friend

I hope to keep your  
friendship forever

Love

It ended with an unintelligible signature beginning with maybe an L. Then on the next page, dated "25 Dec 90," the blue cursive continued:

Keep in mind...

The choices in life are neither right or wrong, merely some consequences are easier to live with than others.

Another signature, looking a little like *Lyle*. But it didn't end here either, continuing on the same page:

And...

There is nothing wrong with  
Life, all our faults and aspirations  
Lie solely within ourselves...

And here had been placed a final signature.

Whew! OK, what was the story of the gifting, and multi-inscribing of this book over 30 years ago, to whom and why? A simple Christmas gift? Perhaps. Or did I sense something beneath these seemingly earnest written offerings of life advice? Did the recipient receive them thankfully—or more tentatively? Did that oldest friendship last? Did its memory last? After all, this book wound up in a free book exchange.

I turned to the section of *The Prophet* on friendship, as perhaps the long-ago recipient of this book had done. "When you part from your friend, you / grieve not; / For that which you love most in him may / be clearer in his absence, as the mountain / to the climber is clearer from the plain," wrote Kahlil Gibran there.

I realized that the details were less important than the fact that these people had lived in close proximity and meant enough to each other that one of them had memorialized their intertwined lives in these handwritten words, on these pages open before me. The memory of their friendship had indeed lasted, thanks to this inscription. It now lived on with me.

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## Slow Burn

In a new book, a Penn labor and environmental economist assesses the everyday—and often unseen—implications of a warming world. ▶

**G**rowing up, R. Jisung Park always loved the natural world. So it wasn't surprising that climate change would become a professional focus.

Now an assistant professor at Penn's School of Social Policy & Practice, where he is a labor and environmental economist, Park is out with a new book, *Slow Burn: The Hidden Costs of a Warming World* (Princeton University Press), which builds on his research in those areas. The main argument is that we should tone down the doomsday rhetoric while paying closer attention to the sub-apocalyptic costs of global warming, which Park contends are worse than generally assumed. He aims to turn readers away from harmful fatalism and toward concrete efforts to make things better in two ways: by ameliorating the human impacts already at hand, and by cutting emissions any way we plausibly can.

*Gazette* contributor Daniel Akst C'78 asked Park about the ways climate change is already affecting people's lives and how we should cope with the possibility, however remote, of catastrophic consequences down the road. The interview was edited and condensed for clarity.

**Broadly speaking, how do you think about climate change?**

I think we need to use two complementary frameworks. One is the framework of catastrophe insurance. We use that framework when we're

faced with various high pain, low probability scenarios. We get life insurance in case of death, and we insure our homes against total loss in a fire. Mitigating climate change should be thought of as a kind of disaster insurance because of the unknowns. There is some real but hard-to-measure risk of our climate system falling off the rails with devastating consequences. This prospect of apocalypse has dominated the discourse for quite a while. And maybe to the credit of climate scientists, the doomsaying has jolted many of us out of complacency and we've seen quite a bit of action on climate mitigation.

But I wanted to focus on another way of thinking about climate change, which is more as a slow burn. The warming earth is causing real problems today, and I think we've been seriously underestimating those costs. I hope that thinking that way can give us a much more concrete sense of, *OK, what can we do about it?*

**In your research, you've found that warmer temperatures are hurting people in all kinds of not-so-obvious ways.**

Absolutely. The impacts vary quite a bit based on where people live and how much money they have. One example is in school. We've found that student performance on tests suffers when exams are held on a 90-degree day in a building without air conditioning. There are many more such days in warmer countries, and a lot



**“The warming earth is causing real problems today, and I think we’ve been seriously underestimating those costs.”**

less air conditioning, so you can see the socioeconomic dimension of this. More broadly, rising heat levels degrade health and productivity. Heat probably kills far more people than all other natural disasters combined—and this phenomenon doesn't require a horrendous heat wave. In the US, days in the 80s and low 90s may be responsible for just as many deaths as extreme heat, if not more. Hot days lead to more accidents at work, lower productivity, and more violence.

Many of these effects are invisible unless you go looking for them. We've all seen images of raging wildfires, and they kill dozens annually in this country. But the smoke downwind is probably far more deadly. The economist Marshall Burke and his colleagues estimate that increased wildfire smoke may

have caused between 5,000 and 15,000 additional deaths per year from 2006 to 2018, mainly among the elderly.

**What's the impact on poorer countries?**

It's significantly more severe. In colder parts of the world, some warming may be welcome, but in places closer to the equator (most of them poor), higher temperatures will make things massively worse. Let's just look at the number of 90-degree days annually. The average American experiences 30, the average German only 4. Compare that to over 100 for someone in Accra, Ghana; 150 in Mumbai, India, and over 200 for Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates. (Variation within countries can be just as large. While San Francisco averages one or two such days per year, Houston has over 100.) By around 2050, Accra and Mumbai could have 100 *additional* such days annually.

**In your book you say that air conditioning can make a huge difference in mitigating the effect of rising heat in poor areas. But won't that just make the world even warmer?**

There is some cost to the climate for adding air conditioning, but what are we gaining by giving, say, a five-person household in Bangkok air conditioning for the first time? This is a family in a place where the temperature is over 90 degrees more than half of all days and expected to see maybe 100 more such days annually. What's the benefit in terms of lives saved, improved



labor productivity, enhanced learning and so forth?

As to the cost, if we can continue to decarbonize our electrical grid, well, more air conditioning on a decarbonized grid doesn't really contribute to the climate problem. So I don't think it's an either/or proposition. We're going to need more air conditioning and more clean energy as well.

**A lot of what you talk about in the book falls in the category of adaptation. My sense is that this is taboo in some circles.**

For a long time, it was true that those who were advocating adaptation did not take the climate problem seriously and to some extent indulged in blithe techno-optimism. I don't think adaptation is the solution to all our problems. Climate change is a serious, generation-defining problem. But we've learned from the data how even non-catastrophic warming can be incredibly damaging to our health and our economic systems—and already has been. Those methods have also allowed us to say much more about what adaptation can and cannot do. So adaptation is essential, especially for helping those most vulnerable. But I'm not trying to take away from the urgency of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, because there's no world in which we can just let emissions keep rising and keep adapting to it.

**Some young people even say they won't have children because climate change. What do you think about that?**

If you were someone who was looking forward to having children, I don't think climate change should in any way deter you. If you're concerned about the carbon footprint of one more child, honestly, I don't see population growth as really a main challenge when it comes to climate change. We have the technology to significantly reduce the carbon intensity of our lives. We just need to make the investment. If we put the proper price on carbon, a price reflecting the harms that are increasingly clear, these investments make obvious sense.

Now let's say you're concerned that your child would have nothing to look forward to aside from some climate apocalypse. Hopefully the book makes this issue a little bit clearer. The evidence we have suggests that climate change will be a significant damper on quality of life for many hundreds of millions, if not billions of people. But it's an incremental change. I don't see it as a step change in what it means to be a human being on this planet. So I would think of it as one of many other concerns that you would weigh as a potential parent, right along with social media and the threat of nuclear war.

**Adaptation implies that people can and should do something rather than just assuming the end of the world and going about their business.**

We've actually made a lot of progress already. And again, that isn't to take away from the real work ahead. But over

## CAMPUS



**Waiting, on a Cloudy Day**

"I've never seen this many people here before," one student was overheard saying while looking out at hundreds, if not thousands, of members of the University community packed tightly onto College Green. "It's so random how this is bringing people together."

They were all there to watch the solar eclipse on April 8. But in the end, the awe over the huge crowd seemed to eclipse astronomical awe as an unfortunate burst of clouds around 3 p.m. mostly blocked good views of the moon covering roughly 90 percent of the sun in Philadelphia.

Even still, it was a festive atmosphere on campus as students and faculty—and Penn Interim President Larry Jameson—chatted, laughed, and peeked through their eclipse glasses to catch occasional glimpses of a rare phenomenon that won't be seen again in Philly for decades.

the last 10 years, actual emissions cuts and the projected and committed emissions represent meaningful movement in the right direction, which is something that I think the sky-is-falling subtext of the climate narrative often obscures. The more we can ground that conversation in a sober but hopeful kind of narrative, I think that would do a lot to help sustain positive change. Because I do worry about the extent to which the motivating force behind our climate conversations has been fear. It is not easy to replace fear with a sober recognition of hard truths followed by a sense of active hope. But that is certainly the goal of my book.

**How has your work on global warming changed your perspective on the subject, and on the wider world?**

I grew up wanting to be a biologist. That was my dream. And I thought that the destruction of nature was one of the most devastating and morally disturbing issues of our time. I had thought of it mostly from the perspective of humans destroying plants and animals and mother nature. But more recently I've been struck by the tremendous impact our fossil fuel habit has had on humans. I think it's easy to forget here in the developed world just how many people live in these very hot places.



## A Home on Campus

The Greenfield Intercultural Center celebrates 40 years of community building.

**W**hen College senior **Timethius Terrell** was losing motivation

to continue his non-profit startup focused on intercultural allyship, he turned to the Albert M. Greenfield Intercultural Center (GIC) for help.

Not only did GIC director Valerie de Cruz CGS'02 and associate director Kia Lor GED'16 provide guidance, but Terrell has also become one of the many regulars at the center, which for 40 years has been a haven for people of all ethnicities, backgrounds, and nationalities to come together and breathe after a hard day at Penn. He even interned at GIC during the summer of 2022.

“I still consider myself to be an active member of this community,” Terrell said this spring. “Maybe not as formally,” he allowed. “I think that’s what makes it special, though—you don’t have to be.”

The Greenfield Intercultural Center was established in 1984, six years after the United Minorities Council, a coalition of minority student organizations, signed a petition to have its own space on campus.

To mark its 40th anniversary, the GIC is holding events throughout the year, including a celebration in their building at 3708 Chestnut Street that took place on January 27—exactly 40 years after its founding. The celebration included

musical performances, cake-cutting, and the presentation of awards to Penn alumni who were recognized for embodying the spirit of the GIC through work in their communities. One of the honorees, Angbeen Saleem C'12—a creative artist, writer, and poet who “spent *all* of my free time at the GIC” as a work-study student there—read two poems she had written for the event.

“A lot of these alumni come back and they bring their kids and they say hi to Val,” remarked College senior and GIC work-study student Oumy Diasse. “You could kind of just look around and see everyone’s super familial.”

In addition to providing a friendly space for students to meet casually and share meals, the GIC also sponsors events related to culture and race and has helped establish and nurture programs and organizations for minority groups including the Persian Student Society, the Turkish Student Organization, and Natives at Penn [“Native Pride,” Jul|Aug 2019], which marks its 30th anniversary this year. It also helped to launch Makuu: The Black Cultural Center, the Pan-Asian American Community House (PAACH), and La Casa Latina Center, all of which are currently based at the revamped ARCH building on Locust Walk [“Gazetteer,” Nov|Dec 2022]. In 2016, Penn’s First-Generation Low-Income Program (FGLI) opened in the GIC, which also started an alumni mentorship program for FGLI students called Penn FLASH.

### EDUCATION COSTS

## Tuition and Aid for 2024–25 Academic Year

Undergraduate tuition | **\$60,920**

Housing | **\$12,640**

Dining | **\$6,534**

Fees | **\$7,766**

Total | **\$87,860**  
(3.9 percent annual increase)

Total undergraduate financial aid\* | **\$311 million**  
(4.5 percent annual increase)

\* For the 2023–24 academic year, 46 percent of students received need-based financial aid, with an average aid package of \$66,764.

The January 27 celebration brought many alums back. “A lot of the stuff I do now is connected to my time here,” said Sean Vereen GED’00 GrEd’05, who was the associate director of the GIC from 2003 to 2006 and now runs the Philadelphia-based college and career-access program Steppingstone Scholars. De Cruz, who’s served as the GIC’s director for the last 27 years, is another reason alumni love to return. “[Valerie] has a real power to stay connected to people,” Vereen noted. “She makes them feel like individuals. And she has weathered all the changes on campus and been able to maintain [the GIC].”

“I think the most important thing I bring is the building of relationships,” said de Cruz.

For current work-study student and College sophomore Kaynath Chowdhury, “the GIC’s a home.” At the center she often finds herself wash-



ing dishes, taking out the trash, giving tours, helping with events, and greeting people at the door. It's a far cry from office work, she says; it's more like what she would do at her own family's house.

The familial atmosphere seemed to make an impression on College freshman Theo Greenfield C'27, the great-grandson of prominent Philadelphia-based businessman Albert M. Greenfield, whose foundation supplied the grant to launch the GIC. An additional \$1 million gift from the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation a decade ago helped to endow the GIC and increase staffing and expand its programs.

"There are people here who have dedicated their lives to not just the GIC but the mission of the GIC as an intercultural center," said Theo, who came to the anniversary event largely out of curiosity. "It's honestly inspiring. ... I would like to become more involved."

While the 40-year milestone provided a welcome chance to celebrate the work that has gone into making the GIC what it is, attendees were also looking ahead. "Places like the GIC are not just havens but really the center of the work that the University has to do in the future," Vereen said.

"If you don't see yourself envisioned in this space," de Cruz said, "come tell us how you can envision yourself in this space, and we will work with you to create that. And that will in turn change Penn. That's the story."

—Hannah Chang C'27

## Penn and Philly

A new website aims to be a hub highlighting Penn stories that are "in, of, and for Philadelphia."



**As** Tony Sorrentino GCP'05 was helping put together the University's economic impact report for fiscal year 2020, he was asked by then Penn President Amy Gutmann Hon'22 whether there was a way to also measure *social* impact.

That got him thinking.

"As we grew into the largest private employer in the city of Philadelphia, the second largest in the state, our prowess was more than just the fiscal impact," said Sorrentino, who, as the associate

vice president in Penn's Office of the Executive Vice President, is tasked with leading the University's economic impact report that comes out every five years. Per the 2020 report, Penn generated \$15.5 billion in economic activity in Philadelphia. But "how do you get your head around \$15 billion?" Sorrentino asked. "You know what matters in Philly? Philly is a city that likes stories about people."

For decades, the University has touted its community

outreach in West Philadelphia and beyond, but that's harder to measure than economic activity and jobs generated. Sorrentino tried anyway. He began by surveying deans, vice presidents, and student groups, "asking them to quantify what was never asked of them before," he said. "And I started to put together some really interesting numbers." In that same economic report, the University announced that Penn faculty, staff, and students spent 344,000 hours on civic engagement annually, touching roughly 718,000 Philadelphians. "And I thought, *Well, this is deeper than just a report*," Sorrentino said.

That's how the initiative Penn & Philly ([pennandphilly.upenn.edu](http://pennandphilly.upenn.edu)) was born. Launched in January, the website is a central repository of curated content about the University's community partnerships. Sorrentino hopes the site answers a query he said his office often hears: "*I wish there was a website that collected all the really good stuff about how Penn contributes to the city.*"

Sorrentino began working on the project in 2020. Long-standing champions of community engagement such as Netter Center founder Ira Harkavy C'70 Gr'79 and University Chaplain and Vice President for Social Equity & Community Chaz Howard C'00 served as advisors. Sorrentino hired a firm to conduct focus groups with civic and business leaders around West Philly, along with city politicians and University faculty, staff, and students.

One of the insights was that people outside of the University's orbit often believed that Penn didn't actually care about the city—and used gaudy economic impact numbers to dodge criticism about not paying PILOTS (payments in lieu of taxes). The focus group tune changed, however, when someone brought up former Penn president Judith Rodin CW'66 Hon'04, who grew up in Philly. "They said, 'You know, the thing about Judy was she was *of Philadelphia*,'" Sorrentino recalled. "And that really caught my attention: *of Philadelphia*. People think of us as just *in Philadelphia*—just 300 acres and a lot of people who are almost at an arm's length distance from the rest of the world. But there are a lot of people who do amazing things here that are culturally *of the city*." When one of Sorrentino's colleagues remarked that "Philadelphians will fight you if they think you're not *for Philadelphia*," a new mantra was born: "In, of, and for Philadelphia."

"We have all of these examples of faculty and students who are in, of, and for Philadelphia—and their stories weren't out there," Sorrentino said. "I was creating this place where economic data could sit, but I wasn't capturing any of the social stuff. What if we merge them?"

Based on their research, the website was organized around six focal themes: public education; healthy communities; knowledge in action (research); arts, culture, and recreation; economic opportunity; and

tomorrow's industries (life sciences). Sorrentino said that public health has initially gotten the most traction on the website, pointing to the "prowess" of Penn Medicine but also to examples of the work that Penn Dental and Penn Vet does in the neighborhood via mobile clinics.

In addition to regularly updating the website, a communication strategy was formed to promote stories on social media. Before long, the project's breadth widened.

"One of the cool things was after it launched, I've heard from departments that I didn't know existed, that I didn't consult with during the process," Sorrentino said, citing an example of a Penn Medicine group that does genetic testing in the community. "They'd write to me and say, '*This is amazing. How do we get involved?*'"

Sorrentino has been involved in anchor institution work since arriving at the University in 2000, striving to "fix the image of what happened in the '60s and '70s when urban renewal was taking place in West Philadelphia." Working closely with Senior Executive Vice President Craig Carnaroli W'85, driven by the "understanding that a university can't truly be at its best if the neighborhood that it's in isn't also improving," Sorrentino feels the Penn & Philly project is almost a culmination of all of his efforts.

"In the future, I think more people are going to feel a sense of ownership over it, and we will essentially just be a container here in the

COMMENCEMENT



Oncologist and Author Siddhartha Mukherjee to Speak

Siddhartha Mukherjee will be the Commencement speaker for Penn's 268th Commencement ceremony, scheduled for Monday, May 20. An associate professor of medicine and oncologist at Columbia University, Mukherjee has done pioneering research in the composition and behavior of cancer cells and is also a bestselling author of books and articles on health, medicine, and science.

"I am delighted that Siddhartha Mukherjee has accepted our invitation to address the Class of 2024 at Commencement," said Penn Interim President J. Larry Jameson in a statement announcing Mukherjee's selection in March, calling him a "brilliant oncologist and researcher who has provided an invaluable service to the world by conveying the history and complexity of important medical subjects through his acclaimed writings."

Mukherjee's research on cancer pathology has contributed to the development of innovative treatments based on biological and cellular therapies rather than traditional pharmaceuticals. He has received numerous awards for his scientific work, which has been published in journals such as *Nature*, *Cell*, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*. He's also written for the general public in the *New Yorker*, *New York Times Magazine*, and other publications, as well as in three popular and critically acclaimed books.

*The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*, published in 2011, won the Pulitzer Prize and was included among the top 100 nonfiction books of the past century by *Time* magazine. He followed that with *The Gene: An Intimate History* in 2016 and 2022's *The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human*. Noted documentarian Ken Burns, who spoke at Penn's 2022 Commencement ceremony ["Gazetteer," Jul|Aug 2022] adapted both *The Emperor of All Maladies* and *The Gene* for PBS.

EVP office that they're filling," he said. "What we've done is create a platform for their storytelling. I think of

all of them as incredible symphony musicians, and someone just has to keep them on time and in tune." —DZ



# On Jews and the University

Three takeaways from the Katz Center’s virtual series on “Antisemitism, Admissions, Academic Freedom.”

**In the wake of last fall’s controversies** over allegations of antisemitism and campus protests over the Israel– Hamas war at Penn and other universities, the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies presented a series of virtual presentations this spring aimed at “using insights from history, sociology, education studies, and other fields to help put the present moment into context.” Under the title “Jews and the University: Antisemitism, Admissions, Academic Freedom,” speakers examined subjects including the impact of antisemitism on the writing of Jewish history in the US, campus free speech in the wake of the Hamas terror attack and the subsequent war in Gaza, and whether the sort of antisemitic quotas instituted in the first half of the 20th century by elite institutions like Harvard, Yale, and Princeton (but not Penn, let it be noted) have returned in recent years to suppress Jewish enrollments.

According to Pamela S. Nadell, the Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women’s and Gender History and director of the Jewish Studies Program at American University—and the witness who joined former Penn president Liz Magill

and two other university presidents in front of Congress on December 5—American Jewish historians have been slow to recognize the extent and virulence of antisemitism in the US.

**“American Jewish historians had not been paying attention to antisemitism.”**

—PAMELA S. NADELL

In her presentation, “Past and Present: The Impact of Antisemitism on the Study of American Jewish History,” she recalled being part of a working group convened at the American Jewish Historical Society following the “Unite the Right” riot in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017. Feeling a “sense of personal and professional crisis,” the group looked for scholarly work that would aid understanding. They identified a few relevant texts, “but what jumped out was that none of [them] were written by people in that room,” Nadell said. “American Jewish historians had not been paying attention to antisemitism.”

She suggested that this was due to the influence of Salo

## COURSEWORK

### Penn Engineering Launches AI Major

Some 27 years after IBM’s Deep Blue defeated Garry Kasparov in chess, 13 years after Apple launched the virtual assistant Siri, and

not quite 15 months after ChatGPT started boggling human minds around the world, artificial intelligence registered another milestone: as an official bachelor’s degree field at the University of Pennsylvania.

In February the School of Engineering and Applied Science announced the Raj and Neera Singh Program in Artificial Intelligence. Beginning this fall, it will offer a bachelor of science in engineering in AI, the first undergraduate major of its kind in the Ivy League.

Led by George J. Pappas, the UPS Foundation Professor of Transportation in Penn Engineering, it will encompass high-level coursework in topics including machine learning, computing algorithms, data analytics, and advanced robotics. Students will take seven course units in mathematics and natural science, five in computing, and 12 across a six-category spectrum of courses focusing on AI. They will also have access to about 30 electives, ranging from “Mathematics of Machine Learning” and “Brain Computer Interfaces” to “Algorithmic Game Theory” and “Trustworthy AI.”

“Our carefully selected curriculum reflects the reality that AI has come into its own as an academic discipline, not only because of the many amazing things it can do, but also because we have fundamental questions about the nature of intelligence and learning, how to align AI with our social values, and how to build trustworthy AI systems,” Zachary Ives, the Adani President’s Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer and Information Science, said in a statement.

“Penn Engineering has long been a pioneer in computing and education, with ENIAC, the first digital computer, and the first PhD in computer science,” said benefactor Raj Singh, who is the principal owner, along with his wife Neera, of Telcom Ventures, a private investment firm specializing in telecommunications and information technologies. “This proud legacy of innovation continues with Penn Engineering’s AI program, which will produce engineers that can leverage this powerful technology in a way that benefits all humankind.”



Baron, “the preeminent Jewish historian of the 20th century” and a professor at Columbia University, who “spent his entire life fighting against historians writing what he called the ‘lachrymose conception of Jewish history.’” Rather than foregrounding

antisemitic persecution of Jews throughout history, “what Baron wanted us to write about was the vibrancy of Jewish life and to talk about how Jews had been creative, how they’ve been actors on their own,” she said. “So as American Jewish historians,

we had really left the writing of antisemitism in American history” to others.

While working on her 2019 book *American Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today*, “I didn’t really think I was writing about antisemitism,” Nadell admitted. She later looked back and realized that “in every single chapter, I ended up talking about how American Jewish women had encountered antisemitism.”

In 2020, Nadell began teaching a freshman seminar on the history of antisemitism. Assignments included oral presentations on current events in which students “were asked to find four news stories about antisemitism and then to share those with the class,” she said. Even then, she remembered thinking, “Maybe there won’t be anything,” and wondered if she’d end up jettisoning that from the syllabus. “Well, of course, that didn’t happen,” she added. “Antisemitism since the spring of 2020 has just gotten worse and worse in America and around the world.”

In the face of the growing extremism of anti-Zionist, and arguably antisemitic, rhetoric on campuses in recent years, supercharged by the October 7 massacre and Israel’s harsh response, Sigal R. Ben-Porath, the MRMJJ Presidential Professor of Education and director of the SNF Paideia Program at Penn [“Creating Civil Citizens,” this issue], explored ways to regulate such speech on campus that would be content-neutral and without resorting to censorship. She

called on scholars to separate activism from education and make room for all students and opposing views in their teaching.

**“I make sure to include perspectives and voices of those who disagree with me.”**

—SIGAL R. BEN-PORATH

In the talk “Campus Free Speech After October 7,” Ben-Porath, whose most recent book is *Cancel Wars: How Universities Can Foster Free Speech, Promote Inclusion, and Renew Democracy*, identified a need for “further reflection about the relationship between activist effort for justice—however one perceives justice—and teaching,” while recognizing “that the two are not always clearly distinguishable.”

Ben-Porath said that her own set of beliefs “leads me to march for democratic causes both in Israel and in the US. It leads me to focus on democratic citizenship in my research, teaching, and leadership work.” However, she added, she works to “maintain a distance between political partisan goals, for which I march in my life as a citizen, and the inclusive, open-minded, fact-based, and broad goals and views to which I introduce my students and which I entertain in my research.” While acknowledging that her practice isn’t perfect, “I make sure to include perspectives and voices of those who disagree with

me in my classes, and to entertain them in good faith in my work,” she said.

Separating personal advocacy from scholarly activity is critical to maintaining universities’ integrity and defending higher education against attacks intended to undermine its legitimacy. And colleges should be able to set standards around what is acceptable on campus—and what isn’t, Ben-Porath said. “There is a difference between criticizing the occupation and justifying murder,” she said. “The former is a legitimate political view, and the latter is illegitimate and immoral—even if it’s protected by American law. Campuses do and should have ways to condemn such expression, limit its reach, and to prioritize fact-based, disciplinarily sound, and morally grounded vision.”

A university’s core commitment must remain to “seek the truth and to educate all of our students in the values of a diverse democratic society,” Ben-Porath said. “Not by proselytizing in the name of a political view that we already hold, but in cultivating and investigating, and continuously being open to diverse perspectives.”

Jews should be part of organizational structures and practices focused on belonging and inclusion, and one way for universities to protect themselves against “outside pressure, or any sort of undue pressure,” is “by taking a clear stance against hatred and bigotry when it is cultivated within our institutions,” Ben-Porath said. “We

need to rely on the robust analytic frameworks that are already available to us, on accepted evidentiary practices, to provide alternatives to simplistic and sometimes bigoted thinking in teaching about Israel, about the conflict, and about Jews.”

Although it’s generally agreed that the proportion of Jewish students at Penn and other Ivy League institutions has declined from their peak, the actual number of Jews on campuses is hard to quantify for several reasons. These include steeply rising rates of intermarriage since the 1940s and the likelihood that not all students who are Jewish, or partially Jewish, identify as such on school forms.

**“The Jewish slice of the [admissions] pie has gotten smaller, as has the white slice of the pie.”**

—JEROME KARABEL

But one thing that *is* clear, said Jerome Karabel—professor of sociology at the University of California at Berkeley and author of *The Chosen: The Hidden History of Admission and Exclusion at Harvard, Yale, and Princeton*—is that the decline “has nothing whatsoever to do with an intentional effort to reduce the number of Jews.”

In his talk “Antisemitism in Elite College Admissions: A Brief History,” Karabel pointed instead to broader demographic changes in the US population, along with the



impact of the nationalizing and globalizing of admissions in an era of rapidly increasing applications to elite schools.

On the latter point, Karabel noted that both Penn and Harvard had roughly 7,000 applicants in 1967, compared to around 60,000 today. “The admissions atmosphere is entirely different,” Karabel said. “You have students applying from all over the world. You have need-blind admissions. You have both nationalization and globalization, so you have an entirely different applicant pool.”

The passage of the Immigration Act of 1965 set in motion a “remarkable change in the demographic composition of the American population,” Karabel added. “In 1960, there were perhaps five to five-and-a-half million Jews in the United States. And Jews, who were as much as four percent of the population nationwide in the 1920s, were about three percent in the 1960s. Now they are about two percent.”

While the Jewish population has been shrinking, the Asian American population—under a million in 1960, he said, accounting for “one half of one percent of the population”—grew to 3.5 million people by 1980, 10.6 million by 2000, and 20.6 million by 2020. Meanwhile, he noted, the Hispanic population has risen to 18.7 percent (from 3.2 percent in 1960), and the Black population has also edged up from 10.5 percent to 12.4 percent over the same period. “So there’s been a tremendous decrease in the por-

tion of the population that’s white,” Karabel said, from 88.6 percent in 1960 to 61.6 percent in 2020, according to the US Census Bureau.

“Think of admissions each year as a pie, and different groups have different size slices,” Karabel said. “The Jewish slice of the pie has gotten smaller, as has the white slice of the pie. At the same time, the Asian slice of the pie has gotten much, much bigger.” From “a tiny sliver, about one percent of the students at Harvard and Penn” in the 1960s, Asian Americans today represent “just in the vicinity of a third of the freshman class.”

Even so, Jews still represent a significant portion of the student population, given their overall numbers in the US, he contended. As a “very rough estimate, I would say that a good third of Penn freshmen are white,” Karabel said. Hillel puts the percentage of Jewish students at Penn at 17.6 percent, and another source says 16 percent, he noted. “If either of those figures are right, and the estimate of about one-third white is right, that would mean that about half of the white students at Penn are Jewish. And I have to say this would hardly constitute an example of the reimposition of restrictions and quotas on Jewish students of the sort seen in the 1920s.” —JP

*Other sessions in the series looked at Jewish sororities and at antisemitism in admissions at Stanford University. All can be viewed in their entirety on the Katz Center’s YouTube channel.*

## Baton Twirling



## Whirling Wonder

A student has been showcasing rare skills at Franklin Field and the Palestra.

**“It’s a lot of motion in the wrist.”**

So says baton twirler Anya Stewart C’27 about an uncommon talent she insists “really isn’t as difficult as it seems to be.”

Anyone who has watched her at Franklin Field or the Palestra might disagree.

Stewart, who last semester began performing at football and basketball games and other campus events with the Penn Band’s recently reformed color guard, is “an amazing talent, on the level of what you might see in the Big Ten,” says assistant band director Kushol Gupta C’97 Gr’03.

Stewart’s passion for a sport that combines dancing and agility with manipulating and throwing multiple batons began during a summer camp about a decade ago. Invited by a childhood friend, “I went, and I was obsessed,” she says. Her mom found a local team back home in Orlando, and the rest was “history.”

Twirling is big in Florida, where several colleges have programs and international competitions are often held. Stewart was used to practicing team choreography and frequently traveled for competitions growing up, but she decided to leave her home state to attend Penn, which according to Gupta has had only two other baton twirlers in the past 30 years (Karin Kuo W’05 and Sherri Gambill EAS’06 WEv’12).

“It just had a lot of the opportunities I was looking for academically,” says Stewart, who reached out to band director Greer Cheeseman EE’77 and student band leaders to make sure that she could twirl here.

As the only baton twirler in the color guard, which uses flags and other props during dance routines (and was reintroduced at Penn in 2021 after a more than 10-year hiatus), Stewart has “creative free rein over my routines and costumes.” She performs tricks she learned in high

school and finds inspiration from Instagram, trying out different styles and seeing what suits her best.

“Baton twirling definitely incorporates a lot of elements from dance and gymnastics,” Stewart says, adding that she can twirl up to four batons and is unfazed by some of them being lit on fire. “It’s so much fun to go support our athletic teams, and to spend time with my band family to spread joy to the general Penn–Philly community.”

Enrolled in the School of Engineering, Stewart wants to major in bioengineering (with a focus in neural engineering) and minor in American Sign Language.

She sees her interests in engineering and twirling as complementary. While her engineering assignments and exams can be stressful, twirling gives her a “creative outlet” where she “can take a break away from studying.” Just the same, she’s embraced the demands of a rigorous academic field. In high school, Stewart typically practiced five or six days a week; at Penn, she practices twice a week—excluding gamedays—for two hours. “I knew going into Penn that twirling wasn’t going to be my career,” she says. “And so it’s nice to kind of have that scaled back.”

But every time she’s on the field or court, she feels the pull of the “wondrous” opportunity to perform for the Penn community. “I try to go to every event I can,” she says. “I derive so much joy from being around everyone else.”

—Hannah Chang C’27



## Championship Lane

Head coach Gilly Lane and Penn men’s squash win it all.

**AS** he made the 10-minute walk down 33rd Street, from the Arlen Specter US Squash Center to his office in the Penn Squash Center, Gilly Lane C’07 G’14 LPS’20 didn’t quite know how to feel.

The head coach of the Penn men’s squash team was still his gregarious self, stopping by a food truck to chat with an acquaintance and offering directions to New Deck to a group of people looking for a bite to eat on a beautiful early March afternoon. But questions swirled in his brain—from the practical (*how do I respond to 275 text messages?*) to the existential (*what do I do after reaching a career pinnacle?*).

Less than an hour earlier, his men’s squash team completed a 7–1 victory over Trin-

ity College at the Specter Center to capture the program’s first national championship, an exceedingly rare feat for any Penn sports team. It had been a goal Lane had been working toward since arriving at Penn 20 years earlier, first as an All-American squash player and then as an assistant and now head coach.

“Sometimes you look back and you’re like, *Wow, because I can hit a ball around a box, I’m at this prestigious university,*” Lane said. “Every day I’ve been on campus, I’m always trying to honor the faith people have had in me.”

Two years ago, Lane had built a team good enough to end the stranglehold a handful of other schools have had on the Potter Cup, the annual tournament pitting the top

Sophomore Omar Hafez climbs the glass to celebrate his clinching win that delivered Penn its first men’s squash national championship.

eight college squash teams against one another. But, in front of a raucous crowd at the Penn Squash Center, Harvard spoiled the party, beating the Quakers in the 2022 title match and ending a magical season in which Penn had been ranked No. 1 and captured the attention of campus [“Squashing the Narrative (and Competition),” May/June 2022].

After losing in the national semifinals to Trinity last year, the Quakers won their first 12 contests of 2023–24 before dropping 5–4 decisions to Trinity and Princeton to close the regular season. The latter loss resulted in a shared Ivy title between Penn and Princeton. But the Quakers got their vengeance in the Potter Cup, routing Columbia in the quarterfinals before edging Princeton 5–4 in the semis and then knocking off Trinity to become the sixth program to enter the national championship club (joining Princeton, Trinity, Yale, Harvard, and the US Naval Academy).

After waiting more than 80 years to win their first Potter Cup (which has been contested since 1942), the Quakers waited several more agonizing minutes with the title within reach. Leading 4–1, the Quakers had three players competing on different courts at the same time, vying to win the clinching match. Across two levels of the Specter Center, fans, parents, and teammates scrambled to position themselves near the court that might decide the championship. Lane sat behind freshman Varun Chitturi



while glancing at a TV to keep tabs on junior Roger Baddour, and occasionally darting around a corner to see sophomore Omar Hafez on one of the all-glass show courts. Baddour's opponent fended off eight match balls, before Hafez ended up playing the role of hero. "I didn't actually see it," Lane admits. "But I could hear the roar. And it was a Penn roar." Chitturi won his match just moments later, joining in on a celebration that began with Hafez jumping atop the glass.

"That was so hard," Hafez said about his post-match leap. "But for me, I can do anything for this team." The sophomore from Egypt said he came to Penn "with one dream: to win a national championship." Down the road, he also hopes to follow fellow Egyptian Aly Abou Eleinen C'22, a star senior on Penn's 2021-22 squad, into the professional ranks.

Lane was pleased that someone with Hafez's "tenacity, hunger, and passion" won the clincher (though he laughed that the glass jumping probably won't be "a life-long tradition" due to safety concerns). "He's a big-time, big-moment player who at such a young age has taken a lot of weight on his shoulders," Lane said. "And he's come through."

Hafez felt the support of his teammates loudly cheering every point, including senior Nick Spizzirri, who plays in the No. 1 spot and was the only Quaker to lose on the day. "Nick has been the person that's always won in every

## SPORTS

### Wrestling Succession Plan

One of the most decorated Penn coaches is passing the torch to one of the program's most decorated former athletes.



Matt Valenti C'07 will succeed Roger Reina C'84 WEV'05 as head coach of Penn wrestling beginning in the 2025-26 season. Reina will remain as head coach next season, with Valenti serving as associate head coach.

A two-time NCAA wrestling champion (2006 and 2007) and a Penn Athletics Hall of Famer, Valenti was a Penn assistant wrestling coach from 2009 to 2015 before stepping into an administration role for Penn Athletics.

Reina, also a member of the Penn Athletics Hall of Fame, has won a program-record 248 matches and eight Ivy League titles over two stints as the team's head coach: from 1986 to 2005 and again since 2017.

big situation for us, and he loses in the national final," Lane said. "And what does he do? He takes three minutes to rebound and then he's back out supporting his teammates from the front row."

"Even though I lost, I'd say it's probably the best day of my life," said Spizzirri, who went on to advance to the national semifinals of the College Squash Association Individual Championships the following week and was named a first team All-American along with teammates Hafez and Ivy League Rookie of the Year Salman Khalil. "I've been thinking about winning this tournament since, honestly, before college—when I was still in high school."

Spizzirri said that the post-season heartbreak he and the team endured in each of the last two years was a motivating factor this time around, and Lane noted that the graduated players from the 2021-22 squad set the stage for this year's breakthrough. Many of them, in fact, were in the crowd to cheer on their former teammates at the Potter Cup. As soon as the match

ended, Lane's first FaceTime call was from Abou Eleinen in Egypt to congratulate him.

The head coach has since heard from several of his old professors, and the team got a visit from Penn Interim President Larry Jameson. "To bring that joy to a lot of people is amazing," Lane said. "You don't realize who's following you until something like this happens."

There's no reason to think the program's success won't continue. Everyone from this year's team will return next season, including Spizzirri and fellow senior Dana Santiry, who still have eligibility because COVID-19 wiped out their freshman campaigns. And the team's international recruiting pipeline remains strong, with standout players hailing from Egypt, Malaysia, Canada, and across the US.

But before looking too far ahead at the prospect of delivering his alma mater back-to-back championships—or better yet, a potential dynasty—Lane wants to savor the first one. He wants to remember those three days of trying to stay calm however he could,

## Title Town

In addition to the men's squash national championship, several other winter teams and athletes had memorable seasons. Among them:

- Senior Bryce Louie won a national fencing championship with a win over his Penn teammate Blake Broszus in the NCAA men's foil final. Louie became the 16th men's fencer to win an NCAA title and the first since Michael Mills C'14 in 2013.
- The women's gymnastics team enjoyed a title trifecta by winning the Ivy Classic, the Gymnastics East Conference (GEC) regular-season crown, and the GEC Championships. Sophomore Skylar Kerico was named the GEC Gymnast of the Year.
- The women's track and field team won an Ivy Heps indoor title and the women's fencing team captured a share of the Ivy championship.
- With his eyes on the 2024 Summer Olympics, junior swimmer Matt Fallon finished second in the NCAA championships in the 200-yard breaststroke with an Ivy League and program record time of 1:48.48.

be it listening to "chilled out music" or wearing the same pair of Lululemon pants, Penn cap, and Nike sneakers that will be signed by the team and never worn again, residing on a shelf in his office next to the championship trophy. And he'll continue to effuse over the "pure love and happiness" his players felt for each other and their coach, who they hoisted in the air—and almost dropped—after the trophy presentation.

"You could see that there were 16 guys that just loved each other," Lane said. "And now they're going to be connected for the rest of their lives because of this monumental moment." —DZ

# Good Grief

Five years after his two teenage children were killed by a drunk driver, Colin Campbell is finding new ways to grieve—while helping others deal with bereavement through his new book, support groups, and a one-man show he calls the “feel-bad story of the year.”

By Caren Lissner

Photos of Campbell's children Hart (left) and Ruby (right), with a portrait of Campbell painted by Ruby when she was 10 years old.









**O**n a June night five years ago, Colin Campbell C'91 set out to drive two and a half hours from his family's home in Los Angeles to the area of Joshua Tree National Park.

He and his wife, *Black-ish* TV producer Gail Lerner, had purchased a family vacation home overlooking the desert only four days before. Campbell, a writer and theater and film director, had lined up meetings with contractors to see about building a pool and an extension that would give their children their own bungalow. The couple envisioned their 14-year-old son Hart playing video games and their 17-year-old daughter Ruby painting with views of the iconic rocks. It was an impulse purchase, and they all began to fantasize about "our wonderful future life, vacationing together in our favorite place," as Campbell put it.

He had initially intended to go alone, but Gail and the kids wanted to come along. So they piled into their Toyota Prius and drove into the twilight.

Meanwhile, many miles to their east, a 34-year-old woman named Nicole Packer was hurtling down the highway in the opposite direction. On probation for driving with a suspended license, she had a blood alcohol level higher than the .08 cutoff and a prior DUI on her record.

It had been dark for hours in the Mojave Desert when Campbell turned left into a Circle K gas station, a few stops before the Joshua Tree exit. That's when Packer's Ford Fiesta T-boned their Toyota, killing both Ruby and Hart, who were wearing their seat belts in the backseat, and sending Colin and Gail to the hospital.

They never saw the car coming.

In the five years since that horrific June night—including the pandemic lockdown and graduations of his kids' former classmates—Campbell has tried to cope by turning trauma into art. He published a book called *Finding the Words: Working Through Profound Loss with Hope and Purpose* (Penguin Random House, 2023) and starred in a one-man show called

**"I loved helping teach them to swim, ride bikes, climb trees, read, play cards, do pratfalls, and generally be ridiculous. And as they got older, my love for them only deepened."**

*Grief: A One Man Show*, which he calls the "feel-bad story of the year."

He and Gail also began fostering three teenagers (though the first teen opted not to continue the path toward adoption, something Campbell also grieves).

Now he's considering other ways to manage the kind of pain he believes we don't have the proper tools to discuss—while helping other grieverers do the same.

### All About Family

Colin Campbell grew up outside of Philadelphia in Haddonfield, New Jersey, with strong ties to Penn. His father, the late Malcom Campbell, was an art history professor and assistant dean in the School of Arts and Sciences, and his mother Joan was an assistant dean at Penn's College of General Studies (now the College of Liberal and Professional Studies). His siblings also went to Penn: Cathleen Campbell C'83 GEd'85 GEd'98 and Christopher Campbell C'85 GAR'89.

"I have fond memories of being in an art museum, or a small church in Italy, with my dad talking to me about a painting or fresco, and invariably a crowd would gather to eavesdrop as he pointed out some fascinating detail," Colin says. His father "made art feel personal and full of meaning. ... I got to listen to a few of his lectures when I was at Penn and I think his theatricality and sly charm are qualities that I hope I inherited and display in my own work."

Campbell was also proud of his mom, particularly for advising students who took a nontraditional route to college. "I think my desire to help other grieving people comes from early lessons I learned from my parents about being of service," he says.

Campbell was a physical anthropology major at the University with a minor in theater. He met Gail while at graduate school at Columbia, and the pair headed to Hollywood to work in producing, directing, and teaching. Together, they wrote and directed the short film *Seraglio*, which earned them an Oscar nomination in 2000.

Meanwhile, they shared parenting equally, Campbell noted in *Finding the Words*. "I worked from home for most of their lives, so I was the point person when it came to the kids' schedules," he wrote. "I coordinated most of the birthday parties and playdates, the doctor visits and dentist check-ups. I was all in as a hands-on dad. And I loved it. I loved helping teach them to swim, ride bikes, climb trees, read, play cards, do pratfalls, and generally be ridiculous. And as they got older, my love for them only deepened."

Both kids were beloved by classmates. Hart "was the consummate clown," Campbell says, "a nonstop source of jokes and absurdities. Ruby was hilarious and clever. She had an alter ego character, Sven, who was in the Russian Mafia. Sometimes you'd call Ruby and Sven would answer. Hart had characters, too. People would ask them to do them."

At one point, Ruby heard that the Eagles' song "Hotel California" was always playing somewhere, so she told her dad that someday she wanted to start a radio station to play it nonstop, just to make sure it was always on. (To this day, he sometimes whispers "Hi, Ruby" when he hears the song.)

Their lives weren't free of challenges. Ruby dealt with mental health issues, including OCD and suicidal thoughts. "By January 2019, it felt like we had turned a corner," Campbell wrote in his





book. “We had at last found the right medication for Ruby’s depression, and thanks to the right treatment, her OCD was firmly under control. She had become an outspoken advocate for others living with mental illness.”

### That Nightmare Night

The night that Ruby and Hart were killed remains “a nightmare that never ends,” Campbell said in a hearing earlier this year where Packer was sentenced to 14 years and eight months in state prison for two counts of vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated. But he made a surprising admission in a 2023 essay he wrote for the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) website—one of the many pieces he’s published about his grief.

“I am glad I got to watch my kids die,” Campbell wrote. “To be clear, I’m not glad they died. I am heartbroken and devastated, and there is a never-ending hole of aching and pain in my heart. ... But I am glad that I was there. This might come as a surprise to many read-

ers. I think there is a widespread assumption that parents would prefer to be spared the sight of their kids’ deaths.”

After rescue workers arrived, according to Campbell’s account, they administered CPR to Gail in the middle of the highway. Colin was able to hold Ruby’s hand, but she was unresponsive. Gail wanted to see the children, but paramedics feared she had broken her neck. All four of them were taken to Desert Regional Medical Center. “I remember the ER nurses frantically insisting that our paramedics detain us outside,” Colin recounted in his MADD piece. “We waited for a long terrible moment in the parking lot, I in a wheelchair and Gail strapped to a gurney. I am certain it’s because Ruby’s corpse got there before us, and they didn’t want us to see her. They were once again trying to spare us the sight of death. We were in the ER for what felt like hours before a doctor finally came and told us that Ruby had died and that Hart probably wouldn’t survive. No one wanted to break the news to us, but the delay wasn’t sparing us any-

thing. ... Both of us eventually got to kiss Hart’s forehead as they took him off life support, but we never saw Ruby again. It’s been almost four years now, and to this day, Gail deeply regrets not being able to say goodbye to Ruby and touch her body one last time. She is angry with the nurse who so confidently declared that ‘moms shouldn’t look.’”

Both children were officially pronounced dead the morning of June 13. Campbell and his wife were sent home in “an hour-long taxi ride of horror,” he wrote in his book.

Over the next few days, Campbell says, “It was always the first thought waking up, the last thought before I went to sleep every night. Now it’s not, but I think about them pretty constantly. ... It was such a surreal time. I was angry at the universe for robbing my children of their lives.”

“A lot of early grief is scary,” he adds. “I was scared at the prospect of living my life without Ruby and Hart. I was scared that if I let myself start to weep,

I would not stop. I would lose my mind. I learned that's not true. I'm so glad that I'm not scared of crying now. I'm not scared of feeling all the feelings."

Some marriages falter after the death of a child. One parent can feel resentful or isolated if the other appears to grieve less, or differently. But Colin says he and Gail would sometimes "be literally thinking the same thought, at the exact same time. We'd take a walk together, talk about our grief. At times we were in a different place, but that's OK. We talked about it. I think it gets hard for couples who don't want to deal with it."

Still, he was "ill equipped" to deal with such a profound loss. He had mourned his grandparents years ago, which was "expected," and his father died in 2013 at age 78, having retired from Penn in 1996 ["Obituaries," May/June 2013]. But, he says, "I did not know much about profound loss and the grieving process."

He had extremely dark thoughts, which became fodder for his art. "Five days after the crash," he says, "I began writing what became my solo show, and that was born out of this need to express and explore these complicated feelings and thoughts I was having."

## Performing and Writing

Envy was among the first thoughts Campbell found himself wrestling with. When reading grief memoirs or talking to other bereaved parents, he'd become jealous if the parents "only" lost one child. That idea would become "the darkest part" of *Grief: A One Man ShitShow*.

In the 75-minute autobiographical show, which he performed most recently in November in Los Angeles, "I start complaining that I was reading all these grief books, but the author has other living children, and they talk about needing a purpose—and it's like, 'You have living children,'" Campbell says. "I get very frustrated [in the show]. ... I start to get angry at people who lost 'only' one child."

Campbell admits to worrying "that people who'd come to my show, who'd

**"One person said to me, 'They're in a better place,'" he says. "That's definitely not true. A better place would be here on earth."**

lost one child, would be upset that I was making fun of them. That's not how they reacted. I've only had positive feedback from people who experienced child loss."

Campbell likens the performance to a journey. "I start off very angry. Then I try to get help from other people. I start to analyze all these thoughts comparing loss. I think of all the ways I'm fortunate, all the kinds of child loss that I wouldn't trade places with."

The show, and his subsequent book, were early attempts to find a new purpose—a way to transform his experiences into advice. "It's a very raw show," he says. "I talk about honoring everybody's grief. *Let's not compare our grief*. And to learn to live with the pain. I tell the audience they'll probably be freaked out. If you're laughing, someone else is crying. It's OK. I give permission. It's OK to feel whatever."

Besides performing the show, Campbell has been speaking to loss groups who contacted him after reading *Finding the Words*. The book aims to help both grieving people and those who want to understand how to talk to them. After the tragedy, Campbell says, some of his acquaintances made comments he found offensive. Comments about heaven, fate, and the like weren't helpful, as he's not religious.

"One person said to me, 'They're in a better place,'" he says. "That's definitely not true. A better place would be here on earth. I haven't heard many people say things that are upsetting, because they know better. Or they read my book or my articles. I do encounter some things like 'It was meant to be' or 'Everything happens for a reason.' I used to believe that: If something's difficult and you overcome that struggle, that it was meant to be. I don't believe that now, and I find it offensive. It implies my children were supposed to be killed by a drunk driver, and that's not true."

He says some people avoided talking about his children, which also wasn't helpful. "What I needed in my grief was to have conversations about Ruby and Hart," Campbell says. "I didn't need to talk about the weather or politics. And if people were too scared to mention Ruby and Hart, it wasn't going to work. Friends felt relief at that instruction."

Considering how easy it is to say the "wrong" thing, there's risk in urging people to broach the subject of loss with someone who's grieving. But Campbell's book is meant to help. "Trying to cheer up someone who's grieving isn't appropriate," he says. "They want to be allowed to feel their feelings, and to have them validated."

## Old and New Friends

Campbell says it was helpful when friends asked him what he needed, but even more helpful when they made a specific offer, such as to deliver a meal, or take a walk. "In early grief, you don't know what you want, and it changes moment to moment," Campbell says. "I appreciated concrete offers. 'Do you want to go for a walk tomorrow morning? I'm free.' I don't have to think about it. I could just say yes."

A common theme in memoirs of child loss is the difficulty some bereaved parents experience being in the company of old friends who have living children. In 2015 the New York City-based journalist Jayson Greene lost his 2-year-old daughter, Greta, when a brick fell from a build-



ing and struck her on the head while she was sitting on a bench with her grandmother. In his 2019 memoir *Once More We Saw Stars*, Greene wrote that early in his grieving process, he told a friend, “We are going to have to find friends with dead children.”

Similarly, author Anna Whiston-Donaldson, whose 12-year-old son drowned in a creek while playing with two friends during a storm, wrote in her 2015 memoir *Rare Bird* that she and her husband eventually moved out of their home after she kept seeing the two other children happily playing nearby. She, too, needed to be around people who understood.

Campbell says he found some relief in meeting parents who had lost children, rather than only people who couldn’t relate. In fact, one organization, Los Angeles-based Our House, places people in support groups with others who’ve experienced similar losses. The Campbells were placed in a group for parents who’d suddenly lost kids age 14 and over within the last year. “I did a lot of grief groups,” he says. “I met a lot of parents who’d lost children. It continues to be helpful having those people in my life.”

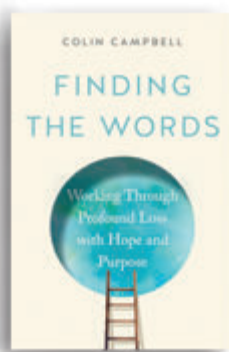
But Campbell says that despite an “emotional chasm” between him and friends who have children, he found it important to stay connected to people he knew before. “It was helpful to be able to talk to Ruby and Hart’s friends and their parents and participate in things, not act like all of it was over,” he says. “A lot of things are helpful: community gatherings, walks with friends, private rituals. I’m drinking out of a mug from Bryce Canyon right now, where we went on our spring break, our last trip together. So I’m thinking about them and this trip.”

Hart’s former school now gives a “Kindness Award” named after him, Campbell says, a practice he hopes will continue. And he notes in the book that friends of both kids raised money in their honor for the Trevor Project, which works to

## EXCERPT

# A Shattered Identity

**When Ruby and Hart were killed**, I no longer understood who I was. I had thought of myself first and foremost as a dad to two wonderful kids. It informed every aspect of my identity. All my hopes and dreams for my future were intertwined with their futures. I took for granted that they would always be with me for holidays and vacations for the rest of my life. I looked forward to helping raise their children. Toys and books from my childhood were carefully stored in the attic in the hopes that one day I might share them with grandchildren.



And now, the life I had is over. My old identity is gone. So who am I now? Mourners are all faced with a version of this crisis. How are you still a spouse if your spouse is gone? How are you still a sibling if your sibling is gone? How are you a child if your parent is gone? I had become a man with two dead kids. That is my reality. I can’t deny it. I need to reorganize my identity and define how I plan to live as the father of children who were killed on June 12, 2019. This is part of the work of grieving.

What makes this grief work so hard is that we don’t want to do it. We desperately don’t want to integrate this loss into our identity. We want to still have the future we used to have. We want to keep moving forward in *that* life. Our heart resists the work of change that we must do. This resistance makes your grief work even more difficult and exhausting.

I need to take my shattered identity and put it back together, piece by piece—but different. I have a new relationship to everyone in my life. I used to walk into my local Jersey Mike’s sandwich shop and the person behind the counter knew my order by heart—two turkey sandwiches, one with American cheese and lettuce, the other with Swiss cheese, lettuce, and tomato. Sandwiches for me and Hart. Now I only get one sandwich and I ache for Hart and everything he and I have lost. I get together with friends who have kids, and our dynamic has changed. There is pain, loss, and yearning everywhere I turn. This is true for all of us in grief. If you lost a spouse, how do you now fit in with all those other couples you were both friends with? Do you still get invited to their dinner parties? If you lost a sibling, how do you now function in a family with a gaping hole? If you lost your closest friend, or a soldier who fought by your side, how do you relate to all the people who can’t fathom your grief? We need to redefine our relationships to everyone and everything in our lives in order to put our identity back together in this new reality.

Denial urges me to avoid this process of reintegration. And denial is tempting. It sounds like it might be nice, imagining that Ruby and Hart are still alive. But it’s not. Because it is not true, and I can’t actually trick myself into believing that it is. So instead, it feels awful and unsatisfying. I can’t wish them back to life.

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*Excerpted from Finding the Words: Working Through Profound Loss with Hope and Purpose by Colin Campbell with permission of TarcherPerigee, an imprint of Penguin Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House LLC. Copyright © Colin Campbell, 2023.*

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prevent suicide among LGBT youth. (Ruby was gay, Campbell notes in the book, and Hart fiercely defended her.)

So while it has helped for Campbell to connect with other parents like him, he found comfort in maintaining friendships with those he and his kids knew before the tragedy. Campbell’s book also details some quieter ways of coping. He didn’t particularly like “grief yoga,” he notes, but he greatly benefited from journaling.

## Fostering Teenagers

As Colin and Gail found ways to work through their losses, they looked into the foster care system, feeling a “desperation” to parent again. (Couples are required to wait at least a year after a loss to begin the fostering process, something Campbell understands.) Adopting new children after a loss may seem “radical,” he wrote in the book, but he and his wife see it as just adding to the family.

Fostering had actually been Ruby's idea, years ago, he says. "She said, 'We have so much love in our family and there are kids in need. Let's share the love.' It seemed so beautiful. But we already had two children."

The couple became involved with Kid-save, which brings teens together with adult volunteers to play games. After the games, the teens can fill out a form indicating which adults they connected with, and adults do the same.

The Campbells took to one 13-year-old girl who was "smart, funny, engaging, and eager to play," he wrote in the book. "After each event, we circled her name and she circled ours. It was a match!" The teen moved in with them, but ultimately she decided not to continue the path to adoption. Even with ample counseling for all of them, she didn't change her mind. "It continues to be a difficult loss," Campbell says. "I mourn that loss as well. I worry about her. She's not in a good place, trying to age out of the foster care system all by herself. She chose that, but she's just a kid."

Currently they're fostering a 13-year-old girl and her 14-year-old brother. The siblings have already lived with the couple for a year, and they're continuing the adoption process, Campbell says. It involves twice-monthly visits from social workers, lots of counseling, and much paperwork.

Campbell says he knows that some people might believe they're "replacing" his children, but he pushes back against that characterization. "We're raising two children who need a family," he says. "It doesn't make me think less about Ruby and Hart. It makes me think about them more."

Still, he does feel guilt. "It's been difficult to allow ourselves to find joy when we're grieving," he says. "I think we all struggle with a certain amount of guilt that holds us back. We struggle with, 'What are the ways in which we can give ourselves permission to be in this world and in this life, when Ruby and Hart are not?' It doesn't feel like I ever have pure

joy. It's always joy mixed with grief."

But with his foster son and daughter, "We talk about Ruby and Hart. We talk about our grief. And we've modeled how to find joy again."

"Every child in the foster system system has experienced a tremendous amount of loss," he continues. "We know what it means to lose a sense of self and identity and stability. I really do think we are good models. We are modeling 'good grief,' in a way."

Just before the start of 2024, Colin and Gail revived the traditional New Year's Eve party they used to hold before their children died. They had put it on hiatus since then, instead asking former attendees to email them memories of Ruby and Hart. "It was an emotional challenge and a milestone for us, because it was so difficult, the idea of having a party," he says. "We had had the party every year, with Ruby and Hart's friends, an all-ages party. It allowed us to talk about Hart and Ruby, so there was joy and pain mixed together. Five years after the crash, Ruby's friends are about to graduate from college, and Hart's friends are going to college. It was a party that mixed our worlds. We invited our foster kids' friends as well. It was a nice mix of our two lives."

### Looking to the Future

As Campbell finds ways to move forward, he's been responding to grieving parents who reached out after reading his book. Recently, he says, two parents on Long Island, whose 18-year-old daughter was struck and killed by a car, flew him out to talk to their religious community. Some 150 people showed up for the talk.

"It was very meaningful for me," Campbell says. "A lot of people felt empowered after reading my book, empowered to reach out and ask for what they needed in their grief. People on the other side felt empowered to reach out to their friends in grief, make that phone call, reconnect in a meaningful way."

**"We're raising two children who need a family," he says. "It doesn't make me think less about Ruby and Hart. It makes me think about them more."**

Recently, he says, he gave advice on a podcast. "I did an interview with a woman in Australia. She said that when she was a teenager, a dear friend of hers had passed away. This was 40 years ago. She thinks about this young boy. I said, 'Does his mom know?' I said, 'Please reach out. It would be meaningful.'"

But what if reaching out will only ignite the mother's grief? "Grief doesn't need reigniting," Campbell insists. "It's already there. You're not reigniting it. You're validating it and telling these parents what they most want to hear, that their child is remembered and still having an impact on the world."

Five years after that dark night in the desert, Campbell is still seeking ways to cope with his loss, honor Ruby and Hart, and work on creative projects about the grieving process. Frustrated about how grief is often portrayed on screen, where characters and their friends seem afraid to talk about their lost loved ones, he's writing a screenplay about parents whose child is killed by a drunk driver.

"I just think it's helpful to normalize it," he says. "The more that all of us can talk about grief and grieving, the more that it will seep into society that it's OK to talk about, that it's not so scary."

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Caren Lissner C'93 is the author of the novel *Carrie Pilby*, which was adapted into a Netflix film, and is working on a new novel, *The Queen Of Impossible Crushes*.



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# CREATING CIVIL CITIZENS

**Penn's Stavros Niarchos Foundation Paideia Program aims to foster dialogue, civic engagement, community service, and wellness—and both students and faculty are enthusiastically signing on. But the program's contours can be murky, and its role in bridging campus divisions remains a work in progress.**

By Julia M. Klein

**IT'S** a Monday morning in late February, the week before spring break. “We’re going to start with a wellness exercise,” Lia Howard C’01 Gr’11 tells her class. “Does anyone know what this is?” She breaks off a sprig of eucalyptus and passes it around the seminar room. “Once you have your leaf,” she continues, “I want you to just crush it in your hand. It may be a little syrupy. Then just smell.” The crushed leaves produce a distinctive fragrance: minty, medicinal, and soothing.

“We’ve been doing a lot with breathing,” Howard says. “We’ve talked a lot about relaxing before going into conversation. This is another way to tell your body that it’s OK to relax.”

Not every class in Penn’s Stavros Niarchos Foundation Paideia Program incorporates aromatherapy. But the emphasis on student well-being isn’t unique. Howard, a political scientist with a buoyant, gently encouraging manner, happens to be the program’s student advising and wellness director, and her seminar, “Political Empathy

and Deliberative Democracy in the US,” has an unabashed emotional dimension. In both topic and format, it embodies Paideia’s focus on “dialogue across difference,” while touching on the program’s other three pillars: citizenship, service, and wellness.

This morning Howard’s Penn class is discussing the United States’ distinct political cultures, the values they embrace, and how those values shape expectations of government. “Equality and liberty do an interesting dance with justice,” Howard says. Students pair up with conversation partners: first to craft a definition of political empathy, then to contemplate different strands of their own identities, including ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation.

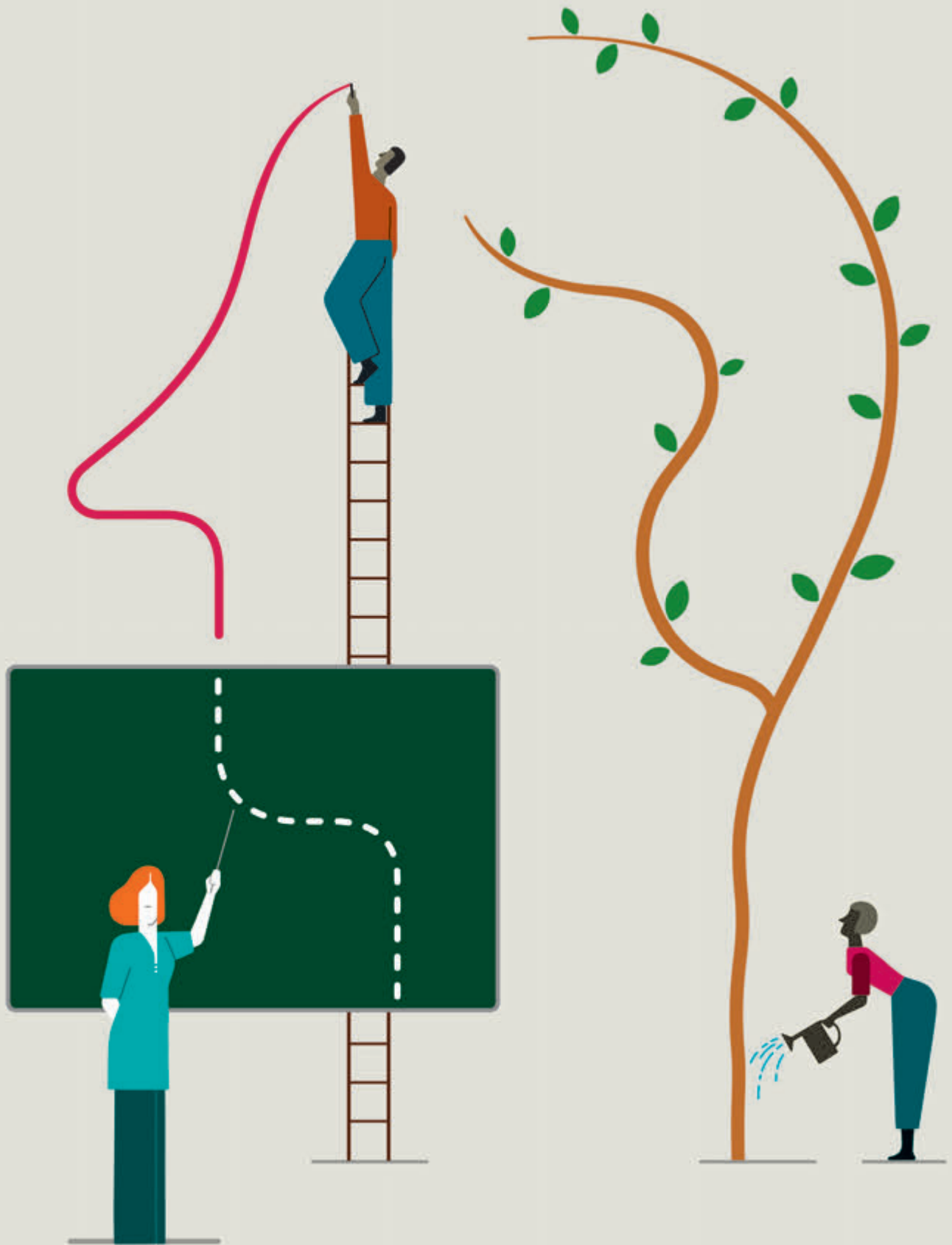
Julia Fischer C’24, a political science and Hispanic studies major, says this is her first Paideia class, and she appreciates its emphases: “A lot of political science classes are focused on lectures and reading articles and research. But we do a lot more with conversation and applying what we’re learning—especially when

it comes to conversing with others about our political beliefs.” The course, she says, also delves into “the fundamental issues that have been nagging at me during my time at Penn, like polarization” and “how we interact with other people in the political system.”

Howard’s political empathy course—which includes a healthy roster of reading, writing, and research assignments, along with wellness tips—developed out of an earlier one she cotaught on civic dialogue and engagement. It draws students eager to become a community, she says, and many stay in touch with her, and with one another. “They want relationship. They want to connect with people,” she says.

**IN** case you were wondering, “Paideia” is supposed to rhyme, more or less, with “Maria.” To forestall confusion, the program has a video on its website about the pronunciation. Nevertheless, some faculty and students continue to go their own way (Pie-DAY-a is one popular alternative). Translation of the Greek word





presents another challenge. Broadly speaking, it refers to a holistic, or well-rounded, education that serves as preparation for citizenship. “It has to do with educating the whole person,” explains Andreas C. Dracopoulos W’86, copresident of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, in the same video. “It starts with the soul [and] becomes a way of life. It’s about civic engagement and civil discourse. It’s about learning to do what’s good for the community.”

The foundation, with offices in Athens, New York, and Monaco, gave Penn \$6 million in 2019 to launch a five-year pilot program. It funds two other similar university enterprises: the SNF Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University and the SNF Ithaca Initiative at the University of Delaware. “We all have a shared emphasis on supporting pluralist democracy, dialogue, citizenship,” says Leah Seppanen Anderson, the SNF Paideia Program’s executive director. The foundation has since given Penn two more grants: \$1.6 million in 2021, and \$13 million last year to extend the program through 2029.

Sigal R. Ben-Porath, the Penn program’s faculty director since September and the MRMJJ Presidential Professor of Education, says Paideia aims to foster “a campus atmosphere focused on dialogue and engagement, and the kind of wellness that comes with that, both for individuals and for communities.” That entails cultivating “the attitudes and the skills that are necessary for learning and engaging as equals.”

With the University’s ideological and political divisions exacerbated by the war in Gaza, those attitudes and skills may be more relevant than ever. “The fall has been very challenging,” says Ben-Porath, whose books include *Cancel Wars* (2023) and *Free Speech on Campus* (2017). “It also demonstrated for us the true value of the opportunities that we provide. We have students who are very engaged and active on different sides of this current conflict. What we found is that they were very deeply committed to

expressing their perspective, but also that they were immensely committed to hearing each other out.”

Paideia embraces both curricular and extracurricular initiatives. The first four Paideia courses were offered during the 2020 spring semester, on the eve of the pandemic shutdown. Penn now has about 70 “Paideia-designated” undergraduate courses—some purpose-built, others redesigned or enhanced. Paideia also funds 75 three-year fellowships, with core seminars, a capstone project, and other requirements, for students interested in its ideals. This year 60 freshmen, the highest total to date, applied for the 25 sophomore-year slots, attesting to the program’s popularity.

Paideia money boosts adjunct salaries, and also finances guest lecturers, student internships, travel, special events, and more. On Friday afternoons, Café Paideia gatherings, a recent response to campus turmoil, offer SNF Paideia Fellows, prospective fellows, and their guests a chance to decompress. This summer Howard’s new Political Empathy Lab will send a half-dozen students across Pennsylvania, to state fairs, diners, college campuses and elsewhere, to conduct issue-oriented conversations, keep journals, and “create a toolkit” for such interactions. Some classes travel to Washington, or to more far-flung destinations, such as Greece and Puerto Rico. Paideia Fellow Francesco Salamone W’26 says he and other fellows are hoping to obtain funding for a summer research trip to Iceland.

The Red & Blue Exchange, supported by the Gamba family, brings diverse speakers to campus, with an emphasis on conservative voices. Brian Rosenwald C’06, a scholar in residence who teaches “American Conservatism from Taft to Trump,” runs the exchange. In March, he moderated a panel with two former top communications staffers from the Trump White House, Alyssa Farrah Griffin and Sarah Matthews, both strong-defense, small-government conservatives who have turned against Trump.

“What I’m looking for is someone who might defy a stereotype, someone who has expertise in a given area, someone who has an interesting backstory,” Rosenwald says. “There is a needle to thread. We’re a university. We’re based in facts. We’re based in evidence. You obviously don’t want to bring an election denier to campus.” On the other hand, he says, “I think hearing from people who are [conservative] true believers is really important.”

**P**enn’s Paideia Program originated in discussions between SNF’s Dracopoulos and then-Penn President Amy Gutmann Hon’22, a political scientist and philosopher who is now US Ambassador to Germany [“Gazetteer,” Sep/Oct 2021].

Michael X. Delli Carpini C’75 G’75, who became the program’s inaugural faculty director, gives this account: “One of the things they were lamenting was the poor state of public discourse—the coarsening of public dialogue, the fact that people didn’t seem to be able to disagree without personal attacks on each other, the difficult problems that the world was facing, and the understanding that universities should play a role in trying to develop citizens better able to discuss tough issues in a civil kind of way.”

Dracopoulos says he and his colleagues had become “concerned by this paralyzing sense of polarization all around us.” In 2017, the foundation announced a \$150 million grant to launch the SNF Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins to foster pluralistic dialogue and buttress global democracy. “Through the gift, we were able to hire a set of faculty and also fellows that are doing scholarship and work in this area,” says Hahrie Hahn, the Agora Institute’s inaugural director. The institute is also constructing a glass-cube home designed by the Renzo Piano Building Workshop.

According to Dracopoulos, Gutmann was on the phone to him the day after the Hopkins announcement.

“Why not at Penn, your alma mater?” she said.



“Great idea,” he recalls responding. He says he added, jokingly: “You never asked.”

Within days, he says, Gutmann had presented “a full-fledged proposal.”

Delli Carpini, former dean of the Annenberg School for Communication (and now the Oscar H. Gandy Emeritus Professor of Communication and Democracy), helped design the proposal, and negotiated program details directly with the foundation. “We hit it off from very early on,” says Dracopoulos. Given his research interests, which include political communication and the role of the citizen in democratic politics, becoming the program’s faculty director “felt like a good capstone to my career,” Delli Carpini says.

From the start, the foundation urged Penn not to be overly cautious, to “hit the road running,” Delli Carpini recalls. “At the very beginning, nobody knew what Paideia was. My biggest concern was [being able] to find enough faculty interested in doing these kinds of courses. What has happened is that the reputation of the program has caught on. One of the biggest pleasant surprises for me has been the number of faculty across departments who get the idea of the program, and really want to teach courses that they wouldn’t be able to teach otherwise.”

Dracopoulos notes approvingly “the sheer scale of SNF Paideia,” and the fact that it “is being woven into the fabric of the University and the undergraduate experience.” Ben-Porath says that one of her goals as director is to expand its reach even further to include graduate-level courses and development opportunities for faculty.

What makes for a good Paideia course?

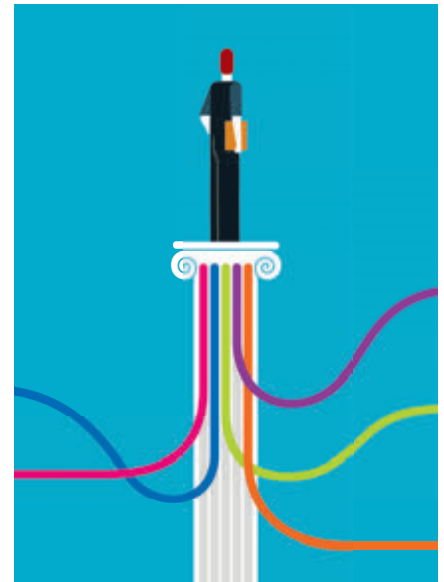
Many with that designation, Delli Carpini explains, are “simply ways of understanding other people, other cultures, other identities” better. In theory, that could include most courses at the University—and indeed Paideia can seem both expansive and amorphous. Delli Carpini says that Paideia-funded courses “try to build in explicitly the concept of dialogue,” as well as the “public interest component” of a subject.

“We’ll work with faculty who already have courses on the books that they want to make more Paideia-like,” Delli Carpini says, “but mostly what we do is help faculty develop new courses” that aim to help students become “good dialogic citizens.” He adds: “There’s no one model of a course that works. Any time we offer a course for a year or two, we’re always rethinking it. It’s a living entity, and it’s evolving. I see the Paideia Program as being the civic component of a liberal arts education.”

**P**aideia-designated courses are often interdisciplinary. They are eclectic. And they tend to be small (most are capped at 22 students). Paideia’s website says faculty from all 12 Penn schools are involved. Political science, communications, and history are well-represented. Courses also are crosslisted in English, philosophy, anthropology, urban studies, psychology, criminology, education, marketing, biology, engineering, and nursing, among other subject areas.

Sometimes dialogue itself is the subject, as in “Good Talk: The Purpose, Practice, and Representation of Dialogue Across Difference,” taught by SNF Paideia Dialogue Director Sarah Ropp. Rather than advocate for a particular model of dialogue, says Ropp, the class is “about exploring all of the different things that dialogue could mean, and what we could use it for, and the different modes and formats that it can be practiced in.” As dialogue director, she also cofacilitates the weekly Café Paideia gatherings, and offers dialogue-related resources to faculty members University-wide.

A course developed by Annenberg School for Communication lecturer Carlin Romano, “Failure to Communicate,” takes a different tack. It explores breakdowns in dialogue in diverse arenas, including romance, politics, show business, law, science, and war. Romano’s syllabus, which includes 24 films, says the course’s aim is “to bring literary, philosophical, psychological, cinematic, and historical perspectives” to bear on



**“I see the Paideia Program as being the civic component of a liberal arts education.”**

the subject. Romano notes that he offered his students a variety of topics for recent midterm papers, but the majority focused on a subject close to home: their misadventures with dating apps.

“Academic departments often don’t think beyond their calcified course offerings unless someone jabs them with a new idea,” says Romano, the former longtime critic-at-large at the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. “Then they sometimes become their best intellectual selves and recognize fresh topics and teaching materials. Paideia wonderfully enables that jabbing at Penn.”

Carolyn Marvin, the Frances Yates Emeritus Professor of Communication, has been teaching “History and Theory of Freedom of Expression,” which examines the philosophical and legal roots of disputation over free speech, since 1980, with periodic updates. “I knew the Paideia Program was interested in civil and political and democratic discourse. And I thought, ‘That’s what my course does.’” So, she says,

she approached a Paideia administrator and asked, “How about me?”

Marvin says that the Penn student body is more ideologically diverse than the faculty, and that a couple of her current students lean conservative. “The prevailing public ideology is that if somebody’s feelings are hurt, that’s reason enough to get speech restricted,” she says. “And I’m really interested in making sure that [my students] interrogate that by the time we’re finished.”

The spring seminar “Friendship and Attraction,” taught by Caroline Connolly, associate director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Psychology, is a wellness-related offering. It covers such topics as “sexual attraction in straight cross-sex friendship” and “friends with benefits relationships.” In one class, students, primarily seniors, provided methodological critiques of two qualitative studies—on friendships between queer women and friendships between men of different sexual orientations. “The research question itself can affect what you’re gathering,” Connolly points out. “[Researchers’] own experiences could be coloring this.” But data-based studies also contain biases, she tells the class: “Science is much more value-laden than people are willing to acknowledge.”

Another course, “Biology and Society,” touches on those values. It explores the intersections of biology with issues such as informed consent, intelligence testing, eugenics, and artificial intelligence. In a March class, after a presentation by a guest lecturer, students dove eagerly into questions about the advisability and accessibility of genetic engineering. Beyond the prevention of disease, they wondered, could gene editing also be used to shape traits considered more socially desirable? Should it? One student worried about the impact of the technology on people with disabilities. “That has incredibly large moral and ethical implications,” he said.

Mecky Pohlschröder, professor of biology, coteaches the course with another profes-

sor of biology, Paul Schmidt. Paideia money helped with course development, as well as funding a teaching assistant and an array of guest lecturers. Polhschröder says that one student told her, with some concern, “I leave the class with more questions than I had when I came in.” That was part of the point, Pohlschröder reassured her. “I love when I see how the students change their minds,” she says.

Some Penn luminaries have embraced Paideia. Ezekiel J. Emanuel, vice provost for global initiatives and the Diane v.S. Levy and Robert M. Levy University Professor, was an early recruit. He developed a philosophy course, “Benjamin Franklin and His World,” focused on ethical challenges that Franklin confronted [“Gazetteer,” Jan/Feb 2023]. It debuted in early 2021, via Zoom, during the University’s pandemic shutdown, and is now available free on Coursera. Another Emanuel course, “How Washington Really Works,” required weekly trips to the nation’s capital to meet with its power players.

This semester Martin E. P. Seligman Gr’67, director of the Penn Positive Psychology Center and the Zellerbach Family Professor of Psychology, is offering “The Science of Well-Being.” It pairs large weekly lectures with smaller sections in which students complete positive psychology exercises. In the fall, Angela Duckworth Gr’06, the Rosa Lee and Egbert Chang Professor in the Department of Psychology, teaches “Grit Lab: Fostering Passion and Perseverance,” which, like Seligman’s class, stresses real-life applications.

Salamone, a Paideia Fellow from Palermo, Italy, has taken both psychology courses. “I always say that I love Paideia because it teaches me what my Wharton education is *not* teaching me—the reflection component, the thinking more broadly about the values of education, as opposed to the more technical things, the problem solving,” says Salamone. “I would feel that my education was incomplete without the Paideia component.”

Brinn Gammer C’24, a criminology major with minors in Hispanic studies

and Latin American studies, is also a Paideia Fellow, and an enthusiast of the program. She says it has funded multiple internships related to her interests in dialogue and wellness.

One involved participation in Penn Walks to Wellness, which organized weekly walks for students, faculty, and staff “just to get them outside and walking and talking.” Another was at the Department of Psychology’s Eden Lab, where she did research aimed at promoting child wellbeing. While she was studying abroad in Chile during spring semester of her junior year, the Paideia Program funded both a criminology internship and language lessons. Back in Philadelphia, she worked at Penn Carey Law School’s Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice, a position not financed but encouraged by Paideia.

For her capstone project, which doubles as her criminology senior thesis, Gammer is researching language barriers in wrongful conviction cases, particularly in Hispanic populations. Her two favorite courses at Penn, “without a doubt,” have been two of her Paideia electives: “Criminal Justice Reform: A Systems Approach,” taught by John F. Hollway C’92 LPS’18, associate dean and executive director of the Quattrone Center; and “Mindfulness and Human Development,” with Elizabeth Mackenzie C’87 Gr’94, an adjunct associate professor at the Graduate School of Education.

The latter was “as cool a class as you can take as an undergrad. It involved us meditating during class, and going through a mindfulness training,” Gammer says. “The attitude of many students here is just, ‘Go, go, go—what can I do to get to the next phase of my life?’ And this mindfulness class I took was the first time there was a genuine pause in that.”

Through campus wellness organizations, Gammer says she has encouraged Penn students “to not be so focused on what comes next—what’s the outcome, what’s the job, what’s the internship I can get.” The lesson of her mindfulness class



was “how to enjoy the present moment, and realize that every day is a gift—especially for super-duper privileged kids like us.” But she is hardly immune from the pressures afflicting her classmates. “It’s a constant battle,” she says. “I feel like maybe once or twice a year I have an epiphany where [I say to myself], ‘I’m doing too much. I need to stop.’”

**ON** March 27, for the first time, Paideia cosponsored a University event that waded into the fallout from the violence in the Middle East. Titled “The Conflict Over the Conflict: The Israel/Palestine Campus Debate While Finding Common Ground,” it featured Kenneth S. Stern, director of the Bard Center for the Study of Hate and the author of a 2020 book on the campus debate over the Middle East.

In the Class of 1978 Orrery Pavilion of the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, with security personnel guarding the entrances and an audience of about 50, Stern spoke forcefully in favor of free speech on campus. “We need to create an environment where people have the expectation and welcome being disturbed by ideas,” he said. He labeled attempts to curtail and even punish pro-Palestinian speech as “McCarthyism” and urged students to “develop a habit of critically reexamining your own thinking” and “reject simplistic formulas.”

In an audience Q&A after the talk, Madeline Kohn C’26, a Paideia Fellow and urban studies major, posed a challenging question. “I have seen personally among students that even for those [for whom] this free speech absolutism and intellectual inquiry is really exciting, there’s a double burden of either feeling like you’re betraying a community you come from, or a fear of being regarded as a traitor,” she said. “Do you have any advice for students who might be experiencing that?”

Stern suggested that students “be true” to their convictions while also searching for common ground. “Life is too short

## “If we don’t cultivate a commitment to listening along with the commitment to speech, we are not doing our work.”

to not say what you think, but you don’t necessarily have to say everything you think at the moment,” he added.

Delli Carpini regards Paideia’s past hesitancy in engaging publicly with campus turmoil as a shortcoming. “The thing that I wish we could do more of is being able to react in real time to crises like the Hamas–Israel conflict, like an event that might happen on campus that creates real consternation and divides,” he says. “We need to figure out a way we can be more immediately available as a resource. I don’t know how we do that effectively.”

For a while, he says, “the feeling was [that] emotions were just too raw. Sometimes the right thing to do is to stand back. You’ve got to be strategic. But if Penn is going to be a place where difference can be discussed, even hotly contested issues—which it is, in many ways—we need to improve our ability to provide real spaces and guidance for students, faculty, and staff to dialogue on these issues in ways that can be insightful and helpful. And I think Paideia could play a role in that. It does now. It could play a bigger role.”

Paideia faculty meet monthly over lunch, in a “community of practice,” to discuss pedagogical issues. Ropp says that in the fall the meetings spurred “a couple of really meaningful conversations around emotionality in the classroom,” inspiring her to create primers that she has shared across the University. “When Emotions Run High” suggests that instructors acknowledge stressful issues in a nonjudgmental way. “Consider that your gathering space has the potential to be a refuge,” the document says. “Take special care to ensure a safe passage: Greet people warmly and by name as they come in. Have music

playing. Bring snacks. Spritz aromatherapy spray. Soften the lighting.” Another resource, “Making Space for Emotion,” advises that faculty “make respect for diverse emotional reactions a core value” and “cultivate emotional literacy.”

Paideia Fellows learn how to engage in respectful political dialogue in their required proseminars. Ben-Porath sees their interactions as a template: “They are not dogmatic. They are not aggressive. They are never hateful. They always are striving to listen and to understand diverse perspectives. And this for me is a model of what I would like the program to offer to other people on campus.”

Penn, too, can do better, she suggests. “From a Paideia perspective,” Ben-Porath says, “I think as a university we haven’t invested our efforts in, first of all, cultivating this shared foundation of knowledge, ensuring that people share a factual basis upon which they can build their diverse perspectives about some of these issues. But, also, I think we centered more of our attention on speech, which is very important, and not enough of our attention on listening, which at a university has to be a component of our commitment to speech.

“In a democracy, it’s enough if you can say your thing. You vote, that’s your expression. You make a statement, you protest, it’s enough that you can talk. But this is *not* enough when the goal is the learning and the production of knowledge, like it is for schools and universities.

“At the University, if we don’t cultivate a commitment to listening along with the commitment to speech, we are not doing our work. This is where Paideia really supplements some of the current discussion about open expression and its boundaries,” Ben-Porath says. “There is no point in arguing over the boundaries when we don’t ensure that people are able to listen to each other. It matters very little that you can speak if nobody’s hearing you out.”

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Julia M. Klein is a frequent *Gazette* contributor.

# THE MAKING OF THINGS

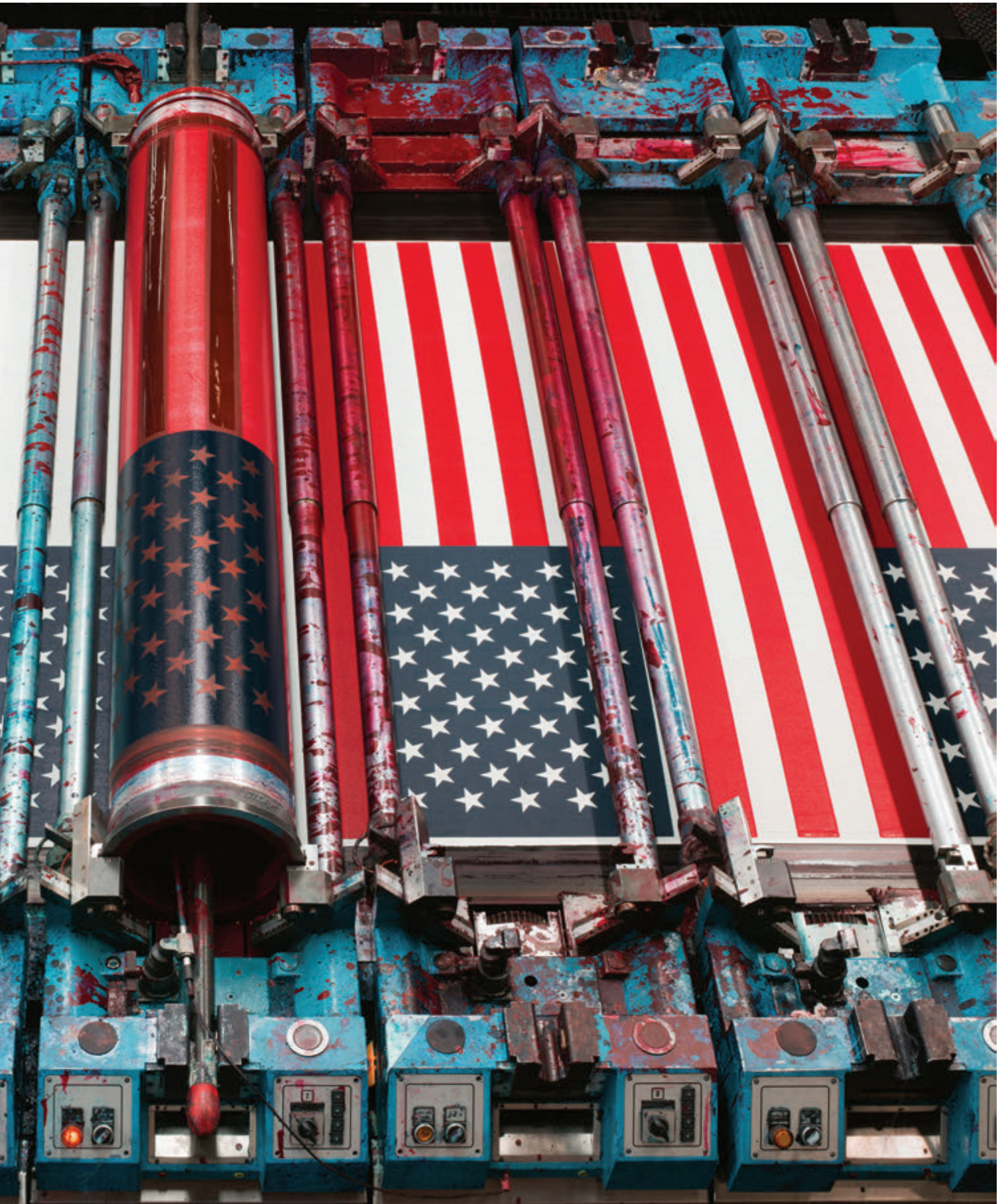
Over a decade-long photographic journey, Christopher Payne has explored the world of American manufacturing, from pianos to jet engines, pencils to 3D-printed rockets.



**"MY** photographs are a celebration of the making of things, of the transformation of raw materials into useful objects and the human skill and mechanical precision brought to bear on these materials that give them form and purpose," writes Christopher Payne GAR'96 in the afterword to his latest collection of photographs *Made in America* (Abrams, 2023), in which he documents—in stunning full-page color images both intimate and immense in scale—the range of American manufacturing from the industries that launched the industrial revolution to advanced technological processes key to a 21st century revival.









This page: Piano rims in rim conditioning room, Steinway & Sons, Queens, New York. Inlaying a decorative rosette on a guitar, C. F. Martin & Company, Nazareth, Pennsylvania. Right: Trimming of action center pin bushings, Steinway & Sons.



**Payne felt a personal connection to the Steinway factory, which he first visited in 2002, because his father and grandmother had both been pianists.**

Through a mix of personal projects and assignments, including for the *New York Times Magazine*, Payne has spent a decade on a “photographic journey to learn more about what’s made here.” In some cases, he was free to come and go as he pleased and wait to find the right moment and ideal shot. In others, he had only a day or two to photograph in a factory that might cover a million square feet or more, which he compares to “looking for a particular leaf on a giant oak tree.” (In general, he notes, factory access has become harder because of concerns over safety and intellectual property and the passing



**Made in America**  
 Photographs by Christopher Payne,  
 Foreword by Kathy Ryan,  
 Introduction by Simon Winchester  
 Abrams Books. 240 pages, \$85

of the days when companies “spent lavishly on annual reports and were eager to pull back the curtain for popular magazines like *LIFE* and *Fortune*.”)

Depending on the industry, some factories have stuck with the same methods over time, others have reinvented themselves as “new applications for their products have come into existence,” and some newer facilities “have redefined the very concept of ‘factory,’” Payne writes. But all of them “share a commitment to craftsmanship and quality that can’t be outsourced. There is, for sure, a certain romance in the idea of making our own goods here in the US, but it is no longer entirely nostalgia; it is also opportunity and necessity.”

Describing his approach, Payne points to the weight he places on history and to conveying both “useful information—and beauty!” in his photographs. “To do so, I try to understand my subject—how does it work, what is the most essential part of the process, how is it unique?”

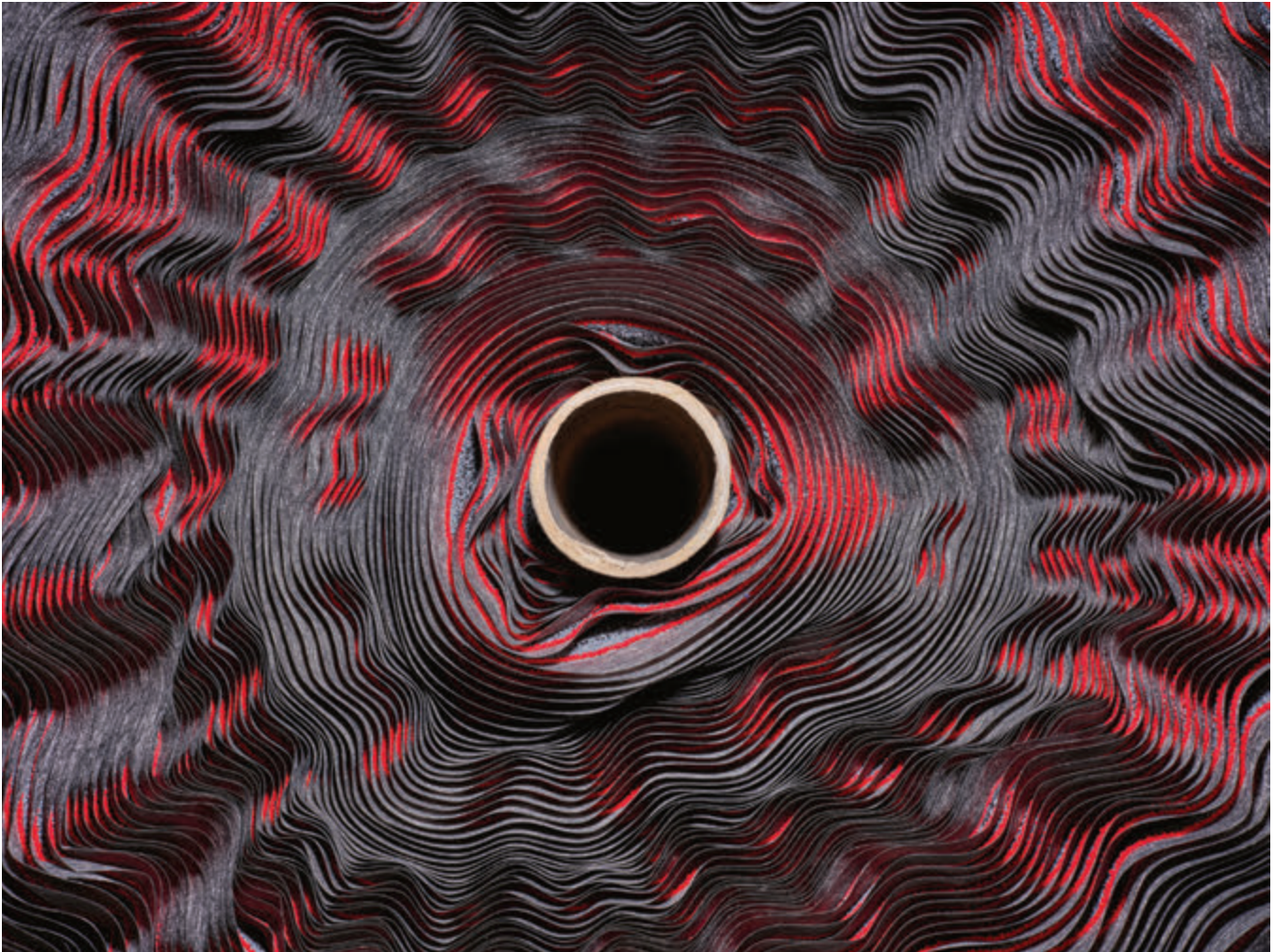
Photography by Christopher Payne







Roll of carpet, to be finished with carbon-negative backing that cancels out manufacturing emissions, Interface, La Grange, Georgia. Vinyl records that failed quality control, to be reground and reused, Independent Record Pressing, Bordentown, New Jersey.



**Payne points to the weight he places on history and to conveying both “useful information—and beauty!” in his photographs.**

He attributes that “immersive technique”—as well as the origin of his interest in photography—to his experience as an architecture student working summers with the Historic American Engineering Record, a National Park Service program “entrusted with documenting the nation’s industrial heritage.”

Payne’s job was to execute drawings of “old bridges, grain elevators, and power plants,” but he was impressed by the HAER photographers who “transformed these humble structures into architectural masterpieces.” He originally planned his first book, *New York’s Forgotten Substations: The Power Behind the Subway*, to be a collection of similar drawings, but the snapshots he took as a memory aid “soon became my pas-



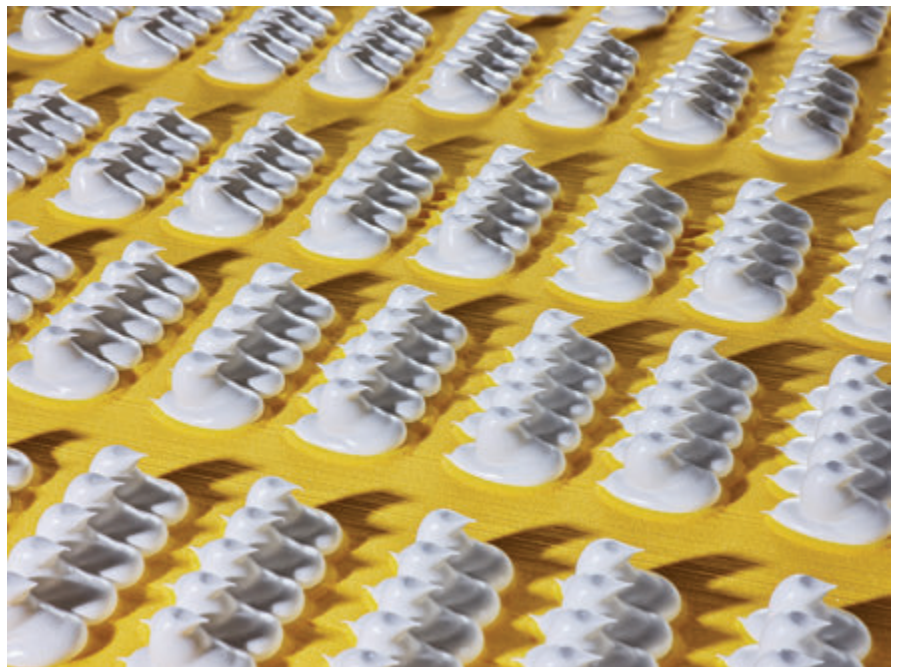
sion,” and he learned photography over “hundreds of hours locked inside these buildings, imagining the decrepit, abandoned interiors as stage sets, and making plenty of mistakes along the way.”

For *Asylum: Inside the Closed World of State Mental Hospitals* [“Architecture of Madness,” Mar|Apr 2010], Payne visited some 70 facilities in 30 states, most completely abandoned or operating at a fraction of capacity, to evoke the history of institutions that once formed self-contained communities where, as the neurologist and writer Oliver Sacks put it in the book’s introduction, inmates could be both “mad and safe.”

Payne cites as the starting point for the new book a visit he paid in 2010 to a yarn mill in Maine that reminded him of hospital workshops he’d photographed for *Asylum*. He went on to discover other mills and to become friendly with the owners, who “in addition to opening their doors, would inform me on more than one occasion of a colorful production run, an invaluable tip that transformed a drab, monochromatic scene into something photogenic and magical.” They also shared the challenges of keeping their businesses going in a globalizing economy—as when one shirt factory owner promised him an image that would capture “the narrative arc of the textile industry in America,” only to reveal “a vast, empty hall” with the explanation “Gone to China.”

Payne notes that he had expected to be shown “a room with endless rows of spinning frames, like something out of a Lewis Hine photograph,” and the social reformer who documented child labor at the turn of the 20th century is one of the influences he credits in the afterword, along with the World War II-era photos of Alfred T. Palmer. His work for the Farm Security Administration (FSA) and the US Office of War Information featured “factories, shipyards, dams, and power plants all over the country,” and he is best known for his portraits of men and women working in aircraft factories, which employed

A block of container ship *Matsonia* under construction, General Dynamics NASSCO, San Diego. PEEPS in progress on a sugarcoated conveyor belt, Just Born Quality Confections, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.



**“I try to understand my subject—  
how does it work, what is the most essential  
part of the process, how is it unique?”**



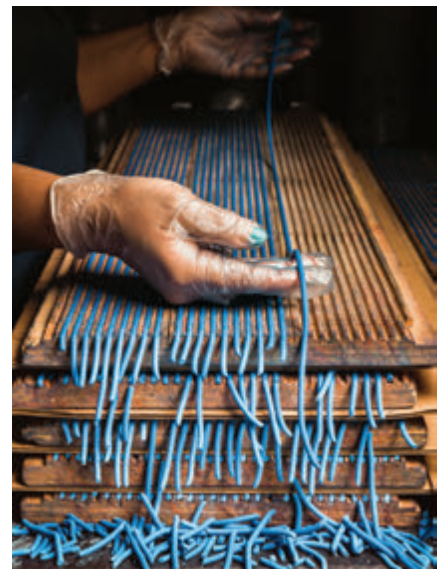
Picker and duster for separating and cleaning raw wool, Bartlettyarns, Harmony, Maine. Extruded cores for colored pencils are placed by hand in grooved wooden boards, General Pencil Company, Jersey City, New Jersey.



dramatic lighting to highlight his subjects and reduce visual clutter “just as common in factories then as it is now!”

Textiles are one focus of the book’s first section, “Traditional Craft,” and other highlights include the Steinway & Sons piano factory in Queens, New York; Martin Guitars in Nazareth, Pennsylvania; a pencil factory; and makers of boats, hats, and roller skates. Payne felt a personal connection to the Steinway factory, which he first visited in 2002, because his father and grandmother had both been pianists. After their deaths, “my memories of the factory took on a more profound, spiritual importance, and I felt an obligation to return to take pictures of the instruments so deeply

**“Mill owners would inform me of a colorful production run, an invaluable tip that transformed a drab, monochromatic scene into something photogenic and magical.”**







Ribbon ceramics, Corning, Inc., Corning, New York.  
Glass vials being filled with liquid vaccine and corked with rubber stoppers in sterile environment, Catalent, Bloomington, Indiana.

**“I’ve come to believe in the resilience of our manufacturing sectors and am reminded of the genius and ingenuity of American mechanical engineers, inventors, and makers of the machines.”**

connected to my family.” The resulting series pays tribute to the extraordinary craftsmanship of Steinway’s manufacturing process by “deconstruct[ing]” the familiar shape of the piano “into its unseen constituent parts” to offer “a glimpse into the hidden choreography of production.”

The middle section, “Production at Scale,” has Payne documenting the steps involved in hatching the iconic marshmallow treat PEEPS, printing the *New York Times*, assembling a variety of household appliances, and building huge and complex mechanical devices like jet engines, container ships, steam turbines, and nuclear submarines.

While there’s still an element of gigantism in the book’s final section, “Making the Future,” the emphasis is on precision work with high-tech materials in controlled, laboratory-like environments. Payne shows work involving fiber optic



cables, ribbon ceramics, silicon wafers, and the making and filling of glass vials for COVID-19 vaccines, as well as electric vehicle assembly lines for Tesla and Ford; fiberglass wind power blades; and Star-gate, the world’s largest 3D printer, in the process of printing a rocket. Rolls of carpet seem to harken back to an earlier era but have “carbon-negative” backing.

Whether old school or high tech, Payne emphasizes the commonalities across the

industries he has photographed. “Along the way I’ve come to believe in the resilience of our manufacturing sectors and am reminded of the genius and ingenuity of American mechanical engineers, inventors, and makers of the machines,” he writes. “Through their work, one can find common ground between the old and new and see a future where traditional and cutting-edge methods both play a role in our economic well-being.” —JP

## Calendar

**Annenberg Center**

pennlivearts.org

**Children's Festival** May 5–7**Calpulli Mexican Dance Company**

May 5–7

**Pilobolus** May 5**Machine de Cirque** May 5**The Amazing Max** May 6**Literature to Life** May 7**NDR Bigband & Kinan Azmeh** May 10**The Lady Hoofers Tap Ensemble** May 11**Madeleine Peyroux** May 12**Mark Morris Dance Group**

May 31–Jun. 1

**Toll The Bell** Jun. 7**Theatre of Witness** Jun. 13–14**Arthur Ross Gallery**

arthurrossgallery.org

open Tues.–Sun.

**Barbara Earl Thomas:****The Illuminated Body**

Through May 21

**David C. Driskell and Friends**

Jun. 15–Sep. 15

**Above:** Bruce Davidson, *Two Women at Lunch Counter, New York, 1962*. Gelatin silver print, University of Pennsylvania Art Collection, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Tamir and Leah Bloom.

**ICA**

icaphila.org

**Dominique White and****Alberta Whittle: Sargasso Sea****Tomashi Jackson: Across the Universe**

Both through Jun. 2

**Kelly Writers House**

writing.upenn.edu/wh

**KWH & Pixel to Print Zine Fest** May 1**Morris Arboretum & Gardens**

morrisarboretum.org

open daily, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

**Penn Libraries**

library.upenn.edu

**Time of Change: Civil Rights****Photography of Bruce Davidson**

Through May 20

**Revolutionary Aesthetics: Afterlives of Central American Insurgency**

Through May 24

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

Through Aug. 31

**Penn Museum**

penn.museum

**Ancient Food & Flavor: Special****Exhibition** (ongoing)**From the Green Sahara to Kushite****Pharaohs** (lecture) May 11**Digs & Dice: Let's Play the Royal****Game of Ur** May 16**The Hidden History of Egyptian Labor in Abydos** (online) Jun. 5**World Café Live**

worldcafelive.com

**Katie Pruitt** May 11**The Moth StorySLAM: Snooping** May 14**Pachyman and Combo Chimbita** May 15**Two Hot Takes Podcast** May 16**Sonny Landreth and The Iguanas** May 18**Ruth Moody** May 22**Lydia Hilliard** May 25**Maggie Rose** May 29**Chris Smith and Peter Mulvey** May 30**Yaya Bey** Jun. 1**The Moth StorySLAM: Guts** Jun. 4**PRISM Quartet** Jun. 8**Lloyd Cole** Jun. 15**Medium Build** Jun. 20**Dada** Jun. 21



# The Planters

The first Penn student to submit a film as a doctoral dissertation has transformed it into a moving portrait of unsung labor.

**T**he first time he carried his camera down to Georgia to film Mexican tree planters on the job, Noam Osband Gr'17 planned to plant pine saplings alongside them. It was 2013, and the anthropology graduate student aimed to become the first in Penn history to submit a film as a doctoral dissertation. Osband had raised seed money in what you might call the new-fashioned way: after winning \$27,799 as a *Jeopardy* contestant during his first year at Penn, he bagged \$250,000 two years later on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* ["Gazetteer," Jan|Feb 2015].

The men he joined in Georgia, who'd come primarily from Oaxaca on H-2A visas, stood to earn about \$400 per six-day workweek—though they universally hoped to make more by exceeding quotas. Provided they avoided injury, the

strongest—and strongest-willed—could plant upwards of 4,000 saplings per day in good conditions. Beginning in early winter in the southern US, they would work their way north over the course of an eight- to nine-month season, planting for timber companies and landowners in the lumber and wood pulp industries.

"I lasted two weeks," Osband recalled. Each day in the fields—where conditions were more often swampy or briar-choked than good—left him shattered with exhaustion by the time it came to shoot footage and conduct interviews. It was impossible to do both, because planting pines at such an intense rate was barely possible to begin with.

He fretted that exchanging his dibble bar and sapling satchel for a lightweight video-camera would crater whatever cred-

ibility he had. "How are these guys not going to hate me?" he thought. But the budding anthropologist found a way to endear himself to the crew. Apart from cramming into the same cheap motel rooms (bedding down with a first-year planter who slept diagonally) and eating the same food (beans and hot dogs cooked over a Sterno burner one night, frozen microwave burritos the next), Osband became "El Aguador," filling his knapsack with water bottles and delivering them to the migrant laborers throughout the day.

The *Waterboy* defended his dissertation—a three-hour film examining three distinct corners of the tree-planting industry in the US and Canada, supplemented by a 40-page paper—in 2017. Seven years later, he has retailored one thread of that project into a documentary titled *A Thousand Pines*. Focusing on the Oaxacan migrant laborers with whom he embedded, it aired on April 1 on PBS after appearing in roughly a dozen film festivals. It will be screened during the Philadelphia Latino Arts & Film Festival in May.

The 73-minute feature documentary is a far cry from the heavily narrated, copi-



Film still courtesy *A Thousand Pines*

ously footnoted scholarly video with which he earned his PhD. (John Jackson, the Richard Perry University Professor of anthropology and Penn's current provost, was an academic advisor on the first effort and is thanked in the credits of the second.) Osband and codirector Sebastian Diaz Aguirre distilled hours of the original footage into a taut narrative. Two men supply its emotional center of gravity: 20-season veteran Raymundo Morales, the crew's foreman; and his nephew Rodolfo, a first-timer who took out a loan to finance the trip after having fallen into debt to pay for his daughter's birth by caesarean section.

The documentary offers a stark portrayal of the labor these men do and the sacrifices they make to do it. Planting pines by the thousand in all kinds of weather is punishing work. Long-term separation from the families they do it for exacts a heavier toll. Yet the film also extends its sympathy to their paymasters. Through interviews with the founders of two forestry-services companies, Osband and Diaz illuminate the industry's transformation from a "counterculture occupation" powered by back-to-the-land hippies in the 1970s into a locus of hard-nosed corporate competition where profit margins depend heavily on Latino migrant laborers holding temporary agricultural visas. The result is a subtle and moving portrait of hard work, in all its complexity.

Struggling through mud by day, plucking thorns from each other's hands by night, wiring cash to wives and mothers to settle hospital bills back home, these men become family to one another. A dark mood in one man's breast can infect the entire group. A bright one can fill the frame with tenderness. Osband shows workers staggering beneath the weight of their double-bag sapling satchels, and massaging ointments into each other's backs and necks at night. He captures the disillusionment produced by a paltry paycheck after a week struggling to pierce frozen ground, and the obvious pride these men derive from improving

their families' prospects back in Mexico—where the minimum wage is \$6 per day and domestic agricultural workers are fortunate to earn \$70 per week.

"It's backbreaking work," Osband said in an interview, and it pays far less than when young Americans were the ones doing it in the 1970s, camping for free on timber-company land. "But it really does provide economic mobility. You go to the rural countryside in Oaxaca, and you can tell who's worked in the US, in what's usually a difficult job, because they have a nice house. And they can buy land."

Viewers who come to *A Thousand Pines* seeking capitalist triumphalism, however, will be just as disappointed as those itching for a diatribe against labor exploitation. Modeling his approach after the documentarian Errol Morris, "who does not tell you what to think in any of his films," Osband steers clear of polemic or propaganda. In so doing he paints an exceptionally humane portrait of a class of men who are often treated as one-dimensional objects of fear, pity, and any number of other sentiments directed at low-skilled immigrant laborers. By turns unsettling and inspiring, the documentary does more to illuminate the reality of seasonal migrant labor than any op-ed column, cable TV pundit, or presidential debate in recent memory.

"For my family, I give my life," says Raymundo, explaining the motivations that spurred him to leave his wife and children nine months of every year for two decades. "When you want to get ahead you leave, and that's what I did."

Hundreds of crews like his ply the US between January and August each year, collectively planting 1.5 billion saplings annually. Anyone who changes a baby's diaper, opens a cardboard box, rosins a violin bow, swallows a slow-release medicine capsule, or reads a magazine benefits from their unseen labor. Osband does them, and us, a service by lifting it into the light. —TP

## Imaginary Heartland

The countryside looms large in America's self-image. Should it?

By Dennis Drabelle

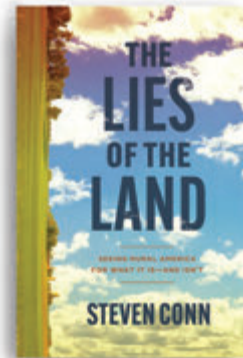
Steven Conn Gr'94's new book, *The Lies of the Land*, is a myth-buster that begins and ends with a swing at Thomas Jefferson's idealization of yeoman tillers of the soil. "American pioneers and homesteaders," Conn argues

in his introduction, "far from being anchored to the land like they were supposed to be, were restless and expansive and mobile, perhaps even more so in the nineteenth century than in the twentieth. ... Rural people were market oriented, commercially driven, and financially savvy from the start of the Republic."

Some 250 pages later, the Miami (Ohio) University history professor concludes that "many Americans ... project onto

rural America their yearning for tight-knit community, for self-reliance and independence, neighborliness, and simpler, slower living; but that fantasy cannot accommodate the realities of life in many parts of rural America, nor does it take into account the thorough extent to which the military, industry, corporations, and suburbia have shaped rural space." In between, Conn shows how those forces have undermined the occupants of America's troubled countryside.

The book is replete with striking evidence and fresh insights. Take, for in-



**The Lies of the Land: Seeing Rural America for What It Is—and Isn't**  
By Steven Conn Gr'94  
University of Chicago Press. 317 pages, \$29



stance, Earl Butz, the secretary of agriculture in the Nixon and Ford administrations and one of the villains in Conn's industrial section. Butz was so keen to replace what he viewed as the communitistic New Deal approach to agriculture that he implemented policies conducive to massive crop surpluses—the perverse effect of which was to encourage further overproduction because farmers had to grow even more of a commodity to offset falling prices caused by the glut.

Among the results were crops treated with ever-increasing doses of fertilizer and pesticides, the transformation of excess corn into high-fructose corn syrup, and the use of excess soybeans in a welter of products, including animal feed and the “milk” poured into a Starbucks latte. “That we are awash in processed foods, with all the implications they have had for our health,” Conn sums up, “can be traced to the Butzian imperative to grow more.”

Or consider Cal Turner, the founder of Dollar General, a discount store chain that at the time Conn was writing had some 18,000 outlets. Turner's trick was to get hold of “discontinued items, closeouts, slightly damaged items, out-of-season goods” and sell them cheaply from rented buildings in the American boondocks. The company typically obtains short-term leases for its stores, so that unprofitable ones can be here today, gone tomorrow.

While in operation, the stores are so understaffed that they attract thieves and play host to violence. Conn reports that “fifty people were killed in Dollar General stores between 2017 and 2020.” You might have already guessed that Dollar General is also a tight-fisted employer—while a store's customers are buying goods at cut rates, the too-few employees are getting paid the same way. “For the Turners,” Conn concludes, “[rural poverty] has proved a golden opportunity,” and the same is true for the company's stockholders.

Conn also zeroes in on the loss of bucolic landscapes to “suburban sprawl.”

Between 1970 and 1990, as the population of Chicago and its environs grew by four percent, the amount of developed land rose by 46 percent. Contrary to received wisdom, though, “in-migration from the countryside has been at least as significant in the development of suburbia as out-migration from the city.” Although in-migration is nothing new—Conn reminds us of the fictional in-migrants in Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* (1900) and Sherwood Anderson's *Winesburg, Ohio* (1919)—it tends to be overlooked. As do the more than 700 Southern Baptist churches in Conn's home state, which reflect “the enormous influx of white southerners into central Ohio since the 1960s.” He also observes that Garrison Keillor's Lake Wobegon, “the little town that time forgot and that the decades couldn't improve, sprang from the imagination of a kid who grew up in one of the fastest growing suburbs in [Minnesota].”

Whether sending city dwellers farther out or drawing country folk farther in, suburbs can take a heavy toll on farmland and those who have worked it for decades. As one disgruntled fellow explained, “Town people will pay extra for a lot facing a farmer's pasture so they can see those pretty cows. But when a dairyman spreads manure or a hog farmer builds a miniature lagoon, they want to sue him.” Many farmers go with the flux, forgoing conservation practices in favor of cash-cropping their land for all it is worth before selling out.

Conn only touches upon the social problems rampant in the hinterlands, such as high rates of opioid addiction and suicide. He aims not to provide a comprehensive survey or propose solutions, but to clear away the misinformed nostalgia that keeps policymakers from seeing rural America clearly. At that he has succeeded admirably.

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Dennis Drabelle G'66 L'69 is the author, most recently, of *The Power of Scenery: Frederick Law Olmsted and the Origin of National Parks*.

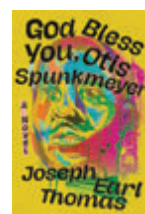
## Briefly Noted



**THE SINS ON THEIR BONES** by Laura Resnick  
Samotin C'14 (Random House Canada, 2024, \$18.00.) Set in a Jewish folklore-inspired reimagining of 19th-century Eastern Europe, this queer dark fantasy debut pits two estranged husbands and a daring spymaster on opposite sides of a civil war.



**THE ONLY BLACK GIRL IN THE ROOM** by Alex Travis C'15 (Alcove Press, 2024, \$29.99.) Genevieve Francis is a young Black reporter stuck doing diversity checks for her white colleagues when she gets her big break covering a prominent CEO's gala. The only problem: the CEO is her ex, whose marriage proposal she publicly rejected four years prior. This debut novel explores what it means to believe in your future when everyone and everything is working against you.



**GOD BLESS YOU, OTIS SPUNKMEYER: A Novel** by Joseph Earl Thomas (Grand Central Publishing, 2024, \$28.00.) Thomas, a doctoral candidate in the English department, has written a debut novel about Black life in Philadelphia and the struggle to build intimate connections through the eyes of an ex-Army grad student.



**TRANSFORMATIVE NEGOTIATION: Strategies for Everyday Change and Equitable Futures** by Sarah Federman C'98 (University of California Press, 2023, \$29.95.) A professor of conflict resolution presents a contemporary and inclusive how-to guide to everyday negotiation that centers on social justice and equity, with real-world examples from her students, such as child custody negotiations and negotiating reduced late fees from the IRS.

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

# Into the Dark

The son of a World War II fighter pilot probes his father's service and its ramifications.

By Julia M. Klein

**It has taken Paul Hendrickson a lifetime to tell his father's story,** an uncomfortable compound of wartime heroism and peacetime violence.

The senior lecturer in English at Penn and former *Washington Post* reporter has authored seven previous books, including *Plagued by Fire* ["Arts," Mar|Apr 2020], *Hemingway's Boat*, and *Sons of Mississippi*, which won the 2003 National Book Critics Circle award for best nonfiction ["Arts," May|Jun 2004]. One can imagine this memoir, *Fighting the Night: Iwo Jima, World War II, and a Flyer's Life*, gestating, mutating, stirring pain, and being shelved as other, less emotionally grueling projects took precedence.

The title is a locution Hendrickson attributes to his father. It refers to Joe Paul Hendrickson's World War II service, emblematic of the much-mythologized Greatest Generation. The Kentucky farm boy turned 25-year-old first lieutenant piloted the legendary P-61 Black Widow, a fighter-bomber purpose-built for night flying. He launched his missions on the *Rita B*, named for his wife, from a base on the island of Iwo Jima following the months-long battle immortalized as one of the war's deadliest. His son describes the plane as "a small, tight orchestra of violence" with "an undeniable mystique" arising from "the idea of dark, of stealth, of working under cloud cover or in the glow of moonlight."

In *Fighting the Night*, Hendrickson embarks on "a journalistic search for my

father, although really for both my parents, and for some others, too, who flowed in and out of their lives." His narrative zig-zags through time, anchors itself in vintage photographs, and is punctuated by achronological italicized passages—all attempts to pin down an elusive past. Hendrickson has clearly wrestled with how much to include, but untold family stories shadow the narrative and often leave the reader wanting more.

*Fighting the Night* turns out to be something of a meta-memoir—a self-conscious exploration of the extent to which memoir requires choices and elisions, of how much it suffers from gaps in the available evidence (all those missing wartime letters!) and the impulse toward discretion, at whatever cost to truth. Not to mention the storyteller's own inevitable limitations. The nar-



**Fighting the Night: Iwo Jima, World War II, and a Flyer's Life**  
By Paul Hendrickson  
Alfred A. Knopf, 320 pages, \$32

**With his father now gone, Hendrickson laments not being able to “ask him all I long to know, as a son, as a writer, about sultry days on Iwo and freezing nights at 10,000 feet.”**

rator of a reported memoir, like an anthropologist, is both observer and participant, striving alternately for journalistic objectivity and the distinctive subjectivity that is the genre's rationale.

Hendrickson ably mines the documentary record to describe his father's stint in the US Army Air Forces, including a handful of particularly harrowing flights. But, with his father now gone, he laments not being able to “ask him all I long to know, as a son, as a writer, about sultry days on Iwo and freezing nights at 10,000 feet.”

The memoirist compensates with his own imaginings, and also by detouring or digressing into other wartime tales. He describes mishaps that befell other Black Widow pilots and crew members, and some of the slaughter on Iwo Jima itself. He is particularly intrigued by the Japanese commander-in-chief Tadamichi Kuribayashi, the complicated warrior memorialized cinematically in Clint Eastwood's 2006 film *Letters from Iwo Jima*.

The night that Joe Paul Hendrickson fought also connotes an emotional darkness. After the war, despite his successful career as a commercial pilot, it exploded into violence that wounded his nuclear family. Post-traumatic stress disorder, less understood in that era, was one obvious factor, his son suggests. Another seems to have been a generational legacy of (male) family violence that normalized brutal punishments for minor infractions. The author's father took his frustrations out “savagely on his sons' backs with his belt,” or “with boards he retrieved from the basement.”

The author's late mother suffered as well, though the details Hendrickson presents are sketchy. The couple were “woefully mismatched,” he writes, and their never-quite-dissolved, “largely sorrowful 61-year-marriage” featured “long agonies and occasional truces and part-time-living-together arrangements,” as well as tenderness and loyalty. His mother's story could have been an entire



book, Hendrickson notes. Similarly, the challenges faced by his siblings—a sister, a pilot brother, and especially two other brothers who were troubled in different ways—are mostly ignored. Of his late older brother, Marty, Hendrickson writes: “It was such a hard life, enough of it of his own making ... He did some bad things ... and I don’t feel like going into them.”

Over time, Hendrickson’s fear of his father receded, and his father’s emotional reserve lifted slightly. The two were able to grow closer. Attending squadron reunions, the son appreciated the camaraderie nurtured by wartime service. His father’s fellow pilots and other veterans seem to have revered him.

Hendrickson’s journey toward knowledge (“almost a carnal craving...to know more”) and reconciliation is a common theme of memoirs, and a salutary one. Embracing it nevertheless turns out to be a heavy lift for the reader, not because of Hendrickson’s failure as a writer, but because of his skill. His description of his father’s whippings induces an emotional recoil that is hard to overcome.

In both his elegant prose style and frequent references, Hendrickson reveals himself an admirer of poetry. An abridged version of Robert Penn Warren’s “Tell Me a Story” provides the book’s epigraph. Elsewhere, Hendrickson cites Robert Hayden, Sharon Olds, Richard Hugo, Robert Bly, Mark Strand, Wilfred Owen, Robert Frost, A.E. Housman, James Wright, and James Dickey, whose poem “The Firebombing” describes the flight of a Black Widow.

Hendrickson never mentions Anne Sexton. But his struggle with memory, anger, and loss evokes the title poem of her great collection *All My Pretty Ones*, a phrase borrowed from *Macbeth*. “Whether you are pretty or not,” Sexton writes, about her own flawed, deceased father, “I outlive you, / bend down my strange face to yours and forgive you.”

*Julia M. Klein writes frequently for the Gazette.*

EXHIBITION



**Peace Cries**

A Nicaraguan fist throttles a squirming Superman next to 1 Corinthians’ proclamation that “God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.” Demonic jackals bear down on a bound figure representing “disappeared” Hondurans. Camouflaged soldiers exchange assault rifles for plowshares in a hopeful invocation of the Book of Micah’s prophecy that “nation shall not lift up weapons against nation.”

These are among the scenes depicted in *Revolutionary Aesthetics: Afterlives of Central American Insurgency*, a small exhibit of posters created in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama during an era when much of Central America was immersed in Cold War conflicts that often involved the United States. On display in the Goldstein Family Gallery in Van Pelt-Dietrich Library through May 24, these mementos of insurgency and struggle were drawn from a recently acquired collection assembled by Fred Morgner, a longtime supplier of Central American books to the Penn Libraries.

The exhibit also features an intriguing time-capsule display of how these conflicts registered on Penn’s campus. Flyers and rallying signs created at the time by Penn’s Central America Solidarity Alliance—reproductions of originals gifted by Simon Baatz G’81 Gr’86—cover one wall with a vivid reminder of how students hashed out controversial topics in the days before social media.

*Revolutionary Aesthetics* was curated by Brie Gettleson, Latin American Studies librarian in the Center for Global Collections, with co-curators Logan Saenz C’25 and Josué David Chávez Gr’29.



## Locating TV's Golden Age

Behind the scenes of *The Sopranos* and *The White Lotus* with a veteran television location manager and producer. ▶



**When Mark Kamine C'79 was hired for a low-level gig**

with a show that was “testing well with housewives and professors” on a channel “known for reruns of movies and sporting events,” he didn’t have all that many expectations.

But 25 years after it first aired, *The Sopranos* remains “the biggest phenomenon of cable TV—really TV as a whole,” says Kamine, who earlier this year published the memoir *On Locations: Lessons Learned from My Life On Set with The Sopranos and in the Film Industry* to document his experiences behind the scenes of HBO’s famed mobster crime drama.

Serving as the show’s location manager, Kamine was primarily responsible for managing the show’s various settings—from the suburban New Jersey home Tony Soprano shared with his wife and two kids to the strip club and pork store where he and his mobster associates convened.

Since the show’s memorable finale in 2007—which, like the rest of the series that “broke new ground for TV,” bucked expectations—Kamine has worked his way up the film and television ladder, most recently serving as executive producer on another popular HBO series, *The White Lotus*, which took him from Hawaii (season one) to Italy (season two) and now to Thailand, where “a way bigger” season three is in the works.

Speaking over Zoom from Thailand, where he’s been since November and will remain until June, Kamine ad-

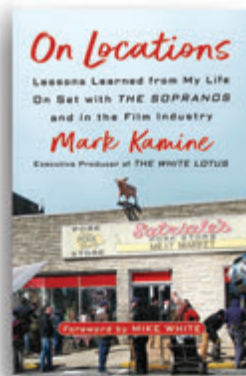
mits his good fortune getting to work on two acclaimed series two decades apart. “It’s an unheard-of jackpot to get to do this,” he says.

It’s a far cry, too, from what he thought he’d be doing when he attended Penn in the late ’70s. Though he was a film buff who enjoyed going to local cinemas, “never in a million years would have it occurred to me to work on movies,” he says. Instead, he zeroed in on a writing career, majoring in English, studying under the likes of Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes, and winning a playwriting award. After graduating from Penn, with guidance from professor Robert Storey, he pursued a master’s in English at UCLA, where he had “some encounters with the film business, just by coincidence.”

A New Jersey native, Kamine moved back across the country to live in New York City but veered off course when he decided to go to law school at Rutgers. He lasted one semester. “My father was a lawyer,” he says. “I guess I finally got it out of my system, the idea of trying to do something like him.” The first chapter of *On Locations* touches upon battles with anxiety he and his dad both waged, the “severest period” hitting Kamine in his early twenties when he dropped out of law school. “That ejected me out the other side and into the clouds for a few years, figuring out where I wanted to go.”

The rise of independent films in the ’80s—and his continued passion for them—set him down a new path. After

**“I started very low in the ranks of film production, and I wanted to show that perspective.”**



doing a variety of jobs in New York—from copy editing and freelance writing to working in an art gallery and as a carpenter’s assistant—Kamine enrolled at NYU Tisch School of the Arts, where he got an MFA degree in film. He then spent most of the ’90s in the underbelly of the industry, starting off as a location scout and driving around New York and New Jersey to find the best places for scenes, sometimes slipping cash to building supers to grease the skids toward setting up a shoot (as was “pretty constant in the film world” at the time). It was hardly glamorous work. “I spent a good amount of time setting up catering and craft service tables and cleaning and mopping and getting called to set to chase away a pigeon that was dying,” he says.

Though it was far from lucrative, Kamine made enough contacts in the production world to land on *The Sopranos* by the end of the decade.

For that series, he had a team of location scouts working with him, but Kamine proudly takes credit for spotting what would become Satriale’s Pork Store. “Driving along the main drag in Kearny, New Jersey, I spot an empty storefront near the central shopping district whose situation at the bottom of an inverted T provides good exterior angles and enough of a downtown feel to make sense as a retail venue,” he wrote in *On Locations*, adding that *Sopranos* creator David Chase liked the location, so Kamine made a deal with the property owner, who had recently bought the building for his office-cleaning company. “I tell him to stop construction and we’ll pay his rent somewhere else along with a decent fee for the building.” Soon enough, fictional meetings and mob hits were happening there over slices of *gabagool*.

Other chapters of the book detail Kamine’s working relationship with the mercurial Chase and the erratic behavior of the late megastar James Gandolfini. He also wrote about the sometimes-challenging dealings with the real-life owners of the house where Tony Soprano lived and the strip club where he worked. And he provided firsthand accounts of some of the show’s most lauded episodes, including “College,” in which Kamine took on a minor acting role, and “Pine Barrens,” in which main characters Christopher and Paulie Walnuts famously get lost in the snow-covered woods chasing a Russian nemesis.

## Alumni

Interestingly, the crew “had to scramble to find another wooded area” when a Jersey politician who didn’t like the show’s portrayal of Italian Americans quashed the original Essex County location. That politician, Kamine wrote, ended up going to prison on corruption charges.

“I love reading books about film and TV, and also novels and stories set in Hollywood,” Kamine says. “But most of them are told, for good reason, from the point of view of actors and maybe directors. ... I started very low in the ranks of film production, and I wanted to show that perspective.”

Kamine was better suited than most to write a book. Throughout his time working in TV production, he maintained a steady gig penning book reviews, primarily for the London-based *Times Literary Supplement*. He initially thought that could lead to a career in screenwriting—and once wrote a *Sopranos* spec script—but realized his “more natural arena was a literary one.”

Kamine says he managed to keep his “very different worlds” separate while on *The Sopranos*, but *White Lotus* creator Mike White took notice when he googled Kamine and found “a bunch of inarguably well-written book reviews,” White wrote in a foreword to *On Locations*. “A line producer who is also an astute reader of literature—and a great writer himself? This can’t be the same Mark Kamine. But it was. I haven’t worked with

another line producer since.” White went on to praise Kamine’s “humanist outlook, born of a writerly mind” as being crucial to the show.

For Kamine, *The White Lotus* marks what could be the final chapter. After *The Sopranos*, Kamine did three movies with director David O. Russell—*The Fighter*, *American Hustle*, and *Silver Linings Playbook*, the latter of which was a “particular pleasure” since it brought him back to Philly “all those years after my Penn days.” He also worked on a movie called *Brad’s Status* with White, who early in the pandemic was hired by HBO to create a COVID-friendly show shot primarily in one location. White called up his old colleague and “the next thing we knew we are at the 400-room Four Seasons Maui hotel,” says Kamine, who, along with his wife Tana, White, and producer David Bernad, had the run of the empty resort while prepping the first season of *The White Lotus*.

Despite plenty of production hiccups and COVID scares along the way—“That’s maybe for another book,” Kamine says—the show became an instant hit and won an Emmy for Outstanding Limited or Anthology Series, spawning the idea for more seasons with different characters in different exotic locales.

“It’s been a similar experience to [*The Sopranos*] of this sudden boom,” he says. “I feel so privileged to do this. And I might just run my career out on this show.” —DZ

Richard Stokes GAR’88



## Enhancing Eateries

When historic preservation meets modern restaurant design.

**A**lmost two decades ago, architect Richard Stokes GAR’88 spent a long weekend in Paris with interior designer Shawn Hausman. Together, they visited a dozen or so eateries, not so much to sample *steak frites* and *pot de crème*, but to photograph brass railings and zinc bars. Having gone to France on a mission for a client, they spent hours rummaging through flea market bins and trolling auction houses, emerging with enough stuff to fill a shipping container bound for Philadelphia.

“I remember we walked into a hardware store and

came across a box of ceramic outlet covers,” Stokes says. “We had this idea of installing them so they’d look like they’d been in the space forever.” When they got home, they stapled bits of wiring to the pieces, and added layer upon layer of paint, as if they’d been haphazardly updated over the ages.

The result of these painstaking efforts was the acclaimed 300-seat bistro Parc, which Stephen Starr opened on Rittenhouse Square in 2008. It was Stokes’ second go-round with the Philadelphia restaurateur, who had first turned to



him in 2004 for architectural work at the rooftop bar at Continental Midtown, also designed by Hausman. Since then, Stokes' firm (initially teamed with Hausman, but more recently handling both architecture and interiors) has designed another 20 or so restaurants for Starr, mainly in Philadelphia, but also in New York, Miami, and Washington, DC. Stokes has also become the preferred designer for other local restaurateurs and developers, including Method Co. and La Colombe.

With a 12-person office based in Center City Phila-

delphia, Stokes Architecture + Design has a wide portfolio. The firm recently helped transform a Gilded Era bank building designed by Frank Furness into a boutique hotel in Wilmington, Delaware. In the pipeline are several other hotels in the Philadelphia region, as well as a spa in a condo building in Bozeman, Montana.

There's another Starr project in the works, too—a Rittenhouse Square Italian trattoria at the site of an old Barnes & Noble inside a historic Beaux Arts building which Stokes will adapt for

restaurant use. "We're basing the design on classic restaurants found in Rome," he says. "It was important that the façade design speak to the interior design." His team has sought approval from the city's historical commission to replace the existing metal and plate glass storefronts with wood framed windows and doors, and to erect a sign with individual letters, reminiscent of those found in Rome.



**"It's always nice when there's a story already in place that we can respect."**

Stokes has worked on Le Suprême restaurant in Detroit (facing page) and the forthcoming White Dog Cafe in Chester Springs (below), as well as projects in the Wildwoods, New Jersey.

Sitting on a velvet chair behind a curved marble table in Enswell, a coffee bar-to-cocktail bar that opened in the luxe Touraine apartment building last summer, Stokes muses about his experience teasing design narratives out of historic buildings. "It's always nice when there's a story already in place that we can respect," he says. "The Touraine was built in 1917 as a hotel, and this was the original dining room." Indicating the original mosaic tile beneath us, he adds that its color scheme of burgundy, green, and cream informed the colors in the room, while the building's era, poised between Art Nouveau and Art Deco, is evident in curvy-meets-geometric touches like fluted columns, rounded niches, and the cafe's signature rectangular chandeliers.

The firm's sensitive retrofits of historic buildings has garnered it preservation awards from local groups in Philadelphia and DC. No project thus far, though, has older roots than the forthcoming White Dog Cafe in Chester Springs, Pennsylvania. (This location is the fifth in the White Dog franchise; the original, on Penn's campus, marked its 40th anniversary last year). There, Stokes was charged with architectural and interior design for an adaptive reuse of a home dating from the 1700s, that later served as a stop on the Underground Railroad and then a tavern for many decades. "Our goal was to enhance the feeling of a historic home and tavern, while updating the building for a new era," Stokes says.



Photos by Matt Wargo (Wildwood) and Neil Santos (portrait); rendering (White Dog) courtesy Stokes Architecture + Design

“The original bar and four fireplaces were retained, and the grounds incorporate ruins and fragments of the stone barns and other structures found on the site.”

Born in Cleveland, the 63-year-old Fidler Square resident says he always wanted to be an architect. “I was drawing buildings and city plans from a young age,” he says. “I even designed a restaurant, with a whole lighting scheme, when I was 12. I still have the drawings.” Instead of Legos, he preferred Super City, a girders-and-panels mid-century-modern take on the building block.

After graduating from Kent State University with a degree in architecture, he came to Penn for graduate work, and took a studio class with Steven Izenour GAR’65, then a principal at Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates. Working on a project dubbed “Learning from the Wildwoods” (a kind of sequel to VSBA’s famous “Learning from Las Vegas” tract), Stokes submitted a design for the StarLux hotel as part of a revitalization plan for Wildwood, New Jersey, pegged to its underappreciated collection of 1950s-era motels. Years later, he wound up renovating the StarLux, as well as creating a now-iconic gateway for the city comprised of nine-foot stainless steel letters that spell out Wildwoods amid 34 brightly painted concrete beach balls. Stokes also accepted a job offer from VSBA, where he stayed for a decade.

In 2000, he decided to hang his own shingle and found

himself drifting towards restaurant and hotel work.

“Hospitality can have a real impact on a neighborhood or a city,” he says. “Parc was something new for Philadelphia—a very large, open-all-day space with indoor-outdoor seating—and it really activated that corner. And the same was true for Frankford Hall, our first project in Fishtown. The restaurant site was an abandoned building. It didn’t even have a roof. I said, ‘Let’s make it a beer garden!’ I looked at it as a meeting place, a huge open space like a park. Frankford Avenue lent itself to this idea because it was filled with big industrial buildings.”

From placemaking to architecture and, increasingly, interiors, Stokes has covered the built environment gamut. He says he’s learned a lot along the way from talented designers like Hausman, but now leans strongly toward taking on projects where the firm’s scope includes both interior design and architecture. That not only allows for a much more seamless process, he says, but also for the work to have one complete narrative, “which very much matters to us.”

What it all comes down to is creating great spaces that activate their locales and become places in which people congregate. “I rarely do residential,” he sums up. “I prefer the public realm. It’s always interesting when a hospitality space opens to the crowds and it’s not ours anymore. If I only did houses, where would we have met today?”

—JoAnn Greco

Nimo Patel W’00

## Finding Nimo

How a journey of self-discovery led to a life of service and spreading goodness through uplifting music.

**N**imesh “Nimo” Patel W’00 had just finished a meeting with the Wharton Undergraduate Media & Entertainment Club he co-founded at Penn. Slicing through campus on College Green, he chatted with his friend about the bright futures they saw for themselves. “We were like, *Dude, we’re gonna make such a big impact on this world,*” Patel remembers.

At the time, he planned on becoming CEO of Warner Bros. someday and owning a beach house in Santa Monica. He laughs thinking back on that. What would the Wharton undergrad he was then think of the Nimo Patel he is now: someone who meditates and serves underprivileged kids out of an ashram in India; who writes uplifting songs about gratitude and kindness and performs them all over the world for free?

It’s been a twisty road to get there, but “now I live more from the lens of purpose,” Patel says. “I just want to be of service while I’m alive.”

When he graduated from Penn 24 years ago, he took off on a typical post-Wharton path: a job with American Express in lower Manhattan. That’s where he was during the September 11 attacks, working next door to the World Trade Center when the first tower fell. “That obvious-

ly would make you ask questions, whatever they are,” he says. “For me, it was: *What am I really doing with my life? Life could end at any moment.* This was a reality check.”

He quit his Wall Street job and moved back to Los Angeles—where he’s from originally—to pursue a music career. As a junior at Penn, Patel had helped start Karmacy with Swapnil Shah C’99 W’99 and two non-Penn friends. The group blended American hip-hop with Indian music, which in the late ’90s and early 2000s put them on the vanguard of South Asian fusion. Karmacy continued booking more and more performances, and even found airtime on a new MTV Desi channel.

Meanwhile, Patel and some other friends launched a South Asian comic strip called Badmash. They emailed it to some friends, who sent it to more friends, and by the mid-2000s, it had hundreds of thousands of subscribers. Karmacy ended their run in 2008 when Patel opened a well-funded animation studio.

On the surface, things were going well. But then the questions that first surfaced after 9/11 came back. “What am I doing?” Patel remembers thinking. “Internally, I was really suffering. I reached this point, this goal, and I didn’t feel happy. The



Patel has made it his mission to help kids in the slums of India, including creating theatrical productions for them to perform in on tour.



inner compass was misaligned.” He came across a quote from Mahatma Gandhi: “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

“I started thinking, I haven’t done anything for others,” he says. “I’m just trying to juice everything for my own experiences.” He shut down Badmash Animation Studios and committed to spending a full year volunteering with the nonprofit Manav Sadhna, based out of an ashram in India. “That was the beginning of a new life,” he says.

Though his parents are both originally from India, Patel grew up as a California kid. He didn’t even speak their language much. But he showed up at the Gandhi Ashram in 2010, ready to start his year serving slum communities. He brought a few clothes he’d kept and whatever money he had saved. Every-

thing else he’d already given away—even the hundreds of CDs and DVDs he’d been collecting since his Penn days.

His focus became helping to uplift families in dire poverty through “education, health, nutrition, love,” he says. “In that one year, I grew more than I could imagine in the previous 10 years.”

By his second year in India, Patel was creating a theatrical production for talented kids from slum communities to perform. It featured 16 kids singing and dancing, and in 2012, he took them on a tour across the US and UK. “I was able to be a big brother, a father, a mother—they used to call me mustache mom—to these kids,” he says.

The tour brought attention and press coverage, but for the first time, he didn’t lean in. It wasn’t easy for him to hop off a wave of momentum. “I had to keep saying no to

myself,” he says. And it was during that time of deliberately standing still that music came back to him. For the first time in five years, he felt like writing songs again.

In 2013, he put out three songs, each with its own music video: “Being Kind,” “Planting Seeds,” and “Grateful: A Love Song to the World,” the latter of which has amassed more than 2.5 million views on YouTube. Back in his Karmacy days, Patel saw himself as an entertainer, but “this time around, when I reconnected to music, I saw the opportunity to serve through music,” he says.

He took off on a tour the following year, renting a car for seven months and performing across the US for free. He gave away copies of his album, too. “I’m not going to charge for the message of kindness or gratitude or service,” he says.

Since then, he’s created 20 music videos through his nonprofit Empty Hands Music, while also taking kids on another performance tour in 2019 and continuing to work with Manav Sadhna. In more than 600 performances, all still free of charge, he’s brought his inspirational messages to Syrian refugee camps, high-security prisons, peace conferences, and dozens of schools.

This isn’t about fame or fortune, he says, and these aren’t typical shows. He strives to help audiences “love more, connect more, judge less, be kind.” Attendees can share their own stories, and often a concert ends with everyone in a large circle, “so we are interconnected, rather than everyone looking at one person on stage,” he says. Hugs are encouraged.

Next year, anyone at Penn may find themselves in one of those circles, as Patel will become an Equity in Action Visiting Scholar for the 2024–25 academic year. Launched in 2023 and sponsored by Penn’s Office of Social Equity and Community, the EAV program brings scholars and activists to campus for a year of research, teaching, and public events.

“I have reached a point where I feel so blessed with the path that I’ve been able to walk on,” Patel says. “If today’s my last day, I am good. That, to me, is the point that I wanted to reach. And then the remaining time is like extra credit—keep living and learning and growing and trying to be an instrument of whatever good I can be while I’m here.”

—Molly Petrilla C’06

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## Penn Alumni Regional Clubs

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For a full listing of clubs and contacts, please go to:

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For questions, please call:  
(215) 898-7811 or

email: [daralumniclub@dev.upenn.edu](mailto:daralumniclub@dev.upenn.edu)

“None of our three children or our 11 grandchildren went to Penn. I’m hoping that one of our five great-grandchildren will attend.”

—Paul Gross W’57

## 1952

**Henry Petersohn W’52** is author of a new parenting guide, *A Father’s Handbook for Raising Children*.

## 1957

**Michael Eigen C’57**, a psychologist and psychoanalyst, has released a new book, *Bits of Psyche: Selected Seminars of Michael Eigen*.

**Paul Gross W’57** writes, “Gayle and I were married in 1956, and when discussing the happiest year of our 67-year marriage, we arrived at the year 1957. The trolleys were gone from Spruce Street. Dietrich Hall was a new building for the Wharton School. There were no women as I can recall in any of my classes. I was president of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity. I was on the Houston board and in the Friars Senior Society. Gayle was working full-time at Lit Brothers department store in downtown Philly, and I was working part-time at an Eddie Jacobs men’s store on campus. We had many of our meals at the fraternity house and spent a great deal of time there. As a result, we made a significant donation to the fraternity this past year, which they spent on a new pool table, other furniture, and redoing the kitchen. None of our three children or our 11 grandchildren went to Penn. I’m hoping that one of our five great-grandchildren will attend. Thank you, Penn, for those great years that Gayle and I spent together there.”

## 1961

**Eugene Elander G’61** proudly announces his 10th book, an autobiography titled *Never Give In, Never Give Up: A Memoir of Hope*. Eugene writes that he formerly chaired fledgling business and economics departments at two new schools: Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and Atlantic Community College in Cape May, New Jersey. He also headed numerous community agencies, owned and operated a community care home in Vermont, and served as a hazard mitigation consultant to the State of New Hampshire. He shares that he and his wife Birgit divide their time between Southern California and Gotland, Sweden, as they have children and grandchildren in both locations and are citizens of both the United States and Sweden.

**Myra “Marci” Chernoff Weisgold CW’61** was featured on the front page of Florida’s *Sarasota Observer* in a March 6 article titled “Art Comes to Life.” Marci is an internationally recognized figurative sculptor who is an elected fellow of the National Sculpture Society. She has created numerous public and private commissions and has won many national awards for her work.

## 1962

**James E. Jones GFA’62**, a painter and printmaker, was chosen as Artist of the Month for February by the Charlestown Fireside Artists Group at the Charlestown

## We Want to Hear from You

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

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

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

## Events

### METRO NEW JERSEY

Please join us this May as we gather to help build a home with Habitat for Humanity. Then, in June, we will wrap up the season with our annual Wesley Stanger Spring Dinner. We look forward to seeing you there! Visit [pennclubmetronj.com](http://pennclubmetronj.com) for more information and to register for events, or email club president Dan Solomon L’97 at [danielhsolomon@yahoo.com](mailto:danielhsolomon@yahoo.com).

retirement village in Baltimore. The show honors Black History Month and was extended through the end of March.

## 1963

**Mark H. Shapiro G’63 Gr’66** writes, “For the last few years in retirement I have been creating short-duration YouTube videos, most of which are related to climate change and other scientific topics. These can be found on my YouTube Channel. Comments on my videos always are welcome.” Mark’s videos can be viewed at [youtube.com/@DrMarkHShapiro](https://youtube.com/@DrMarkHShapiro).

## 1966

**Bob Morton WG’66** writes, “I retired from my controllership position in 2002. My wife Georgia was still working, so I dabbled in a few activities to keep myself occupied. I worked part-time for seven years preparing tax returns for H&R Block during tax season, had a few dozen travel articles published in small-town newspapers and ‘worked’ as an extra on 14 movies filmed in



and around my St. Louis-area home. (It's unlikely you've seen any of the movies, and even if you have, you probably didn't see me if you blinked.) My wife retired in 2008 and we stepped up our traveling habit, eventually qualifying for membership in the Travelers' Century Club (an organization for people who have visited at least 100 countries and territories). Sadly, Georgia passed away in 2021 after 52 years of marriage. In 2022, I moved back to Arizona, where we had lived for 13 years in the 1980s and 1990s. In the early part of 2023, I met a wonderful woman here in Arizona and we were married later that year. In September, the ABC-TV affiliate station aired our story during the evening news program as part of their hyping of the ABC show *The Golden Bachelor*. The clip is available for viewing at [youtu.be/-n5n8Stp1GU](https://youtu.be/-n5n8Stp1GU). Sally and I are still on an extended honeymoon and thoroughly enjoying life in our 80s."

**Eugene Stelzig C'66** has published his fourth collection of poetry, *Remarkable It Is: Late Life Poems*. He says the title refers to his "calling to notice things that most of us take for granted (such as our breathing and our hearts beating) but that actually constitute the miracle of our being alive. These poems range from the playfully wistful, to the probing thoughtful (about old age and the specter of mortality as well as our place in the universe), and the satirical (especially about contemporary politics and world events). The poems in this new collection reflect a 'late life' outlook, but they also speak to perennial topics and experiences that readers of all ages should be able to relate to."

## 1967

**Sidney Perkowitz Gr'67**, professor emeritus of physics at Emory University, is the recipient of the American Institute of Physics 2023 Andrew Gemant Award, given for "significant contributions to the cultural, artistic, or humanistic dimension of physics." He was chosen for his "enduring commitment to bridge the physics community with the arts and humanities by using a variety of media—including books, essays, public lectures, and theatrical produc-

tions." He receives a \$5,000 cash award and another \$3,000 for Emory University, where he spent his academic career, to further the public communication of physics. He writes, "I'm honored to receive this recognition. I also appreciate that deep into retirement, I can still enjoy writing about science for non-scientists. Among 11 books, recent ones are *Physics: A Very Short Introduction* and *Science Sketches: The Universe From Different Angles*."

## 1968

**James Carnahan C'68** writes, "I've just published *Midlife Vagabond: Rendering Hilltowns*, the fourth and final volume of my travel photo/memoir series. Over the course of several extended sojourns in Europe in the 1980s and 1990s I fell in love with Hilltowns, those small, compact, dense urban organisms found throughout the Mediterranean tier of Europe. In 1998, I spent several weeks studying Italian Hilltowns, identifying aspects of their form I thought could be utilized in 21st century urban design. This work led me into 15 years of land use advocacy in my Piedmont, North Carolina, community—all of which is the subject of *Rendering Hilltowns*. Available from Amazon (along with the other three volumes in the *Midlife Vagabond* series), or from me directly at [jcarnahan175@gmail.com](mailto:jcarnahan175@gmail.com)."

**W. Dennis Keating L'68**, professor emeritus of urban studies at Cleveland State University, is the recipient of the Urban Affairs Association's 2024 Contribution to the Field of Urban Affairs Award. According to the press release, "This distinguished accolade recognizes an exceptional individual whose substantial contributions have helped to shape and advance the field, while also inspiring the next generation of scholars."

## 1969

**Dr. Patricia Acquaviva Gabow M'69 GM'70 GM'73**, recently published a book, *The Catholic Church and Its Hospitals: A Marriage Made in Heaven?*, which traces the evolution of Catholic healthcare from its biblical roots through today. She writes,

"It details the vast reach of Catholic healthcare, its prohibitions, and the implications for patients and physicians. It ends with recommendations to preserve the positive and make some changes."

## 1970

**Michaela Hamilton CW'70**, an executive editor at Kensington Books Publishing and editor in chief of Citadel Press, is the recipient of the Ellery Queen Award, given by the Mystery Writers of America, at the annual Edgar Awards ceremony in New York on May 1. The award honors "outstanding people in the mystery-publishing industry." The group shares that Michaela's "importance in the discovery of new writers and emphasis on publishing traditional mysteries, thrillers, and suspense novels cannot be underestimated." Michaela says, "When I think about previous recipients, I feel quite humble. I'm just a bookworm who was lucky enough to spend the last 50-plus years working with authors I adore on books I love. Long live suspense fiction!"

**Tom Madden ASC'70** is a former *Philadelphia Inquirer* reporter who earned his master's degree at the Annenberg School of Communications, "ironically while still reporting [for the *Inquirer*] when Walter Annenberg owned the newspaper." Tom went on to a career in network television, rising to the number two executive position at NBC before starting his own public relations firm, TransMedia Group. He shares that he is "currently trying to save the world from the havoc caused by climate change," and has created a company called Planetary Lifeguard to "blow the whistle on climate change and reward companies with environmentally friendly products before our planet suffers 'heat stroke.'" More information about Planetary Lifeguard can be found at [planetarylifeguard.org](http://planetarylifeguard.org).

**Bencie Woll CW'70**, a fellow of the British Academy, chair of Sign Language and Deaf Studies at University College London, and founder of the Deafness Cognition and Language Research Centre, has been made a member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in recognition

for her services to higher education and Deaf studies. She received the honor from the Prince of Wales at the investiture in Windsor Castle on February 21.

## 1971

**Jeffrey Ormont C'71** is the author of a new book of poetry, *Word Carvings: Poems*. From the book's description: "Ormont's poetry guides readers on a contemplative journey celebrating stages of life from birth to death. A medley of poetic styles and structures offers fresh insights into meaning, nature, love, and hope. His verses explore the perplexities of life, and seek to open portals for making peace with mortality and the challenging human condition."

**Jay Rosner C'71** writes, "Since my work is a calling, retirement simply means slowing down a bit. For 29 years I have engaged full-time in activism and advocacy as a critic of admission tests and have provided test-prep resources to underrepresented minority students through a small non-profit, the Princeton Review Foundation. Living just north of San Francisco with my longtime partner Kate, I was very involved in the University of California system moving to test-free admissions in 2020, no longer considering the SAT or ACT at all. My friends in the Penn admissions office hear from me regularly, and I applaud Penn's recent decision to continue being test-optional. A highlight of my career was testifying as an expert witness critical of the LSAT at the trial *Grutter v. Bollinger*, the landmark 2003 University of Michigan Law School affirmative action case. I am blessed with two wonderful daughters, Marney and Lindsay, from a prior marriage to **Andra Jurist GFA'74** (sadly deceased), and a four-year-old granddaughter, Annie."

## 1972

**John Delaney C'72** writes, "I've published two more books of poems (with color photographs): *Galápagos* and *Nile*."

**Dr. Harold Alan Pincus C'72** is the recipient of the 2024 Distinguished Alum Humanitarian/Service Award from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New

York. The award will be presented at the Class of 2024 Commencement Ceremonies at David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center. Harold is a professor of psychiatry and public health at Columbia University and codirector of Columbia's Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. He is also the national program director of the Health and Aging Policy Fellowship ([healthandagingpolicy.org](http://healthandagingpolicy.org)) and an adjunct senior scientist at the RAND Corporation.

## 1973

**Helaine Hartman Cohen CW'73** of Wayland, Massachusetts, recently published her first book, *My Father's War: Finding Meaning in My Father's World War II Military Service*. She writes, "After retiring as a CPA, I spent years researching and writing about my father's World War II experiences, which included crossing the flooded Sauer river into Germany's Siegfried Line (where many soldiers died) in 1945 and his POW experience in Germany's Stalag IX-B prisoner-of-war camp. I also addressed the broader issues of war, including the context of the action, its contribution to the Allied front, the logistics of waging war, General George Patton's legacy, and the resilience and hardships endured by POWs. Along the way, I obtained a master's degree in world war studies."

**Nicholas "Nick" Peters C'73** shares that he retired in 2018 from CommCore Incorporated, a communications and crisis response firm where he was senior vice president. Previously he was an executive at Medialink Worldwide, a video production and distribution firm serving the global public and corporate communications industry. After graduating from Penn a semester early in December 1972, he began a career as a daily newspaper reporter in Indianapolis, Raleigh, and Philadelphia, before switching to broadcast news, first serving as news director at WHYY-FM in Philadelphia, and later as news writer and producer at the CBS News Broadcast Center in New York. He and his wife are currently retired in Asheville, North Carolina, where he served as a board member of the nonprofit Helping at Risk Kids of Buncombe County.

**David D. Schein C'73** writes, "After writing two nonfiction books, I have turned my attention to a fun project. I am writing a fiction-based-on-fact book about the arts and entertainment scene in Philly from '69 to '73, including events on or around the Penn campus. I would welcome input on events, including photos, from that time period, especially from alumni involved with WXPB, Punchbowl, the Free University, ICA, the South Street Revival, Geno's Empty Foxhole, local theaters, etc. I was named to *Marquis Who's Who in America* in 2023." David may be contacted at [dschein@davidschein.com](mailto:dschein@davidschein.com).

## 1974

**John Quelch WG'74** has been appointed executive vice chancellor of Duke Kunshan University, Duke University's joint venture in China. He was previously the Leonard M. Miller University Professor, dean, and vice provost at the University of Miami.

## 1976

**Debbie Hines CW'76** has written a new book, *Get Off My Neck: Black Lives, White Justice, and a Former Prosecutor's Quest for Reform*. From the publisher: "In *Get Off My Neck*, Debbie Hines draws on her unique perspective as a trial lawyer, former Baltimore prosecutor, and assistant attorney general for the State of Maryland to argue that US prosecutors, as the most powerful players in the criminal justice system, systematically target and criminalize Black people. ... Hines offers a proactive approach to fixing our broken prosecutorial system through a broad-based alliance of reform-minded prosecutors, activists, allies, communities, and racial justice organizations—all working together to end the racist treatment of Black people." More information can be found on her website, [iamdebbiehines.com](http://iamdebbiehines.com).

**Eli Rosenbaum W'76 WG'77** has been awarded the Order of Merit from Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy, conferring the title Chevalier of the Order of Merit, for his work leading the US Department of Justice's efforts to pursue justice on behalf



of the Ukrainian victims of Russian aggression, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. US Attorney General Merrick Garland subsequently selected Rosenbaum as the sole individual recipient of the Attorney General's David Margolis Award for Exceptional Service, which is the Justice Department's highest award for employee performance. Rosenbaum was profiled in our Mar|Apr 2017 and Nov|Dec 2022 issues for his work tracking down Nazis and war criminals in Ukraine, respectively.

## 1977

**Pamela A. Fowler OT'77** initiated a 12-year independent and extensive study of the obscure Dutch artist, Carel de Moor (1655–1738), which has resulted in a comprehensive book devoted to his life and works. The book is coauthored by Piet Bakker, who is an expert on the 17th- and 18th-century Dutch art market and the Leiden painting community. As a result of their collaboration, *Carel de Moor (1655–1738) His Life and Work* (Primavera, 2024) is the first scholarly study of one of the most important Dutch portrait painters of his time. Pamela writes, “The book begins with a comprehensive monograph which explores Carel de Moor's life and multifaceted career, his clients and patrons, his artistic development, as well as his critical fortunes. The catalogue raisonné that follows provides the unique opportunity to view Carel de Moor's extant oeuvre in totality. This endeavor also serves to add significantly to the corpus of studies of Netherlandish art produced between 1680 and 1750—a period that until recently, has been largely ignored by art historians.”

## 1980

**Phyllis Zimble Miller WG'80** and daughter **Yael K. Miller C'05** are producing a documentary, *Jews of Czechia: Yesterday and Today*, that was one of four finalists in the Future of Religious Heritage 2023 Europe innovator competition. From the press release, the film “aspires to become the first documentary to deal with a still largely unexplored event of the Nazi occupation of the

Czech Republic during the Second World War: the extensive rescue of Jewish artefacts.”

## 1981

**Michael Arsham SW'81** writes, “I retired as executive director of the Office of Advocacy (OOA) at the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) in January. My 10 years with the public agency capped off a nearly 50-year career in child welfare. My first post-MSW position was with Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families, where I staffed, developed, and directed family preservation and youth service programs in Central Harlem, Manhattan Valley, and Hell's Kitchen that became the prototypes for the Beacon Schools and the Harlem Children's Zone. In the mid- to late 1990s, I represented nonprofit family preservation service providers with the New York State Council of Family and Child-Caring Agencies, organizing workers and families to successfully resist the deep budget cuts proposed by the City and State at that time. From 1998 to 2013 I directed the Child Welfare Organizing Project, organizing parents impacted by the public child welfare system to serve their communities as peer advocates and to assert a collective voice influencing public child welfare policy. I joined the ACS OOA in 2013. I credit Penn with preparing me for a very fulfilling and rewarding career. I am particularly grateful to my faculty advisor and mentor, the late professor **Louis H. Carter SW'62**, for his lasting influence and inspiration. My daughter Rebecca is assistant principal of a Bronx middle school special education program, and my son Joshua is a successful entrepreneur who owns two sportswear and footwear stores in Manhattan's Soho shopping district. I look forward to spending more time with my two grandsons, Jaelyn, age seven, and August, age three.”

**John D. Woodward Jr. W'81**, a Professor of the Practice of International Relations at Boston University, has been named the director of Boston University's (BU) Division of Military Education. In this role, he oversees BU's Air Force, Army, and Navy/Marine Corps ROTC activities. BU ROTC educates

and prepares more than 200 students from BU and its 14 partner institutions of higher learning to become commissioned officers in the US Armed Services. John participated in Army ROTC at Penn and earned a commission in the Army's Corps of Engineers. Prior to joining the BU faculty in 2015, he served at the CIA in overseas and domestic assignments, the US Department of Defense, and the RAND Corporation.

## 1982

**Felice L. Bedford C'82 G'83 Gr'88**, a professor and scientist, has written a novel, *If You Like Animals Better Than People*. She writes, “Available in a comfortable size font for aging eyes or dyslexic minds and an illustrated edition that may be of interest to younger readers. Also check out my picture book for young children, *Who's Lucky Here Anyway?* and the bilingual English-Korean version, *Who is Lucky? 누가 정말로 행운아야 해?* Look for the pseudonym Forest Bae—or is Felice Bedford the pseudonym?”

**Rhonda D. Hibbler C'82**, production director at WPEN 97.5 The Fanatic in Philadelphia, has been inducted into the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia Hall of Fame. Founded in 1962, the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia recognizes persons who have made significant contributions to the field of broadcasting and communications in the Delaware Valley. On November 17, Rhonda became the first non-air personality to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

## 1983

**Dan Moore Gr'83** has published *Whatever Cause We Have: Memoir of a Marine Forward Observer in the Vietnam War*, his second book on the conflict. He writes that he “joined the Marines to serve in Vietnam and contribute to the anticipated victory over communism.” After officer training and artillery school, he deployed as a forward observer with an infantry company. His letters home described day-to-day events and revealed a growing skepticism about the war. The memoir unpacks his letters, his recollection of the war, and 50 years of introspection.

## 1984

**Wendy M. Weinstein C'84** has been appointed to the board of directors of the Chefs' Warehouse, a specialty wholesale food distributor that services restaurants, hotels, country clubs, and fine food stores throughout North America and the Middle East. She also serves on the board of the Newport Restaurant Group, a 15-concept/22-location hospitality group in New England, which also includes the Relais & Chateaux Castle Hill Inn. Wendy says that "these appointments cap a 40-year career of food and beverage and restaurant marketing, and she is often called "the chairman of the Bordeaux." She credits her studies of economics and French at Penn for her global career.

## 1985

**Dean Cantalupo C'85** and Jiraporn "Aor" Sriviphath married at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Rockville, Maryland, on January 22. At Penn, Dean was a member of Mask & Wig, Beta Theta Pi, and the Penn Band. He currently lives and works in Washington, DC, as an attorney.

## 1986

**Lawrence J. Kotler C'86**, a partner at the law firm Duane Morris, is the recipient of the David T. Sykes Award from the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Conference and the Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project. The award is "presented to a member of the bankruptcy bar who embodies the qualities that Sykes exemplified, including excellence and integrity as a bankruptcy attorney, unsurpassed professionalism, mentoring younger professionals, courtesy to and respect for all, upholding the reputation of the local bankruptcy bar and unwavering dedication to the bankruptcy community and the less fortunate in Philadelphia."

## 1988

**NiaLena Caravazos W'88** focuses her law practice on federal criminal defense and white-collar crime and is the only Philadelphia criminal defense attorney ever featured twice on the cover of *Super Law-*

*yers*, first in 2013 and then in 2023 for the 20th anniversary edition. NiaLena was also the subject of a *Super Lawyers* feature story, entitled "Fierce," in 2013 and was the subject of a 2023 cover story, "The Essence of Being a Good Lawyer."

## 1991

**Valerie D. Johnson GEd'91**, an educator, speaker, and author, has published her debut children's book, *1 2 3 Count with Me on Granddad's Farm*, about her childhood experiences on her grandfather's farm, which celebrates family, grandparents, farm life, and farm animals. She writes, "Young readers will count their way through Granddad's farm with animals, a vegetable garden, smells of manure, tractors, grassy fields, and two of the best people: Granddad and Grandma. In the back of the book, there are visual supports for counting and discussion questions. The book's dedication reads, in part, "To my aunt Katherine Johnson, a Hidden Figure, STEAM legend, Human Computer, and mathematician who loved to count everything." Valerie shares that she started her publishing imprint, West Oak Lane Kids, to leave a legacy and something tangible for generations of young readers to cherish math-themed books. Her mission is "to ignite a love of math in all children, one book at a time!" To learn more about Valerie, please visit westoaklanekids.com and follow her on social media at @wolkidslc.

**Rob Murdocca W'91** writes, "What originally was a 'one-off' turned into a bit of a fairy tale for me over 14 months. And now my little fairy tale is complete. What started out during June 2022 as 'I'll try to do one Ironman 70.3 in October 2022 and I hope I do OK,' culminated on Sunday, August 27, 2023, with my third one ... at the Ironman 70.3 World Championship, in Lahti, Finland! I am grateful for how those 14 months unexpectedly unfolded. I am glad for all the people I met, for the fitness improvements incurred, and for the stories and memories."

**Lara Swimmer C'91**, an architectural photographer, has released a new book, titled *Reading Room: New and Reimagined Libraries of the American West*. From the press

materials: "The book documents a new generation of regional libraries that are redefining public space in the 21st century. ... It makes a case for the urgent need for these buildings, which serve as part of a vital community in the post-pandemic digital age."

## 1992

**Matthew Cohn C'92 W'92, Lea Morrison Cohn WG'97**, and their family were presented with the Living and Giving Award at the 2024 JDRF One Dream Gala in April. JDRF funds research into type 1 diabetes. The family's involvement with JDRF dates back to the 1970s. Matthew has served two terms on the Eastern Pennsylvania Board of Directors, assuming the role of board president from 2018 to 2021. He currently holds the position of vice chair for the JDRF Global Mission board. Over the past 16 years, the Cohn family, as a whole, has raised \$3 million for type 1 diabetes research.

## 1997

**Lea Morrison Cohn WG'97** see **Matthew Cohn C'92 W'92**.

## 1998

**Nicholas Kinloch C'98**, the Robert McNeil Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania from 1997 to 1998, is the author of *From the Soviet Gulag to Arnhem: A Polish Paratrooper's Epic Wartime Journey* (Pen and Sword, 2023). He writes, "This year is the 80th anniversary of Operation Market Garden and the Battle of Arnhem, one of the major battles of the Second World War. The book tells the remarkable story of Stanislaw Kulik, a Polish paratrooper who had travelled halfway around the world: from the Soviet Gulag, through central Asia and the Middle East, to the United Kingdom, and was then dropped at Arnhem, where he was trapped behind enemy lines and hidden by the Dutch underground until he could escape."

## 2000

**Moshe Tzvi (Matt) Wieder EAS'00** writes, "I recently published an important work on



the history of the Jewish prayer book in Hebrew.” More information can be found on the website [thesiddur.wiederpress.com](http://thesiddur.wiederpress.com).

## 2002

**Ejim Achi C’02 L’06** has been promoted to cochair of the Global Corporate Practice of Greenberg Traurig, LLP. He also continues in his existing roles as cochair of the firm’s private equity practice and cohead of the firm’s New York office.

## 2004

**Dr. Arie Dosoretz C’04 M’09 WG’10** is the recipient of the Phoenix Award from the Lee Health Foundation. The Phoenix Award “recognizes a community member who, through education or development of new resources, has contributed to reshaping cancer care in Southwest Florida.” Arie is a physician and founding partner of Advocate Radiation Oncology and Southwest Florida Proton, opening in 2025.

**Peter L. Laurence GFA’04 Gr’09** is editor of *Histories of Architecture Education in the United States* (Routledge, 2023), a collection of 20 essays. He shares that the book “began as a symposium at Penn Design in 2013 organized by professors Joan Ockman, David Leatherbarrow, and Daniel Barber.” Peter and a number of contributors spoke during a book launch in March. Peter writes, “The lecture, which highlighted themes in the book and speculations about the future of architecture education, was organized in conjunction with a course on architecture history and theory taught by professors Ockman and Fernando Lara.”

**Shana Palmieri SW’04** is chief clinical officer of XFERALL, a fully digital patient transfer network that connects healthcare facilities with one another to expedite the patient transfer process. From the company’s press release: “Currently patients seeking mental or behavioral health care find themselves waiting an average of over eight hours in Hospital Emergency Departments. Healthcare facilities using XFERALL are able to place patients on average in 60 minutes or less!”

**Shahnaz Radjy C’04** published her debut young-adult fantasy novel, *Flight of an Orphan Thief*, which is the backstory of one of her favorite Dungeons & Dragons characters set in a world of her own creation. She writes, “It’s about coming of age and discovering things about yourself that you maybe should have known but never saw coming.” More information can be found at [sradjy.com](http://sradjy.com) or on Instagram at [@smradjyauthor](https://www.instagram.com/smradjyauthor).

## 2005

**Lesley Horton Campbell C’05 WAM’22**, general counsel and senior vice president of talent at retail real estate trade association ICSC, was honored by *Crain’s New York Business* as one of its 2024 Notable General Counsels. This list showcases the lawyers who are vital to New York City’s business community. In addition, Lesley shares that she and her husband, Ali, are thrilled to announce the birth of their youngest daughter, Savannah, on October 17. She writes, “Big sister Delilah is eager to show Savannah the ropes!”

**Paul Farber C’05**, curator, historian, and director of Monument Lab, has joined the board of trustees at the Mellon Foundation. Paul is also a senior research scholar at Penn’s Center for Public Art & Space in the Weitzman School of Design and recently released a podcast about Philadelphia’s *Rocky* statue [“Arts,” Jul|Aug 2023].

**Matt Kedziora GGS’05** is currently a civilian biologist working for the US Navy, based in Yokosuka, Japan. He supports conservation planning for a variety of projects throughout the Far East region. Matt shares that he’s “sad that both Ohtani and Yamamoto signed with the Dodgers instead of the Phillies.”

**Yael K. Miller C’05** see **Phyllis Zimmler Miller WG’80**.

## 2006

**Breton Bonnette C’06** is the portfolio manager of Stifel Bonnette Wealth Management Group based in Haddonfield, New Jersey. This family business was recently named to *Forbes’* 2024 Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams list.

## Alumni in Business

A guide for Gazette readers seeking to reach the business services of Penn graduates.

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**Marcel S. Pratt C'06**, managing partner of Ballard Spahr's Philadelphia office, has been named a 2024 Black Trailblazer by *City & State Pennsylvania*. The honor recognizes "the most influential African Americans making a difference for their companies, organizations and fellow Pennsylvanians at all levels." Marcel will be featured in a special edition of *City & State Pennsylvania*.

## 2008

**Jon Mark EAS'08** see **Dan Kodner W'09**.

## 2009

**Michael S. Kettler C'09** has been promoted to counsel in the Environmental Law Group of Riker Danzig.

**Dan Kodner W'09** founded the healthcare amenities company Health Hospitality Partners (HHP) seven years ago. Its goal is to modernize amenities to help reduce clinician burnout, improve visitor satisfaction, and elevate healthcare experiences. Dan has recruited several fellow alums to join him on the leadership team. **Cory Sullivan W'09** is chief operating officer, working directly with celebrity chef Tom Colicchio. **Jon Mark EAS'08** is vice president of account management. And **Lisa Perlmutter WG'15** is senior vice president of healthcare. More information can be found at [hhpgp.com](http://hhpgp.com).

## 2011

**Leah Mintz C'11**, an associate at Duane Morris, has been reappointed cochair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Appellate Courts Committee. She served as co-chair in 2022 and 2023 as well. Leah focuses her practice on appellate litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and complex commercial litigation.

## 2014

**John McCabe LPS'14 LPS'15** was featured in an article in *DAV Magazine*, a publication of the nonprofit Disabled American Veterans. In the story "The Lasting Horror of Nuclear Testing" (Mar/Apr 2024), John describes his difficulty applying for and receiving benefits from the VA as an atomic veteran. Atomic veterans are defined by

the US Department of Veterans Affairs as anyone who "participated in aboveground nuclear testing from 1945 to 1962" or served in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan, following World War II. John served in the US Army from 1960 to 1962, when he was exposed to atomic bombs. The article can be read at [tinyurl.com/McCabeDAV](http://tinyurl.com/McCabeDAV).

**Laura Resnick Samotin C'14** is the author of *The Sins on Their Bones*, described by the publisher as "a queer, dark Jewish roman-tasy novel perfect for fans of Leigh Bardugo, C. S. Pacat, and Katherine Arden."

**Darcella Patterson Sessomes GrS'14**, the chief of programming and reintegration services at the New Jersey Department of Corrections, received the 2023 Whitney M. Young Award from the Urban League of Union County (NJ). The award is given in memory of the great civil rights leader and former head of the National Urban League. Darcella was also the recipient of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey Community Service Award, presented in February at the 2024 Circle of Achievement Awards Gala. She also made history by being the first person of color to be elected as councilwoman for Ward 2 in Plainfield, New Jersey.

## 2015

**Dr. Patrick Byrne WG'15**, an ENT specialist and facial plastic surgeon, is the founder of Hale Incorporated. Hale has developed a groundbreaking nasal dilator, a nonsurgical answer to common breathing difficulties. **Nick Curcio WG'23** is the company's CEO and **Sing Ling WG'22** is the company's chief marketing officer.

**River Coello GEd'15** is author of a new book, *HAMPI*. From the publisher's description: "*HAMPI* chronicles a fantastical journey of recovering one's buried parts to embrace the blessings of ancestral medicine. Concocted between the States, Ecuador, and Peru, its photography captures the beauty of these heart homes. Its writing in English, Spanish, and Quechua features lessons from sacred guides, gone ancestors, and other loved ones on the journey to a fuller kind of bravery?"

**Lauren Mendoza C'15** and **Joseph Licata EAS'16 GEng'17** are engaged to be married. Lauren writes, "We met through the Penn Band and started dating in 2014."

**Lisa Perlmutter WG'15** see **Dan Kodner W'09**.

**Alex Travis C'15** is the author of a new novel, *The Only Black Girl in the Room*. From the publisher's description: "An ambitious reporter stuck doing diversity checks for her white colleagues gets her big break in this compelling debut novel perfect for fans of Jayne Allen, Jasmine Guillory, and Zakiya Dalila Harris."

## 2016

**Joseph Licata EAS'16 GEng'17** see **Lauren Mendoza C'15**.

**Jordi Rivera Prince C'16** and Daniel B. Turner were married at the Fairmount Park Horticulture Center and celebrated at Reading Terminal Market in Philadelphia on March 16. The wedding party included **Juan Ramos C'15**, **Viktorya Stebenkova C'15**, and **Jacob Williams C'16**. Guests included **Christopher Annunziato LPS'17 Gr'27**, **David Drennan GFA'24**, **Danica Fine C'16 GEng'18**, **Aedhan Loomis EAS'16 GEng'17**, **Alexandria Mitchem C'16**, **Sarah Murray C'18**, **Sarah Simon C'17**, **Anup Singh C'16 G'16**, **Morgan Thompson C'16 Nu'23 GNu'25**, **Elena Varela C'18 GEd'20**, and **Charlotte Williams Gr'28**. Jordi is a visiting assistant professor of anthropology at Brown University and Daniel is the assistant director of Community-Engaged Data and Evaluation Collaborative at Brown University. The couple lives in Providence, Rhode Island.

**Raymond J. Wilson C'16** has joined law firm Blank Rome's Philadelphia office as an associate in the Corporate, M&A, and Securities practice group.

## 2022

**Sing Ling WG'22** see **Dr. Patrick Byrne WG'15**.

## 2023

**Nick Curcio WG'23** see **Dr. Patrick Byrne WG'15**.



## 1943

**Herbert L. Shapiro W'43**, Maplewood, NJ, a retired lawyer, developer, and banker; Nov. 19, at 100. He served in the US Navy during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. One granddaughter is Jennie R. Ripps C'03.

## 1944

**Dr. William R. Stevenson C'44 M'47**, Audubon, NJ, a retired missionary doctor; Oct. 29, at 101. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War.

## 1946

**Rev. Fitzhugh M. Legerton C'46**, Black Mountain, NC, a retired pastor and assistant to the president for church relations at Warren Wilson College; Feb. 7. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. One son is John C. Legerton GAR'70.

**Edythe Taylor Sweeney CW'46**, Norristown, PA, a retired clinical psychologist; April 10. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

## 1947

**Marjorie A. Rapp CW'47**, Ambler, PA, a retired production artist at a publishing company; Nov. 6. At Penn, she was a member of the softball team.

**Yola Garufi Stagliano Ed'47**, Sicklerville, NJ, a former high school Spanish teacher and tutor; June 25. One son is David A. Stagliano C'77.

## 1948

**Dr. James L. Dannenberg D'48**, a former professor of endodontics and pediatric dentistry at Penn's School of Dental Medicine; Dec. 17. He joined Penn's faculty after his military service and taught children's dentistry. He was promoted in 1971 to associate professor of periodontics and seven years later became a clinical professor. He was also an associate dentist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and had a private practice in Center City. He retired from Penn in 1999. He served in the US Army as a dentist during the Korean War. One niece

is Dr. Arlene Dannenberg Bowes D'77, a retired assistant professor of restorative dentistry at Penn Dental Medicine.

**David V. Wachs W'48**, Penn Valley, PA, co-founder of Charming Shoppes Incorporated and a mobile home park company; Dec. 19. He was a veteran of World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity. One son is Michael Wachs CGS'82, and one grandchild is Adam L. Wachs W'15.

## 1949

**Mary Louise Lobaugh Curry DH'49**, Glenshaw, PA, a retired dental hygienist; Dec. 5.

**Elliot S. Jaffe W'49**, Stamford, CT, founder and CEO of Dress Barn and a philanthropist; Nov. 29. He and his wife established the Elliot and Roslyn Jaffe History of Art Building as well as a professorship in the cinema studies department at Penn. He served in the US Army during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity and the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, and he was a Franklin Scholar. Two sons are Richard E. Jaffe C'79 G'79 and David R. Jaffe C'81 W'81, and three grandchildren are Alexandra C. Jaffe C'14, Spencer J. Jaffe C'16 WG'23, and Laurel C. Jaffe C'20.

**Gloria Levin Le Cuyer Ed'49**, Margate and Linwood, NJ, a retired educator with the Atlantic City Board of Education and past program coordinator for Atlantic and Cape May Counties; Dec. 5, 2022. She was also a pioneering member of the Head Start early education program in the mid-'60s. Her son is Adam Grey Le Cuyer C'84.

**Catherine "Kay" Hinckle Ricciardelli G'49 Gr'66**, Peoria, IL, a retired anthropology professor at Bradley University; Dec. 19.

## 1951

**Philip D. Arben W'51**, East Lansing, MI, a retired professor at Central Michigan University; July 29, 2022.

**Joanne Z. McCartney HUP'51 Nu'51**, Bonita Springs, FL, a retired teacher of obstetrics at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Nov. 12.

**John W. Morris G'51**, Indianapolis, a retired high school history teacher; Nov. 29. He served in the US Army during World War II.

## Notifications

Please send notifications of deaths of alumni directly to: Alumni Records, University of Pennsylvania, Suite 300, 2929 Walnut Street, Phila., PA 19104

**EMAIL** record@ben.dev.upenn.edu

Newspaper obits are appreciated.

**Joyce Barnett Unger DH'51**, Oro Valley, AZ, a retired dental hygienist and office manager at a dentist's office; June 28.

## 1952

**Bernard E. Bernstein W'52**, Knoxville, TN, a retired attorney; May 19. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity and Penn Players. His children are Barri E. Bernstein C'79 and Mark W. Bernstein W'81.

**Joseph P. Flanagan Jr. L'52**, Lafayette Hill, PA, a retired partner at a law firm; Nov. 18, at 99. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

**Ernest R. Gluck G'52**, Walnut Creek, CA, a retired accountant and commercial real estate investor; July 11. He served in the US Army during World War II.

**David J. Hyman W'52**, Mount Airy, MD, a retired attorney specializing in real estate law; Dec. 18. He also bred dogs for most of his life.

## 1953

**Peter Barrett W'53**, Chicago, a retired investment banker and philanthropist; Nov. 27. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He served in the US Army. His daughter is Mary H. Barrett C'80.

**Daniel A. Baugh C'53 G'57**, Williamsburg, VA, a professor emeritus of British history at Cornell University; Feb. 9. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, the wrestling and soccer teams, Mask & Wig, Sphinx Senior Society, and the ROTC. His wife is Carol Allen Baugh CW'55, and two children are Nancy Baugh Fortunel C'80 and Charles S. Baugh C'81.

**Marilyn Stern Burkhardt Ed'53**, New York, NY, retired executive director of city planning at the New York City Planning Commission; Nov. 15. At Penn, she was a member of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority.

**Marjory Spratt Petherbridge G'53**, Springfield, PA, a retired music specialist for the School District of Philadelphia; Dec. 10.

**Stanley I. Stern W'53**, Westport, CT, Aug. 31. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity and the lacrosse team.

**Martin W. Sternlicht W'53**, Fayetteville, NC, a life insurance agent; Dec. 6. He served in the US Navy Supply Corps. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity.

## 1954

**Dr. William F. Besser M'54**, Princeton, NJ, a retired obstetrician-gynecologist; Oct. 28. One son is Dr. Richard Eric Besser M'86.

**Charlotte Neuman Marts CW'54**, Milton, PA, former owner of a sporting goods store; Nov. 15. One daughter is Leslie Marts Velz C'81, who is married to David R. Velz C'83.

**Shirley R. McDonnell HUP'54**, Gaithersburg, MD, a nurse for the US Navy; Dec. 7. At Penn, she was a member of the ROTC.

**Sol L. Resnik WG'54**, Deerfield Beach, FL, retired president of a large awards manufacturer; Nov. 11. His wife is Esther P. Resnik Ed'54, and his son is David A. Resnik C'78 G'79.

## 1955

**William Bater III CE'55**, Devon, PA, a civil and structural engineer; Oct. 22. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Chi Rho fraternity.

**Arlene R. Bergen HUP'55**, Warwick Township, PA, a former nurse and medical receptionist for an orthopedic surgeon; Feb. 24, 2022.

**Lee H. Bowie C'55**, Fort Myers, FL, retired vice president of employee relations at RCA; Nov. 15. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

**Allan M. Dameshek C'55**, York, PA, former CEO of a shoe store and executive director of the York Jewish Community Center and the York Council of Jewish Charities; March 23. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity and vice president of Hillel. One daughter is Laurie Dameshek W'83, and two grandchildren are Alex J. Vigderman C'12 and Jaimie A. Rosenberg SPP'18.

**David U. Fitzcharles WG'55**, Lawrence, KS, a retired investment banker; Nov. 22. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

**Dr. Don C. Follmer M'55**, Bethlehem, PA, a retired physician; Nov. 23. He served in the US Army Air Force during World War II.

**Howard R. "Hap" Merriman Jr. C'55**, Vero Beach, FL, a financial advisor; Dec. 19. He served in the US Navy and the US Navy Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and the sailing team. One brother is David W. Merriman W'63 WG'66.

**JoAnn Tatum Morris CW'55**, Hertford, NC, a former juvenile court counselor; Feb. 24.

**Deborah L. Packman Ed'55**, Wynnewood, PA, Nov. 11.

**Graham W. Rapp Ar'55**, Louisville, KY, a retired architect; Nov. 28. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Juanita Puyou Strohecker Ed'55 GEd'58**, Lansdale, PA, a former elementary school teacher; Nov. 18. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority. Her daughter is Dr. Sandra Strohecker Beckett GD'99.

## 1956

**Elizabeth Gober Bodine HUP'56**, Media, PA, a former nurse, dietician, and librarian at Delaware County Community College; Nov. 14. One son is James P. Bodine W'86 WG'94.

**Robert W. Butler C'56**, Canton, GA, retired CEO of a financial planning firm; Nov. 22. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

**Seymour Kanter L'56**, Philadelphia, an attorney; Dec. 6. His wife is Dr. Rhoda Rosen CW'54 M'58, and three children are Gregg H. Kanter C'84 L'90, Dr. Lawrence E. Kanter C'85 M'89, and Brad M. Kanter W'92.

**Richard L. Kearns L'56**, Beavertown, PA, an attorney and former counsel to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; Nov. 5. He was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

**Dr. James F. Reynolds M'56**, Edina, MN, a retired physician; Dec. 16. He served in the US Air Force.

**Sanford "Sandy" Simon W'56**, Guttenberg, NJ, retired founder of an investment bank; Dec. 29. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. Two children are

Michael R. Simon C'81 and Sharon Simon Katz GNU'87 GNU'11.

## 1957

**Nancy Swangren Dunsmore HUP'57**, Newville, PA, a retired school nurse; Dec. 10.

**Gwendolyn Gaines Henderson GEd'57**, Clementon, NJ, Nov. 23. She spent her career supporting speech pathology.

**Dr. William A. Rack M'57**, Santa Barbara, CA, a neurologist and former clinical instructor of neurology at Howard University and Georgetown University; Nov. 1. He served in the US Navy.

**Stephen I. Richman L'57**, Washington, PA, a retired attorney; Dec. 5.

**Dr. Louis A. Rigali D'57**, Holyoke, MA, a dentist; Dec. 16. He served in the US Army during World War II. His daughter is Dr. Linda E. Rigali D'83, who is married to Dr. James E. Clayton Jr. D'82.

**Dr. John Wampler Jr. M'57**, Tequesta, FL, a medical director for various nursing homes; July 11. He served in the US Air Force.

**Quincy N. Williams WG'57**, Gladwyne, PA, retired president of US operations for a Japanese pharmaceutical company; Nov. 9. He served in the US Army. One daughter is Alison Williams Gagnon Gr'92.

## 1958

**Samuel L. Berliner C'58**, La Quinta, CA, publisher of several trade magazines in the furniture, kitchen, and bath industries; Feb. 26. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity and the *Daily Pennsylvanian*. His wife is Barbara Wittenberg Berliner CW'58, and his brother is Robert W. Berliner W'54.

**Ludmila "Lida" Freeman CGS'58 Gr'65**, a former lecturer in Penn's College of Liberal and Professional Studies; Dec. 4. In 1975, she was appointed an associate trustee at Penn, granting her membership on the board of directors of the Wharton School; she was the first woman to serve on that board. From 1981 to 1994, she worked as a researcher and then as a staff assistant in Penn's Office of the President. She briefly served on the administration team in what is today the College of Liberal and Professional Studies (LPS) and began



lecturing in LPS in 1982. She also served as a lecturer in the department of romance languages in the School of Arts and Sciences.

**Charles A. Haddad W'58**, Boyertown, PA, retired owner-operator of a textile manufacturing company; Dec. 23. Earlier in his career, he was an attorney. He served in the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Joseph F. Mowery EF'58**, West Hanover Township, PA, a retired sales representative for the old Addressograph-Multigraph Corporation, which manufactured envelope-addressing machines; Nov. 16. He served in the US Coast Guard.

**Dr. Don I. Trachtenberg C'58 D'63 GM'67**, Bryn Mawr, PA, a retired prosthodontist and head of the prosthodontics department at Penn's School of Dental Medicine; Dec. 20. He served in the US Coast Guard as a dentist.

## 1959

**Ronald M. Bond W'59**, Bellevue, NE, Feb. 5, 2023. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the ROTC.

**Dr. Carter D. Brooks M'59 GM'63**, Kalamazoo, MI, a pediatrician and clinical researcher; Nov. 17. He served in the US Navy.

**Richard E. "Dick" Feltenberger Jr. Ed'59**, Erie, PA, Dec. 5. He retired from the State of Pennsylvania's Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services.

**Galen B. Ritchie G'59**, Delmar, NY, an assistant professor of Russian and European history at Hofstra University and the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee; Nov. 10.

**Thomas L. Wheeler III WG'59**, Frisco, CO, a manager of corporate real estate at UPS; Nov. 11. He served in the US Army Corps of Engineers.

**Richard C. Williams W'59**, Toms River, NJ, an elementary school teacher; Nov. 25. At Penn, he was a member of the soccer team.

## 1960

**Edward J. Arndt MTE'60**, Macungie, PA, a retired consultant for an automotive products manufacturer; Dec. 1. At Penn, he was a member of the swimming team.

**Edward L. Batoff L'60**, Aventura, FL, an investment banker; Oct. 29. At Penn, he was a member of Mask & Wig.

**John K. Bryant W'60**, Cohasset, MA, an executive at several sailing publications; Nov. 30. He served in the US Army and the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Robert J. Foley WG'60**, Bluffton, SC, Nov. 21. He worked for several advertising companies and for a nonprofit that helped place special needs adults in professional work settings.

**Dennis G. Moorman WG'60**, Greer, SC, a retired financial executive; Nov. 17. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

**Lawrence M. Puck WG'60**, Allentown, NJ, founder of a company that manufactured injection plastics for medical equipment; Oct. 23, 2022. He served in the US Navy.

**David C. Sattely C'60**, Jamaica Plain, MA, Nov. 1. He retired from the publishing industry and later worked in the custodial department of a VA medical center. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Penn Players.

## 1961

**Joyce Serwalt Brown CW'61**, Radnor, PA, a retired buyer for the department store Bonwit Teller in New York; Nov. 20. Her husband is R. Franklin Brown Jr. C'56.

**John C. Cowles CGS'61**, Beaverton, OR, a former manager at Mars Electronics; Dec. 21, 2021. Two sons are John C. Cowles Jr. EE'87 and Robert A. Cowles C'91.

**John M. Hone WG'61**, West Chester, PA, president and owner of SL Enterprises; Nov. 13. He served in the US Navy.

**Elise Karas Kenney G'61**, Newtown Square, PA, a retired archivist for Yale University Art Gallery; Nov. 9.

**Edward J. Klavon GEd'61**, Pennsburg, PA, a retired high school teacher; Oct. 23.

**Ernest E. Pittelli Gr'61**, Belmont, MA, a retired high school science teacher; Oct. 16. His former spouse is Dr. Alexandra Logan Wilson M'61.

**John J. "Jack" Smith G'61**, Cranberry Township, PA, July 9, 2023. He retired from a 30-year career at the US Department of

Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration. He served in the US Army.

## 1962

**Dr. Louis S. Belinfante D'62**, Smyrna, GA, a retired oral and maxillofacial surgeon; Oct. 1. One son is Joshua B. Belinfante C'99.

**Thomas R. Conway GED'62**, Bellevue, WA, a retired high school chemistry and math teacher; Nov. 3, at 100. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

**Bernard L. Dickens GEE'62**, Trumbull, CT, a retired electrical engineer for CBS; Nov. 21.

**Thomas E. Dow Jr. Gr'62**, Boulder, CO, a professor emeritus of sociology at Purchase College, State University of New York; Sept. 26.

**C. David Hudnut G'62**, Lower Saford Township, PA, a high school English teacher who later taught at Spring Garden College and Temple University; Dec. 10. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

**Lois Hogan Keyser CGS'62**, Morgantown, PA, a retired schoolteacher; Dec. 9. One son is Richard Jeffrey Keyser CGS'85, and one sister is Margaret Hogan Driscoll CW'69 WG'81, who is married to Arthur Storer Driscoll WG'69 WG'76.

**Nancy Dowdy Robinson Merz CW'62**, Lake Stevens, WA, Aug. 3, 2023.

**Herbert F. Sears WEV'62**, Edmeston, NY, retired operations manager for an insurance company and owner of a cheese shop; Oct. 11. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War.

**Dr. Ernest E. Serrano C'62**, Fort Smith, AR, a retired neurologist; Nov. 1. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and the cross country, sprint football, and track teams.

**Neil A. Wassner W'62**, South Salem, NY, retired owner of a mergers and acquisitions firm; Dec. 11. His sister is Joan Wassner Weinstein CW'64.

## 1963

**Judith Bronstein Bard CW'63 GEd'66**, Jupiter, FL, a retired fifth-grade teacher; Nov. 18. One brother is Edwin B. Bronstein GAR'68.

**G. Allan Dash III C'63**, New Holland, PA, a marketing specialist; Nov. 30. At Penn, he was a member of the Glee Club.

**Vladimir Guerrero (Wlachy) ME'63 G'69**, Lectoure, Gers, France, a former engineer in the oil industry; Jan. 9. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity. His former wife is Carol Beckmann Guerrero CW'63.

**G. Thomas Johnson III L'63**, Muskegon, MI, a retired city attorney for Muskegon; Nov. 8.

**Dr. Richard E. Preininger M'63**, Scottsdale, AZ, Oct. 17.

**Charles A. Price L'63**, Abingdon, MD, an attorney; May 12, 2021. One brother is Dr. Albert M. Price D'70.

**Cerlene Myers Rose DH'63**, Washington, DC, Nov. 19.

**Peggy A. Savage GEd'63**, Doylestown, PA, a high school teacher and guidance counselor; Nov. 26. She taught health, physical education, psychology, geography, and current events. She served in the US Navy and the US Navy Reserve.

**Richard W. Weeks III GEd'63**, Philadelphia, a former junior high school principal, banker, and manager of an antiques store; Nov. 22.

## 1964

**Dr. Samuel M. Brubaker M'64 GM'73**, Mechanicsburg, PA, a retired general surgeon; Nov. 17.

**Dr. Charles E. Wisor M'64**, Sebastopol, CA, a retired physician; Nov. 12. He served in the US Army.

**Douglas C. Woerner ChE'64**, Lehigh Township, PA, retired chemical engineer at a structural building and packaging product manufacturing business; Nov. 2.

## 1965

**Dr. Charles M. Briggs C'65**, Jessup, MD, a retired physician; Nov. 7.

**Dr. Charles Bromberg D'65**, Springfield, NJ, a retired dentist; Dec. 23. His daughter is Jodi A. Bromberg C'94.

**Dr. Lawrence M. Davidson C'65**, Livingston, NJ, an ophthalmologist; Dec. 2. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity. One son is Jamie S. Davidson C'93.

**William Feldman ASC'65**, New York, Feb. 12, 2023. He worked at Buccellati, the Italian high jewelry and silversmith house.

**Richard S. Fraser W'65**, Brookhaven, GA, chairman of a national entertainment firm that owned nightclubs; Nov. 4. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, Sphinx Senior Society, and the football team. One brother is James A. Fraser C'67.

**Stanley R. Friedman C'65**, Freehold, NJ, a public defender; Dec. 17.

**Dr. Gerald C. Kelly GD'65**, Newtown Square, PA, a retired oral surgeon; Nov. 15. He served in the US Army.

**Norman E. Levine C'65 L'68**, Hockessin, DE, an attorney; Dec. 22, 2022.

## 1966

**Mary Fay Bourgoin GNu'66**, Chestertown, MD, a freelance journalist and teacher of journalism; Dec. 2.

**Celia Welsh Creskoff GEd'66**, Bryn Mawr, PA, associate director of college guidance at a private K-12 school; Nov. 10.

**John Duncan III WG'66**, Hot Springs Village, AR, Dec. 7.

**Mark R. Hochberg C'66**, Huntingdon, PA, a professor of English literature at Juniata College; Dec. 17. At Penn, he was a Franklin Scholar.

**John B. Kirkpatrick C'66**, White Plains, NY, a city planner and land use lawyer; Nov. 11. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity, Penn Players, and Glee Club. One son is Andrew R. Kirkpatrick C'04.

**Dr. Roger A. Murphy V'66**, Bend, OR, a retired veterinarian; Aug. 21. He served in the US Army as a veterinarian.

## 1967

**Thomas P. Bispham C'67**, Hong Kong, July 29. At Penn, he was a member of Psi Upsilon fraternity. Two children are Thomas P. Bispham Jr. C'06 and Barbara H. Bispham C'08.

**Dr. William E. Chapman C'67**, Palm Desert, CA, a retired pathologist; Dec. 6. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War as an interpreter.

**Frederick M. Lappin W'67**, West Orange, NJ, a retired tax and trusts and estates at-

torney; Jan. 17. At Penn, he was a member of the Theta Rho fraternity, the lacrosse team, and the bridge club. One brother is Mark G. Lappin GEE'69 L'72.

**Joseph K. Marlors G'67**, Rexburg, ID, a retired professor at Brigham Young University-Idaho; Dec. 15. He served in the US Navy.

**John L. "Jack" Martin GEE'67**, Richmond, VA, a retired senior engineer at Fischer & Porter and master clock repairman; Nov. 14. He served in the US Navy.

**Robert M. Potamkin W'67 L'70**, Aspen, CO, cochair a network of car dealerships; Nov. 30. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity. One child is Melissa Potamkin Ganzi C'91, who is married to Marc C. Ganzi W'93; and his brother is Alan H. Potamkin W'70.

**Dr. Evan R. Wolarsky M'67 WG'97**, Pennington, NJ, a retired general surgeon; Nov. 25. He served in the US Navy. His daughter is Nina G. Wolarsky C'97.

## 1968

**Maria I. Baczynskij CW'68**, Catonsville, MD, a social worker who supported Ukrainian soldiers with post-traumatic stress disorder; Dec. 28. She also taught at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv and the Lviv Polytechnic University. Her sister is Ulana M. Baczynskij C'79.

**Robert V. Bukowski GEE'68**, Colorado Springs, CO, a retired general contractor; Nov. 4.

**Edward S. "Ted" Dillon C'68**, Lansdowne, PA, Dec. 6. He worked in energy conservation and sustainability. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War.

**John A. Lapp Gr'68**, Goshen, IN, former provost and academic dean at Goshen College; Dec. 5.

**Jon G. Pounds GEE'68**, Litchfield, NH, a retired engineer at the aerospace company Northrop Grumman; Nov. 23.

**Dr. Joel Rubin V'68**, Ocean View, DE, a retired veterinary medical officer for the US Department of Agriculture; Dec. 12. He served in the US Army. His wife is Maria M. Rubin DH'65, and his son is Steven A. Rubin C'92 L'95.



**Terry Van Der Tuuk WG'68**, Leawood, KS, retired owner of a barcode manufacturing firm and founder of a venture capital firm; Dec. 3.

## 1969

**Dr. Frank L. Call II GM'69**, Richmond, VA, a hematologist and oncologist; Oct. 9, 2022. He served in the US Army Reserve.

**Dr. Victor S. Dietz D'69**, Yarmouth, ME, a retired professor of orthodontics at Boston University; Oct. 25.

**Antoinette J. Earley Nu'69**, Marietta, GA, a retired nurse practitioner and trainer for nursing students at Georgia State University; Nov. 7. She served in the US Army Reserve.

**Sandra Markle HUP'69**, Littleton, CO, a retired nurse in a neonatal intensive care unit; Oct. 4.

**Robert G. Rogers Jr. WG'69**, Bryn Mawr, PA, an investment banker; Oct. 2, 2022. His wife is Dora Lewis Rogers CW'71.

**Merlin L. Stigge WG'69**, Las Cruces, NM, a retired accountant; Aug. 9.

**Karen Johnson Sutton GAR'69**, Wallingford, PA, an architect; Dec. 1.

## 1971

**Gerald A. Bello G'71 Gr'79**, Bristol, CT, a professor at Hahnemann University and Drexel University; Dec. 3.

**Kathryn M. Riesz Nu'71**, Venice, FL, Aug. 9.

**Edward J. Wilkens Jr. GrE'71**, Salem, MA, professor emeritus of computer science at Salem State University; Dec. 16.

## 1972

**Robert W. Cooper Gr'72**, West Des Moines, IA, a retired professor of business at Drake University; Dec. 10. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

**Dr. R. Bruce Heppenstall GM'72**, Santee, CA, a professor emeritus of orthopedic surgery in Penn's Perelman School of Medicine and former chief of orthopedic surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Jan. 4. As an orthopedic resident at Penn, his research focused on investigations into oxygen tension and the electrical effects of the growth plate. In 1974, he was promoted to assistant profes-

sor in the department of orthopedic surgery, and he became a full professor in 1980. He held dual appointments as the chief of the fracture service at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and as chief of orthopedic surgery at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He was also a lecturer in occupational therapy at HUP. He is widely recognized for his contributions to fracture biology, conducting innovative studies of the metabolic effects of tissue ischemia. This research used nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy to describe the derangements of intracellular energy metabolism caused by ischemia in the context of compartment syndrome or tourniquet use. He retired in 2016. The department of orthopedic surgery created the annual Bruce Heppenstall Trauma Lectureship after his retirement to recognize his many contributions to the field. His former wife is Carol A. Heppenstall CGS'85.

**Holly Wright Maguigan L'72**, New York, a lawyer who represented victims of domestic violence and law professor at New York University; Nov. 15.

**Robert N. Meals L'72**, Santa Fe, NM, a retired lawyer; Nov. 30. He served in the US Navy.

**Thomas H. Mehling GEE'72**, Westampton, NJ, a retired engineer for Lockheed Martin; Oct. 7, 2022.

**Dr. Jouni J. Uitto GM'72**, Gladwyne, PA, a former professor of dermatology and cutaneous biology at Thomas Jefferson University; Dec. 19, 2022.

**Helen Harasimowicz Walters WG'72**, Ambler, PA, a retired financial advisor at Morgan Stanley; Nov. 7.

## 1973

**Roger L. DeMik WG'73**, Alexandria, VA, senior antitrust counsel at Eastman Chemical; Nov. 16. One son is Evan D. Demik C'95.

**Michael P. Linder C'73**, Pittsburgh, an architect; Dec. 10.

**David H. Schnittman C'73 (aka David Eisner C'73)**, New York, a massage therapist; Oct. 27. At Penn, he was a member of Penn Players.

**Sharon Pastor Simson Gr'73**, Villanova, PA, retired research professor at the University of Maryland Center on Aging and coordinator of Legacy College for Lifelong Learning, the Graduate Gerontology Certificate Program, and the Legacy Leadership Institute on Humor Practices; Nov. 21.

## 1974

**Dr. David J. Abdinoor V'74**, Bozeman, MT, a veterinary orthopedic surgeon; Nov. 13.

**Virginius Bragg III C'74**, Madera, CA, a director of operations for the Philadelphia Housing Authority; Nov. 25. At Penn, he was a member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and the track team.

**John A. Bumbaca C'74**, Philadelphia, a mental health administrator at a nonprofit that provides treatment, education, and other support services for people with behavioral health issues, intellectual disabilities, and substance abuse challenges; Feb. 19. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity and the track and field team. His wife is Marian Kern Bumbaca C'76 GEd'76.

**Derek J. Cavanaugh C'74**, Beverly, MA, retired owner of a real estate company; Jan. 16, 2017. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Dennis L. Edie Gr'74**, Delmar, NY, a research and process organic chemist at the BASF Corporation; Dec. 5. He was also an EMT for a volunteer firefighting company.

**Gordon J. Fine C'74 G'74**, San Francisco, an attorney and antiques collector; Nov. 3. At Penn, he was a member of Sphinx Senior Society. His brothers are Howard F. Fine W'72, Lawrence B. Fine C'73 W'73, and Philip E. Fine C'80.

**Lee M. Kaplan C'74**, Philadelphia, Nov. 19. He had a long career at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office.

**Evan M. Maurer Gr'74**, Santa Monica, CA, director emeritus of the Minneapolis Institute of Art; Nov. 2. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

## 1975

**Andrew J. Milligan GEE'75 Gr'78**, King of Prussia, PA, an entrepreneur and private pilot; Nov. 6.

**Dr. Kenneth T. Riso D'75 GD'86**, Riva, MD, a retired endodontist and real estate agent; March 17, 2023. His wife is Dr. Rebecca A. Weber D'77.

**Timothy T. Weglicki WG'75**, Baltimore, a retired investment banker; Nov. 21.

## 1976

**Mary Lois Brown CGS'76**, Cherryville, NC, a retired financial consultant; Nov. 22.

**Richard H. Freedman EE'76**, San Francisco, a former molecular biologist at the pharmaceutical company Syntex; April 10, 2023. At Penn, he was a Benjamin Franklin Scholar. One sister is Lisa Freedman Miller C'78 SW'82.

**Joseph H. Levitan WG'76**, Ottawa, ON, Canada, a retired accountant; Aug. 22, 2022.

**Dr. Edward A. Shelly V'76**, Walnutport, PA, a retired veterinarian; Nov. 1.

## 1977

**Allan S. Friedland W'77**, West Granby, CT, a lawyer; Oct. 29. His wife is Barbara Kuhn Friedland C'81, and one brother is Marc I. Friedland C'71.

**Helen Mescon Rosan SW'77**, Haverford, PA, a retired social worker at a geriatric center; Nov. 20. Her husband is Dr. Burton Rosan D'57 GD'62, and two children are Felice B. Rosan C'84 and Jonathan S. Rosan C'88 L'93.

**Eugenia S. "Gigi" Singer WG'77**, Scarsdale, NY, an executive at a risk mitigation company; April 13, 2023.

## 1978

**Ruth Anne Biela GNU'78**, Springfield, PA, a former case manager at the Philadelphia Psychiatric Center; Nov. 4.

**Mary Ann Krisman-Scott GNU'78 Gr'01**, a professor of nursing at Drexel University; Nov. 17. Earlier in her career she was the director of nursing education at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She served in the US Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam War.

**Dr. John F. Ledlie GM'78**, Haverford, PA, a retired pulmonologist and critical care physician; Nov. 21.

**John Michael "Mike" Millet W'78**, Westford, MA, retired sales director for a technology company; Nov. 6. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, the rugby team, and the ROTC.

## 1979

**Timothy A. Corbett W'79 WG'84**, Newtown Square, PA, a stockbroker, real estate investor, and small business owner; Dec. 20. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity and the ice hockey team. One daughter is Allaire V. Corbett C'09.

**Stephen S. Tarampi WEv'79**, Coconut Creek, FL, a former supervisor at the US Postal Service; Oct. 23.

## 1980

**David A. Bahlman Gr'80**, Lexington, NC, retired director of culture for the State of Connecticut; Nov. 13.

**William L. Hoover W'80**, Corpus Christi, TX, a real estate developer; Nov. 5.

**Michael F. Roby EAS'80 W'80**, Sparks, MD, an accountant; Dec. 21.

## 1981

**Margaret L. "Marlee" Meriwether Gr'81**, Newark, OH, professor emeritus of history at Denison University; Nov. 18.

## 1983

**Franklin J. Abrahamson W'83**, Atlanta, a pilot for Delta Airlines and a real estate investor; Nov. 20. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity and the rowing team.

**Dr. Russell S. Fuhrer C'83**, Sewickley, PA, director of radiology at a hospital; Nov. 13.

**Timothy F. Greene WG'83**, New York, an economist and former senior analyst for the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; Nov. 10.

**Allen R. Siegel WG'83**, Sands Point, NY, Oct. 11.

## 1984

**Dr. Thomas E. George D'84 GD'85**, Allentown, PA, cofounder with his wife of a cosmetic and general dentistry practice; Nov. 30, 2022. His wife is Cheryl Beddoe George DH'81.

**Cathy Laupheimer Kahn C'84**, Chicago, an attorney specializing in real estate law; Dec. 1. Her husband is Ethan G. Kahn W'85, and her children are Jason A. Kahn EAS'14 and Joshua S. Kahn C'19.

**J. Philip Kirchner L'84**, Haddonfield, NJ, an attorney; Nov. 21.

**Joel S. Reish ASC'84**, Atlanta, founder of a market research firm and an executive at Cox Automotive; June 21, 2022.

## 1985

**Joseph F. Lagreca Jr. WEv'85**, Doylestown, PA, a commercial lender; Dec. 2.

## 1987

**Teresa Burke Siegemund CGS'87**, Chapel Hill, NC, Dec. 6. She worked at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

## 1988

**Edward S. Driscoll C'88**, Haddonfield, NJ, Nov. 10. He had a career in finance. Two brothers are Thomas P. Driscoll C'83 and Jude T. Driscoll C'86.

## 1990

**Kuni Nakamura W'90**, Carlstadt, NJ, owner and CEO of a manufacturer of polymer coatings; Oct. 15. His wife is Eileen Cheigh Nakamura WG'96.

## 1992

**Jordan R. Labkon C'92**, Chicago, an attorney; Oct. 8, 2022. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Beta Delta fraternity.

## 1995

**Henry E. Tingle Jr. WEv'95**, Philadelphia, an electrician and criminal trial attorney; Nov. 3. He served in the US Navy.

**April Hazard Vallerand Gr'95 GNU'98**, Novi, MI, a professor of nursing and director of the PhD program at Wayne State University; March 8.

## 2001

**Karsie Anne Kish Lansberry L'01**, Grove City, PA, July 22. She worked at the Office of Personnel Management facility in Boyers, PA.



## 2002

**John W. Brown WG'02**, Bangkok, Thailand, former CEO and chairman of Agoda, an online travel agency; Nov. 16.

**Bruce Demarco WEv'02**, Atlantic City, NJ, an information technology expert who worked at casinos and hotels in the US and Bahamas; Nov. 20.

## 2003

**Beth Ann Rollage Schaeber GNu'03**, Canonsburg, PA, a neonatal nurse; Nov. 19. Earlier in her career, she worked at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

**Michael A. Wiedorn G'03 Gr'08**, Dublin, Ireland, a former professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology; Nov. 15, 2022.

## 2007

**Stanley S. Cohen CGS'07**, Philadelphia, a retired managing partner at a law firm and past president at Har Zion Temple; Sept. 19. His wife is Hon. Lita Indzel Cohen CW'62 L'65 CCC'07.

**Roy Foreman CGS'07**, Havertown, PA, Nov. 4.

## 2008

**Kelly M. Flanigan LPS'08**, Lansdowne, PA, July 14, 2022.

## 2010

**Allison Gillum GCP'10 GFA'10**, Juneau, AK, the Alaska Lands Team Leader for the US Forest Service; Nov. 2.

## 2020

**Andrea Gonzalez GFA'20**, Philadelphia, an urban planning consultant at Guidehouse, a business management consultancy; Oct. 21.

## 2023

**Anjali Venkatesh Rajagopal WG'23**, Philadelphia, an MBA student in the Wharton School and founder of a marketing company based in Chennai, India, whose mission was to empower women to discover their unique identities; Jan. 23.

## 2026

**Nathaniel Gordon C'26**, Philadelphia, a

sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences studying economics and urban studies; March 23. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and Makuu: The Black Cultural Center.

## Faculty & Staff

**Nancy W. Bauer**, Philadelphia, founding director of the organizational dynamics program in what is today Penn's College of Liberal and Professional Studies and a longtime lecturer in the program; Dec. 9. In 1978, she joined Penn's faculty as an adjunct associate professor in the Graduate School of Education and as an academician in the College of General Studies (now the College of Liberal and Professional Studies). Also in the late 1970s, she founded the organizational dynamics program in CGS, which she directed until 1987, when she became CEO and editor-in-chief of WomenMatter Incorporated, a nonprofit web-centric organization that helped women participate in the political process. She remained at Penn as a lecturer in the organizational dynamics program, and also took a secondary position as a lecturer in city planning in the School of Design. She retired from Penn in 2018.

**Dr. James L. Dannenberg**. *See Class of 1948.*

**Stephen N. Dunning**, Berwyn, PA, professor emeritus of religious studies in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences; Jan. 6. He taught the Modern Religious Thought course at Penn from 1977 until his retirement in 2008. During that time, he published three books and received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for Independent Study and Research (1982–83), among other achievements. In 1993, he was awarded Penn's Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. Two sons are Benjamin H. Dunning C'98 and David E. Dunning C'12 G'12.

**Ludmila "Lida" Freeman**. *See Class of 1958.*

**Jack M. Guttentag**, Gladwyne, PA, professor emeritus of finance in the Wharton School; Feb. 6, at 100. He joined the faculty at Wharton in 1962, where he dedicated his research to reform and innova-

tion in banking, monetary policy, and housing finance. Alongside fellow faculty member E. Gerald Hurst and Wharton MBA program student Allan Redstone WG'89, he cofounded GHR System Incorporated, a financial service provider for the mortgage and consumer banking industry. He retired in 1996. He served in the US Army during World War II. One son is William S. Guttentag C'79, who is married to Marina Brodskaya W'81.

**Dr. R. Bruce Heppenstall**. *See Class of 1972.*

**Mary Ann Krisman-Scott**. *See Class of 1978.*

**Joanne Z. McCartney**. *See Class of 1951.*

**Beth Ann Rollage Schaeber**. *See Class of 2003.*

**Judy A. Shea**, Ardmore, PA, a retired professor of general internal medicine in the Perelman School of Medicine; March 14. At Penn Medicine, she was the Leon Hess Professor of Medicine in the division of general internal medicine. She focused her work on the psychometric properties of evaluation tools and developing measures to assess components of health such as health literacy, patient satisfaction, and health-related quality of life. She received numerous awards, including the Special Dean's Award (2007) and the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching (2020).

**Cecil L. Striker**, a world-renowned archaeologist, historian, and a former professor in the department of art history; Jan. 8. He joined Penn's faculty in 1968 as an associate professor in the department of history of art. He was granted full professorship in 1978 and served several terms as chair. He helped design Penn's graduate program in the art and archaeology of the Mediterranean world. From 1966 to 1978, he led the archaeological exploration and restoration of the Middle Byzantine Church of Kalenderhane Camii in Istanbul, an excavation that unearthed momentous antiquities that stunned the historical world, including a Roman bath, 13th-century frescoes, two previous churches, and a one-of-a-kind religious mosaic. He retired from Penn in 2002.

**Dr. Don I. Trachtenberg**. *See Class of 1958.*

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McKenzie works on the *Young Franklin* statue in his studio in 1911. At left is a smaller clay mold used to make the full-scale mold, which was then used to make the bronze statue itself.



## A Youthful Spirit

“This statue represents more truly than any other ... the spirit and history of America,” proclaimed James M. Beck during the dedication of the *Young Franklin* statue outside of Penn’s Weightman Hall, on June 16, 1914 (*Old Penn*, June 20, 1914). Beck, a prominent lawyer and future US solicitor general, spoke at length on why Benjamin Franklin was such an important figure in American history and an appropriate choice for this honor. “Does not this ‘Youthful Franklin’ with

his staff in one hand and his meager possession in the other, with his uplifted eyes, alert, vigorous carriage and smiling, resolute face, nobly symbolize the youth of America, as they end their apprenticeship and resolutely face on the threshold of manhood the rude challenge of the world?”

On a more personal level, the Class of 1904, which commissioned the piece, chose to honor Franklin, founder of the University, because no such sculpture yet existed of him on campus (the older

statue of Franklin on College Green, originally unveiled at the old US Post Office building at 9th and Chestnut Streets in 1899, did not move to its current location until 1939). And by choosing a depiction of Franklin early in his life, when he first arrived in Philadelphia in 1723, the class hoped that “this memorial shall bring some measure of inspiration and encouragement” to the young students who arrive at Penn, said Layton B. Register C1904, president of the Class of 1904.

The class chose R. Tait McKenzie as the artist for the sculpture and raised \$10,000 to build it in time for their 10th reunion. The University designated the day of dedication as Franklin Day and arranged speakers, music, poetry, and an exhibit of Franklin relics on view inside Weightman Hall.

McKenzie, head of the University’s department of physical education and later the J. William White Research Professor Emeritus of Physical Education, had started sculpting out of necessity, when he needed models to use for his anatomy lectures at McGill University in Montreal, where he worked prior to Penn. In addition to being a distinguished professor, he also became quite renowned as an artist. He was drawn to Penn in 1904 by the newly constructed Weightman Hall, and the University gave him a private studio on the top floor to work on his art. It was here that a nude model walked around for a week before McKenzie found a stride suitable for the position of the statue.

Paul Cret, professor of architecture at Penn, created the statue’s base and its surrounding landscaping.

McKenzie died suddenly in 1938 of a heart attack, before he could finish his final project. His ashes are interred at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, and his heart, in accordance with his spiritual beliefs, is buried separately in Edinburgh, near his favorite sculpture, *The Call*. —NP





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## A LEGACY OF YOUR OWN

The iconic Ocean Club, A Four Seasons Resort, Bahamas is one of the premier resorts in the world, offering unparalleled service, dining, and a renowned white sand beach. For the first time, the resort will also offer the joys of legendary resort living to a select few: **67 turnkey, private residences**, designed to provide generations of barefooted memories.



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