THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

MAY | JUN 2026

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Golden Gate Bridge Seen
Men's Basketball Is Back

Turning 250

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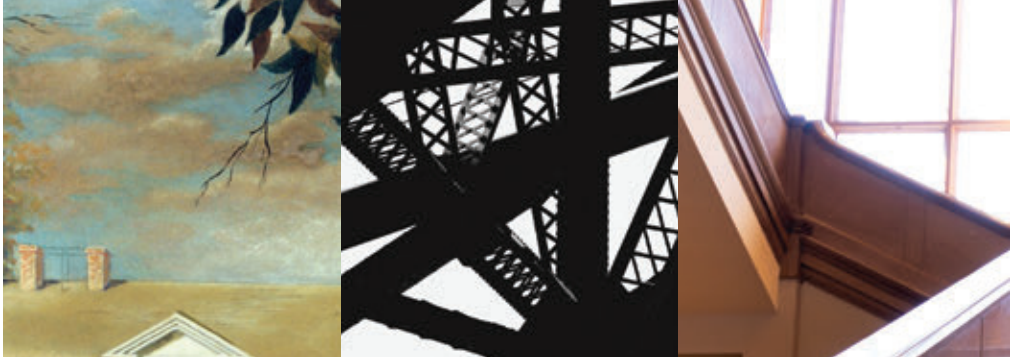
THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

MAY | JUN 2026



Features

Vol. 124, No. 5

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thepenngazette.com

Departments

Historic

As noted in "Old Penn," the *Gazette* devoted an entire issue to the US Bicentennial back in 1976 (the summer before this native Philadelphian first arrived on campus as a student). We're not making quite as much of this year's harder-to-remember-and-pronounce US Semiquincentennial, but associate editor Dave Zeitlin C'03 has taken the lead in putting together a package of related articles, including a piece of his own about the—understandably rushed!—first printing of the Declaration of Independence and typesetting projects going on now at Penn's Common Press, using an 1889 handpress similar to the one used by original printer John Dunlap on the night of July 4, 1776.

Other entries in our 250th sampler include an explanation of the little-known process through which the school founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1740 and known in 1776 as the College of Philadelphia came to be named the University of Pennsylvania; an investigation into the members of the Class of 1776; a profile of the alumnus taking charge of the City of Philadelphia's semiquincentennial initiatives and events; and a description of a Penn Libraries exhibit of photographs, publications, posters, flyers, stickers, and memorabilia created by bicentennial-era protest groups calling for an alternative to the mainstream celebrations featuring tall ships and then-President Gerald R. Ford. (Penn President J. Larry Jameson also takes up the theme in this issue's "From College Hall.")

Almost as famous—and central to the nation's self-conception—as the Declaration's "All men are created equal" is the phrase carved onto the US Supreme Court building, "Equal Justice Under Law," which comes in for harsh scrutiny in *Law on Trial: An Unlikely Insider Reckons with Our Legal System* by Presidential Professor of Law Shaun Ossei-Owusu LPS'08, who calls it one of "America's collection of beautiful fictions" that "mocks the brutal, lived reality of many Americans."

In "Witness and Judge," frequent contributor Julia M. Klein traces Ossei-Owusu's trajectory from growing up in the South Bronx as the child of working class Ghanaian immigrants, his education (including a master's degree from Penn's School of Liberal and Professional Studies in Urban Studies and Africana Studies), experience as a law student and foray into practicing corporate Big Law, and ultimately to becoming a scholar who has brought all the elements of his background together to analyze how the structure of legal education and lawyers' professional obligations and priorities combine to thwart the ideal of equal treatment.

Among many accolades, Julia quotes Columbia law professor David Pozen rating *Law on Trial* as "a genuinely eye-opening study of how inequality threads its way through legal pedagogy and the legal system," characterized especially by its "panoramic quality." She also shares Ossei-Owusu's self-assessment of his approach—"I like to take big swings"—and notes his "surprisingly cheerful" demeanor for someone who's "just written a devastating takedown of the American legal system."

The Golden Gate Bridge is certainly one of the most historic American structures, a marvel of engineering conceived and built against daunting odds in the era of the Great Depression—and photographed innumerable times since its opening in 1937. In his latest book, *Thirty-Six Views of the Golden Gate Bridge,* photographer Arthur Drooker C'76 set himself the (also daunting) task of seeing the bridge "anew." In "Fresh Angle," we offer a generous selection of his images, supplemented by a brief interview with the photographer.

THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

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We Hold These Truths to Be Self-Evident

Across its history, Penn has worked to widen the circle of opportunity.

By President J. Larry Jameson

As our nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, I have been reflecting on its profound opening words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." Our history reminds us that the promise of those words has not always been fully realized. For many, the starting line is set back, and the path forward is uphill.

Education has long been one of the most powerful ways to create opportunity and improve society. Higher levels of education are associated with greater economic mobility, better health and longevity, and stronger civic engagement. Universities therefore advance not only individual success, but also the broader public good.

This belief animated Benjamin Franklin's vision of a practical, open-minded, engaged university that would prepare students to apply knowledge in service to the world. That spirit guides us today.

Across its history, Penn has worked to widen the circle of opportunity. Penn has opened its doors to groups once excluded, welcomed students from across the nation and around the world, supported local investment and partnerships, and created campus organizations that foster community and belonging. Along Locust Walk, we see that legacy in the cultural and affinity groups established by prior generations—tangible reminders that people of different backgrounds, identities, and experiences belong here.

Today, Penn is more broadly diverse and connected than at any time in its history. Programs such as Penn First Plus support first-generation students and those from rural, urban, and lower-income backgrounds. The Quaker Commitment expands undergraduate financial aid by fully covering tuition for families earning $200,000 or less. These initiatives reflect a guiding principle: Talent is widely distributed, but opportunity is not.

Our commitment to excellence is inseparable from our commitment to access and inclusion. When people with diverse perspectives and experiences learn and work together, new questions emerge, assumptions are challenged, and stronger ideas follow. That synergy defines Penn, through interdisciplinary programs like the Penn Integrates Knowledge University Professorships, collaborative research centers, and our tightly interwoven campus that brings disciplines and people into close proximity.

That openness also shapes our global engagement. Penn proudly welcomes students and scholars from around the world. Earlier this semester, I visited Singapore and South Korea—home to our fifth-largest international alumni community. Walking on stage to the hit song "Golden" from *KPop Demon Hunters* at an all-Penn constituent event in Seoul, I was reminded that our academic community is more vibrant and creative for this dynamic global exchange. In turn, our alumni shared with me their incredible stories about what they are doing in the world, underscoring how fortunate we are to be an academic home for thousands of international students and scholars representing more than 140 countries and territories.

During my time as president, I have been continually inspired by our faculty and students and their countless powerful, resonant stories and achievements: Nobel Prize–winning mRNA technology, prestigious global fellowships, Pulitzer Prize recipients, and international President's Innovation and Engagement Prize winners like Ejun Hong C'25 who, together with Jack Roney C'25, created LensBright, which brings photography and filmmaking to West Philadelphia high school students.

The rich cultural mosaic of our campus has long been a wellspring of discovery and progress in numerous fields—from the arts and literature to agriculture, medicine, and science. Penn has always derived strength from welcoming people, ideas, and discoveries from wherever—and whomever—they might arise. Global engagement is not ancillary to our mission; it is central to who we are and who we aspire to be.

With *Penn Forward*, we are developing strategies to further strengthen access and affordability while expanding our global engagement. We are also exploring how Penn supports its community across every stage of life. For example, we are strengthening networks for mentoring, shadowing experiences, and internships, further leveling the playing field for students; considering new ways to increase affordability and cost transparency for students and families; and reimagining our national and global reach and relationships.

Opportunity, respect, intellectual openness, and the conviction that talent can come from anywhere have shaped Penn since its founding and remain essential to its future. For us, these ideas are not catchphrases—they are enduring elements of our culture. We will continue to foster a community in which every member feels welcomed, respected, and able to contribute fully to the life of the University.

The 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is an invitation to recommit ourselves to the country's founding ideals. Through continued excellence in education, knowledge creation, and service, Penn will uphold its academic and civic responsibility to help make equality more than a promise.

Autonomous agents, stolen goods, advertising invasion, another late degree.

We Welcome Letters

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

When Humanity Cedes Evolution's Top Spot

It's said that artificial general intelligence (AGI) will be humanity's last invention. This portends AI evolving from an assistant tool, like the students interviewed in "Hyper Text" [Mar|Apr 2026] surmise, to becoming autonomous agents. We see this happening now.

Once true AGI and eventual artificial super intelligence (ASI) is reached, human interaction and dependency will become moot. The ambitions of college intelligentsia will largely be relegated to idle pursuit.

We've discovered fire again in human history. It may be helpful or destructive, requiring prudent monitoring for as long as it can be controlled. And we as a species will be required to redefine what we're about, since an alien artificial intelligence will eventually take over the top spot in evolution.

Just my current thinking.

Thomas Heller W'73 Gr'75, Columbus, IN

"The Monsters Who Ate My Child"

I was bereft after reading Trey Popp's article "Hyper Text" in the Mar|Apr issue of the *Gazette*. I hope future *Gazette* work will highlight in any generative AI story the unethical background of some Large Language Models' origin stories.

A reporter with *The Atlantic* magazine broke the news in 2023 that 183,000 copyrighted books were stolen by Open AI and Anthropic to build their ChatGPT and Claude generative-AI chatbots. Both were sued in class-action lawsuits for this unethical behavior. OpenAI's is still ongoing, but Anthropic settled a case for $1.5 billion in 2025, agreeing to pay the authors and

"We've discovered fire again in human history."

illustrators a small amount for stealing their work without permission. As a traditionally published author whose work was stolen in order to build an artificial mimic of human creativity, I long for all media coverage of OpenAI's ChatGPT and Anthropic's Claude to stop calling these unethically built monsters "tools." This innocent term obscures too much. I refer to them as "the monsters who ate my child."

I have many author and illustrator friends who are similarly horrified at where we find ourselves today. We don't want settlements. We want these companies to dismantle these monsters, apologize, remove our beloved copyrighted work from their LLMs, and build them again. I never, ever would have given permission for my work to be used in this way, to be absorbed by ravenous, grasping monsters meant to replace my own human creativity, not for any amount of money. I am sure I am not the only Penn author whose work was stolen. Let us speak up.

If Penn professors and students must use AI, please make the conscious choice to research and use products from companies that didn't behave so unethically. Throw out the ChatGPT. Find something else.

Christina Uss C'95, East Longmeadow, MA

The First AI (Advertising Invasion)

From the article "Hyper Text" we learn the ways that students at Penn are learning to grapple with the new world of generative AI. An older world of AI (an Advertising Invasion) has already diminished some of our quality of life. Thus, I hope that one of these students can combine the technical acumen of an Elon Musk C'97 W'97, the political acumen of a Donald J. Trump W'68, empathy and human compassion, to ensure that generative AI does not further diminish some quality of life. Let me explain.

When I was a child in 1940s Philadelphia, in the early days of television, a requirement for a broadcast license was the broadcast of one hour of news every night without adverts. Until 1972 it was illegal to advertise prescription drugs to the public, as is still the case in all European democracies. In the '70s, soap opera scripts were shortened by four minutes to permit more soap ads and less opera.

It took a few more decades for advertising weeds to invade other peaceful gardens; many Americans (including me) developed worsening allergic reactions. They suffer when otherwise talented news anchors (especially on cable) now advertise not only their channels but also their

own media side gigs and personal political preferences. They suffer when these anchors falsely announce imminent advertising breaks as "short," when in reality the breaks often contain more than a half dozen adverts over a period of four minutes, sometimes repeating the advice on what medicine to quiz your doctor about. It is depressing to imagine how many ads a not so "short" break would contain.

In the 1950s, advertising had also not yet invaded movie theaters. Entertainment there began with a black-and-white newsreel (narrated by Ed Herlihy). There followed in color: a cartoon (e.g., Bugs Bunny, Tweety and Sylvester, etc.), a coming attraction or two, and then the movie itself. You had to learn about local real estate agents, personal injury lawyers, and the ecstatic potential of popcorn and Coca-Cola elsewhere.

In the 1950s, public transportation vehicles (trolleys, buses, trackless trolleys, and subway cars), at least in Philadelphia, were not moving eyesores of real estate, plumbing, and legal ads; in fact, there were absolutely no ads on their exteriors to distract car drivers or pedestrians.

In 1957, Vance Packard published *The Hidden Persuaders*, revealing how Madison Avenue employed psychology to condition consumers to buy products they neither wanted nor needed. And this disturbing revelation came decades before the tidal wave of advertising that makes internet surfing today so annoying. We should anticipate that billionaire AI executives will want much more involuntary consumption than the millionaire moguls of Madison Avenue ever imagined.

I do not know whether Utopia, Dystopia, or End Times will ultimately describe our new world of generative AI. In the meantime, it would be great if a student from Penn (which gave us ENIAC, the world's first electronic computer) would find a way to free the world from constant advertising harassment.

Stanley M. Guralnick C'65 Gr'69, Boulder, CO

Another Pioneer

I much enjoyed reading "A Degree Too Late" [Mar|Apr 2026], about Penn's first women in architecture. My mother, Evelyn Selzer Ehrlich FA'29, was one of those women, though not mentioned in the article. My family lore says she could not graduate in architecture because women were not allowed to take the required courses in sanitation and plumbing, but I have no record of that. In all events, she continued her studies in architecture at MIT and earned an architecture degree there. There were no architecture jobs during the Great Depression, let alone ones for women, and instead she became a restorer of works on paper at the Harvard Fogg Museum. During World War II, in secret, she

helped restore the Declaration of Independence, kept at Fort Knox.

When Lee Copeland was dean of the Graduate School of Fine Arts, I was the University's provost and told him this story. During a School Symposium and Reunion in May 1983, and as a complete surprise to my mother and to me, he awarded her a master of architecture degree dated June 19, 1929, "as a recognition," he said, "of her pursuit of architecture, [her] professional career at the Fogg, the sins of our fathers, and the improvement of today's situation." This was a wonderful tribute for my mother, who died just a few days later.

Thomas Ehrlich, former provost (1981–1987), Palo Alto, CA

Athletics as Education

In "A Run of Transition" ["Sports," Mar|Apr 2026], Penn's athletic director Alanna Wren speaks enthusiastically about Penn's brand, facilities, alumni, and sports successes. I wish she had expressed some interest in the education of Penn's undergraduate students, some of whom are spending upwards of $90,000 a year to be there.

I write as an alumnus who has come to see, with the passage of time, that football played an important role in my college education. It was not in the classroom or on the *Daily Pennsylvanian* but on the varsity football team that I learned to deal with adversity, to function as part of a group, to push myself beyond my imagined limits, and to give and take criticism—all skills that have served me well in my adult career as a journalist and editor.

I support Penn athletics in the hope that Penn will continue to extend that valuable opportunity to unrecruited "walk-ons" like me. This was the original Ivy League ideal—that athletics exist primarily to benefit the students, not the alumni, fans, or coaches. Even during the glorious George Munger era (1938–53), when Penn ranked among the nation's top football teams, many Penn players were walk-ons.

The son of a friend of ours, as a high school senior last year, applied to Penn as his first choice but was rejected. This year he is a freshman at Case Western Reserve, which is highly regarded academically but Division III athletically. Although he hadn't played a sport in high school, at Case he tried out for crew. As I write this, he is joyously rowing five mornings a week at 5 a.m.

Had he gone to Penn, would he have had this opportunity? Would he have been encouraged to try? I wonder.

Dan Rottenberg C'64, Philadelphia

Reform Medicare Reform

I found Professor Garlick's essay "Prescribing Affordability" making readers aware and beware of lobbyists in connection with today's "affordability crisis"

in healthcare today most enlightening ["Expert Opinion," Mar|Apr 2026].

This crisis is not a new issue, and a key factor in what the federal response should be takes us back to late 2003, when Congress "modernized" Medicare by adding the prescription drug benefit known as Part D. Research into the matter clarified that Republicans in Congress, as well as our then president, supported Part D of the bill only if it included a "non-interference" provision, preventing the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services from negotiations between the three major institutions involved in dispensing drugs—pharmaceutical manufacturers, insurance companies, and retail pharmacies—in effect leaving the pricing of drugs under Part D to the private sector marketplace rather than the federal bureaucracy.

As the years passed, Part D costs, particularly for new, nongeneric meds, went through the roof, with the numbers of citizens reaching retirement age in the US multiplying as well. Lobbyists were all over US senators and congress members, supporting the right of private insurers to avoid caps on their meds or other remedies. As expected, seniors were able to select meds of their choice within their personal or employer-based health insurance plans, and pass a significant amount of the cost on to the federal government. Unfortunately, the plan was working just as it had been drawn up!

It is never too late to address this problem. Pass on less of a subsidy to higher-income beneficiaries? Extend the retirement age to 70? Control campaign contributions by pharmaceutical companies? Expand the borrowing power of our government by a few more trillions of dollars? Cap pricing on new drugs where there is no generic equivalent?

Will we have statesmen able to resolve this issue before it reaches an economic tipping point? One thing we can count on: A cadre of lobbyists will be hired and heard from "at every turn," as Garlick eloquently observed!

Gerald Friedlander W'61, Tampa, FL

Further Reading

I loved "Raging Bull" by Linda Rhodes ["Alumni Voices," Mar|Apr 2026]. We watch a number of veterinary-focused shows on TV and have seen a lot of women. We've even seen Dr. Emily Thomas on the reality series *The Incredible Dr. Pol* pull calves while six months pregnant! But clearly the early part of Dr. Rhodes' career was rather different, and I'm looking forward to learning more. I've ordered the book from Amazon.

"Useful Advice" ["Gazetteer," Mar|Apr 2026] on Ezekiel Emanuel's book *Eat Your Ice Cream* also caught my eye. I'm of the Calvin Trillin "Health food makes me sick" school, and the article sings to that. I've ordered the book from our library. I'm 92 on the reserved list; apparently others are interested.

I've read books based on mention in the *Gazette* before, but this is the first time I found two in the same issue!

William Mosteller C'71, Fairfax, VA

Heroic Effort Shouldn't Have Been Needed

In "Raging Bull," author Linda Rhodes discusses her experience as a brand-new graduate of Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine, when she was asked to provide emergency veterinary care to a bull that had severely injured his neck after attacking a front loader. The article described Rhodes' heroic efforts to save the bull, which proved successful. What is not discussed is the societal circumstances that led to the bull being injured in the first place.

Rhodes described that the bull was part of the "dairy bull stud business." This is a business that involves collecting bull semen used for impregnating cows. The bull can be kept in a pen and sand area in a bull barn for this purpose for as many as 14 years while their semen is still viable. The purpose of impregnating cows is to have the cows give birth to calves. Only when cows give birth do they lactate and produce milk.

Unfortunately the male calves are usually taken away from their mothers at birth to be raised as veal calves (a subsidiary of the meat industry) or sold directly for slaughter for meat. Female calves are also often taken away from their mothers and are raised to become milk producers. I know because of my experience of having been born and raised on a "dairy farm." I have been vegan for over 40 years.

David Sauder SW'81, Voorhees, NJ

The writer notes that he is president of Animal Rights Activists of New Jersey, Inc.—Ed.

Bigger Print, Please

I have a request/suggestion. Would you please increase the font for captions for pictures in the *Gazette*? Many of us are older alumni and have trouble reading that small font, even with reading glasses! It seems that there is enough space for some increase in size of the font.

Thank you for your consideration.

Norman Kahn C'69, Prairie Village, KS

Seconded

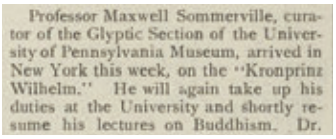
As much as I resisted writing this note, pride must take a back seat to practicality.

I'm finding it increasingly difficult to read the small font in the *Gazette*. I think I've seen others before me ask that the magazine be printed in a larger font. I appreciate that it would likely entail more printed pages, but I suspect other alumni beyond me would appreciate it.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Verrochi C'79, Mountain View, CA

I share the writers' concerns about readability—and less than perfect eyesight—but consider the plight of the Gazette *reader of yesteryear who had to contend with type like this. —Ed.*


Professor Maxwell Sommerville, curator of the Glyptic Section of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, arrived in New York this week, on the "Kronprinz Wilhelm." He will again take up his duties at the University and shortly resume his lectures on Buddhism. Dr.

Research Shows Only 10% Of Eligible Borrowers Refinance Student Loans Despite Potential Savings

New data reveals a persistent savings gap among eligible borrowers, and the reasons behind it

For millions of Americans carrying student loan debt, payments are back. A familiar question has new urgency: how do you manage student loan debt without sacrificing everything else?

After years of disruption — the federal payment pause, legal battles over forgiveness, and the end of the SAVE repayment plan — many borrowers settled into a prolonged "wait and see" mindset.

The problem is that waiting has a price tag.

THE STUDENT LOAN SAVINGS GAP

Research shows less than **1 in 10 eligible[1] borrowers refinance[2] their student loans**, even when doing so could mean saving money[3]. That gap isn't about financial discipline. It's about clarity.

Refinancing replaces your existing loan with a new one, often at a lower rate, with terms that better fit your current life. It can reduce total interest paid, lower monthly payments, shorten your timeline to debt-free, or consolidate multiple loans into one.

The math can be striking. A $100,000 loan at 7% interest, refinanced to 5% over 10 years, could save more than $12,000 over the life of the loan — and reduce monthly payments by roughly $100. For borrowers carrying six-figure balances, the impact compounds further.

	CURRENT LOAN	AFTER REFINANCING
Loan Amount	$100,000	$100,000
Interest Rate	7%	5%
Monthly Payment	$1,161	$1,060
Total Cost Over 10 Years	$139,270	$127,165
	Total Savings	**$12,105**
	Monthly Payment Reduction	**$101**

*Example above is for illustration only and may not reflect actual Earnest rates or terms. Eligibility and offers depend on your credit profile. Savings are not guaranteed and will vary.

On paper, $101 per month may appear modest. But, it can mean breathing room, with funds put toward retirement savings, a mortgage, or simply greater stability.

The gap isn't in the math, it's in the action. Too many borrowers who would benefit from refinancing simply haven't made the move.

WHY MOST BORROWERS DON'T ACT

Common hesitations are often based on misconceptions. Many borrowers assume refinancing is complicated, costs money, or will ding their credit score. Earnest lets you check your rate in minutes with no credit impact and no commitment. But each month spent at a higher-than-necessary rate is money that can't be recovered.

Refinancing isn't right for everyone. Borrowers pursuing Public Service Loan Forgiveness or income-driven repayment plans should weigh whether staying in the federal system makes more sense. But for borrowers with stable income, solid credit, and no path to federal forgiveness, refinancing is one of the few direct levers available to potentially lower the total cost of debt.

WHY BORROWERS CHOOSE EARNEST

Earnest helps you build the financial life you envision and go from debt to wealth.

You can check your refinancing rate in minutes with no credit impact. And you'll never pay any fees, not even late payment fees. You can also customize your loan and pick your exact monthly payment down to the dollar.

The 1-in-10 statistic isn't just about missed savings. It's a signal that too many borrowers haven't taken time to understand their options.

Checking your rate isn't a commitment. It's a starting point.

See what you could save at earnest.com/penn

earnest

1 This claim is based on analysis combining publicly available data and proprietary underwriting models. We applied our proprietary data and underwriting criteria to estimate the portion of borrowers who are credit-eligible and could achieve savings through refinancing. Actual savings and eligibility may vary based on individual circumstances, creditworthiness, and current loan terms. This analysis reflects market conditions as of 2025 and is subject to change.

2 Please note that you will lose benefits associated with your underlying federal loans, such as federal Income-driven Repayment Plans, Economic Hardship Deferment, Public Service Loan Forgiveness, or other deferment and forbearance options, if you refinance into a private loan. If you file for bankruptcy, you may still be required to pay back this loan.

3 Choosing to refinance to a longer term may lower your monthly payment, but increase the amount of interest you may pay. Choosing to refinance to a shorter term may increase your monthly payment, but lower the amount of interest you may pay. Review your loan documentation for the total cost of your refinanced loan.

Treasured Texts

The unpublished works of my whimsical pal.

By Dave Zeitlin

Illustration by Jon Krause

I was on a family vacation in Charleston, South Carolina, in December when my phone buzzed with a text from longtime friend Dan McQuade C'04.

For anyone else, it would have been an unusual message.

Alongside a pair of photos—one of his two-year-old son, the other of a side character from a justly forgotten movie, both eating a sandwich from the top instead of the side—he wrote: "He's eating a sandwich like Jackee in the soccer classic Ladybugs."

Naturally I stopped what I was doing to fire back a text. "Hahaha. Time to show him that movie," I joked about his son Simon.

Dan replied just as quickly. "That movie should be rated 'no one admitted until 67.'"

I can't remember exactly how it started, this running joke about an "NC-67" soccer movie from 1992. It may have been when the Philadelphia Union screened it on the stadium jumbotron during a kiddie campout more than a decade ago. ("It is NOT appropriate," Dan mused, though he allowed, "I guess there just aren't that many American soccer movies to show.") The premise of *Ladybugs* has not aged well: a man angling for a job promotion dresses his fiancée's son as a girl to help his company's girls' soccer team. Alongside the lazy sports underdog tropes and gender-stereotype humor, there are also, as Dan was wont to point out, multiple jokes that turn on child molestation. And the main character, mystifyingly, was played by a 70-year-old Rodney Dangerfield. "Like the role was written for a much younger guy??" Dan texted me once.

I'll miss laughing with my friend about a lousy movie from three decades ago.

After Dan—a well-regarded writer, blogger, and video editor—died, at 43, in late January of neuroendocrine cancer ["Obituaries," Mar|Apr 2026], I've found myself digging through our old texts to remember his quirky humor and cope with the tragedy of a life cut way too short. I haven't been the only one. Many journalists and Philadelphians who liked his distinctive writing style have been rereading some of the best articles he wrote on sports and culture. (I've hit those archives too.) But those of us who were lucky enough to call Dan a friend had something even more special: a treasure trove of unpublished works from a writer who, as one online tribute put it, "collected absurdities the way others collect baseball cards or coins."

Dan McQuade's texting topics were as diverse as his friendships—and the idiosyncrasies of his beloved hometown.

Dan's texting topics were as diverse as his friendships: malls, sneakers, bootleg merch, diners, dive bars, and the innumerable idiosyncrasies of his beloved hometown of Philadelphia. Between the two of us, *Ladybugs* loomed amusingly large—as well as the *Air Bud* sequels Dan loved to playfully chide. (After he died, I wrote in a Facebook post, "No one could hilariously recall and write about bad movies and TV shows like D-Mac." His mom, in the early stages of her grief, left a comment: "'Hey, Coach, how'd you like my spin move?' Blue Chips.")

There were many other things. Penn basketball. Philadelphia Union soccer. The articles we were both working on. He'd randomly text me a photo of the 2001–02 La Salle men's basketball media guide, whose cover depicted players sitting around a conference table with the line "We Mean Business." I'd text him a weirdly framed *Daily Mail* headline about Fran McCaffery W'82 getting hired to coach the Penn basketball team: "Caitlin Clark's potential father-in-law to coach Trump's alma mater." We talked about college basketball stats, vintage Penn memorabilia he liked to collect, and inside jokes from college, when we took road trips for the *Daily Pennsylvanian* and once bet on a little kids' basketball game during halftime of Penn–Yale in New Haven. (Dan wrote about this formative memory multiple times. He regarded little kid basketball the best halftime show because "every shot gets cheered like it's a game winner." He also boasted how he won that bet against me.)

Dan wasn't always filled with joy. In college he wrote a column about battling depression. He talked to me about his insecurities related to getting denied media credentials at certain events. Maybe that's why he always sought out humor wherever he could find it. And for all the enjoyment he got from laughing at bad movies, headlines, or ledes, Dan was incredibly humble and kind-hearted. As our friend Sebastian Stockman C'01 put it in his own tribute, which focused on their mutual love for cringeworthy journalistic openers, "Unstated but almost always present in our shared laughter at these foibles was an empathy for the writer. Sometimes you try to do too much! It happens to everyone!"

My friendship with Dan actually predated texting. I didn't even have a cell phone yet when we met as *Daily Pennsylvanian* sportswriters, and after graduation we mostly kept up over Gmail, making plans to hang out at the Palestra, our apartments, or neighborhood Philly bars. He did over email what he'd later do so well over text, sending out-of-the-blue messages just to recall and revive jokes from our *DP* days.

Over time, as it happens, we saw each other less frequently. I only met his wife a few times and never got to meet his young son, despite our frequent attempts to make plans. When it comes to close friendships, texting should never replace seeing each other or even talking on the phone. I know this. But with Dan, somehow, the texting felt special. He had an uncanny ability to brighten people's days with long and thoughtful messages that

were impeccably curated to his and their shared interests. And he managed to do this, it seemed, with hundreds of people.

Given our relationship, perhaps it's not surprising that he first shared his cancer diagnosis via text. After explaining his rare condition and daunting treatment plan, he ended by writing, "I am scared but not all that worried. I got this." So we continued on. I'd check in on him and invite him to join me at the Palestra. He'd send photos of his son, pointing out the humor and unexpected joys of fatherhood. (He had always taken an interest in my own son, jeering Princeton with him during an Ivy basketball tournament game three years ago and once interviewing him for an article he wrote about Lionel Messi playing against the Union.) Things felt as they always had.

Then, three weeks after his December *Ladybugs* message, he knocked the wind out of me with the most brutal text I've ever received: "My treatments have failed. I have weeks to months, probably on the shorter end. I remember so many great things from college and after. Wherever I am in the end, I know I'll miss you. <3." Less than two weeks after that, his mom called to tell me that Dan had died.

Since then, through the tears and the grief, I've felt urges to text my friend. There would have been plenty of reasons to do so. I wanted to text him about who I saw at his own funeral and the post-cemetery pub hang with a motley crew of old *DP* pals. I wanted to text him about weird moments from the Winter Olympics, like the Norwegian biathlete who revealed that he'd cheated on his girlfriend during a live post-win interview. I wanted to text him about the Penn student who took a full windup on a short putt on the Palestra floor during a game-break promotion and later when Quaker standout TJ Power (who Dan had texted me in December "sometimes looks like the best player they've had in forever") dropped a whopping 44 points on Yale to send Penn to the NCAA tournament. I especially wanted to tell him how cool it was that Christine Nangle C'02 and Matt Selman C'93 ["Stewarding *The Simpsons*," May|Jun 2025] included his likeness in a background shot of *The Simpsons*' 800th episode, set in Philadelphia. I watched that episode with my kids, pausing the TV when cartoon Dan popped up behind the Phillie Phanatic during a concert. He would have loved that episode so much.

At his funeral, Dan's mother, wearing a Penn scarf, told me how she lamented not being able to send him a text complaining about the Sixers trading away promising young guard Jared McCain the previous day. At a "Remembering Dan" event at Philadelphia's Pen & Pencil Club in early March, one journalist remarked that she's in a group chat of people devoted to sending texts about eccentric things they see that Dan would have loved. I thought about how watching the World Cup this summer won't be the same without seeing his name pop up on my phone during USA games.

My stream of text messages, and that of anyone else who knew him, will forever feel less colorful and more predictable.

How does such a hole get filled? It doesn't really, not exactly. I'll do my best to break up the mundanity of daily carpooling and logistical texts by reaching out to friends, randomly, when a funny memory or thought pops into my head. I hope to keep up with old *DP* colleagues whom I've talked to more since Dan's death, and to make new friends as he did so well. I'll try to be more curious, to notice life's absurdities, to understand what Dan intuitively knew: that while there will always be milestones to rejoice and news stories that will make you feel angry or sad, finding a way to laugh at something offbeat and silly is an underrated way to stay connected to the people you love.

And just now, as I'm writing this, I'm rewatching *Ladybugs*, smiling through gritted teeth at Rodney Dangerfield's crude jokes and misguided quest to coach a winning soccer team. Spoiler alert: I still can't believe he got that promotion.

Dave Zeitlin C'03 is an associate editor at the *Pennsylvania Gazette* and a former sports editor of the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, just before Dan McQuade held the same position.

Player Piano

Exactly 100 years ago, my grandfather's prospects as a skilled craftsman seemed assured.

By Robert Elias

Photo courtesy Robert Elias

In the late 1970s, after my grandfather died, I lived for a while in the Elmhurst, Queens, house that had been his home since 1923. The basement contained a little shop where all his drafting and woodworking tools remained. For our family, these tools were imbued with deep meaning. He had used them to build us desks, chests, tables, hat racks, lamp stands, and other furniture. But these projects were a far cry from his real craft. My grandfather was a piano maker.

August Elias was born in 1888 in a small village outside Brno in the Moravia region of the present-day Czech Republic. By the time he was a teenager, August was living in Vienna, where he trained as a piano maker at the Tischler-Genossenschaft before emigrating to the United States in 1910. After settling initially in the German and Czech enclave of Yorkville on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, soon he relocated to Queens.

In New York, he used his skills to find work in the piano industry. In the early years of the 20th century, hundreds of piano companies competed to meet the demand for what was known as the "king of instruments." Pianos were widely sought even by households with limited means. Both adults and children were encouraged to learn the instrument, and many did. Listening to piano performances and singing around the piano was a primary entertainment for millions of families and their friends. "The piano," according to music historian James Parton, "was only less important to the home than the kitchen stove."

Piano making was thus a very viable career for a skilled craftsperson. It was also rewarding in deeper ways. The piano maker had the satisfaction of construct-

ing the entire instrument and developing a relationship with his creation and fellow artisans. Craftspeople were never just cogs in an assembly line.

August quickly found a piano job after passing through Ellis Island, initially working for Steinway making conventional pianos. But a technological upheaval was already underway—offering music on demand, with no skill or training required—and my grandfather felt the need to swiftly adapt. So as phonograph record players began to proliferate in American living rooms, August moved to the Standard Pneumatic Action Company on West 52nd Street in Manhattan to make player pianos.

Initially powered by foot compression (and later by electric motors), the player piano's pedal pulled air through holes in a paper roll that fed across a tracker bar, activating a small pneumatic bellows that pushed a lever. The lever pushed the piano key down, causing the hammer to strike the string and produce a note. In effect, it was a very large music box.

In the 1910s, the production of conventional pianos declined as the number of player pianos rose. Then the phonograph industry got a jolt of its own: Americans started filling their homes with radios, and record sales fell off a cliff. *Piano Trade Magazine* took it all in stride. Radio might prove a passing fad, it reckoned, and even if it didn't, so much the better: all that frictionless exposure to music would whet consumers' appetites to buy more pianos and player pianos.

Instead, between 1914 and 1925, the number of piano companies declined by 44 percent. And that was just a prelude. In 1927 in New York there were 53 piano companies that collectively employed 6,751 workers. By 1935, 14 firms remained, employing only 1,443 craftsmen.

Yet in 1926 optimism for the piano trade remained high, at least for player pianos. My grandfather's firm, Standard Pneumatic Action, was featured in *The Music Trades* magazine, predicting bright prospects ahead. The previous two years had been the biggest ever for Standard, and 1926 promised to be even more prolific.

But it wasn't to be. In 1930, only four years after Standard's optimistic projections, August received a letter from superintendent A. K. Gutsohn. It was a notice that the company was closing and he was being terminated. My grandfather could have hardly received a more sympathetic dismissal.

Piano Trade Magazine reckoned radio might be a passing fad, or better still, that free and easy exposure to music would spur consumers to buy more pianos.

"After nearly twenty years of constant struggle side by side struggling along and advancing to the positions we have finally held in this organization, it is hard for me to find the words [to tell you that] our business relations have to be severed," Gutsohn wrote. "During this time you have proven yourself a perfect gentleman and very capable of filling all the positions you have held and particularly that of Assistant Superintendent … [I can't] tell you how much I appreciate your friendship, and the loyalty and cooperation you have shown not only to the company we both served but to myself, personally."

About my grandfather, Gutsohn also concluded that he had "no fear of [his] future success because besides being a competent production engineer you know fully well all phases of the wood-working industry." But Gutsohn's confidence was misplaced for August, not to mention the thousands of other piano craftsmen who never again found work making the king of instruments. Not only did he fail to secure employment in the declining piano industry, he never again worked a skilled job.

My grandfather had experienced the satisfaction of handcrafting beautiful pieces of musical furniture, and quite likely expected that he would be a piano maker for life. Instead, at age 42, he was unemployed with a homemaker wife and two children. When a job emerged, he was thrown into factory work far below his skills, ultimately landing in a shop at Grumman Aircraft on Long Island.

Of course, many will observe that technology not only destroys but also creates. We rightfully celebrate the emergence and the staying power of radio; I'm a particular devotee. Even so, the disruption can be devastating for the workers it displaces, especially for those whose skill no longer has any market value. Today only two piano-making firms remain in the US: Steinway & Sons and Mason & Hamlin.

The rise of automated mass manufacturing was the death knell for craftspeople of so many kinds. Now artificial intelligence is poised to replace men and women who have derived dignity, along with their daily bread, from all sorts of other work whose social value once seemed beyond question. Besides the loss of jobs, what will be the societal and psychological consequences as we remove ourselves further and further from meaningful work?

My sister Pat and I have inherited my grandfather's ancient tools, which we've carefully preserved in his timeworn, old wooden toolboxes. The chisels, clamps, saws, planes, tuning hammers, and other implements remind us of August—but also of a time when being a skilled craftsman really mattered.

Robert Elias C'72 is an Emeritus Professor at the University of San Francisco. His 12th book is *Dangerous Danny Gardella: Baseball's Neglected Trailblazer for Today's Millionaire Athletes* (Bloomsbury, 2025).

Wanna Watch TV?

The sanctity of mosh pits and movie nights.

By Lila Dubois

The first chord left to hang in the air, it tempts. Tantalizes. Oscillates across the room in blown-out tendrils of sound, a grungy and poorly mixed metal buzz, the bomb just before the moment of total devastation. The lead singer of Fat, Evil Children opens his Fat, Evil mouth and then the whole clattering cacophony of four 20-something garage musicians charges forward. From the audience, I imagine our ear drums collectively blown into a million pieces. An exploded disco ball of hearing loss. We are willing casualties, though, the masochistic subjects of our own sonic mutilation. This is precisely what we came for.

By the third song, someone's little brother has crowd surfed to the front of the stage. Early in the night for this kind of behavior, but not unheard of at a show like this, where the physical exertion of the crowd is the ultimate gauge of the performers' aptitude. By this measure, tonight's openers Fat, Evil Children, and headliners Frat Mouse are masters of their craft.

As always, the Frat Mouse line "I've spent too long on the 101 North" nearly brings the crowd to their knees. It's elation, a total release, a moshing so hard you end up on the far side of the room with a new friend group.

It's Slow Media at its finest.

Slow Media could also be a movie. A museum. A musical or a karaoke night where a drunken coworker will make "Yellow" by Coldplay completely new for you (the quality of his performance beside the point—all you know is that you now, inexplicably, no longer hate the song). The search for Slow Media might involve donning a leotard-adjacent arrangement of neon latex straps and triangle shapes, taking a subway, then a bus, then walking for 30 minutes to an eerie industrial sector of the city, navigating with only an echolocational sixth sense for an 808 kick drum pulse, and arriving finally at the all-night rave. It could be perusing a magazine with your girls or watching synchronized swimming, televised live at noon, with your grandpa (should you both be so gainfully unemployed). It's a book club, a biweekly *Golden Bachelor* viewing, a dance party.

For most of human history, the only way to partake in art was to do so in the public sphere. Today though, it's possible to live entirely in the echo chamber of one's algorithm, building a robust but solitary universe of movies, books, paintings, and more, curated unwittingly by your somnambulistic clicks and taps. It's become almost countercultural—an act of resistance—to experience media once again in the presence of others.

Media, which delivers most of our art these days, can of course help us realize and inform the self, but when taken up in the public sphere, it can also be our tap into the community. It's the heat off the person in seat G8 next to your G9. It's making a friend in line at the Beyoncé presale. It's the old man at the park stopping to comment on the title of the book you're reading (it's *Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs*, of course). It's going early for the opener and realizing they're your new favorite band (it's Fat, Evil Children, of course). It's being beholden to showtimes and setlists and friends' preferences outside of the narrow options you'd consider by yourself. Experiencing art in community means putting your trust in someone else, opening yourself up to total disappointment or the utterly sublime, but always a thrilling perspective outside of your own.

Illustration by Sean Gallagher

Not long ago I sat on a bench beside my friend Maya, huddling in the morning chill with our coffee and our favorite issue of *People* magazine: the hallowed annual "Sexiest Man Alive" edition. John Krasinski smiled coyly in the centerfold, leaning awkwardly across a taxicab, and Maya and I proffered that perhaps 2024 declaring John Krasinski the Sexiest Man Alive might be an indicator of a chaotic political climate, a whole country yearning for the teddy bear of *The Office*, so fervently as to redefine sexy as stability, safety, and quotidian cute.

And in the haze of our shared breath, warm air rising before us like evidence in the cold, Maya declared that her idea of a life well lived was exactly this: one where she simply consumes as much media as possible.

I understood then how the content did not matter (nothing against *People*). What mattered was the Slowness. Our sitting on a bench, chatting, driving to new levels of engagement with each other and the world. Maya's life devoted to media, I believe, is made meaningful by the slow, togetherness of it, and the insistence that you can get something from anything (a wide-angle Krasinski hailing a cab!) if you digest it thoughtfully, multiplying its meaning through the lenses of others around you.

When you join your roommates for movie night, as opposed to watching alone on your computer, you are participating in a sacred act of aesthetic communion. Splayed out across the frayed faux green suede couch you'd hauled across the city, saved from the sidewalk for the express purpose of rotting together in this way, you and your roommates are fulfilling cinema's ultimate purpose. In cheetah print capri pajamas and a Sabrina Carpenter concert t-shirt (for example), you are giving life to the movie *Valley Girl* (for example) through your reactions, just as the film is giving life to your conversation, collaborative thinking, and, ultimately, connection. Because without the film, there would have been no living room chat on the demise of taffeta since the 1980s, or conjecture about whether high school parties remain a battleground still unwon by feminism. Without my audience-in-arms, what would *Valley Girl* be to me? A reduction, shrunken to fit the static singularity of my own head. Boring.

Which brings me back to this particular saline cesspool of B.O. and stereo fuzz. Where my sister has been crowned queen of the mosh, ascended and held above the crowd, an angelic figure floating on a sea of willing hands, the Frat Mouse fandom—the Mouse House—in full force. For a moment, as if time suspended, all of us worship our new goddess of sound and form, along with the crusty midwestern-meets-San-Fernando-Valley emo band that has transformed my sister's flesh, blood, and Brandy Melville tank top into a substance vaguely more divine.

After the show people spill onto the sidewalk and down the street in smoke-haloed crews. Neighbors in the hills behind the venue sit on front stoops, listening. This time no one calls the cops.

It would have been a ridiculous scene if not so earnest, the dancing and Frat Mouse's vocal fry, delivering the lyric "I've spent too long on the 101 North" with such genuine desperation. Concertgoers leave with arms around new friends and humming "Plywood" solo lines, already nursing mosh pit bruises and with hearts aching for bassist girlfriends they will never have.

Fat, Evil Children's "Running" coasts my sister and me the whole drive home, two girls in need of deodorant and a midnight snack, howling down the spine of the 101 freeway. South this time. Everything feels violently real and connected, the night cold and crystalline in the dark beyond our headlights, my sister already making plans for the next show.

Lila Dubois C'25 lives in New York.

Power Surge

Fran McCaffery's prized transfer propels Penn back to the NCAA tournament with a championship performance for the ages.

Photo courtesy Penn Athletics

The Penn men's basketball team celebrates its Ivy tournament championship, which booked the Quakers a March Madness ticket.

When Yale made two free throws to go ahead by four points over Penn with 12 seconds remaining in the Ivy League men's basketball championship on March 15, the Quakers' season looked to be over.

Top-seeded Yale—the regular-season Ivy champs and two-time defending Ivy tourney champs—had a greater than 90 percent chance at that point to return to the NCAA tournament for the fourth time in five years.

But Penn junior forward TJ Power wasn't thinking about the odds.

"I've been telling people I had this weird feeling, like an absence of fear," Power says. "I was just like, *Somehow, we're just not going to lose*. We had so many close games this year, and we were building up to something special. And I was like, *Something's gonna happen here.*"

Something indeed happened.

First, Power dribbled down the court and drilled a three-pointer with seven seconds remaining to pull the Quakers within one. Then, after Yale made two more free throws, Power delivered a moment that will forever be enshrined in Penn basketball lore, burying another three-pointer just before time expired to force overtime.

Power had expected Yale to foul him before he could attempt a game-tying basket. But the Bulldogs instead opted to cover him one-on-one with Casey Simmons, the Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year. "I had to kind of pause in the air and let him flow by a little and then put a lot of arc on the shot," Power recalls. "But I knew if I could get one off, I was in a state where it just felt like everything was gonna go in."

"We had so many close games this year, and we were building up to something special."

That climactic trey gave Power a whopping 40 points for the game. He scored four more in overtime to help seal an 88–84 victory, clinching the Ivy's automatic NCAA tournament berth for the Quakers, who hadn't been there since 2018. Power's 44-point game (to go with 14 rebounds) tied him with Hassan Duncombe C'91 for the third-highest single-game total in program history, behind only Ernie Beck W'53 (who had 47-point and 45-point games in 1952).

Penn head coach Fran McCaffery W'82 has "seen a lot" in his more than 40 years on the sidelines, but Power doing what he did "in a championship game, that's what separates it," McCaffery says. "With everything on the line and what we needed him to do late in regulation to win the game, I haven't seen that."

Power may not have expected to deliver arguably the greatest performance in program history, but he knew that he had to be "super aggressive" to make up for the absence of offensive costar Ethan Roberts, who was ruled out of the Ivy tournament due to concussion symptoms. "I kind of had that green-light feeling where it's just like every time I touch the ball, I'm looking to score," Power says. "And I think toward the end of the year, I felt like I was capable of these kinds of games."

Power had indeed showcased his lights-out offensive ability before. It's why McCaffery's first big move after getting hired last year ["Full Circle," Jan|Feb 2026] was bringing in Power, who had spent the previous two seasons at NCAA powerhouses Duke and Virginia (where playing time was at a premium) after being ranked among the best high school players in the country. It took Power a little time to settle in at Penn, but the 6-foot-9 forward scored 29 points against La Salle earlier in the season and, more recently, dropped 38 on Dartmouth. "When you have a special player like that, you just trust him at the end of the game to make the right play," says McCaffery, who also calls Power an "elite rebounder" as well as a good ballhandler and defender. "I'm really happy for him, because as you watched his season unfold, he just kept getting better and better."

His teammates also rose to the occasion. Starting in place of Roberts—who McCaffery notes "carried us a lot early in the season" before his initial December concussion slowed him down—senior Cam Thrower had 19 points in the title game and delivered the knockout blow with a huge stepback three-pointer in overtime. Before the game, "I told Cam, 'Ethan's out, it's unfortunate,'" McCaffery re-

Photo courtesy Penn Athletics

calls. "He said, 'Coach, don't worry about it, I've got it.'" Sophomore point guard AJ Levine stepped up too, driving for the game-winning layup in the previous day's Ivy semifinal matchup against Harvard—another dramatic overtime Penn win.

Winning both of those games in overtime, after winning seven of their last eight regular-season games to qualify for the four-team "Ivy Madness" tourney held this year at Cornell, was emotional for Power. "It was kind of bigger than that weekend; it was like the culmination of my college basketball experience so far, and all of the lows and the hard moments," he says, noting he "was crying in my room" when they got back to the hotel.

One of the hardest parts, Power says, was convincing his teammates that they were capable of a title after losing three straight Ivy games in late January. The team snapped back with a road win at Cornell, and Power thought about leaving a sock behind in the locker room to pick up when they returned for Ivy Madness, which felt to some like a long shot at the time. "We had just lost at Columbia, and we were going up to Cornell, and it was just hard for the guys to picture themselves back in that gym playing for an Ivy League championship," Power says. "I was trying to tell them, *This changes so fast*." For the players who'd finished near the bottom of the league in the previous two seasons, "it's hard to shift culture," adds Power. "But I was so happy for these guys once we won. They never have to doubt themselves again."

Instead they got to watch Penn's name pop up during the NCAA tournament selection show on a hotel TV, hours after their championship. "I always hope that at least one time—hopefully it's more than once—everybody I coach gets a chance to do that," says McCaffery, who's now led five different schools to the NCAA tournament. By the time they made the four-hour trip back to Philly—"a fun bus ride to say the least," the coach says—it was after midnight, and walking down Locust Walk "felt like a movie-scene type of moment," Power says. On their way back home, Power paused at the Ben on the Bench statue to let the University founder hold the Ivy League championship trophy. (The Quakers won't need to get on a bus for next year's Ivy tourney. It was recently announced that the Palestra will host the event in conjunction with the building's 100-year anniversary.)

Spirits were high on campus for the next two days, with classmates congratulating the Quakers ahead of their trip to Greenville, South Carolina, to take on Illinois in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Then, things became decidedly less fun for Power, who came down with a stomach virus so nasty he "was on the toilet for like five days straight." The Penn star needed five rounds of IV hydration to suit up and felt in a fog when he got onto the court, "like I was just out there trying to survive." Power finished with only six points as the Quakers, seeded 14th in their region, were blown out by 35 by a dominant third-seeded Illinois squad that went on to the Final Four.

McCaffery felt terribly for Power, "especially because he willed us there," the coach says. Had Power and Roberts (who was again ruled out for what would have been his final game in a Penn uniform) been healthy, "it would have been a much different game," says McCaffery, who called sharpshooter Michael Zanoni's 20-point performance "incredible" given all the attention he was getting from the Illinois defense. "I go over in my head, what would have happened," adds Power. "It's obviously a tough matchup, but it's March."

Power hopes a March upset could be forthcoming for the Quakers, who haven't won an NCAA tournament game since 1994. "March Madness is an experience of a lifetime and selfishly I didn't get to enjoy it this time around," he says. "I want to go and I want to enjoy it and I want to make a run." And he wants to do it in a Penn uniform, saying he never entertained thoughts of going back into the transfer portal even though he certainly could have scored a big pay day to return to a power-conference team. "I found something special here," says Power, who notes that McCaffery "means a lot to me" and that Penn's environment, where you're not "isolated as a basketball player," has "brought me out of my shell" as a student and a person.

Now, Power says, "I want to build on it even more. And I think next year can be even better." —*DZ*

COMMENCEMENT

Historian Michael Beschloss to Speak

Michael Beschloss will deliver the keynote address for Penn's 270th Commencement ceremony, scheduled for May 18 at Franklin Field. An award-winning presidential historian, author, and scholar, Beschloss is an NBC News and PBS contributor whose most recent book, *Presidents of War: The Epic Story, from 1807 to Modern Times*, was a *New York Times* bestseller. He's written other books on several American presidents—and the crucial decisions they've made—including Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon Johnson.

In a statement, Penn President J. Larry Jameson called Beschloss "one of our nation's most important historians," adding that "as we celebrate our country's 250th anniversary of independence, we look forward to his perspective and guidance for the centuries ahead."

At the Commencement ceremony, Beschloss will receive an honorary degree, along with economist and Harvard professor Claudia Goldin (who served on Penn's faculty from 1979 to 1990), chemist Carolyn Bertozzi, harpist Ann Hobson Pilot, and landscape architect James Corner GFA'86 GLA'86, professor emeritus of landscape architecture and urbanism at Penn's Weitzman School of Design who's best known for designing New York City's High Line ["The Transformer," Nov|Dec 2012].

Photo by Stephen Voss courtesy University Communications

Too Many Students, Not Enough Knowledge

At this year's Levin Family Dean's Forum, *The Atlantic*'s Tom Nichols took on higher education.

The moderator for the 2026 School of Arts & Sciences Levin Family Dean's Forum, Lauder Professor of Political Science Brendan O'Leary, opened his conversation with this year's speaker, *Atlantic* staff writer Tom Nichols, by reciting some recent article headlines from the magazine in which Nichols offered a variety of criticisms of President Donald Trump W'68. "My critics will say that I have Trump Derangement Syndrome," Nichols replied. "But this president is a threat on so many levels to so many things. I try to write about other things now and then, but this is what draws my attention."

There were plenty of those other things discussed during the March 3 forum as well. Nichols—a former professor of national security affairs at the US Naval War College who has also taught at Dartmouth, Georgetown, and in Harvard's extension and summer programs—lamented that "most of the world's nuclear weapons are now in the hands of people who are either authoritarians or have authoritarian impulses, like the president," but added that, rather than nuclear war, the greatest current threat is "the collapse of the constitutional order in the United States" under Trump's assaults.

While many in the audience at the Penn Museum's Harrison Auditorium may have been nodding along with those sentiments, when O'Leary turned to a discussion of Nichols's book *The Death of Expertise: The Campaign Against Established Knowledge and Why It Matters*, the target of his criticism hit closer to home. Those remarks by Nichols, excerpted below, have been lightly condensed and edited. —*JP*

> I remember, when I started at Dartmouth, one of my colleagues coming to me—because I was the undergraduate advisor for the department—and saying, 'I feel like a clerk in an expensive boutique,' a quote that I put in the book. And I found that in trying to advise students, their sense of entitlement is greater than I had remembered from my college and graduate education. I went undergraduate to Boston University, I did a master's at Columbia, and then I was a TA and PhD candidate at Georgetown. And [at Dartmouth] I was constantly stunned by some of the interactions.
>
> A student came in and said, 'I decided that I want to be a Central European commercial expert, get a master's degree maybe, go to Berlin.' 'You know,' I said, 'that's a great idea. How's your German?' She said, 'I have to learn German?' I said, 'What's your language?' 'I placed out of Spanish.' I said, 'Well, that's not really useful in Berlin.' And she gave me a look—nice kid, but she gave me a look, like, 'When did the help get so uppity?'
>
> And I found that what was really happening was, as long as seats were filled, students were being asked about being happy. This is what I call the therapeutic model of education. We were spending a lot of time saying, 'Are you happy? Do you feel included? Is this meaningful to you?' I think we're asking them things that, first of all, are either irrelevant or that they can't answer right now. Ask them 10 years from now about whether their education was meaningful to them.
>
> I think you're seeing, particularly in this middle tranche of very expensive boutique schools, that it's, 'Well, come here. We know it's fantastically expensive, and we have a cool rock-climbing wall.' This is not healthy. There are so many college degrees now that the days when someone could say, 'Look, what I know about this is more authoritative than you because I went to college'—well, [now] we all went to college. But that doesn't mean that everyone got an education. And that, I think, is driving some of this death of expertise: 'Sure, you went to Penn and studied Russian history. And I went to a local community college, and I read a book in a world history course about Russia. We both have college degrees. Why should I listen to you?'
>
> This is a very tender subject, because, immediately, you're being elitist. There are real differences among universities, there are real differences among programs, there are real differences among students—and we have chosen, in the name of egalitarianism and peace and happiness for our students, to say that those things don't really exist.

"There are real differences among universities, there are real differences among programs, there are real differences among students."

> This is not a jihad against the liberal arts. I don't want to live in a world without art history. That is not what this is about. But I think a lot of kids who have gone off to college—at a time when in my little state of Rhode Island, we are hurting for electricians and builders—would have been happier [doing that]. Because a lot of these kids end up going into trades afterwards, and college was just, as one graduate described his college experience in my book, 'those magical seven years between high school and your first warehouse job.' That is a real crime. We shouldn't be dragging people in the door and saying, 'Fine, just go to college, and we hope you enjoy the experience. And if you graduate and you don't know a whole lot—you're not really prepared to do anything, and you're not really an educated citizen—you're still gonna owe us $50,000.'

Balance of Power

Penn economist Hanming Fang on China's rise and the future of US–China relations.

That the Iran war delayed but did not derail a planned trip by President Donald Trump W'68 to Beijing—rescheduled from April to May 14–15 at this writing, with a reciprocal visit to Washington, DC, by Chinese leader Xi Jinping expected later in the year—highlights the ongoing strategic competition between the two nations, which will shape the future of geopolitics and international trade.

Hanming Fang Gr'00, Penn's Norman C. Grosman Professor of Economics, is coeditor of *The Arc of the Chinese Economy* (Cambridge University Press, 2025), which provides a timely account of how China's economy has evolved and where it may be headed. In an email interview, Fang, who is spending the current academic year as a visiting scholar at Pembroke College at Cambridge, shared some thoughts on China's ascent and vulnerabilities, US–China trade, and the prospects for Chinese students coming to America in light of US immigration policies and broader issues of cost and opportunities elsewhere.

He began by noting that, in the face of US tariffs, China announced the world's largest trade surplus ever last year. The goods and services it sold abroad in 2025 were valued at $1.19 trillion more than its imports—a near 20 percent increase over 2024, which was fueled by exports to the European Union, Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia.

"The growth of the Chinese economy in the last four decades is one of the most transformative events of global economic history," Fang said, but he also pointed to "signs of fragility." For example, another driver of China's trade surplus was "a weakness in Chinese currency and the country's domestic consumption." The buying power of Chinese families has withered since a housing market crash in 2021 eroded the life savings of many who had invested in property. "The loss in value of the renminbi," which makes imports more expensive, "has depressed consumer spending."

When asked how China went from a technological backwater to a superpower in his lifetime, Fang noted that government subsidies were an important factor, but not sufficient in themselves. "They functioned primarily as accelerants," he said, "helping firms scale early, move rapidly down learning curves to improve quality, and survive periods of low profitability while building industrial capacity."

But other "structural and market forces" were at least as important: "intense internal competition, vast domestic market, strong infrastructure investment, and the clustering of supply chains that dramatically reduced transaction and coordination costs. Local governments, incentivized by growth and employment targets, competed to attract industry."

"Human capital" was also central. "China trained large numbers of engineers and technicians skilled in applied, production-oriented problem-solving. Of course, in early stages, precisely because China was a long way from the global technological frontier, openness to foreign technology—through trade, joint ventures, imported equipment, and learning-by-doing—played a critical role."

EDUCATION COSTS

Tuition and Aid for 2026–27 Academic Year

Undergraduate tuition | **$65,670**
Housing | **$13,644**
Dining | **$6,960**
Fees | **$8,308**
Total | **$94,582** (3.8 percent annual increase)
Total undergraduate financial aid* | **$347 million** (3.8 percent annual increase)

*Tuition is fully covered for undergraduates from families with annual incomes of $200,000 or less with typical assets.

China's dominance in the production of lithium-ion batteries—which were invented by American and Japanese scientists and are used to power electric vehicles and store excess energy captured by solar panels, as well as for AI data centers and modern weapons systems—reflects its "control over the entire midstream of the supply chain," Fang said. "While China did not have a monopoly on raw materials, it invested heavily in mineral processing, component materials for batteries, cell production, and pack integration. These activities benefit enormously from manufacturing at scale, learning-by-doing, and tight supplier coordination. Strong domestic demand—especially from electric vehicles—created early volume, while fierce competition forced continuous cost reduction and process innovation."

A similar story can be told about China's preeminence in the chemical separation and refinement of rare earth

Illustration by Rich Lillash

metals needed, along with the magnets made from them, for almost all modern manufacturing.

Along with its advances, Fang also pointed to "several interrelated vulnerabilities" confronting China. "The property sector, still recovering from the burst of the domestic housing bubble in 2021, remains a major drag," he said. "Debt constrains fiscal flexibility of local governments. Demographic decline will weigh on long-term growth and raise social spending pressures. Youth unemployment reflects structural mismatches between education and labor demand, as well as subdued private-sector confidence.

"More broadly, China faces the challenge of transitioning from investment- and property-led growth to productivity- and consumption-led growth while operating in a more constrained external environment. China's ability to realize its growth potential will depend on stabilizing the property sector without reigniting excesses, restoring private-sector confidence, raising household consumption, improving productivity, and managing fiscal and demographic pressures."

Dramatic as China's economic ascendancy has been, he added, "the United States retains major strengths. They include capital markets, alliances, immigration capacity, and not least research universities, but sustaining them requires confidence, openness, and investment."

Fang grew up in the Zhoushan Islands in the East China Sea and graduated from Fudan University in Shanghai before earning his PhD in economics at Penn in 2000—when he was one of some 55,000 Chinese students enrolled at US colleges and universities. At its pre-pandemic peak in 2019–2020, that number swelled to 372,000 but shrank to 277,000 in 2023–24 (still about a quarter of all international students). The decline reflects "visa uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, and perceptions of discrimination," as well as "the increasing attractiveness of Hong Kong and Singaporean universities, relative to those in the US and the UK, as destinations of overseas education for Chinese families, both for geopolitical reasons and for cost-effectiveness," he said, adding that cost "becomes a more salient consideration due to the decline in housing wealth." Fang speculated that "future flows will depend on US immigration policy, campus climate, post-graduation work opportunities, and the attractiveness of alternative destinations."

Should the number of Chinese students coming to the US to study—and remaining in the country after graduation—continue to trend downward, the economies of both countries would suffer, he contended. "The United States would lose tuition revenue, local economic activity, and a key source of high-skilled labor, particularly in STEM fields," Fang said. "China would lose some access to US-based research networks and tacit knowledge, though it may retain more talent domestically. Overall, both economies would lose from reduced talent circulation." Furthermore, "reduced contact increases misunderstanding, mistrust, and the risk of miscalculation," he added. "It weakens informal channels that help societies interpret each other accurately and undermines cooperation in areas such as science, health, and climate change."

While the economies of the United States and China remain deeply interdependent through trade, finance, and global supply chains, more segmentation is occurring in strategic sectors such as semiconductors and AI. Going forward, "we are likely to see selective decoupling, alongside continued integration in many non-strategic areas. Interdependence will persist, but it will be narrower and more managed," Fang predicted. "How the future will shape up depends a lot on whether a certain level of mutual trust can be sustained to serve as the foundations of collaboration."

And on that, while admitting that he may be naïve, he remains "cautiously optimistic."

—Mary Ann Meyers Gr'76

MEDICAL HISTORY

New Museum at Pennsylvania Hospital

Engraving courtesy The National Library of Medicine

As the country celebrates its 250th birthday this summer, America's first hospital will mark another milestone.

The Pennsylvania Hospital, founded in 1751 by Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Bond, will commemorate its 275th anniversary by transforming its historic Pine Street Building into a museum, set to open to the public this May.

Exhibits at the new Pennsylvania Hospital Museum (www.PAHospitalMuseum.org) include the preserved historic library and surgical amphitheater, a reconstruction of its original apothecary, and galleries that "feature interactive video and other hands-on activities to illustrate previously untold stories about Pennsylvania Hospital's role in the history of modern medicine," per a Penn Medicine release. Each gallery is dedicated to a story central to the hospital's legacy and how it has evolved into a key component of the University of Pennsylvania Health System and leader in patient care. They include how it was first established to provide psychiatric care to Philadelphia's poorest residents; how it paved the way for modern obstetrics and gynecology, from establishing the first maternity ward in 1803 to becoming the busiest birthing hospital in Philadelphia; and how it provided care for soldiers during the American Revolution and to Philadelphians during pandemics, from the 1793 Yellow Fever to COVID-19.

Century-Spanning Addition

Stuart Weitzman Hall mixes old and new in a space-doubling project.

The stretch of campus along the eastern side of 34th Street has seen several projects in recent decades that artfully carved out new space within a limited footprint in concert with building renovations.

The latest is the former Morgan Building, dedicated in February as Stuart Weitzman Hall, which will house the Department of Fine Arts and provide space for the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy and the Penn Art Collection, as well as a variety of new meeting, classroom, studio, and office spaces. Previously, in 2010 the neighboring Lerner Center doubled the music department's space with an addition designed by Ana Beha Architects ["Gazetteer," Jul|Aug 2010].

Both structures date from 1892 and were designed by Cope & Stewardson, Penn's late-19th/early-20th-century go-to architecture firm—though they were not built for the University but as residential and classroom space for the Foulke and Long Institute for Orphan Girls of Soldiers and Firemen. Penn purchased the buildings around the turn of the 20th century and for most of the subsequent decades, Morgan, the orphanage's education building, housed the physics department. From the mid-1950s until the 1970s, it was occupied by the Nursing School and since then has been used by the Weitzman School of Design for artist studios, offices, and a printmaking studio.

The renovation and expansion effort, the school's first major capital project in more than 50 years, was announced in May 2022. Construction, managed by Target Building, began in March 2024 and was largely completed by September 2025.

The architect selected for the $58 million project was Philadelphia-based and alumni-founded KieranTimberlake, whose design for Levine Hall—which provided a new building for the Department of Computer and Information Science in what had been a service and parking zone, while linking the historic Towne Building (completed 1906) and 1960s-era Graduate Research Wing—was the first puzzle-piece project in that corner of campus ["A Passion for Putting Things Together," Nov|Dec 2003].

In an interview posted on the School of Design's website about the Weitzman Hall project, Stephen Kieran GAr'76 commented on the interplay between the original building and addition. "The Weitzman School has a real diversity of need that I think the combination of the two buildings really suits. You couldn't almost do it new and have it work as well," he said. "It's got a little bit of everything, from research areas to classrooms to faculty office spaces to studio art spaces to design spaces to various centers and archives."

The firm's design preserves the original building's terra cotta façade and Italianate porch and balcony while reconfiguring the interior space. For the addition, rather than echo the red palette of the original, the façade gestures toward the darker color of the Collegiate Gothic-style Towne Building, with handmade bricks sourced from Denmark.

The addition doubles the building's capacity to 38,500 square feet, extending toward the Towne Building from the rear and outward to adjacent Smith Walk, with terraces and gardens wrapping the site. An accessible entrance on the Smith Walk side leads to a covered outdoor patio and a glass-walled gallery that can be set up for exhibitions, lectures, and other uses. The first floor also includes an entry foyer, department offices, and flexible spaces. Upper floors feature classrooms, faculty offices, individual artist studios, research areas, and variously sized studios and spaces for critiques. Maker and fabrication spaces in the basement include facilities for woodworking and welding. *—JP*

Photo by Greg Benson

House of Champions

After two straight men's squash national titles, the Penn women's squash team captures one of its own.

Jack Wyant was numb. Happy and calm, he tried to explain, but still numb.

It was a little more than 24 hours after the coach had led his Penn women's squash team to the program's first Howe Cup national championship in 26 years, and the second one ever. After two losses to archrival Princeton earlier in the season—one a road dual match and the other in the final of the Ivy League tournament, also at Princeton—the Quakers upended the top-ranked Tigers, 5–4, at Philadelphia's Arlen Specter US Squash Center in early March in a dramatic deciding match between the two bottom-ranked players on each squad. Wyant still couldn't believe what had happened.

"We're not the New York Yankees," Wyant said as he stared at a phone he said had lit up like a Christmas tree with congratulatory messages from former players, alumni supporters, opposing coaches, friends, and family. "We don't just roll out of bed and win a championship."

As the program's head coach since 2004, Wyant had never before won a College Squash Association (CSA) national championship, though his teams reached the Howe Cup final four previous times, enduring heartbreaking losses to Princeton in 2008 and to Harvard in 2010, 2016 and 2017. After becoming Penn's director of squash in 2018—which includes overseeing the men's program that is coached by former All-American Gilly Lane C'07 G'14 LPS'20—Wyant was also present when the men lost the 2020 and 2022 national title matches, both to Harvard.

So before the 2024 championship, Wyant was only half-joking when he suggested to Lane that perhaps he should stay home because his record in finals was so dismal. (To his credit, Wyant did win a national title while a freshman at, of all places, Princeton.) But the Penn men went on to beat Trinity two years ago and then were undefeated last season to repeat as national champs ["Sports," May|Jun 2024, May|Jun 2025].

This year the men were denied a threepeat with an upset loss to Harvard in the CSA semifinals, but their No. 1 player, senior Omar Hafez, won the individual CSA national championship ["Sports," Mar|Apr 2026]. Many men's players, including current standouts Salman Khalil and Marwan Abdelsalam as well as former No. 1 Nick Spizzirri, were a vocal presence in the crowd at the women's final.

Despite a convincing win over Cornell and a 5–4 squeaker against Stanford in Penn's first two tournament matches, Wyant wasn't optimistic going into the final against Princeton. Two days earlier, junior Anne Leakey, the team's No. 6 player, retired from her match with what turned out to be a torn ACL, requiring a last-minute shuffling of the lineup. Junior Ashna Tumuluri was also competing with painful shin splints. "On paper, we should have gotten murdered," said Wyant. "It's really impossible to comprehend."

All season, Wyant relied heavily on his top four players, especially junior Malak Khafagy, who played No. 1 and lost just one dual match, against Princeton's Zeina Zain, before beating her in four games in the national finals. For the second straight season, Khafagy was named Ivy League Player of the Year.

Junior Franka Vidovic and senior Malak Taha were solid at No. 2 and No. 3 all year and junior Sohaila Ismail was undefeated in dual matches at No. 4. Savannah Ingledew, a sophomore who played No. 8, came up with two massive 3–2 wins against Stanford and Princeton.

Despite playing just two dual matches prior to the Howe Cup, senior co-captain Jana Dweek, who has been plagued by back pain due to bulging discs that caused her to drop out of the lineup, was suddenly called into action before the Cornell match.

"I really wasn't expecting to play," Dweek, who spent most of the season cheering for her teammates from the sidelines, said by phone from her home in Calgary days after the final. "I wasn't moving very well. I didn't win any of the challenge matches I played. The only time I played was when they needed somebody."

But Dweek rose to the occasion. Down 2–1 to Cornell's Lamees Shalaby at No. 9, Dweek fought back to win in five dramatic games. As she was cooling down after her match, Wyant told her to be ready to play in the semifinals against Stanford. She lost that

Photo courtesy Penn Athletics

Penn senior Jana Dweek overcame an injury to win the deciding match that clinched Penn's national championship.

match, but Wyant needed her against Princeton.

"I trusted Jana," Wyant said. "I know that there's a mental component to winning challenge matches when no one's watching and then playing in front of 100 screaming fans. She's so solid in those moments."

With the score against Princeton locked at 4–4, Dweek was on court for the decider. Wyant had noticed how hard Tumuluri, Allie Stoddard, and Hailey Wong, despite their losses, had fought for every point, taking the team's motto of "Don't Defer" to heart. He thought to himself, "Maybe, just maybe, this could be our day."

Dweek was clearly nervous before her match. Pacing back and forth while wearing big headphones to block out the noise, she relied on words of wisdom from her best friend, Ismail. "She said, 'You've played 1,000 matches, just don't look at the score,'" Dweek recalled. "Once your eyes wander, your head goes to dangerous places. So instead I just took baby steps and tried to imagine the trophy."

"I just took baby steps and tried to imagine the trophy."

With fans leaning over railings and squeezed into every corner of the stands, it took Dweek just three games to oust Princeton's Sonya Sasson, and claim the title for Penn. Chants of "JA-NA DWEEK" reverberated throughout the building.

"I don't know that it gets any more dramatic than this," said Penn athletic director Alanna Wren C'96 GEd'99 GrEd'15, who was on hand at the Spector Center all weekend, craning her neck to watch Dweek's victory. "People talk about storybook endings, but this really was one. It was a spectacle, one of those days you'll carry with you forever."

What was especially remarkable about the team victory was that four of the women were competing while at the same time fasting for Ramadan. Khafagy, Taha, and Ismail (all of whom are from Egypt), and Dweek (who was born in Egypt) ate and drank nothing from sunrise until sundown, even on match days. To prepare, they practiced while fasting for a week before the tournament began.

That wasn't the only adversity the Quakers faced. In October, before the season began, the squad was by some accounts in disarray. Teammates were arguing about their place in the lineup, factions formed, and one player frequently missed practice and expressed a desire to play in pro tournaments instead of college matches. "The attitude last fall was so bad," Wyant admitted. "We had to have a lot of heart-to-hearts about being a good teammate and doing this for the collective."

Both Khafagy and Dweek can take some credit for the turnaround. Dweek leaned on advice about team unity that she learned from classes she attended through the Wharton Leadership Academy, a program for student-athletes ["Obstacle Course," May|Jun 2022]. And Khafagy understood the desire to combine college squash with the pro tour, because she herself delayed coming to Penn by a year to compete internationally. (Khafagy is currently ranked in the top 25 on the PSA women's tour, just behind Melissa Alves C'18, a former Penn standout and current assistant coach.) "I get it," Khafagy said by phone during a postseason California vacation with her teammates Vidovic and Tumuluri. "Playing for a team was never a thing back home. For five years I was only playing for myself, preparing by myself. Suddenly I'm playing for 15 girls and a whole university where every single match and every single game matters."

But everyone eventually bought into the team's camaraderie, and Khafagy reckoned that all the midseason headaches were worth it, especially after the final balls were struck. "I felt something I never felt before," said Khafagy, who joined her teammates and coaches in making toasts and sipping beer from the Howe Cup trophy at LaScala's restaurant just off campus on the evening of the final. "I never cried after a match before. I'm just so happy and so proud. Winning nationals when all the odds were against us is so much sweeter. The team was broken, so shaky, but we had nothing to lose."

"This is college squash," Khafagy added. "Anything can happen. We just kept saying, 'Do it for the team.' And we did." —*Cindy Shmerler C'81*

Cindy Shmerler played for the Penn women's squash and tennis teams and is an award-winning print and broadcast sports journalist, with a particular emphasis on racket sports.

Photo courtesy Penn Athletics

On July 4—250 years ago—the United States was officially founded through the adoption of the Declaration of Independence here in Philadelphia, in the shadow of Penn's first campus. Over the following pages, the *Gazette* is spotlighting what happened at Penn (then the College of Philadelphia) during the American Revolution and to its Class of 1776 graduates; what the University is doing today to remember the Revolutionary era and the printing of the Declaration (as well as the country's 200th birthday 50 years ago); and how one alumnus is leading this summer's semiquincentennial celebrations in Philadelphia.

WHEN PENN WAS A STATE SCHOOL

As the capital-R Revolution raged across the colonies, a smaller one was happening inside Pennsylvania's first college. It's a little-known story—a chaotic time often glossed over in Penn's lengthy history—but one worth knowing about ahead of the nation's 250th birthday.

By Molly Petrilla

It's **1775 in Philadelphia,** a bustling and well-established city—the Northeast's biggest, in fact.

Some 30,000 people live and work in what will later be called Old City. Walking its streets are rich men and poor ones, families and orphans, doctors and ministers and merchants, people of varied faiths and ethnicities. And at the center of it all, on the corner of 4th and Arch Streets, sits the College of Philadelphia: the colonial-era precursor to Penn, and the only college in the Province of Pennsylvania.

Watercolor by Charles M. Lefferts courtesy Penn Archives

The College Building (built 1740) and
Dormitories and Charity School (built 1762).

The College of Philadelphia's Fourth Street campus in 1770.

It's also May, meaning it's time for that college's annual commencement. With change looming and battles already erupting, members of the Second Continental Congress—led by their president John Hancock, and with George Washington in their midst—join the commencement procession from Independence Hall to the College's main building. They've come to the ceremony as guests, watching the Class of 1775 graduates alongside the usual audience of parents, professors, and provosts. In his speech, the college's valedictorian mentions "our great American cause" and calls liberty "the choicest gift of heaven."

Looking back on it today, "that moment was an ending and a beginning," remarks John Pollack, curator of research services in the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts. "It was a moment of civic unity that wouldn't exist afterwards."

That's because, only a month later, the American Revolution escalated, and a year after that, on July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence.

While Penn, Philadelphia, and the rest of the country plan to stage many events this year to celebrate the country's milestone 250th birthday, the Revolutionary War era is largely forgotten in Penn's history, according to Pollack. "People don't know what happened during all these crazy years," he says. "They just don't."

"It's this weird, awkward period in Penn's history," notes J. M. Duffin, assistant university archivist, who together with Pollack curated the exhibition *Revolution at Penn?*, which was on display last year at Van Pelt Library's Goldstein Family Gallery ["Old Penn," May|Jun 2025]. "People want to gloss over it because it's hard to explain."

But in the mid-1770s, proto-Penn "was at the center of the city geographically and it was at the center politically," Pollack says. And that starring role explains a quirky chapter in the University's history, when it was taken over by the new revolutionary-led Pennsylvania government and entered a period of identity crisis and upheaval.

After the Declaration was signed in 1776—including by nine men with Penn ties—there ensued a string of closings and reopenings at the College of Philadelphia. Classes were paused, resumed, and then paused again; Continental Army soldiers quartered at the school; and then British troops turned the campus into a military hospital upon occupying the city.

Meanwhile, Pennsylvania's revolutionaries were hammering out a fresh state constitution, which obliterated the role of state governor and established a single-house legislature to be elected annually. James Cannon, a math professor at the College, was among the document's main writers. "They went from the idea of having a King-in-Parliament and all these intermediary layers, to basically direct rule by the populace," notes Duffin, calling it "one of the most radical constitutions of all the new states."

In 1777, Pennsylvania began requiring all men over age 18 to take a loyalty oath before a Justice of the Peace, renouncing any allegiances to England's King George III and promising their commitment to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. And there was more: "I will discover and make known," the oath continued, "… all treasons and traitorous conspiracies which I now know or hereafter shall know to be formed against this or any of the United States of America."

"The outcome of the war was uncertain, so the revolutionaries of Pennsylvania really hunkered down and started looking for spies and traitors," Duffin says. A law required any suspected traitors to appear in court and defend themselves. If they didn't, they'd officially be declared traitors and the state would seize their property. "That happened to a lot of people," Duffin says, "and several trustees of the College of Philadelphia were among them."

The College's provost, an Anglican reverend originally from Scotland named William Smith, raised eyebrows too ["Dueling Quills: The Provost Smith Papers," April 1997]. "The revolutionaries didn't feel he was revolutionary enough, and so they were suspicious of him," Duffin says.

It didn't help that Smith hadn't condemned the College's Tory trustees, who'd already fled to Britain and British-occupied New York for safety and never returned. Nor that he'd put out a pamphlet back in 1755, slamming local Germans and calling for an oath of allegiance to the British crown.

"From the point of view of the revolutionaries, the entire board of trustees was guilty of being friendly to the British cause," says Mark Frazier Lloyd, Penn's

Drawing courtesy Penn Archives

The revolutionaries changed the school's seal from a pile of books with Latin titles to an image of an orrery.

University archivist emeritus. The revolutionaries also recognized the importance of their state's only college—and because they considered it a hotbed of loyalism, "they felt they had to do something about the college," Duffin says. "So they decided they wanted to take it over."

So began this strange era in Penn's history. In November 1779, Pennsylvania's new state legislature passed "an act of dissolution" to alter the College's charter and seize its property. "They kicked out all the old trustees, put in a whole new set, and got a new provost," Duffin says. They replaced the Anglican Williams with a Presbyterian named John Ewing. They even changed the school's name to the University of the State of Pennsylvania—the first state-controlled college in America.

"They kicked out all the old trustees, put in a whole new set, and got a new provost."

To ensure diversity among its new trustees, the University's revamped charter granted the "senior minister" of each church in Philadelphia a seat on the board: Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, Anglican, Reformed, and Catholic—but not the Quakers, who had frustrated the revolutionaries by refusing to fight in the war.

"This was another example of how the revolutionaries were turning the college into something they felt would be more democratic," Duffin says. "Religious identity in Pennsylvania at that time was very much intermingled with ethnic identity … so this was a way to ensure that these different ethnic groups were given representation on the board."

"I think the revolutionary school tried to open itself up to more people, more students, more voices," Pollack says, noting that it also began teaching in German—a sizable ethnic group in Philadelphia that Smith had once dismissed as "an uncultivated race."

The school's seal transformed, too: from a pile of books with Latin titles to an image of an orrery—a mechanical model of the solar system used to visualize planets and moons. It was a decidedly New World icon, Duffin says, and seemed to promote the revamped school as a mecca for modern science.

Provost Smith and the original College's trustees, however, weren't willing to step aside without a fight. They launched a 10-year legal battle, arguing that the state's takeover had been unjust and illegal. And eventually, they won.

By 1789, "the same state legislature that had voted in 1779 to displace the old trustees voted to return all the property to them," Lloyd says. "So the old trustees, led by William Smith, reconstituted themselves."

The ruling didn't dissolve the new University of the State of Pennsylvania. It simply returned all funds, land, and buildings back to the original College. The College of Philadelphia restarted with Smith back as provost; students were enrolled and the school began awarding degrees again. The state-controlled University moved down the street and continued operating, too.

"Both schools limped along," says Lloyd, "but it was very apparent within two years that there weren't enough students, tuition money, or qualified faculty to support two separate institutions."

By then, the revolutionary fervor had faded and "the moderates finally got control of the situation," Lloyd says. A new state law in 1791 plucked all 12 trustees from each school to form a single, unified, private institution: the University of Pennsylvania.

This state-run chapter in Penn's history lasted only 12 years, Duffin notes, but it was "a very interesting example of what happens when key figures at the school become completely enmeshed in local politics."

"Officials at universities today do not comment on political events," he adds. "It was completely different in the 18th century. Provost Smith jumped right into Pennsylvania politics only a year or so after the College was created."

But other issues from that time continue to reverberate today. Whether the government should control higher education "strikes me as a fundamental question that is being debated again now," Pollack says.

Questions around who should run a school, who should be admitted to it, what those students should learn, and who decides whether practices are equitable and participants are sufficiently diverse linger, too. "These are old questions in American life," Pollack notes. "The Revolutionary story at Penn suggests those were big questions then, too—and they're never fully answered in education."

Across several departments and spearheaded by Penn Libraries, the University will be commemorating the nation's 250th birthday through the rest of the year. Follow this link to see some of the events, exhibitions, performances, and other programming on tap: www.library.upenn.edu/america-250-penn/events-and-exhibits

Molly Petrilla C'06 writes frequently for the *Gazette*.

Drawings courtesy Penn Archives

THE CLASS OF 1776

Seven young men graduated from Penn one month before the American colonies declared their independence.

In 1776, seven young men graduated from the College of Philadelphia, later the University of Pennsylvania, during an unprecedented time for the school founded by Benjamin Franklin. Several class members made their marks on American history, in sometimes unexpected ways. A few all but disappeared from history.

Members of the Class of 1776 earned Bachelor of Arts degrees at the College of Philadelphia amid escalating tensions between the American colonies and Great Britain. The future graduates began their studies close to when colonial rebels in Boston dumped shipments of tea into the harbor to protest mounting British taxes. By autumn 1774, the First Continental Congress convened to draft a list of colonial grievances for King George III and a plan to boycott British trade. This pivotal meeting took place at Carpenters' Hall near Third and Chestnut Streets, just a few blocks away from the college campus. The following year saw several clashes between the Revolutionary and British armies both north and south of Philadelphia, including the Battle of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts and the Battle of Great Bridge in Virginia.

The College of Philadelphia Board of Trustees responded by closing the June 10, 1776, commencement ceremony to the public, allowing only the graduating students, trustees, and faculty to attend. "The Commencement is ordered to be a private one, on account of the present unsettled State of public affairs, and the Candidates to be excused from the delivering [of] the public Exercises usual on such occasions," the board's May 23 meeting minutes reported with customary brevity. Unlike nearly every previous year—including in 1775 when the commencement was attended by members of the Continental Congress and featured a religious service, several lectures, and musical performances—the 1776 ceremony was a quiet affair.

Despite the war, 1776's class of seven graduates was in line with the College of Philadelphia's historically small number of graduates in the 18th century. The Class of 1760 had eight graduates, while the classes of 1770 and 1771 each had 14 and the Class of 1772 only two. "Bear in mind, at this time period, the idea of having a college degree wasn't something that people sought," says J. M. Duffin, Penn's assistant university archivist. "It was an honor and a status symbol, but it wasn't like today, where it's something that you need for professional development."

Unsurprisingly, the Class of 1776 came from privileged families and used their education to launch careers in the church, medicine, law, and politics.

Two 1776 graduates hailed from the Philadelphia area. Rev. James Abercrombie (1758–1841) was born in Philadelphia, the son of a Scottish sea captain, also named James Abercrombie, who went down with his ship on a voyage in the North Sea when his son was two years old. Abercrombie grew up on Second Street between Spruce and Locust Streets in a house still still known today as the Captain James Abercrombie House.

Illustration by Melinda Beck

After graduation, Abercrombie abandoned his desire to study for the ministry due to an eye ailment. He became a merchant and city councilman but, after a doctor cured his eye injury, resumed his theological studies and was ordained. He served as assistant minister at St. Peter's Church in Philadelphia from 1794 to 1832 and often officiated at other churches in the area. Abercrombie also cofounded Philadelphia Academy in 1800, later becoming the private school's sole director.

The outspoken Abercrombie frequently used sermons to voice his opinions and didn't shy away from targeting high-profile public figures. While preaching at Christ Church in Philadelphia, Abercrombie notably made a thinly veiled dig at President George Washington, who was in the congregation that day. In an oft-reported story, the minister chastised well-known people who skipped communion and left church after the sermon, citing the "unhappy tendency of those in elevated stations who invariably turned their backs upon the celebration of the Lord's Supper." Abercrombie didn't call out anyone directly, but the president knew the minister was talking about him. Washington subsequently simply stopped attending church on Sundays when communion was offered, according to the book, *The Faiths of the Founding Fathers* by David L. Holmes.

Also born in Philadelphia was Thomas Duncan Smith (1760–1789), the second-eldest son of William Smith, the College of Philadelphia's first provost. Smith followed in the academic footsteps of his older brother, 1775 graduate William Moore Smith. After his graduation in 1776, Thomas Duncan Smith studied medicine and set up his practice in Huntingdon, a town in central Pennsylvania founded by his father in 1767, according to a biography of the provost, *Life and Correspondence of the Rev. William Smith, D.D.* The younger Smith also served as a justice of the peace once the town became the capital of Huntingdon County. But he died young, at the age of 29, after suffering a severe fever. He is buried in Huntingdon.

John Clopton (1756–1816) left Virginia for Philadelphia to further his studies, but his heart remained in the Richmond area where he was born and died. Clopton first attended William and Mary College and then earned a degree at the College of Philadelphia before studying law. He served in the Revolutionary Army as a lieutenant and captain and was wounded at the Battle of Brandywine in 1777 under General Washington. Clopton refused all other promotions "because of his attachment to his company, which was composed of his relatives, friends, and humble dependents of his family, all belonging to the Parish of St. Peter's, who were furnished with supplies and clothed by his father during the whole war," according to the Penn Archives.

The outspoken Abercrombie frequently used sermons to voice his opinions and didn't shy away from targeting high-profile public figures—including George Washington.

After the war ended, Clopton entered politics. He served as a member of the Virginia state house of delegates from 1789 to 1791. Clopton was elected as a Democratic Republican to the House of Representatives, serving multiple two-year terms from 1795 until his death in 1816.

Another graduate, John Leeds Bozman (1757–1823), was the son of a colonel, born in Oxford, Maryland. After earning a degree at the College of Philadelphia, Bozman traveled to London in 1784 to study law at the Middle Temple. Several years later, he returned to Maryland, was admitted to the bar, and began practicing law, according to the 1887 publication *A Memoir of John Leeds Bozman, The First Historian of Maryland*. He served as deputy attorney general of Maryland from 1787 to 1808. Bozman was also the first person from Maryland to chronicle the state's history. His books include *A Sketch of the History of Maryland During the Three First Years After Its Settlement* (1811) and *The History of Maryland: From Its First Settlement in 1633 to Its Restoration in 1660* (1837).

Penn's remaining three 1776 graduates are a bit of a mystery due to the lack of documentation about their origins.

Ralph Wiltshire might have come from Barbados, based on clues pieced together by Duffin. A Ralph Wilshire was born in Barbados in 1757, the son of a doctor with the same name who died in 1770. A Ralph Wiltshire, presumably the son, married in Barbados in 1778. "I can't be absolutely certain this is the same person, but it is not impossible since there were students from the Caribbean who attended the college and academy," Duffin says.

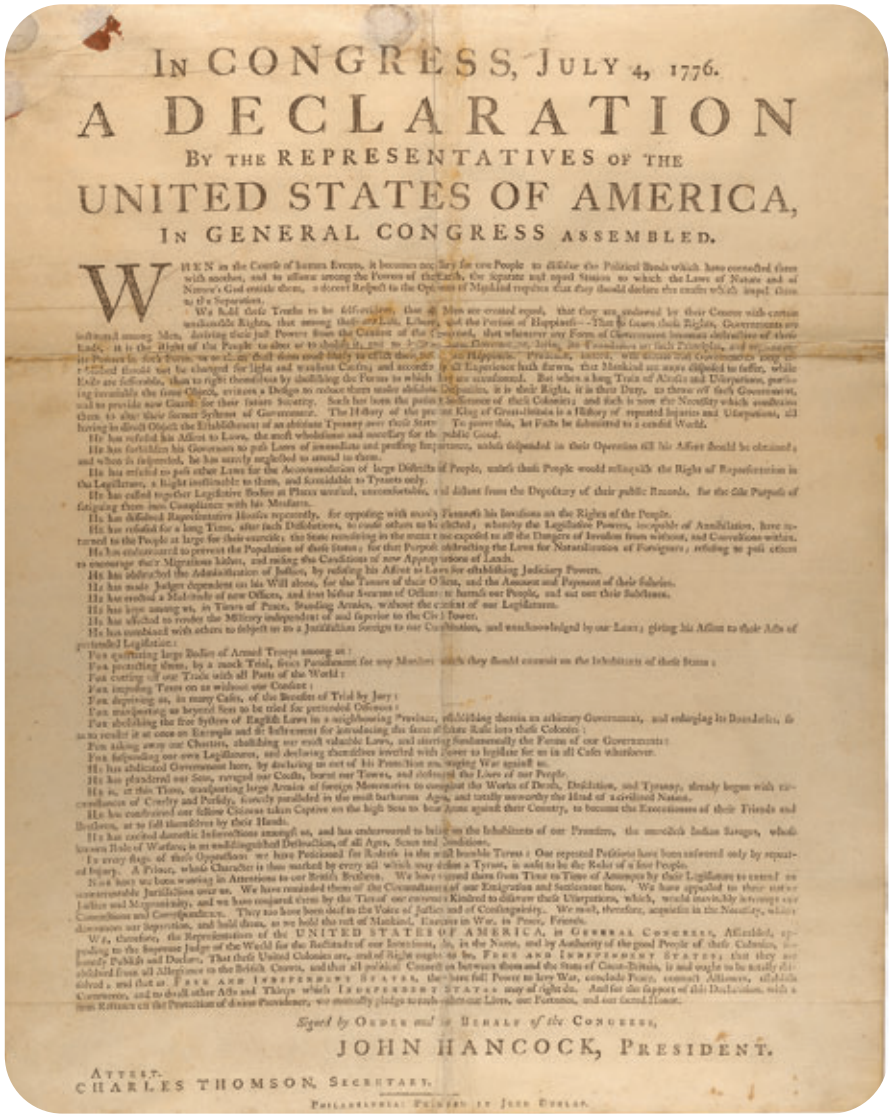
Research-based presumptions are all that can be applied to graduate William Cocke, as well. Cocke is believed to be from Maryland and may have been the same man who became a Circuit Court judge in Tennessee and served as a US senator from Tennessee between 1796 and 1805, according to the Penn Archives.

Even less is known about the seventh graduate, William Thomas. "It's primarily because we don't know where he's from. The only record we have of him is his name at graduation and his name in the tuition account books," Duffin says. "Unfortunately, it's a fairly common Welsh name. So it could be anyone."

Nothing is known about how the members of the Class of 1776 interacted, their activities outside of classes, or if any kept in touch with each other. What is known is that the College of Philadelphia shut down at the end of the year when the Pennsylvania militia moved into the city. As the board of trustees' December 1776 meeting minutes reported: "No Meeting, the Schools broke up, on Account of the public Alarms." By the beginning of 1777, troops were camped out on school property.

No further graduation ceremonies were held until 1780.

—Samantha Drake CGS'06



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

Nor have we been wanting in Attentions to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connexion between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Signed by ORDER *and in* BEHALF *of the* CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

ATTEST.

CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

PHILADELPHIA: PRINTED BY JOHN DUNLAP.

John Dunlap's original 1776 printing of the Declaration of Independence will be replicated by handsetting metal type (below) at Penn's Common Press Studio.

REVOLUTIONARY TYPOGRAPHY

Penn's Common Press studio is shining a (candle)light on how the first edition of the Declaration of Independence was printed 250 years ago.

Early in December, Jessica Peterson placed electric candles all around the Common Press studio and invited members of the Penn community to try their hand at 18th-century typesetting, as printer John Dunlap would have done the night of July 4, 1776, in creating the first edition of the Declaration of Independence.

"It ended up looking kind of like a romantic comedy set, instead of a revolutionary print shop," recalls Peterson, Common Press's manager. "People came in like, *It's so beautiful in here*. And I was like, *That's not what we're trying to go for*."

A more historically accurate representation of Dunlap's working conditions in his Philadelphia print shop at Second and High (now Market) Streets would have included real candles—but open flames are not allowed inside the Fisher Fine Arts Library, where the Common Press sits tucked away in the historic building's basement. Dedicated to "the scholarly exploration and creative practice in the history, craft, and material culture of printing and bookmaking," the studio is in the midst of a yearlong program called "The Typography of Independence" during which it has been hosting events to mark the country's 250th anniversary.

About two months after "Lighting in the Revolutionary Era," Common Press held an interpretative typesetting workshop in which participants set lines of type from the original Declaration of Independence with the option to alter or omit words. And on May 14–15, it will host a 12-hour, two-day Alumni Weekend community typesetting event to handset metal type to create a historically accurate replica of the Declaration—which through the summer will remain available on the studio's 1889 cast-iron handpress for anyone to visit and print a copy for themselves. (Peterson calls Common Press's handpress a "very high-end model" of the wood one that Dunlap and his contemporaries used.)

Peterson—who came to Penn two years ago from New Orleans, where she had her own commercial printing shop—doesn't have a background in history and was initially not all that interested in the Revolutionary era. But after being asked what the Common Press had planned for the US Semiquincentennial, "I started doing a little bit of research, and it was really fascinating that letterpress printing is a huge part of this history," she says. "And no one really thinks about it or talks about it."

Broadside courtesy US National Archives; type photo by Amanda Mott courtesy Penn Today

Benjamin Franklin, seen here as a young man working on the printing press, imported the Caslon typeface used in the Declaration of Independence.

She's since come away with newfound empathy for Dunlap, who received the handwritten manuscript of the Declaration of Independence late in the afternoon on July 4, 1776, and had to work all night with his staff to complete what many refer to as the most important printing job in American history. Even for someone experienced in setting the tiny pieces of metal type upside down and backwards on a composing stick, doing it overnight was "I'm sure exhausting for your eyes," Peterson says. In an era long predating the Edison bulb, it required trust that each letter was in the correct spot of the wooden case he was pulling it from. (During Common Press's candlelight event, "it was virtually impossible to see what letters you were using," Peterson notes, "and you really had to trust the map" showing the locations of different letters in the case. In the next event, participants had the benefit of electricity but still failed to set all the type in the 15 or so hours it took Dunlap to complete the job.)

Had Dunlap not been working under intense time constraints so that his shop could print hundreds of copies on the morning of July 5 to be immediately distributed throughout the colonies, Peterson postulates that he would have created something "with a lot more design consideration" than what became known as the Dunlap Broadside. "When you're given a handwritten document, it's really hard to figure out how long it's going to be," which could explain the very long line length across one single-wide column to fit in all 1,320 words on one poster-sized sheet.

Although there is no definitive record about who was inside Dunlap's print shop the night of July 4, 1776, Peterson likes to imagine Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin making the short walk from the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall) and hand-delivering the manuscript before Franklin decided to "hang out for a while, being like, *I'll help set the type*." (The acclaimed printer and original *Pennsylvania Gazette* publisher did import the Caslon typeface used in the Declaration from England.)

Dunlap's original printing was the subject of a late January lecture, cohosted by the Common Press, featuring historian Emily Sneff, an expert on the history of the Declaration of Independence and a former fellow at Penn's McNeil Center for Early American Studies. Sneff also examined "the messy work" that came afterwards: publishing more copies of the Declaration by other printers and newspapers and spreading the news of the colonies declaring their independence.

While broadsides like the one Dunlap printed were used for public readings at town squares or posted inside taverns, "every active newspaper in the United States included the Declaration of Independence," beginning with Benjamin Towne's *Pennsylvania Evening Post* on July 6. And Towne "starts this trend of taking away most of the capital letters in the Declaration of Independence" noted Sneff, adding that other newspaper editors subsequently made their own capitalization and punctuation choices. "So the text never looks the same from one copy to the next, even within the same city," she said. "It makes for a really interesting project of tracing all of those changes."

Although many printers and publishers made their own mark on the Declaration, not all were positive. Given the difficulty of typesetting, Dunlap made several minor errors in his original printing. So did Mary Katharine Goddard, a Baltimore printer whose January 1777 broadside, commissioned by the Continental Congress, was the first to include the names of all of the signatories and, according to Sneff, "transitions the Declaration of Independence from a piece of news that's being published and communicated to people to the archival treasure that we think about today." The discrepancies and missing words in those broadsides, however, pale in comparison to those in the *Massachusetts Spy* newspaper, which accidentally changed "be self-evident" to "us self-evident" and misspelled "states" as "sates," among other glaring typos.

"They didn't have the benefit of spell check in 1776," said Sneff, adding that the poor quality of wartime paper, combined with iron gall ink eating away at the paper, led to "ink blotches and splotches and fingerprints" on many copies.

The lack of modern technology also slowed how quickly people around the world caught wind of the news. Although newspapers in the Northeast began printing the Declaration within a week of July 4, "it took about three weeks for it to reach the Carolinas, a full month for the Declaration to reach Georgia—in part because the news had to go over land rather than by sea, because of British naval activity along the East Coast at that time—and five weeks to reach London," said Sneff, whose new book, *When the Declaration of Independence Was News,* covers the topics she spoke about in the lecture, including the timing, transmission, transcription, typesetting, and translation of the world-famous document.

Peterson has become a big fan of Sneff's research and believes the discoveries of typos and changes in the text "is really fascinating because we view the Declaration now as this static document that's always been the way it is." She hopes alumni and other Penn community members will visit Common Press to experience the challenge of 18th-century typesetting firsthand and enjoy printing a replica Declaration of Independence to take home. *—DZ*

Engraving by Gilbert & Gihon courtesy Library of Congress

Allan Koss photographs of the Bicentennial Protest, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 3–4, 1976.

DISSENTING VOICES

A Penn Libraries exhibit shows how Philadelphia—central to the nation's Bicentennial celebration in 1976—was a magnet for protests as well.

"**There's so much collective memory about the Bicentennial**, and Philadelphia was really at the center of the celebrations," says Mitch Fraas, senior curator for special collections at the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts. "And it seems like the most prevalent collective memory is of the sort of red, white, and blue—parades and the fireworks and the tall ships."

But there's another thread to the story, he adds, which is the subject of "Celebrate or Demonstrate? Philadelphia and Bicentennial Discontent," a modest but provocative exhibition he curated that is on view in Van Pelt Library through Alumni Weekend. Fraas started gathering materials as far back as 2019, aided by bookseller David Anthem in particular, with an eye to this year's 250th anniversary observance, thinking it was important to help "people understand that in that moment there were also voices of dissent," he says. "And a lot of the sources are not canonical. They come from flyers or buttons or stickers and stuff like that."

The materials displayed in a pair of glass cases on the library's first floor represents about a tenth of the Kislak Center's collection, Fraas says. Featured are posters made by the two main organized protest groups, the more broad-based July 4th Coalition and further left-leaning "Rich Off Our Backs," which staged marches of more than 20,000 people in the city to counter the mainstream celebration at Independence Hall headlined by President Gerald Ford. Nearby are some blown-up photographs of marchers in Fairmount Park and along the route, taken by Chicago-based photographer and activist Allan Lee Koss, who traveled to Philadelphia for the protests, part of a collection recently acquired by the Penn Libraries.

Other highlights include materials from the People's Bicentennial Commission—brainchild of Jeremy Rifkin W'67—which sought to counter the commercialization of the Bicentennial celebration, including a mock advertisement for "Tom Paine Cola" and "Revolutionary Toothpaste"; copies of the *The Weekly*

Photos by Allan Lee Koss courtesy Penn Libraries

Gayzette (“Gays Protest on July 4th,” “Dykes for an American Revolution”) and *Maj♀rity Report* (“Women & the Bicentennial”); a sticker calling for “a Bicentennial Without Colonies” by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party; and a mimeographed typewritten flyer for “A Community Celebration of Struggle and Hope” at the Church of the Advocate at 18th and Diamond Streets in North Philadelphia.

The flyer “is just fascinating, because it’s the community worship service in parallel—opposition, you could say—to the official events,” says Fraas, both of which kicked off at 10:30 a.m. on July 4. “And it’s very much a patriotic celebration, but a different kind of patriotic activity … that’s still just as American as the Independence Hall celebration.”

Fraas started gathering materials as far back as 2019, with an eye to this year’s 250th anniversary observance, thinking it was important to help “people understand that in that moment there were also voices of dissent.”

As for protests around this year’s US Semiquincentennial, Fraas says he isn’t aware of the kind of long-range planning—the People’s Bicentennial Commission started up in the early 1970s—or the level of coordination represented by the July 4th Coalition, for example, which involved more than 100 groups around the country. The official celebration plans seem more diffuse as well.

“I wonder if there won’t be more spontaneous things in July that pop up as the event gets closer. That’s totally possible.” Collecting materials today would involve a lot of electronic media, he adds, “although you know, there are also people in the city with a big interest in street art, and stickering things and flyering things. That’s still very much alive.” —*JP*

PARTY PLANNER

Meet the Penn alum coordinating Philadelphia’s semiquincentennial investments and celebrations.

For Michael Newmuis LPS’21, being tasked to lead Philadelphia’s strategy for its semiquincentennial celebrations has been both rewarding and deeply personal.

“My fourth-great grandmother, Josephine, walked 20 miles toward freedom in 1863 with barely 40 cents and a dream,” Newmuis says. “Today, her descendant is leading America’s 250th birthday celebration in the city where that freedom was first promised. That is the American story—improbable, unfinished, and worth passing down.”

Michael Newmuis LPS’21.

Photo by Tommy Leonardi C’89

And the perks of the job have come unexpectedly since Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker G'16 LPS'16 appointed him the city's 2026 Director two years ago. "I had a terrific meeting with the Masonic Lodge and held in my hand letters handwritten by George Washington and Lafayette," Newmuis recalls. "It was a day I will remember for the rest of my life."

The city's expansive efforts to commemorate the nation's 250th birthday have taken Newmuis from the Masonic Lodge to Zoom meetings with White House officials to visits across the region with leaders in politics, business, and philanthropy. Among the events and projects he's helping coordinate are:

- The city's hosting of World Cup soccer games and the Major League Baseball All-Star Game this summer.
- Ring It On!—the city's neighborhood investment program for the semiquincentennial, which will bestow $120 million on more than 60 community and cultural organizations, with a focus on neighborhood festivals and beautification projects. Ring It On! programming includes a citywide high school vocal competition, free weekly events celebrating Philadelphia-born innovations, 250 block parties with "Life, Liberty, and Happiness" themed kits, and 20 artist-designed Liberty Bell replicas displayed in various neighborhoods with a citywide treasure map.
- Infrastructure projects that include $500 million in airport modernization, set to be completed in time for the FIFA World Cup, as well as highway beautification along I-76 and improvements to the Market East corridor.
- The commissioning of three permanent public sculptures honoring historic Black women leaders, including Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Ed1918 G1919 Gr1921 L'27 Hon'74 ["Old Penn," May|Jun 2021], whose statue by sculptor Vinnie Bagwell is expected to be unveiled across the street from City Hall in 2027.
- The opening of the First Bank of the United States, which had been closed to the public for roughly 50 years, as a museum on July 1—one day before a joint session of Congress convenes at Independence Hall, two days before a semiquincentennial parade is held, and three days before a time capsule will be buried at Independence National Historical Park on July 4 (engineered to survive 250 years underground and to be opened in 2276).

While working tirelessly to prepare Philadelphia for the spotlight this summer, Newmuis has emphasized the importance of working collaboratively and giving others credit. "It's really about setting a grand vision, but then empowering folks to execute it," he says. "And in this role when you're setting a vision that's citywide, across so many partners, both at the federal, state, local, and hyper-local community level, you need to be able to see where people are and really align their interests in a way that's meaningful."

Newmuis previously worked as head of impact at the global asset manager FS Investments and executive director of the FS Foundation. Before that, he was the chief external affairs officer and chief of staff at Visit Philadelphia, the region's official tourism marketing agency, where he contributed to the successful execution of events including the 2017 NFL Draft, the 2016 Democratic National Convention, and Pope Francis's first visit to the US in 2015.

During a recent speech, Parker praised Newmuis's contributions to the city. "I watch people, I watch talent. I met him when he was at Visit Philadelphia, and I remember saying to myself, 'I'm going to have to steal him and he's going to work with me.'"

Newmuis says he took a significant pay cut to leave an $86 billion asset management firm to work for the City of Philadelphia, but he felt compelled to "be part of something so much bigger than myself" in large part because of the mayor. "She's historic as the first Black woman to lead this city," he says. "But for Philadelphia, the semiquincentennial is more than any one person. It's the combination of imaginations from so many leaders that just needed to be coordinated in a more strategic way."

Jonathan Burton, director of development for the Independence Historical Trust, the philanthropic partner to Independence National Historical Park, believes Newmuis "has a rare ability to bring the right people to the table and make everyone feel invested in the outcome. He understands that 2026 is not just about celebration, but about collaboration. Michael consistently uplifts organizations across Philadelphia and is deeply committed to ensuring the semiquincentennial reflects the full story of our city and is truly inclusive and welcoming for all."

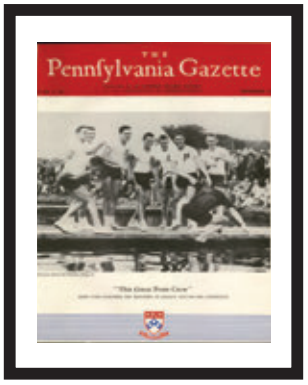
At Penn, Newmuis studied cognitive psychology. What drew him to the University and that program was "it's really interdisciplinary," he says, noting that he took courses across Penn's schools. "And why I loved it so much is because when you think about cognitive science, it's really about the ways in which we see the world and see each other and our place within it. It's about judgments and decision making.

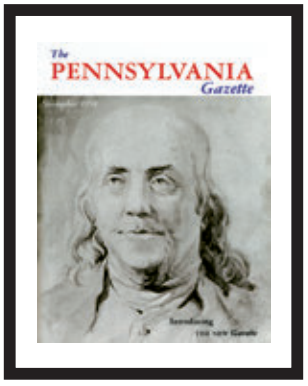
"I think that plays nicely through the current role that I'm in and, frankly, through some of my past roles in shaping the narrative of Philadelphia and getting people to see it."

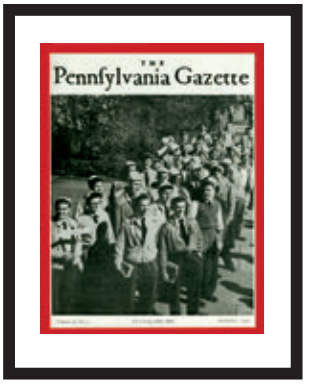
In his current role, Newmuis has been gratified to help deliver on key funding and partnerships—and hopes that the country's 250th birthday party will "set a bold new narrative for not just our city but our nation."

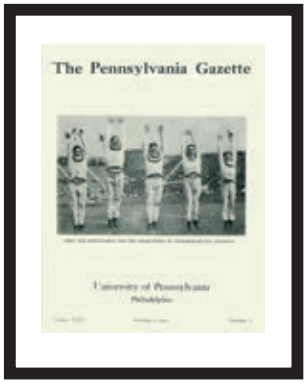
"Celebrations create moments; investments create change," he says. "Philadelphia is pairing this milestone with real investment in neighborhoods, small businesses, and communities still striving for the American Dream, while bringing folks closer together. If 2026 inspires a new generation to live up to our founding ideals, Philadelphia will have done more than host a party—we will have reawakened the promise." *—Jon Caroulis*

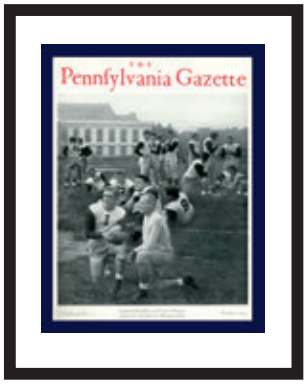
COLLECTIBLE COVERS

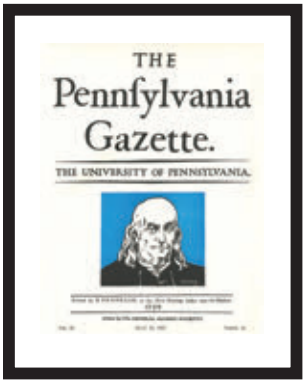


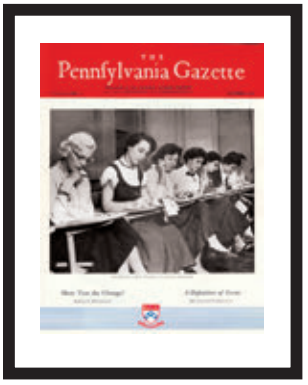












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WITNESS & JUDGE

In his first book, Presidential Professor of Law Shaun Ossei-Owusu—a self-described "dark-skinned, sneaker-wearing, hip-hop referencing, first-generation everything with an unmaskable New York accent" and scholar given to "big swings"—offers a wide-ranging, eye-opening account of a legal system that "distributes pain and privilege unequally."

By Julia M. Klein

For someone who's just written a devastating takedown of the American legal system, Shaun Ossei-Owusu LPS'08 seems surprisingly cheerful.

Even on this drizzly March day, sitting in his book-lined office at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, he exudes warmth. He's nattily dressed in a brown sweater and brown slacks, having shed the suit he wore for a talk at a Center City Philadelphia law firm on the National Football League's lack of diversity in its coaching ranks.

As Presidential Professor of Law, Ossei-Owusu teaches classes on criminal law, the legal profession, antidiscrimination law, social welfare law, and Big Law. This semester he is on parental leave, but he's at Penn this afternoon to meet an applicant for a faculty position in criminal law. And to discuss *Law on Trial: An Unlikely Insider Reckons with Our Legal System* (W. W. Norton & Company), published in April.

The book, his first, is a sharp but measured compendium of the system's failings, from the intellectual constraints of the law school curriculum to the biases, structural conflicts, and lopsided power dynamics of the profession itself. "I take big swings," Ossei-Owusu says, explaining the ambitions of his scholarship.

Law on Trial begins with a stark challenge to one of America's great shibboleths, the notion of "Equal Justice Under Law." The phrase, Ossei-Owusu writes, "belongs to America's collection of beautiful fictions, nestled somewhere between Huckleberry Finn, the Tooth Fairy, and trickle-down economics." It "mocks the brutal, lived reality of many Americans" and "tells us little about a legal system that distributes pain and privilege unequally." And he's just getting started.

Ossei-Owusu's critique of large law firms, with their wealthy and corporate clientele, is not unexpected. But his indictment extends to government lawyering and, most surprisingly, to public interest lawyering—the subject of his doctoral dissertation and another forthcoming book. Even those putative good guys, he argues, often fall short of the egalitarian ideal.

The early reaction to *Law on Trial* has been enthusiastic. In a starred review, *Publishers Weekly* called Ossei-Owusu's dissection of the US justice system an "ingenious debut," written "with ease and grace," that "makes a cloistered world accessible to the lay reader and serves as an invaluable glimpse of how inequality is maintained in America."

David Pozen, Charles Keller Beekman Professor of Law at Columbia Law School, who last year hosted a manuscript workshop for the book, says *Law*

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BRANSCOM

on Trial is distinguished by its scope. While others have examined the intersections of inequality with specific fields of law, Pozen says, Ossei-Owusu offers a view, at once granular and expansive, of the whole system.

"Shaun has produced a genuinely eye-opening study of how inequality threads its way through legal pedagogy and the legal system," Pozen says. "And one thing I found remarkable about the book is its panoramic quality. It moves from classrooms to courtrooms to board rooms, from environmental law to labor law, health law, civil rights law, criminal law, free speech law, and manages to maintain a coherent narrative and critical throughline even as it covers this remarkable breadth of topics."

Laura Beth Nielsen, a professor of sociology at Northwestern University and research professor at the American Bar Foundation who studies law and social change, is another longtime admirer. "He learned to think like a lawyer, and then he applied that kind of analysis to the law itself," making an argument of "big breadth and depth" that "most scholars would be hesitant to do," she says. From Ossei-Owusu, she adds, "I expect nothing less."

***Law on Trial* isn't a memoir,** but, on the advice of his early readers, Ossei-Owusu does tell some of his personal story in the introduction, "Notes from the Margins." He describes himself this way: "I'm a dark-skinned, sneaker-wearing, hip-hop referencing, first-generation everything with an unmaskable New York accent. I look like a rapper. I have a pandemic afro that occasionally transforms into cornrows." He is one of two Black men on the law school's full-time faculty. Some of his students "stare in awe" when he explains constitutional provisions, he writes, and even some colleagues regard him "as though I'm a trapeze artist performing a daring stunt."

Now 41, Ossei-Owusu grew up working-class in the South Bronx, the American son of Ghanaian immigrants—an outsider by any measure. He went on to earn a PhD and a JD from the University of California, Berkeley. Over the years, he has held fellowships or visiting professorships at the University of Chicago, Columbia, Princeton, and Harvard. But he has landed, happily, at Penn, a hub for legal history. This is the place he says he wants to be, where he completed a master's degree in Urban Studies and Africana Studies almost two decades ago, and where Sophia Z. Lee, the law school's dean, lauds him as "a prolific and wide-ranging scholar" characterized by his "infectious curiosity," "interdisciplinary approach," and "emphasis on impact."

It has been a long journey from his roots to Penn and the Northwest Philadelphia home he shares with his partner, Jasmine, also an academic, and their two children, three-year-old Lucille and infant Clyde. But his withering critique of a hostile system notwithstanding, Ossei-Owusu seems to have enjoyed himself along the way.

Take law school, for instance. In the book, he argues that the required classes on contracts, torts, property, Constitutional law, and other subjects neglect the moral dimensions of law, the dark colonial underside of American history, and the Constitution's own blind spots. Did sitting through those flawed classes at Berkeley make him angry?

Not at all! "Excellent place," he says. "I love Berkeley. That law school is one of the best educational experiences I've ever had in my life."

It is normal for aspiring legal scholars to pick up law firm experience; it's a box to be checked. But surely his stint as an associate at the Washington, DC, office of Sidley Austin LLP, the epitome of Big Law, must have been something of an ordeal.

"I liked it!" he says, grinning. "I liked the people that I worked with. People were really nice. There's a lot of horror stories of partners yelling at associates at certain firms, but I didn't experience any of that. I had literally no microaggression during my time there. Some of the work was interesting. And let me be clear—it was a lot of money." He laughs a little at the thought, knowing that he has left both Big Law and Big Money behind.

"I also knew that I was a person of ideas," he says. That was his bent, his chosen trajectory, even if he wasn't always certain where his intellectual passions would lead.

Aileen Tejeda, an educational consultant who has known Ossei-Owusu since they were teenagers, says her friend always brought an "intentionality" to both his work and his relationships. "He always had a clear vision of the kind of life that he wanted to have," she says. "He's probably one of the most laser-focused people I've ever met. Nothing that he did ever felt accidental." That focus was not just on professional success, she suggests, but on securing "the freedom and credibility to be able to speak about issues that he cares about, and be able to advocate for communities like the ones that he grew up in."

Ossei-Owusu's father, who died in 2008, was a taxi driver. His mother, now retired, worked in the housekeeping department of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. His parents had arrived in New York from Ghana in the 1970s, joining family and friends. "And they emphasized education like many immigrant parents," he says. As he relates in the book, they never bought a home, devoting their savings instead to tuition at the Catholic schools he attended.

Their neighborhood of African and Caribbean immigrants, as well as African Americans, provided a sense of community. Ossei-Owusu grew up in a rent-controlled apartment abutting the Cross Bronx Expressway, on a block that was better than some. But he also notes that it was populated by "a gauntlet of halfway houses and drug rehabilitation programs."

Tejeda, raised in the South Bronx by a single mother from the Dominican Repub-

lic, met Ossei-Owusu in a Fordham College–sponsored summer enrichment program before their sophomore year of high school. "Shaun would come and visit me at my house, sit in the living room, and practice his Spanish with my mom," she recalls. Her mother still asks after him.

"He's got a very magnetic personality," Tejeda says. "He's got this really big smile, really big laugh, and that really drew me to him. Whenever we get together, we talk about the serious things in the world, but there's a lightness and a joy that comes with having conversations with him. One moment, he is talking about policy or law, and then the next minute he could be quoting a hip-hop cultural icon from the '90s.

"That mix of intellectual curiosity and the cultural grounding is very much who he is," she says. "He reminds me so deeply of home and what's possible—that you can be a tenured professor at an elite university, and still very much be connected to the stories and the cultural aspects of our childhood and of our home, and be able to navigate both of those things so beautifully."

Ossei-Owusu's older brother, Larry Ossei-Mensah, has also done well—he's an independent art curator and cultural critic who earned an MBA and cocurated the 2021 Athens Biennial. In the book's acknowledgments, Ossei-Owusu credits him with the gifts of "tough love, street smarts, and the confidence to trust my instincts."

His own childhood was a bookish one. He frequented libraries, and, when he was about 13, took the subway to the Barnes & Noble on East 86th Street, ensconcing himself in a chair and ploughing through R.L. Stine's *Goosebumps* series—horror stories featuring young protagonists fending off supernatural creatures. He also remembers reading *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.

A few years later, when he decided fiction wouldn't directly benefit his career, he switched to ethnographies instead. "That's how obsessed I was with learning," he says. (He has since returned to reading novels and short stories; recent favorites are Percival Everett's *James* and Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah's *Friday Black*.)

"When somebody has that kind of drive and initiative, you just get pulled into their orbit."

An academic star in high school, he turned to the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of colleges and universities and decided to aim for one of the magazine's "top 10." When an admissions officer from one of those schools, Northwestern University, made an unexpected stop in the Bronx, he writes, "the school … and I discovered each other." One attraction was Northwestern's prestigious Medill School of Journalism, a career he was considering at the time.

Ossei-Owusu ended up majoring in the related field of Communication Studies, taking classes in persuasion, argumentation, public speaking, and rhetoric. He minored in African American Studies. That was how he met the sociologist Celeste Watkins-Hayes, now dean of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. She became one of his mentors.

"He understood that he would be responsible for crafting his own career," Watkins-Hayes recalls. "He was very good at coming to talk about professional opportunities. He was often applying to summer programs and internships and all manner of things to figure out, given his intellectual curiosity, what would be the right fit.

"So I wrote a ton of letters of recommendation for Shaun. Because he was always applying to something. But it really showed how industrious and proactive he was in shaping his own path and his own future. He always did this with an awareness that there were other people who didn't have the kinds of opportunities that he had," she says. "When somebody has that kind of drive and initiative, you just get pulled into their orbit."

Ossei-Owusu mentions two other mentors at Northwestern, also prominent Black academics: Dylan C. Penningroth, now a legal historian at Berkeley, and Dorothy E. Roberts, now a Penn Integrates Knowledge Professor and founding director of the Penn Program on Race, Science & Society. Both have won prestigious MacArthur Foundation Fellowships, the so-called genius awards. They "explained to me what an academic did," Ossei-Owusu says. He remembered thinking: "This is consonant with the things that excite me."

But he still wasn't sure of his next step. Enrolling in the Master of Liberal Arts program at Penn was a test "to see if I felt intellectually engaged and capable of pursuing a PhD." It worked. At the same time, he filled in as a substitute teacher for grades pre-K to 9th in Philadelphia's Northern Liberties neighborhood. "It was one of the hardest things I've ever done. There were social work aspects to it," he says. It was also "an opportunity to teach students who came from a background like me."

In college, Ossei-Owusu had done an internship at Warner Bros. in Los Angeles. California, with its ethnic diversity, intrigued him, so he chose Berkeley for his doctoral work in African American Studies. After finishing his coursework, he applied for a fellowship to research his dissertation at the American Bar Foundation in Chicago.

There he would encounter Nielsen, who also has a PhD and JD from Berkeley. Nielsen remembers a call from one of her Berkeley mentors, Lauren Edelman, a professor of law and sociology who was one of Ossei-Owusu's professors. "She said, 'You're going to really want to give this guy the fellowship,'" Nielsen recalls. "I think she introduced him to me at a conference, and then we read the materials, and, of course, she was correct. She knew genius when she saw it." (Edelman, known for trailblazing scholarship on antidiscrimination law, died in 2023.)

Ossei-Owusu had been investigating 19th-century Black public interest lawyers,

an original topic in its own right. But Nielsen and others at the American Bar Foundation encouraged him to broaden his focus to a more sweeping history of legal aid. (That was slated to become his first book, but internal problems and editorial turnover at Harvard University Press caused delays and scuttled that plan. Princeton University Press will publish the book next year under the working title *Steps Toward Equality: A Multiracial History of Legal Organizing*.)

As a PhD student at Berkeley, Ossei-Owusu already had taken four or five law classes, which made him realize he had more to learn. So, with his dissertation on its way to completion, he enrolled in law school.

None of this was easy. "I didn't finish school until I was 31!" says Ossei-Owusu. "I had friends that went straight through college, went to law school, who were making money, and friends who went into investment banking—they were *really* making money. And [on his graduate fellowship], I'm making $27,000 a year."

In the book's introduction, Ossei-Owusu credits his "magical code-switching capabilities" for allowing him to thrive in diverse environments. The remark is only mildly sardonic. "He is able to get along with pretty much everyone and navigate all kinds of different spaces," Pozen says.

Ossei-Owusu calls himself "ideologically homeless," someone who draws from a wide array of sources in both his research and his teaching. But it's fair to say that his background informs everything that he does.

"Part of me was interested in better understanding the world around me," he says. "That's where the interest in sociology comes in, but also the interest in civil rights, social welfare, the welfare state, policing. These are things that I saw in the neighborhood that I grew up in, and things that I see as someone who walks through the city. Now, being a law professor, I'm just fascinated by the legal profession itself."

He had hands-on experience. Along with his corporate law stint, Ossei-Owusu put in time with various public interest groups: Bronx Defenders, a nonprofit offering legal services to low-income residents; Whitman-Walker Health in Washington, DC, a nonprofit community health center that also offered legal services; and the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia.

In 2016, he accepted a postgraduate fellowship at Columbia Law School. Olotunde C. Johnson, Jerome B. Sherman Professor of Law at Columbia, recalls that, as a fellow, "he would actively seek feedback on his work from a wide range of people. He brought the same dedication to teaching.

"He's persistent and resilient in environments that may be very much unlike those environments that he grew up in," she says. "He seems to have a fearlessness, a courage, which I appreciate."

Over the years, Ossei-Owusu has published scholarly articles on the intersections of race and class with criminal law and constitutional protections, as well as on public interest law, health law reform, and discrimination in sports and public accommodations. One 2021 *Virginia Law Review* article, "Velvet Rope Discrimination," discusses racial and gender preferences in admittance to nightclubs and restaurants.

Law on Trial seems to vacuum up all his experiences. It's the book he says he would have wanted to read before he went to law school. And it's also something of a nuts-and-bolts primer for nonlawyers that takes readers through each of law school's required classes and then into various nooks and crannies of the legal system. It is, at its core, an analysis of "how legal professionals—the people entrusted with justice—become central actors in its betrayal."

When he was in law school, he writes, he realized that "mastering legal doctrine sometimes required a numbness to human consequences." The curriculum skips over issues such as language barriers, government misconduct, and housing insecurity, preventing law students from "deliberating about legally relevant injustices." His own specialty of criminal law typically focuses on murder and sexual assault, and students "don't see the assembly-line processing of poor people through plea bargains, the criminalization of mental illness, or the routine dehumanization of daily practice."

In the book, Ossei-Owusu touches briefly on what he sees as the abuses of the current administration. "The president's got lawyers running around like repo men, slapping executive orders on anything that moves too freely," he writes. But, in his view, plenty of abuses already are built into the system at the county and municipal levels, where prosecutors exercise (biased) discretion and "a Black male body like mine is more likely to be processed by this system than to interrogate it."

When it comes to Big Law, Ossei-Owusu challenges both the "cynical" and "romantic" views. Most of what these firms do, he says, "are not moral crimes." As for the long hours, his parents (and many others) "performed harder, physically debilitating work for an iota of the pay." But the romantic view, which regards elite lawyers as "stewards of democracy," is too simplistic, he says. Facilitating potentially devastating hospital mergers and fighting environmental regulation, they "exist in professional ecosystems that reward technical competence while actively discouraging moral reflection."

Public interest law is "closest to my moral commitments," he writes, adding that "even the best-intentioned actors can reproduce the very hierarchies they are fighting against." Inadequate funding for public defenders and restrictions on civil legal aid hamper just outcomes, he writes, and so does implicit bias. Some contemporary issues—involving, for instance, the clash of free speech with other rights—require making "a tragic choice" or "unsatisfying compromise."

At first glance, Ossei-Owusu's arguments are reminiscent of a left-wing

movement called Critical Legal Studies, which emerged in the 1970s. That school of thought—and its offshoot, Critical Race Studies—rejects the notion that the law operates in a neutral fashion. It argues that the legal system enshrines the status quo at the expense of marginalized groups.

But he see his approach as "more pluralistic," and more influenced by Law and Society scholarship, which emphasizes the social context of law and "how law actually operates on the ground." He tries to avoid political absolutism. "Law on the ground is messy and complicated," he says. "The scholar in me tries to be pretty careful about the kinds of claims that I'm making."

For all their shortcomings, he says, "legal education and legal practice really help develop a skill, a skill that is important. I don't think it's inherently bad. It's a necessary skill. But it's a skill that sometimes requires divorcing law from human consequences."

And that lawyerly approach is the nub of the problem?

"Yes. Although it's necessary. And that's the challenge. That's the subtlety of the book. It's not just like, 'Oh, these people are ignoring human consequences, and they don't care.' Some of the work of law requires disregarding some of that. That's in part the structural challenge."

He offers the example of municipal law departments, which serve as legal counsel for cities and towns. "They have to do what's best for their client," he says. "But what's doing best for their client means that they have to defend the city in police brutality claims being brought by people who were actually abused by police officers, or ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] claims brought by people with disabilities who are not provided access to public services."

So, from the perspective of both lawyers and society, what is the solution?

"I don't know that that there's a solution per se," he admits. But "being more intellectually honest about what's happening" may be a good first step.

Photo by Michael Branscom

"Legal education and legal practice help develop an important skill. But it's a skill that sometimes requires divorcing law from human consequences."

In its dissection of law school, *Law on Trial* seems to be crying out for curricular reform. But academic freedom is one obvious impediment. "My view is that each professor's classroom is their own fiefdom," Ossei-Owusu says. In his own criminal law classes, for instance, he references sociology and history and exposes students to diverse ideological sources, from conservative viewpoints to readings from abolitionists "who want to dismantle the carceral state."

"I tell my students, 'Your ideological priors might not shake out the way that you expect them to. There might be some instances where you believe in robust enforcement of criminal law. And there might be some instances where you don't.'"

Public interest law has its own distinct challenges: overcoming insufficient funding, implicit biases, exhaustion, what Ossei-Owusu calls "repeated exposure to people at their worst in the criminal context or people in need in the civil context."

Pozen sees Ossei-Owusu as an "enormously appealing narrator and figure," but the book's message as sobering. "He explains how law is a great demoralization engine, in two senses. He talks about how demoralizing it is for law students and young lawyers to be thrust into this hyper-demanding field, and the psychic cost it can impose," Pozen says. "Really, his deeper theme is how law can obscure the moral stakes of questions. You come as a lawyer to lose sight of the first-order moral values of an issue as you navigate the system and try to help your client. That double sense in which law demoralizes was to me one of the great lessons of the book."

Nielsen argues that *Law on Trial* has political implications. It speaks to the current moment by providing insight into the widespread discontent Americans feel about democratic institutions and processes. People are "being disaffected and disappointed by the state systems around justice, around equality," she says, and Ossei-Owusu's book is "an incredibly important diagnostic."

After resisting writing a conclusion, Ossei-Owusu tries his best to end *Law on Trial* on a hopeful note, with a blueprint for action. For the general public, consumer boycotts, political pressure on prosecutors, increased funding for public interest law, and other efforts can lessen inequality. Lawyers can be more cognizant of the moral tradeoffs of their work and establish ethical deal breakers.

Change is, after all, possible. The system that once sanctioned slavery helped dismantle it, he notes. And it eventually secured women's access to credit and employment, as well as disability rights. "The profession," he observes, "produced me as well—not as a triumph of bootstrap meritocracy, but as a witness positioned to see the full spectrum of the legal system's contradictions."

Julia M. Klein, a frequent *Gazette* contributor, writes for the *Atlantic,* the *Wall Street Journal,* the *Los Angeles Times*, and other publications.

Fresh Angle

How to see the Golden Gate Bridge.

"Is it possible to see the most photographed bridge in the world anew?"

That was the question photographer Arthur Drooker C'76 says he asked himself, in the introduction to his latest collection, *Thirty-Six Views of the Golden Gate Bridge*. In the past, Drooker has had a taste for the offbeat and unfamiliar in his choice of subject, so this counts as a departure. Another twist: For a photographer who has traveled far and wide in pursuit of images ranging from the sites of ruins across the Americas to a remote New Mexico community called Pie-Town retracing the steps of Depression-era photographer Russell Lee to a convention of Santa Claus impersonators, this project only required a short drive from home.

Drooker writes that he was inspired by *Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji*, the series of prints created by the Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai in 1830–32 showing Mount Fuji sometimes as the centerpiece but in others as a minor feature in the landscape. (In Hokusai's most famous print, *The Great Wave Off Kanagawa,* the mountain is visible in the distance, snow-capped, in the trough of the wave.)

(Above) Fort Baker; (facing page) Cat's Cradle.

Calling the project "an exercise in seeing," Drooker was determined to steer clear of "postcard shots."

Calling the project "an exercise in seeing," Drooker was determined to steer clear of "postcard shots." He also shot in black and white "to emphasize the bridge's fabled form" and sought out "unusual vantage points to place the bridge in context with its environment." In addition to a variety of majestic and fog-shrouded views of the span, shots of the bridge's underside, reflections in rain puddles, and views from Alcatraz and between grave markers at the San Franciso National Cemetery are included.

In a separate essay, Drooker pays tribute to Joseph Strauss, chief engineer, "biggest promoter," and relentless driving force behind the herculean effort, extending from 1920 to 1937, to finance, design, and construct the Golden Gate Bridge. The book is also available in a deluxe edition, which includes a signed print and a piece of the bridge, salvaged when its original guard rails were replaced (arthurdrooker.com). *Gazette* editor John Prendergast emailed with Drooker in January about the project.

PHOTOS BY ARTHUR DROOKER

How did the inspiration from Hokusai's Mount Fuji series develop? Were you looking for a subject that would lend itself to that kind of treatment—that is, did you start with Hokusai?—or did the idea start from wanting to photograph the Golden Gate Bridge and then coming to the analogy with the Mount Fuji series?

Soon after I began photographing the bridge, I realized it had the potential to become a book. I was already familiar with Hokusai's *Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji* and began to see clear parallels between how he depicted the sacred mountain and how I was photographing the bridge—across different seasons, in varying weather conditions, and from perspectives both near and far. As a student of art history, the visual tradition that Hokusai established was something I wanted to engage with and carry forward.

"The visual tradition that Hokusai established was something I wanted to engage with and carry forward."

Photos by Arthur Drooker

Golden Gate Bridge Lookout

You mention in the introduction that you photographed the bridge over two years. What was your process like? Did you try to go at different times of year or during the day? And what was the process like of whittling them down to 36 choices?

I live a short drive from the bridge, so I visited it frequently—from both sides, from beneath it (on a sailboat), and on it as well. Sometimes I carefully preplanned what I wanted to photograph; other times I explored freely, with no predetermined location in mind. Both approaches proved fruitful.

Over the two years I photographed the bridge intensively, I produced about a hundred images that felt worthy of a book. Selecting the 36 that ultimately made it in was challenging. Inevitably, you have to "kill a darling" or two, but I welcomed the discipline of making hard choices. Every photograph had to be memorable on its own and also work in sequence with the images before and after it. I was determined to create a propulsive visual flow that continually surprises the viewer.

Photos by Arthur Drooker

(Below) Pilots' Row; (facing page) Leaving Fog City.

How familiar with the Golden Gate Bridge were you before embarking on this project? You're obviously a big admirer of Joseph Strauss. Did you know his story or learn about it through building the book?

I was familiar with the bridge before I began photographing it, but once the project was underway, I immersed myself in its history. I read extensively and watched several documentaries, and over time I became something of an expert. Joseph Strauss was the chief engineer, but more than that, he was the bridge's greatest champion. Without his tireless efforts to promote the project—and without the talented engineers and architects he assembled—it's doubtful the bridge would have turned out the way it did.

"What resonates most deeply with me about the bridge is its power as a symbol of possibility."

Sadly, Strauss died just a year after the Golden Gate Bridge opened.

For the deluxe edition, how did you learn about the salvaged guardrail pieces? How many copies of the deluxe edition have been made?

Last fall, I attended the annual arts festival in Mill Valley, where I live. While there, I came across a booth run by the owner of the Golden Gate Furniture Company. In 1993, he salvaged original bridge handrails that were being replaced. Since then, he has repurposed them into everything from keychains and pendants to coffee-table bases and picture frames. I bought a small H-shaped paperweight, and while holding it, it occurred to me that I could create a deluxe edition that included a signed copy of the book, a signed print, and an authentic piece of the bridge, all housed in a custom box. I had 20 deluxe editions made, and at the time of this writing, I've sold more than half of them. Collectors appreciate that they're acquiring not only a book and a print, but also a genuine piece of history.

Finally, the photos certainly speak for themselves, but is there anything else you'd like to share about this project?

As I wrote in the introduction to the book, beyond its status as an architectural masterpiece and an engineering marvel, what resonates most deeply with me about the bridge is its power as a symbol of possibility. When critics claimed it was impossible to build the world's tallest and longest span at the time over such a treacherous strait, Joseph Strauss replied, "Our world today revolves completely around things which at one time couldn't be done because they were supposedly beyond the limits of human endeavor … don't be afraid to dream." I dedicated *Thirty-Six Views of the Golden Gate Bridge* to that spirit of possibility.

Photos by Arthur Drooker

Calendar

Annenberg Center
pennlivearts.org
May 3–5 Children's Festival
May 8 Arturo O'Farrill
May 9 The Lady Hoofers Tap Ensemble
May 29–30 Martha Graham Dance Company
June 5 Toll the Bell

Arthur Ross Gallery
arthurrossgallery.org
open Tues.–Sun.
2026 Weitzman Fine Arts MFA Exhibition
May 1–30

ICA
icaphila.org
A World in the Making: The Shakers
Through Aug. 9

Kelly Writers House
writing.upenn.edu/wh
May 15-16 KWH 30th Anniversary Party

Morris Arboretum and Gardens
morrisarboretum.org
Open daily, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
May 8 Mid-Atlantic Plant Research Conference
May 30 Wissahickon Plant & Tree Walk
June 5 Moonlight & Roses
June 18 Deadwood in the Garden
June 25 Creatures of the Night (All Ages)

Penn Libraries
library.upenn.edu
Phil Parmet: Haiti Revolution
Through May 22
The Time to Right all Wrongs: France, Haiti, and Philadelphia in a Revolutionary Age
Through Sep. 4
Re/Make History: Crafting the Past with 21st-Century Technologies
Through Jun. 30
Celebrating the History of Medical Education at Penn
Through Nov. 9
Nursing the Revolution
Through Nov. 20
"My Soul is Anchored in the Lord": A Story of Marian Anderson and Florence Price
Through Dec. 17

Penn Museum
penn.museum
May 6 Rediscovering a Royal Necropolis
June 3 Reinterpreting a Maya Mystery

Above: Martha Graham Dance Company.
Photo by Brigid Pierce courtesy Penn Live Arts.

In this 1839 watercolor by David Johnston Kennedy, street embankments have been built through a section of low ground near Rittenhouse Square. The city was only responsible for building the streets to the regulated grade; filling up or cutting down the private property in the center of the block was up to the owner.

What Lies Beneath

From lost creeks to leveled hills, Philadelphia like you've never seen it before.

In 1997, Adam Levine C'80 clambered down into a Philadelphia sewer and stumbled upon a metaphorical rabbit hole that would obsess him for decades. His gingerly descent began as a colorful contribution to a freelance article he was researching for the alternative newsweekly *Philadelphia City Paper*. But his exploration of the system that keeps human waste "out of sight, out of nose," as he quipped in the resulting piece, took an unexpected turn when someone he had interviewed at the Philadelphia Water Department offered him a gig organizing the utility's archives.

Levine's been there ever since, given carte blanche to sift through not only the department's records, but those housed in other municipal collections and local institutions like the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Library Company of Philadelphia. It's a dream job for the 67-year-old writer and historian. His fascination with what lies beneath had begun in the mid-1980s, when he first learned about the spidery network of creeks that once spread across the city before planners, taking advantage of their flow to flush out waste and storm runoff, converted the waterways into underground sewers. "I've been searching everywhere for information on this stuff for a long time now and continue to do so," Levine says. "I didn't even know what I was looking for at first. It's been a four-decade education."

Over the years, he's offered glimpses of these archival riches on his blog, WaterHistoryPHL.org, and in public presentations. But his project has now culminated in a captivating free exhibition at The Athenaeum of Philadelphia. *Lost Creeks of Philadelphia: Burying the Streams, Building the City*, on view through May 16, channels a small but deftly curated collection of plans, surveys, photographs, maps, paintings, and drawings into an enthralling perspective on how Philadelphians built their city by transforming the landscape it lay upon. The installation also serves as a preview of Levine's

Courtesy Collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania

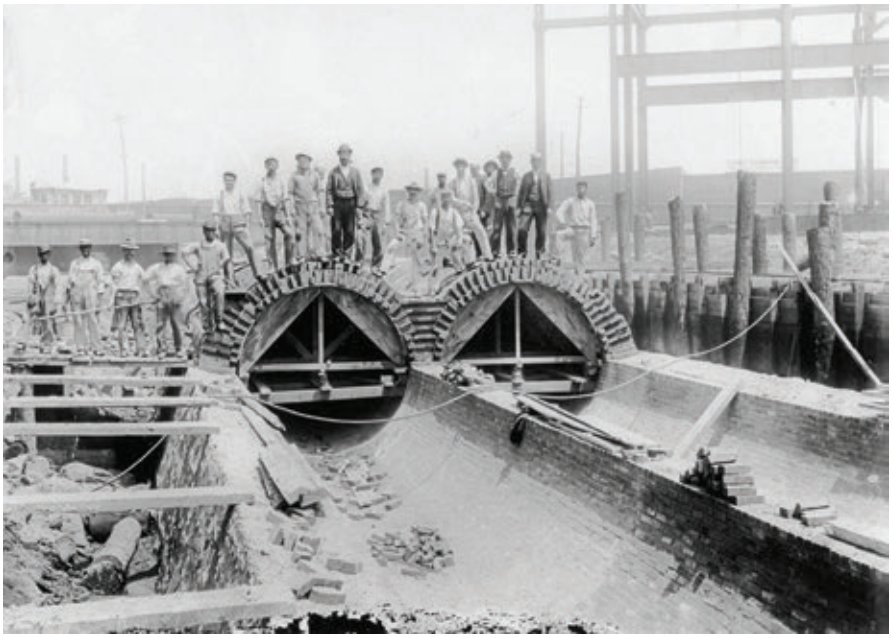
(Top): 1900 photograph showing a work crew building a double-barrel brick sewer to replace the Aramingo Canal, which flowed through the Kensington neighborhood into the Delaware River; 1879 plan for a sewer to bury a section of Wingohocking Creek, whose full length took 50 years to re-channel.

book *Lost Landscapes of Philadelphia,* which is due to be released next year from Temple University Press and will feature original photography from Joseph Elliott, a lecturer in the Stuart Weitzman School of Design's Department of Historic Preservation.

In the Athenaeum show, Levine and Elliott document the long and winding story of how Philadelphia's creeks were diverted, segment by segment, into pipes; and how hills and valleys were leveled with fill culled from the surrounding landscape and then overlaid with a grid of streets. Levine acknowledges the practical goals behind these tactics: protection from the waste and chemical pollution that was routinely dumped into the rushing waters; and the creation of a street grid that offered protection against spreading fires and provided a base for the quick and orderly construction so necessary to a growing city.

Levine's revelations about what Philadelphia buried in the name of progress can evoke a measure of wistfulness. "I mourn the loss of the natural landscape and think a better way to develop the city would have been to view that landscape as an asset," he concedes. "My greater point with this work, though, is not to offer an opinion but to draw attention to what was here." And the exhibition's portrayal of how that natural state was altered proves equally compelling.

Organized to unfurl the processes involved in transforming the natural and pastoral during the 18th and 19th centuries into the gridded and gritty city of the present day, the exhibition first presents bucolic visions of what was once here, then showcases the industrial might and creative energies that went into taming that landscape. There's a lot to unpack, starting with a reproduction of a 1934 hand-colored lithograph from the Penn Museum that purports to be the *Philadelphia Region when known as Coaquannock—"Grove of Tall Pines"—and as first seen by the white men.* This whimsically illustrated map is crammed with information,



Philadelphia tamed the waters to build a city.

much of it not immediately obvious. A close inspection reveals the paths that the Indigenous Lenape cut through the forest, a smattering of villagers gathered around several fires, an abundance of animals and birds (labeled as per William Penn's gently wondrous descriptions printed around the border) and place names ranging from the familiar (Manayunk, "Where We Go to Drink") to the forgotten (Chickhansink Hell Creek, which is annotated "Where We Were Robbed").

Across the gallery, 10 delicate watercolors by David Johnston Kennedy (1816–1898) depict mid-19th-century scenes. Some are of older blocks already built up, while in West Philadelphia, a street consists of just a few houses perched on a hill. Somewhere in between, development-wise, a square block near Rittenhouse Square is lined with houses along its curbs—but its center hasn't yet been infilled, leaving a rain-filled depression that Levine likens to a waffle's pouches sopping up syrup. A depiction of Chestnut Street between 19th and 20th from 1836 illustrates the inverse situation: the city had cut streets through high ground in accordance with the regulated grade but the block's private owner had yet to follow suit as required, resulting in a surreal scene of cows grazing several feet above the heads of passing pedestrians and a horse-drawn wagon.

Quirky maps and misty paintings notwithstanding, perhaps the exhibit's most beautiful assemblage is the one devoted to the draftsmanship associated with the construction of post-Civil War sewers. The care so clearly involved in pro-

Photos courtesy Adam Levine

ducing these meticulously rendered elevations and section drawings of ring stones and manholes offer silent tribute to the ornamentation and detail that's present in the monumental sewers themselves. The artist's hand expresses itself in the floral flourishes that adorn the corners of one drawing and in the fanciful fonts in others that enhance the word "Sewer" with dripping icicles or in lettering that resembles woodsy twigs.

Next, a series of evocative photos bring to life the laborers and construction sites of the 1880s—but, as another photo array of caved-in streets makes clear, many of those workers were inexperienced in fashioning underground conduits and the sites were not routinely inspected. Civil engineers were also learning as they went along and constrained by the shortcomings of the materials at their disposal, like brick. Partly because of these failures and also because brick just couldn't stand up to the stress of increased traffic rolling over the streets, most large sewers in the city built after 1910 were made from reinforced concrete, a far more solid and longer-lasting material.

By the time Northeast Philadelphia was being built out in the 1920s, planners were increasingly likely to leave streams in place, whether incorporated as part of regional parks or simply as backyard creeks. The shift in approach came not so much from an appreciation of nature, as from the realization that the expense involved in converting from stream to sewer might not be worth it, especially in less dense areas.

A handful of photos by Elliott serves as an apt coda to the exhibit, presenting examples—a manhole, a concrete channel, a diagonal avenue—that hint at the meandering creeks' presence below today's urban fabric. Spend an hour or so at this exhibit and you too will start seeing evidence everywhere of the hills and valleys, tributaries and streams that once were a part of daily life in Philadelphia.

—JoAnn Greco

Portrait of John Frederick Lewis **by John Wind, 2025.**

Imaginary Kinship

In an installation at the Rosenbach, jewelry designer John Wind fabulates a curiously personal relationship with an art patron from Philly's distant past.

The "wow" factor is alive and well in the 6,000-square-foot South Philadelphia studio of jewelry designer John Wind C'83. Shelves line the long walls and tables are heavily laden with boxes upon boxes of bric-a-brac: metal initials and plastic dice, political pins and gaudy brooches, chandelier crystals and religious symbols. Organized by themes like "food and drink" or "beauty and fashion," they're ready to be mixed and matched into customized charm bracelets or collaged into tributes to cultural icons like Georgia O'Keeffe (lots of turquoise), Madonna (lots of crosses), and the *Sex and the City* character Carrie Bradshaw (tiny stilettos, pink champagne).

"It's insane, I know," Wind laughs. "I save *everything*—it's in my nature."

For him, jewelry making isn't about showcasing precious metals or gemstones. Instead, he's constantly on the lookout for tchotchkes and gewgaws, scouting vintage stores, gift fairs, auctions, and factory closeouts. "My work has always been playful and artistic," he says. "I appreciate that element of freedom, plus it helps keep the pieces within a certain price point while still giving a lot of bang for the buck."

Recently, however, he's mined this trove to create one-of-a-kind works for an exhibition that's brought him full circle to the fine art he originally studied. He describes *Dear John*, at Philadel-

Photo courtesy John Y. Wind

Yads and *Portrait of Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach* by John Wind, 2025.

phia's Rosenbach museum, as a dialogue between himself and arts patron and collector John Frederick Lewis (1860–1932). Other figures of the day, including bookdealer extraordinaire Abraham Simon Wolf Rosenbach C1898 Gr1901 (1876–1952), also make appearances.

At first glance, the objects on display seem as if they were pulled from the Rosenbach's valuable holdings, including its collection of European portrait miniatures. But peer more closely and you'll notice the artist's hand at work. In one, a tiny reproduction of an oil painting depicting educator and activist Rebecca Gratz is framed by sloganeering buttons that read *This is what a feminist looks like* and *It's a Philly thing*. In other such Wind creations, Rosenbach's image is encircled by thumb-sized versions of the most famous books he bought and sold during his career. Wind's biographical vignette of Lewis sets his likeness at the center of a ring of plastic American president figurines, referencing how the wealthy collector adorned his home with portraits of the nation's leaders. Further, Wind teases, "I'm sort of playing with the notion of the 'male gaze.'"

Wind blends cheekiness toward the present with reverence for the past.

Wind first grew curious about Lewis after moving into a Rittenhouse townhome that once comprised the rear section of the philanthropist's mansion, serving as his library. "I'm a first-generation immigrant from Israel, I'm Jewish, I'm gay. I've always suffered a bit from outsider syndrome," Wind says. "I assumed Lewis was the exact opposite—a patrician, Mayflower-type Philadelphian."

He was, but as Wind dug deeper, an unexpected kinship between John the kitsch-loving artist and John the gentleman lawyer emerged. Lewis's first ancestor to make it to America, Wind learned, was a Hessian fighting for the British in the Revolutionary War who changed his surname from Ludwig once he decided to stay. The story resonated with Wind since his own parents, Vardina and Yoram, had Americanized their first names after emi-

Photos courtesy John Y. Wind

grating from Israel in 1963. Yoram later joined the Wharton faculty and became known as the trailblazing professor Jerry Wind. Meanwhile, Vardina made a name for herself as sculptor Dina Wind ASC'75, and their son, Yaron, grew up as John.

For years, Wind wondered how to stitch the common threads that he shared with the other John, whose home he wound up living in a century later, into his artistic practice. When the Rosenbach underwent a redesign, he approached the museum with an exhibition idea. The intersections with his own identity deepened when he learned that although the Rosenbach brothers could trace their roots in America to the 1760s, their Jewish heritage often ostracized them from Philadelphia society.

The exhibition, which occupies a corner of a new gallery devoted to material texts, is on view through December. Although "the jewelry thing was always a fluke," the artist says he's excited to be using the stuff of his long career—found objects, colored acrylic baubles, animal trinkets, and the like—"in more conceptual ways."

Wind's accidental career began with a move to London where, aided by funding from Penn's Thouron Award, he enrolled at the Slade School of Art. There, he tried painting, photography, and sculpture, looking for something to stick. "I was 6'6" with orange hair and walking around with a long black duster," he relays. "I started making these large brooches that were more like small-scale sculptures than anything, to embellish my outfits." It was a look partly inspired by his artist mother, who favored rusted metal scraps, and partly by the pop stars that ruled '80s Britannia (think: Boy George). Wind, and the steam-punky pieces he created, started getting noticed. By the time he graduated from Slade in 1985, his work had appeared in *British Vogue,* Brown's department store was selling it, and the Thompson Twins were buying it.

Wind returned to Philadelphia and formalized his burgeoning business with a new name—Maximal Art—and a Penn pal, Hilary Jay C'83, as partner. At its height, Maximal Art employed a staff of 40 and both mass market retailers like Anthropologie and upscale boutiques such as Joan Shepp sold its products. National magazines like *Oprah* oohed and art museums aahed, adding it to their collections.

When he turned 50, though, Wind grew tired of the whirl. "The jewelry was no longer my art," he says. He began slowly downsizing the business, and today he runs a much smaller operation, John Wind Jewelry, with just one full-time employee. It sells limited-production pieces and a handful of signature Maximal Art hits like the Sorority Gal bracelet, which features a monogrammed coin and a large "pearl" of cotton covered in lacquer.

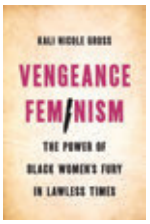
As Wind devotes more of his time to fine art and exhibitions, he also concentrates on running the Dina Wind Foundation, which is dedicated to his mother's legacy (she died in 2014 ["Obituaries," Jan|Feb 2015]) and to supporting contemporary artists. "It's interesting that we both focused on assemblage but went in different directions," he says. "She was abstract and external, and I like narrative and biography."

Many examples of his proclivity for storytelling can be found in *Dear John*, but none more clearly illustrates Wind's blend of cheekiness toward the present and reverence for the past than the vitrine of Judaica he's put together in response to the Rosenbach's collection. It includes three silver yads—Torah pointers used by worshippers so they can follow along during readings—that Wind fashioned from antique cutlery and his grandfather's Dunhill watch. He's placed them alongside family heirlooms like a seder plate, dreidel, and kiddush cups, and interspersed everything with mirrored disco balls and rhinestones grouped by the colors of the Pride flag. The whole ensemble "serves the original purpose of the ritual objects and honors my family, while staying true to my own aesthetic," he says.

Call it the story of Wind himself.

—JoAnn Greco

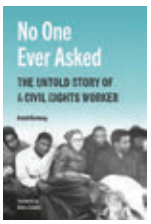
Briefly Noted



VENGEANCE FEMINISIM: The Power of Black Women's Fury in Lawless Times *by Kali Gross G'95 Gr'99* (Seal Press, 2024, $29.00.) Weaving together historical narrative with Black feminist analysis, Gross illuminates the stories of Black women who fought for dignity on their own terms, from the 19th-century "badger thieves" who robbed men on the streets of Philadelphia to victims of intimate partner violence who defended their honor and bodily autonomy with deadly force.

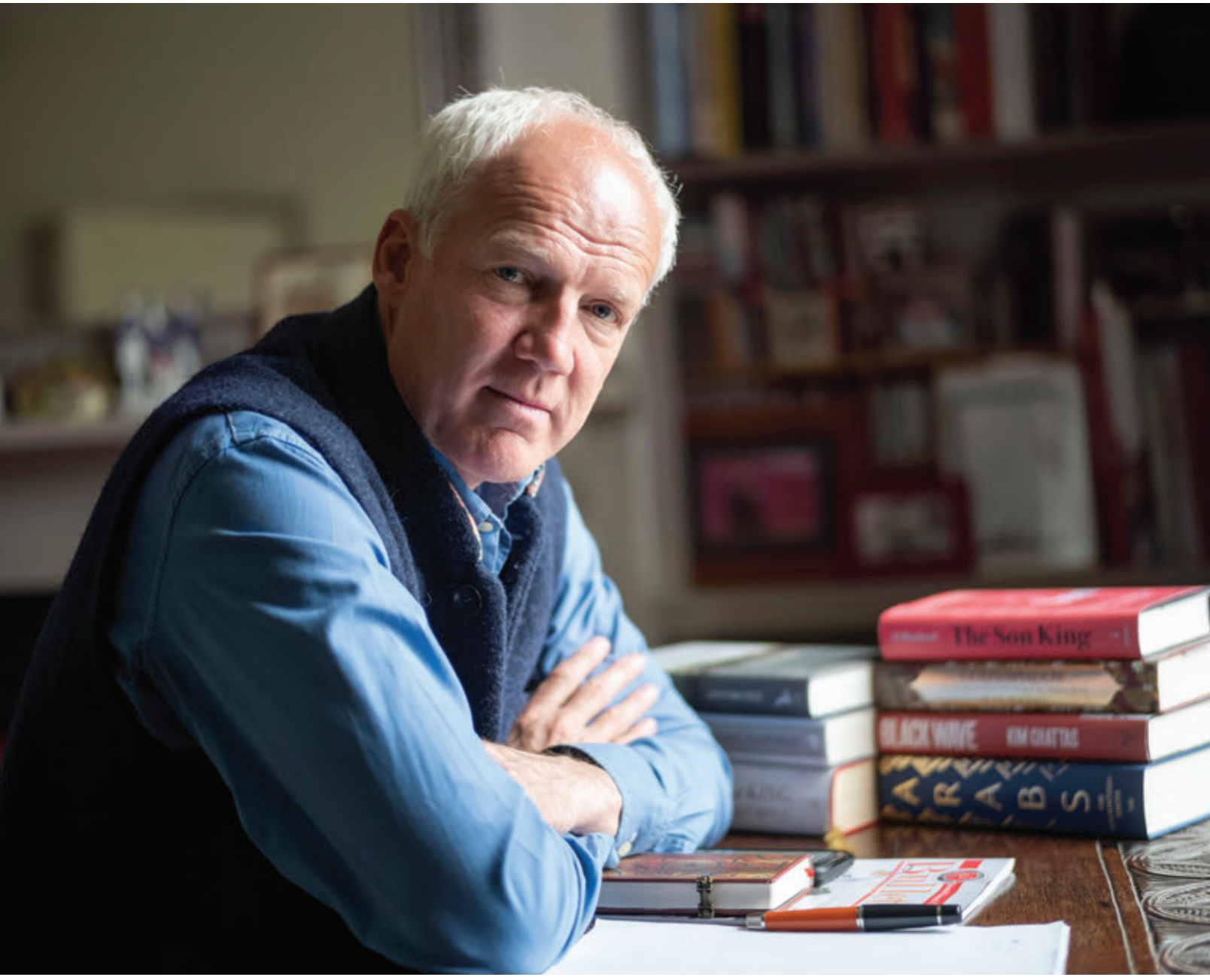
WAITING FOR MAX: A NICU Story *by Emily Ozan Rosen C'08* (The Collective Book Studio, 2025, $18.95.) Little Louise can't wait to meet her new brother, Max, and dreams up creative plans to bring him home from the neonatal intensive care unit. Inspired by Rosen's family's own experience, this children's book validates the big emotions that come with welcoming a premature baby, from the perspective of their siblings.

ALL AFTERNOON: A Novel *by Susan Kleinman C'86* (Volume 36 Books, 2026, $17.00.) In 1978 New Jersey, as feminism takes root in a tight-knit Modern Orthodox community, Marilyn Weisfeld secretly chases the literary dreams she gave up years ago when she became a wife and mother.



NO ONE EVER ASKED: The Untold Story of a Civil Rights Worker *by Arnold Rochvarg C'73* (University of Missouri Press, 2025, $40.00.) Legal scholar Arnold Rochvarg presents a narrative history of the mid-1960s civil rights movement centered on the experiences of his cousin, a white woman from Philadelphia who quit her university studies to join the movement.

Visit thepenngazette.com for more *Briefly Noted*.



History in Motion

This historian, author, and adventure seeker believes "the world is far too interesting not to explore."

Photo courtesy Justin Marozzi

Whether writing scholarly books or going on a camel trek in Libya, Marozzi seeks to "experience other cultures."

The adventures of Justin Marozzi G'95 could tempt some to compare him to the scholar-diplomat-soldier Thomas Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia. After all, how many people can say they rode a camel for months in the Sahara, counseled leaders of three war-torn nations, and wrote widely praised scholarly books?

"Nowadays we've got Google, and it's gone on to AI," says Marozzi from his home in Norfolk, England. "But for the historian or journalist, getting out and about is a great way to get out of one's typical life, experience other cultures, and get some sand under your shoes."

During the Libyan civil war of the 2010s, Tuareg rebels kidnapped Marozzi and threatened him with death. (The next morning he awoke to see a captor digging a hole in front of him. Instead of his grave, it was for stakes to support a sun screen.) An earlier camel trek took him 1,250 miles through the desert, and as a freelance BBC radio correspondent he voyaged to the bottom of the Atlantic in a submersible. "There's a *swoosh* as the vents are opened," he dramatically told listeners. "Air rushes out of the ballast tanks—and then what sounds hideously like a cracking noise in the two-and-three-quarter-inch thick acrylic sphere in which we are suspended."

Back on the surface Marozzi put to good use his master's degree in political science from Penn by serving as an advisor to the leaders of Libya, Mali, and Somalia when all three nations were in chaos.

"There's nothing like it—sleeping under the stars with your camels."

He has long been a go-to guy for the UK government, specializing in what he says are called "fragile states."

In Somalia, he devised and ran a campaign to undermine the terrorist al-Shabaab group and tried to garner international support for the government. In Libya, his work had him supporting a fledgling post-Gaddafi administration and promoting national unity during a worsening civil war.

To keep stress at bay in Somalia, he and a friend batted a cricket ball in the presidential compound. Mercifully, he was away in England when seven al-Shabaab suicide bombers with AK47s stormed in and killed one of his friends. When he returned, he found his room shot up. "It was a nasty moment," he told the BBC.

Most recently Marozzi has made several lengthy trips near the front lines in Ukraine consulting with MOAS (Migrant Offshore Aid Station), which is one of the biggest providers of emergency medical aid to the Ukrainian army.

His zest for travel ignited as a teen on a trip to Libya with his businessman father. A summer in Cairo learning Arabic when he was 18 stoked his wanderlust. "To be there on my own, no friends or family at all, was incredible, thrilling, and exhilarating," he recalls.

His love of adventure began as a boy in Canterbury in southeast England where he attended The King's School, a posh private academy. "My daily commute was either through the 14th-century nave or the cloisters of Canterbury Cathedral. One of its many highlights—very striking for an impressionable schoolboy—was the tomb of Edward, the Black Prince."

Marozzi first dabbled in journalism as a stringer with the *Financial Times* in Asia. He went on to share curry with Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi and fly in a helicopter with the president of the Philippines. "Being a journalist gives you the opportunity to witness people in all walks of life, speak to them without any profound research, and then you're moving on to the next adventure," says Marozzi, who majored in history at Cambridge.

When such thrills proved insufficient, Marozzi jetted to Libya. He and a friend bought five camels, hired guides, and waded into towering sand dunes. "There's nothing like it—sleeping under the stars with your camels, an ancient part of the landscape. Traveling by camel is the way to do it. That pace of two or three miles an hour is the perfect speed at which to immerse in that environment."

The odyssey took him to the ancient caravan and slave-trading crossroads of Murzuk, into the Wau au Namus oasis, legendary for its beauty and sheltered by a towering extinct volcano, and finally to Kufra near the Egyptian border where he was arrested—and later released—by an officious policeman.

The desert and, most notably, its silence cast a spell on him. "It's such an overwhelming feeling, because you realize the immensity all around you and how insignificant you may be," he says. "I loved it. People say it changes you forever. I've always wanted to go back."

Over the years Marozzi has also found the time to take deep dives as an author. He has written seven books on topics including a biography of the warrior-king Tamerlane; interviews with the world's great explorers; an exploration of Baghdad's 1,300-year history; his own camel trek; and a meditation on Herodotus informed by retracing the great fifth-century BC historian's footsteps in Baghdad ["Arts," May|Jun 2009]. "He wanted to get out there, to explore, presumably to have some adventures and, like Tennyson's "Ulysses"—*To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield*," Marozzi says of Herodotus, known as "The Father of History." "I feel the same way. The world is far too interesting not to explore."

Marozzi's latest book, *Captives and Companions: A History of Slavery and the Slave Trade in the Islamic World*, came out in October. The *Wall Street Journal* called it "a monumental revisionist

Photo courtesy Justin Marozzi

work that will alter views on slavery inside and outside the Islamic world." *The Times* of London said, "Reading him, one thinks of Tintoretto: vast canvases, mannered style, high drama, narrative drive."

Marozzi learned much in Libya about the history of slavery in Africa. "Early British explorers came back with terrible stories about how men, women, and children were treated on long, dreadful caravans," he says. "There is a historical ignorance about slavery and the slave trade in the Islamic world which is baffling—it lasted from the seventh century to the 20th century."

While doing research Marozzi interviewed formerly enslaved people. He met a freed Malian named Hamey, recovering from a mob beating, who lived as a refugee with his two wives and 12 children. "Live or die, I'll never be a slave again," Hamey declared, but having no prospect of employment, he added "I'm closer to despair than hope." A woman named Habi told Marozzi that before being liberated at the age of 35 she slept in the sand with goats, never had a day of rest, and was told she had the soul of an animal. Her master raped her daily, even when she was a child. After being rescued, she ran for parliament twice in Mauritania but lost both times. "Now, praise God, I am free," she told him.

The Malian abolitionist group Temedt estimates that one million people in that nation live in bondage. "It's a story which regrettably has not entirely finished," says Marozzi.

—George Spencer

The Dolce Suono Ensemble featuring (from left) Charles Abramovic, piano; Mimi Stillman, flute; Amy Oshiro-Morales, violin; Sarah Shafer, soprano; and Ricardo Morales, clarinet.

Mimi's Magic Flute

A onetime child prodigy's chamber music group is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Mimi Stillman G'03 was 11 years old when the National Flute Association's convention came to her city.

It had already been love at first trill for Stillman, who'd been taking private flute lessons since age six. "I can't remember a time before I knew that I wanted to play the flute," she says. So the convention was a big deal. Even better: the renowned flutist Julius Baker, one of her musical idols, was slated to appear. Stillman planned to watch his demonstration for Yamaha. Maybe she'd even get to meet him.

When they actually did meet, Baker surprised the 11-year-old by asking if she knew any Mozart—and then by inviting her to perform the *Concerto in G Major* on stage, right then and there, in front of the audience that had gathered to see him. "I thought about it for about 30 seconds and said yes, of course," Stillman remembers. "I don't think I had time to be nervous."

That's where it all began. Meeting Baker led to the Curtis Institute of Music, which led to a professional career playing the flute, and now running a dynamic chamber ensemble that just marked its 20th anniversary. Her job titles have proliferated over the years—musician, entrepreneur, educator, researcher—but Stillman says they all have the same root: "I just really love sharing music with people, and I always have."

Stillman grew up in Boston, listening to her mom and older brother playing their clarinets. When she got into Curtis at age 12, she became the youngest wind player ever admitted to the school—a title she says still holds today. Her parents moved to Philadelphia with her so she could attend.

"A lot of people called me a child prodigy," she says. "I never really thought too much about that as a term because I was just having the time of my life. I think it took me years to realize that I had been a child at that time."

She graduated from Curtis at 17, won a major competition for emerging classical musicians, and started performing fulltime as a soloist. Still, she didn't feel ready to be out of school just yet. So at 19 years old, she enrolled at Penn to pursue a master's in history

Photo courtesy Mimi Stillman

Stillman performing *Concerto for Flute and Orchestra* with "The President's Own" Marine Chamber Orchestra.

and then continued through the PhD coursework.

"Being at Penn was absolutely broadening and mind-opening in such a tremendous way," she says. She studied everything from art history to military strategy. A Dante seminar held in the Henry Charles Lea Library in Van Pelt inspired her to name her now-20-year-old chamber group Dolce Suono Ensemble, after the term "sweet sound," which the medieval poet coined.

Under Stillman's leadership, Dolce Suono Ensemble (DSE) started off by giving concerts at Penn in 2005, inside the Rare Book Library until their audiences grew too big. Today they're based in Center City Philadelphia, and you'll find them playing everything from baroque pieces to current Latin popular styles—a testament to Stillman's wide-ranging interests and musical abilities.

DSE's core performers rotate in and out depending on the piece they're playing. "It's a little like a repertory theater company," notes Stillman. Its roster of regulars includes artists from the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, accomplished professional soloists, and of course Stillman herself, who maintains a busy concert schedule as an in-demand performer.

"On the most basic level, we are looking for good music—music that communicates, has depth, that's fun to play," she says of DSE. "I also love to discover, arrange, and commission new works." In fact, the group recently performed its 72nd world-premiere piece.

Most DSE concerts focus on an intellectual theme or question: the life and legacy of French composer Claude Debussy, a Stillman favorite; composers who were affected by the Holocaust; women pioneers of American music. "Sometimes we like to break down genre definitions and put together things that are very unusual in chamber music programs," she says.

This spring, as part of its 20th anniversary season, the group was preparing a concert of American works to perform at the Library of Congress in April. In June, it will present the Philadelphia premiere of David Serkin Ludwig's *Woman in Gold* for flute and string quartet, inspired by the story of Gustav Klimt's painting of the same name.

Stillman knows that her daily life as a classical musician can be enigmatic to some. Sometimes, when mingling with the audience after a concert, someone will ask what she does all day as a professional flutist. Her busy Instagram account gives plenty of hints. There she is running through a Bach solo right before a performance. Now she's giving a tip for "starting high E softly" in a specific flute sonata. She's plugging an upcoming DSE concert; she's playing "Flight of the Bumblebee" at warp speed inside the Barnes Foundation art museum; she's marking up a score; she's giving a masterclass at the Juilliard School's summer program.

"I'm very lucky that I'm following my passion," she says. "Classical music is a difficult career. There are not that many career paths."

A highlight of her own successful career came in 2022, when the Grammy-nominated composer Zhou Tian wrote *Concerto for Flute and Orchestra* specifically for Stillman, and she performed it with "The President's Own" Marine Chamber Orchestra. Commissioned by a group of seven orchestras including DSE, the piece showcases the range of both the instrument and of Stillman as a player.

"I knew that she would bring imagination, intellectual curiosity, and emotional depth to the piece, and that gave me great freedom as a composer to explore a wide range of musical characters and styles," Tian says. "Her playing is not only powerful," he adds, "but also has an exceptionally beautiful, singing quality."

The concerto landed a recording on *Aspire*, an album celebrating the Marine Band's 225th anniversary in 2023. "Bringing a new work to life is deeply rewarding," Stillman says of the experience, which she now calls "an exhilarating artistic journey."

The piece joins a long list of works she has premiered throughout her career, while she "continually expands the possibilities of the flute," Tian says.

Outside of her own playing, Stillman also nurtures other instrumentalists and advances music education wherever she can. She's taught students at Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance since 2017, and last summer she became an instructor of art and music at the Barnes Foundation. She also visits schools in Philly's Latino communities through a DSE program, coaching and performing with young students.

And several decades after Baker plunked her on stage in the moment that changed her life, Stillman is herself a Yamaha Performing Artist—and she's returned to the National Flute Association's convention multiple times to teach masterclasses and perform.

"I feel grateful for my life as a musician," she says, "and hope to continue sharing my joy in musicmaking with others."

—Molly Petrilla C'06

Photo by Staff Sgt. Chase Baran courtesy U.S. Marine Corps

A Haitian Heart

This former Penn soccer star has never been to the Caribbean country that he helped lead to this summer's World Cup.

Duke Lacroix C'15 thought the moment he experienced on June 13, 2023, might never happen—not just because he was making his international soccer debut at the age of 29, for a country he had never set foot in, but for the myriad obstacles on the journey there.

And he hardly dared to dream that two years after first appearing for the Haitian national team, he'd play a key role in navigating the Caribbean nation back to the FIFA World Cup for the first time since 1974 and just the second time ever.

"I couldn't have written it better myself," Lacroix says. "It's incredible. I'm extremely grateful to be representing Haiti and have this opportunity this summer."

It took Lacroix a decade of grinding it out in the uncertain world of minor league soccer to find his way to the national team. An all-Ivy standout at Penn who graduated with the fifth most points in program history, the 32-year-old has carved out a reputation as a trustworthy defender in cities like Indianapolis, Reno, Charlotte, Sacramento, and now Colorado Springs.

He was first approached by the Haitian Football Federation in 2019. The governing body for soccer in the Western Hemisphere's poorest country casts a wide net for members of the diaspora who might be eligible. Lacroix, who was raised in New Jersey, expressed interest, but his passport application stalled at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. "I just thought my stuff probably fell through the cracks," Lacroix says. "At that point, I was like, *Oh man, this probably isn't for me*, and I didn't think much of it."

"I'm extremely grateful to be representing Haiti and have this opportunity this summer."

But four years later, Haiti reached out again. This time, Lacroix and his family sorted out the paperwork as Haiti, under a new coach, crafted a roster for the 2023 CONCACAF Gold Cup, the biennial championship of North and Central America and the Caribbean. Lacroix made his debut in a friendly match in Florida against St. Kitts and Nevis in June … and then promptly injured his knee, ruling him out of the tournament.

Lacroix didn't play again for Haiti in 2023 but started a pair of vital World Cup qualifiers in June of 2024, scoring his first international goal in a 3–1 win in Barbados. "I was already on the list of one of the oldest players to score for Haiti," he says. "So that was really where my age was like, *Holy cow*."

Lacroix started three of six games in the CONCACAF Nations League tournament. He was named to the squad but didn't play in a disappointing three-game winless run through the 2025 Gold Cup.

This past fall, however, he became indispensable in World Cup qualifiers. He played every minute of the first three contests, registering two assists as Haiti notched two draws and a win. He was recalled to the team in November with Haiti needing results to recover from a 3–0 October loss in Honduras where Lacroix didn't play.

What happened next changed everything. Haiti entered the final two games of CONCACAF's final qualifying round sitting in third place in its four-team group. The top team would automatically go to the World Cup; the second-place team could qualify for an intercontinental playoff in March. Haiti had two games in Curaçao, its de facto home since 2021 on account of civil unrest in Haiti itself.

"I was thinking about what it could mean to qualify, but it's more like, *Hey, take this moment as this moment*," Lacroix says. "*You can't think about qualifying until you complete this moment now*."

Haiti defeated Costa Rica, 1–0, on November 13. Five days later it beat Nicaragua, 2–0. Lacroix played every second of both matches, taking his total to 13 appearances. When Honduras and Costa Rica drew in a simultaneous kickoff, Haiti had made history by qualifying for the 2026 World Cup—to be hosted by the US, Mexico, and Canada this June and July.

"We finished our match and then had to huddle around cell phones, waiting for phone calls coming in and announcements," Lac-

Photo courtesy Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC

roix recalls. "To celebrate with the Haitian fans in Curaçao, that was amazing."

Lacroix now hopes to make the World Cup roster for Haiti, which opens the tournament against Scotland on June 13 in Foxborough, Massachusetts, where Lacroix's fiancée's family is from. Haiti's second game brings it to Philadelphia, the city where he starred with the Quakers more than a decade ago, to face mighty Brazil. It finishes the group stage against Morocco in Atlanta. If Haiti finishes third in its group, there's a chance that it could then play in Lacroix's backyard in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

"It's unbelievable how all this stuff comes together," he says.

No matter what happens this summer, Lacroix's family has relished seeing him in a Haiti jersey these past few years. Both of his parents were born near Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, and emigrated to the US as children. His grandparents spent most of their lives in Haiti, but his paternal grandmother moved to New Jersey when Lacroix was young. Lacroix calls Asbury Park's Haitian community home, a constellation of aunts, uncles, and cousins that go far beyond blood relations.

When Lacroix was first called up to the national team, "I think my dad might have cried," he says. "My mom was yelling on the phone. … They were extremely proud."

Although the team is a mixture of players raised in and out of Haiti, soccer is a uniter, Lacroix says. "I always make the joke that I don't speak Creole, but I speak soccer." So is having Haitian roots. "There's a cultural anchor, which is the Haitian culture, that I can identify with my teammates," he says. "No matter where you are, there's certain aspects of that culture that brings you together. Not everyone might have done it the same, whether in France, the US, born in Haiti, somewhere in Asia, South America—wherever they grew up, they have culture from that area they grew up in—but there's always an anchor point of Haitian culture, and you connect with your teammates in that way."

Haiti's qualification campaign came as the US State Department reissued a "Do Not Travel" advisory for the country in 2025. Haiti has been in a state of emergency since March 2024. Yet the universal language of soccer has helped Lacroix—who studied sociology at Penn and is active in several community-focused causes ["Profiles," Jul|Aug 2022]—open a dialogue about his heritage.

"This is what sport can do," he says. "It can bring people together. It can engage in those conversations to bring more perspective and to hopefully bring some further understanding."

—Matthew De George

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"Like Dolly Parton said, 'I ain't dead yet!'"

—Richard J. Buxbaum C'60

1954

Tony Pasquarello C'54, professor emeritus of philosophy at The Ohio State University, continues to write articles for various publications at age 93. He shares that he received an award from *Free Inquiry* magazine, which is published by the Council for Secular Humanism, for his article in their Oct|Nov 2024 issue, "The Face of (the Problem of) Evil." His article, which explores the significance and validity of Epicurus's famous Problem of Evil, received the magazine's Selma V. Forkosch Award for Best Article of 2024. The judges wrote, "The article provides a concise, cogent argument against the existence of a benevolent god based on the harm and suffering endured by living beings. It avoids the standard rebuttal based on free will by focusing on natural evil, that is, events outside of human control." Tony's article was chosen out of dozens of articles published that year by the bimonthly magazine, and it can be read at secularhumanism.org/2024/09/the-face-of-the-problem-of-evil.

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 15–18, 2026!

1956

William A. Haviland C'56 G'58 Gr'63, a retired anthropology professor at the University of Vermont, has authored his 21st book, *Indian History on Deer Isle* (Penobscot Books), on Native populations on Deer Isle, Maine. From the book's publisher: "For thousands of years, people have lived, loved, and labored on Deer Isle and other islands, as well as on the mainland. Their descendants today are known as Maliseets, Passamaquoddies, and Penobscots. This book relates the state of our knowledge as of the early 21st century." An author interview can be found at penbaypress.me/indian-history-author.

1958

Richard Saul Wurman Ar'58 GAr'59, an author and creator of TED conferences, shares that, at 90, he produced three days of orchestrated conversations in Miami Beach at an event he called Wurman Shoulders Weekend. In place of keynotes, he paired speakers for conversation including Jack Dangermond, Stefan Sagmeister, Esther Dyson, Danny Hillis, Jeffrey Katzenberg, Paula Scher, Sanjay Gupta, Bjarke Ingles, Moshe Safdie, Bobbi Brown, and 20 others. The City of Miami Beach proclaimed January 11, 2026, as Richard Saul Wurman Day in his honor. He is now at work on a new fable that resurrects the Commissioner of Curiosity & Imagination, a character he created 50 years ago, "to tell a 250,000-year history of the world through the filter of conversation and technology," he writes. Richard ["The Commissioner of Curiosity," Dec 1997] received the Penn Alumni Creative Spirit Award in 2014.

1960

Richard "Dick" Buxbaum C'60, a former hospital administrator and executive of the Greater Cleveland Hospital Association, writes that he's "now retired and living in Crossville, Tennessee. More importantly now is that I am still alive at 87 years old, as is my wife. We have one child who teaches microbiology to grad students at FAMU (Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University) in Tallahassee, Florida, and a son who is an HVAC technician in northeast Ohio." Dick is also a former clarinetist with the Dixie Lakesiders Dixie Band at Chautauqua Institution, a resort in New York; and a former member of the all-scholarship band of the Valley Forge Military Academy, which marched in President Eisenhower's inaugural parade. Dick adds, "Like Dolly Parton said, 'I ain't dead yet!'"

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

Events

PENN CLUB OF DC

Join the Penn Club of DC on Capitol Hill July 18, 7–10 p.m., for an evening of live jazz! Sit back, relax, and mingle with fellow DC Penn alumni. You can sample wine, food and chill with the melodious rhythms and mellow sounds of a renowned jazz artist at Mr. Henry's. Register by July 4. Last day for refunds is July 6. Admission is $30 for dues-paying members, and $35 for non-members. For more information, email penncluboffdc@gmail.com or visit the Penn Club of DC website.

1962

James E. Jones GFA'62, a retired professor of fine arts at Morgan State University who turned 89 this year, was the designated Artist of the Month for the Fireside Artist Group at Charlestown Retirement Village in Catonsville, Maryland. He presented an exhibition for Black History Month in February that consisted of original woodcut prints that were hand-colored with watercolors. James's wife Elva writes that he "continues to try to remain active as a painter and printmaker to inspire young artists and stimulate collectors of 'Black art.'" He is included in collections around the world and has received many awards for outstanding work.

1963

Bill Aron C'63 will be the subject of two retrospective exhibitions of his photography in 2026: *The World in Front of Me* at the American Jewish Historical Society in New York, and a second retrospective exhibition at Pucker Gallery in Boston, his longtime representative. Bill has spent

more than five decades documenting Jewish life in America and abroad.

1964

Stuart Resor C'64 writes, "I had heard some of the Beach Boys songs at Penn and I was a growing fan as time went on. Then I decided to drive all the way out there to see them in California but also to surf. I started at Boston one snowy April 1966 morning getting almost smashed to bits! Then in Dallas I paused to visit with classmate Virginia Savage, who helped me tour the Dealey Plaza where JFK was killed. Such a sad time for us all. Then off to El Paso where I crossed into New Mexico, and it was dry and warm from there on to San Diego. I put the top down. As I neared the California state line in Yuma, Arizona, I encountered the massive Algodones Sand Dunes; and I rolled in to San Diego on the 15th or so of April 1966. I knew no one there! My life was about to take some fun but drastic turns. I immediately bought an old surfboard and my California adventures were underway. For my Beach Boys story see my book *Amazing People I Met Along the Way*."

Ruth Lande Shuman CW'64 is the founder and president of Publicolor, a mural/painting program that counters undereducation by keeping kids interested and involved in school. Founded 30 years ago, it has "effectively engaged over 30,200 struggling students and impacted approximately 20 million New Yorkers, introducing visual beauty to neglected schools and community facilities," she writes in the nonprofit's 2025 annual report. As a holistic program, it offers "huge healthy food packages weekly to the 85% who report food insecurity, and access to our highly qualified and experienced psychologist for those who need emotional support." She reports that 100 percent of students in the program matriculate to the next grade, and last year 98 percent of seniors went onto college, with the other 2 percent enrolling in a post-secondary accreditation program. More information can be found at publicolor.org.

1965

Nancy Worden Horst CW'65 shares that her grandson **Cyrus L. E. Horst W'26** will graduate this year with the Wharton Class of 2026. He is the son of **Louis T. Horst III WG'01**.

Ellen Stekert Gr'65, a folk singer and folklorist, has announced the first public release of her private photographic archive. Now available for purchase, the collection features candid prints from the historic 1964 Newport Folk Festival, captured from Ellen's vantage point backstage. The collection includes striking, unposed portraits of Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger, and many others. See the images and get in touch with Ellen on her website, ellenstekert.com.

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 15–18, 2026!

1966

Arthur M. Shapiro C'66 writes, "As the Class of 1966 nears its 60th Reunion, I am taken back to the wonderful academic experience of my undergrad days. I was a biology major, but I took a B.A., not a B.S., and thus took numerous courses outside my major as part of my 'distributional requirements.' Three of these stand out in my memory: Chinese Civilization taught by Derk Bodde, Latin American Politics from Henry Wells, and The French Revolution from Lynn Case. Although only Latin American Politics ended up having a significant impact on my career, all three had a very significant impact on my life in that they helped shape my worldview in manifold ways. I want to believe that Penn students today are being exposed to brilliant scholars and teachers like those men!"

Eugene Stelzig C'66 has published his fifth collection of poetry, *Just Saying: Selected Poems from My Sixties and Seventies* (Resource Publications). The collection, he explains, "is an older poet's reactions to being-in-the-world. Reflecting, responding, maybe even half-philosophizing, half-admonishing. Poems about the natural world, about politics and the mess the world is in, about literature, especially Shakespeare, about the universe and our place in it, about time and temporality and getting old and facing mortality and the death of friends, about the recent pandemic. Thoughtful, playful, ironic, angry, tongue-in-cheek, sarcastic, wry." Eugene is a professor emeritus of English at SUNY Geneseo.

1969

Brian Black C'69 writes, "In 1972, the *Pennsylvania Gazette* reported that I taught at a girls' private school in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. The following year, I returned to Phoenix, spending several decades until retirement teaching high school history. However, back in 1965, while preparing to leave for Penn, I witnessed a local garage band play and ran out to purchase a guitar. I spent the next four years in my dorm room practicing. In 1969, after graduating from Penn, I taught high school during the day. One evening, I was invited by a local band, The Grapes of Wrath, to record with them two songs I had written. Years later a commercial CD of the band's recordings was released in the United States, Europe, and Asia, which included my performance with the band. Vacationing in Europe, I listened to my performance on the band's CD at a large store in Paris. Though flattered when approached by older students who remembered me fondly from my teaching days, secretly I am pleased to see the CD of the band remains for sale on Amazon."

Michael Cowan W'69 writes, "My debut novel, *John B. Peoples*, was published on April 21. Writing a novel was definitely not on my mind as a wide-eyed, relatively innocent Buffalo boy entering Penn's hallowed halls in 1965. Neither was it when I went to law school and embarked on a long legal career interspersed with adventures in songwriting and yogurt making (the latter being where I received my most expensive education). However, now I sit penning (no pun intended) this paragraph in February, happily married for 46 years, a father of three and grandfather of four (learning through being a grandfather that God gave 'man' two knees so that multiple grandchildren can sit on them), waiting to see how many people like my novel. Given the timing of all of this, you might be able to get an inkling for yourself now at michaelcowan.net. And to my classmates who remember our Class of '69 cheer, I send my best regards."

Jeffrey David Jubelirer W'69 continues to write poetry. His newest book is *Coming Back to Life* (2024). According to the book's description, it explores "various themes—from serious depression and heartache to... love and harmony."

Douglas W. Orr EE'69 has published a new book, *My Collected Poetry*, available through online merchants, including Lulu. Douglas writes, "Philosophy, science, history, and prophecy are themes interlaced into many of my poetic entries." More information can be found at his website, dworr.zenfolio.com.

1970

Irene Gaskins GrEd'70 see **William Herndon C'80.**

Charlie Ketchey W'70 has published a new novel, *Under Their Watch* (River Grove Books). He writes, "The tale is a dramatic thriller, tracing exploits and violence encountered by Cameron Springer and John Quint working as case workers with families and children at risk." Charlie is a business litigation and civil trial lawyer based in Tampa, Florida. Over the course of his career, he has gained experience in child dependency cases and worked with organizations that provide assistance to families and especially to children at risk of neglect or abuse.

1972

Robert Elias C'72 has been awarded the 2026 Seymour Medal for the best baseball history or biography by the Society for American Baseball Research for his book, *Dangerous Danny Gardella: Baseball's Neglected Trailblazer for Today's Millionaire Athletes* (Bloomsbury/Rowman & Littlefield). The chair of the medal selection committee said in a statement, "Robert Elias's book combines superb research and a readable presentation. He puts Danny Gardella's story into a vivid, lively historical context, where labor and management battle over the ballfield as in the rest of American life. Gardella emerges as a talented, remarkable man who navigates multiple challenges and survives." Robert is a professor of politics and legal studies at the University of San Francisco.

Manuel García Jr. ME'72 writes, "My hyperlink book on 'everything there is to know' on global warming [and] climate change and 'how it affects you' is a 14-page PDF document. I have exhausted myself on the subject (physics, chemistry, geology, biology, psychology, sociology, politics) and have nothing more to say about that accelerating planetary inevitability. There is lots of enjoyable reading to be had from my hyperlink book, if you are game." Manuel's complete book, *Everything About Global Warming Climate Change and the Planetary Crisis*, can be downloaded for free at https://manuelgarciajr.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/mgjr.s-gwcc-evolution-18jan23.pdf.

Gil Rothenberg C'72, former chief of the Appellate Section of the Justice Department's Tax Division, and currently an adjunct professor of law at American University Law School (who also taught tax courses for several years at Penn Carey Law School), was one of four former government officials who, together with two organizations, submitted an amicus ("friend of the court") brief to the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida in the case of *President Donald J. Trump v. IRS*. Gil writes, "The amicus brief takes the position that, while the president's prior tax returns were wrongfully made public by an individual who is currently incarcerated for his illegal actions in disclosing those returns, the president's lawsuit should be dismissed because it was brought against the wrong party, was filed too late, and is otherwise non-justiciable in its current state."

Margaret Ryan CW'72 won the Leon Burstein Award from the Mystery Writers of America last fall for the manuscript for her cozy mystery, *Gorgeous*. The award is named for Leon Burstein, an ardent fan of mystery fiction, and is given to an unpublished author for a completed manuscript worthy of—and ready for—publication. Margaret explains that the story "features Margot Tobin, a former journalist turned florist who works at a high-end flower shop called Gorgeous in the affluent town of Grange. Margot's life takes a dramatic turn when she discovers the murdered body of Hannah Deere, a wealthy socialite, at her mansion while delivering flowers." The award judges remarked, "It takes a great deal of work to make the writing that smooth and readable! ... With relatable characters, and deep internal reflections about the past, it felt immediate, real and engaging." Margaret shares that she is now looking for an agent and publisher.

1973

Robert M. Steeg C'73 ASC'75, managing partner of Steeg Law Firm in New Orleans, has been included in the 2026 Louisiana Super Lawyers list by *Super Lawyers* magazine in the category of Real Estate Law.

1974

Brooks Kolb C'74 GLA'79 has written a memoir, *Landscape in Lavender: A Young Man's Search for His Gay Identity*. From the press materials: "Brooks explores the conflicts between different aspects of his personality on a roundtrip odyssey around the world during the 1970s sexual revolution and the AIDS pandemic. Brooks' story is at times heartbreaking, but ultimately a hopeful and inspiring one about coming out, coming of age, and the search for an authentic life."

1975

Susan M. Campbell Nu'75 has published a picture book for children three to eight years old, titled *It's Great to Have Ants in Your Pants*. She writes, "The book celebrates energetic, curious children who love to move, explore, and imagine, instead of instructing them to sit still, calm down, and be quiet. This joyful story, featuring delightful illustrations of happy children and adorable ants, encourages children to see their boundless energy as a precious treasure. It invites parents, caregivers, and educators to view 'antsy' behavior as a natural spark worth nurturing. Perfect for all the busy kids in your life." It is available on Amazon.

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1976

Jim Finkelstein WG'76 writes, "For those of my friends who are not connected with me on LinkedIn or Facebook, I stepped away from full-time executive leadership on January 2 and into a new chapter. This has me reflecting on a favorite quote, by Edward Everett Hale: 'I am only one, but still, I am one. I cannot do everything, but still, I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something I can do.' I spent 50 years in corporate life, as a leader, manager, and consultant in human resources and strategic thinking. I started with TPF&C (now WTW) after graduating, and worked as a manager with Pepsi-Cola, American Can Company, and Emery Air Freight before going back to consulting with Meidinger (now Mercer). Subsequently, I worked for the Wyatt Company (now WTW) and WF Corroon (now WTW) in leadership positions. In 1995, I started my own business FutureSense, which was combined with Arthur Andersen (as a partner) from 1995 to 1997, removed in 1997 and joined with the Innovation Institute in a joint venture in 2016 and ultimately sold to Alliant Insurance Services in 2022. It is now Alliant Human Capital. I'm not slowing down—just shifting gears. I'll continue serving on boards (such as Street Soccer USA and BabyLiveAdvice) and sharing 50 years of experience as a speaker, coach, author, teacher, and mentor.

My work has always been about people—culture, growth, and performance—and that purpose hasn't changed. If you're in a similar season, stay curious, stay connected, and keep contributing. I hope to see many of my classmates at our 50th Reunion in May. Purpose doesn't retire. Onward and upward. The adventure never ends…"

James Rahn C'76, an author and leader of the Rittenhouse Writers' Group in Philadelphia, has published a new novel. *Full Moon Bop* is narrated by 15-year-old Billy Mott, growing up in a fading 1970s shore town. An orphan raised by his demanding aunt, Billy is often angry and bored, and he quits school to follow a life on the streets. Ultimately, as his adventures become more illicit, "Billy begins to wonder whether he should abandon this exciting but perilous life or continue down a road that may lead to disaster," according to the book's description.

Richard Weill C'76 announces the release of his new book, *Frederick Knott and Dial M for Murder: The Creation and Evolution of an Iconic Thriller* (McFarland & Company). Richard writes, "It is a complete history of Knott's classic stage thriller, later a Hitchcock film, from its conception through its writing, rejection, first production, success on Broadway and in Hollywood, and subsequent revivals. Knott's other work (*Mr. Fox of Venice*, *Write Me a Murder*, *Wait Until Dark*) is covered as well, and Knott's complete original draft of *Dial M* is included in an appendix."

1978

Don English C'78 see **Ann Knapp English C'80.**

Scott Lederman W'78 WG'79 is retiring as a managing director at the investment management firm GCM Grosvenor L.P. after 27 years. During his tenure, he writes, he was "involved in a wide array of initiatives as the firm grew both its assets under management and global footprint." He also authored and continues to update *Hedge Fund Regulation*, a PLI Press treatise, now in its second edition, and is a contributor to several other PLI publications.

1979

Jill Howlett Mays OT'79, an occupational therapist, avid gardener, and author of *Nurturing Nature: A Guide to Gardening for Special Needs*, was recently interviewed by Living on Earth, a syndicated NPR/PRX broadcast reaching over 250,000. The episode, "Gardening for Special Needs," aired January 23, and in it, Jill discusses how gardening can offer personal growth opportunities for people with developmental and physical disabilities. It is available for replay at tinyurl.com/howlettmays.

1980

Ann Knapp English C'80 has retired from the Montgomery County (Maryland) Department of Environmental Protection and been named a fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects. At DEP, she built the Watershed Restoration Division's popular green infrastructure education and incentive program, RainScapes. Currently, she writes, she and her husband, **Don English C'78**, "are operating a small farm in southern York County, Pennsylvania, focused on growing hazelnuts and using a variety of land restoration practices, which are rebuilding the soil and improving water quality." (Find their farm on Facebook @happyhollowfarmpa.) Don is the administrative director of the Keystone Tree Crops Cooperative, which is developing the market for locally sourced nut products from hickory, hazelnut, and chestnut trees.

William Herndon C'80, who graduated with a degree in elementary education, shares that he "taught elementary school full time for over 20 years at schools that practiced best practices in pedagogy, including at the UC Irvine Farm School." Now retired in Austin, Texas, he is the president of the board of directors of YouthLaunch, a nonprofit that supports peer-to-peer mentorship programs in Texas public schools. He writes, "My excellent training at the University of Pennsylvania department of education, led by **Irene Gaskins GrEd'70** and other fine professors, prepared me for a truly fulfilling career in teaching."

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1981

Dr. Gregg Coodley C'81 announces the publication of his seventh history book, *Arboreal Destiny: How Trees Shaped the History and Culture of People*. He writes, "The book explores the central role trees have played in the religion, buildings, tools, art, literature, and economy of different people across the world. The book also [shows] how crucial trees remain today and how they will be even more important for humanity's future." Gregg is a primary care physician who wrote about "the disappearing family doctor" in our Jan|Feb 2023 issue ["Alumni Voices"].

Mary Fissell C'81 Gr'88 see **Nancy Novick C'82.**

1982

Robert Carley C'82, an artist based in Connecticut, recently showed more than 200 caricatures of famous artists at Naugatuck Valley Community College during the month of February. In celebration of Black History Month, several African American artists were highlighted in the exhibit, called "Art Stars." A video interview with Robert can be seen on *WTNH News 8* at tinyurl.com/CarleyNews8.

Nancy Novick C'82 writes, "Happy to report that my short story 'Emergency' was selected as first runner-up in the *Saturday Evening Post*'s 2026 Great American Fiction Contest. The full story can be found at: saturdayeveningpost.com/2026/01/emergency. When I'm not writing fiction, I continue to enjoy freelance writing assignments that bring me in contact with fascinating people in academia, medicine, and the arts, including fellow alumna **Mary Fissell C'81 Gr'88**,

who is the inaugural J. Mario Molina Professor of the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins. My article on Mary's book *Pushback: The 2,500-Year Fight to Thwart Women by Restricting Abortion* was published on Medhum.org, a website created to cultivate empathy and critical thinking in health, culture, and the arts. More of my work—including projects for institutional healthcare clients and individual physicians—is at nancynovick.com."

1983

Edward Lubin C'83 writes, "I'm writing to celebrate the 43 years since graduating from Penn in 1983. Still have good friends and former heartthrobs that I cherish and meet up with from that ancient time. Loved it so much, we sent our middle daughter to the Law School, where I readily confess she worked harder than I ever did. (She and her sisters are 'serious' students.) After Penn, I earned a PhD in experimental psychology form CUNY Graduate School in Manhattan, got my MD at Albert Einstein Medical School in the Bronx, finished an anesthesia residency at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, and a pain medicine fellowship at Yale. The private practice of interventional pain medicine in Florida has been my life. I'm busy in a small physician group—we spend our time in the OR all day and love it. Marriage of 37 years keeps me busy and happy too! We have two out of three married daughters with family all over the US—they make for a full heart and a full life, in addition to wonderful vacation destinations! And I have a new grandchild who is the focus of all of our love. I'm grateful for their health and happiness. I'm also busy planning my second act—on the pulpit as an ordained clergyman of the Jewish faith. I have put in over a two decades on the bimah, performing high holy day chazzanut—but once my practice winds down I'll be doing more rabbinical work. The Quakers aren't the only ones to have shown me the many benefits of a religious life!"

Steven M. Rubin W'83 is the author of a new novel, *The Unraveling of Michael Galler* (SparkPress). He writes, "The book is a psychological family drama about a teenager transitioning from high school to college, and whose entanglement in an intense, complex new relationship exacerbates his obsession over his greatest fear: cancer." It has received favorable reviews from other Penn alumni, including *USA Today* bestselling author **Jacqueline Friedland C'99 L'00**, Pulitzer Prize–nominee and journalist **Vahe Gregorian C'83**, and filmmaker **Gavin O'Connor C'86**.

1984

Robert M. Maxwell C'84 G'86 has joined Sterlington as an estate and fiduciary accountant in the law firm's Private Wealth practice. He is based out of the company's Philadelphia office.

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1986

Mark Cronin EAS'86 writes, "After 33 years as a television producer, show creator, and showrunner, I am now mostly retired and living on Martha's Vineyard full time with my wife, son, two dogs, and five boats. My last show, *Below Deck*, and its various spinoffs still air every week and I keep my hand in on casting and staffing, but I no longer slog out the day-to-day production. I am proud to say that I have been the head creative alumni producer for the Mask & Wig annual production for the past five years and will be doing it next year as well. I also serve on the boards of several local nonprofit organizations, including our film and theater organization, Circuit Arts, and Sail MV, which teaches island kids to sail." Mark was profiled in our Nov|Dec 2007 issue ["Profiles"].

Susan Kleinman C'86 has authored the novel *All Afternoon*, described by its publisher, Volume 36 Books, as "a powerful debut about the quiet ache of losing yourself and the courageous work of finding your way back."

1987

Robert K. Fitts C'87, a curatorial consultant for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York, is pleased to announce the publication of his latest book, *In the Japanese Ballpark: Behind the Scenes of Nippon Professional Baseball*. Learn more at RobFitts.com.

1989

Tom Biglin C'89 successfully defended his dissertation, "Tuning the Instrument: A Phenomenographic Exploration of the Value and Praxis of Personal Music Therapy for Music Therapists," and will receive his PhD in Music Therapy from Temple University in May. He writes that he is "pleased to be returning to Philadelphia for another graduation 37 years after [my] Penn degree" and finds it especially meaningful to spend time in the city during the United States' 250th anniversary. Once a Quaker, always a Quaker: Tom still enjoys visiting campus with his wife, Kristi, and daughter, Abigail (potential Penn Class of 2044).

Anne Evens G'89, CEO of Elevate, is highlighted in a new exhibit at the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) in Chicago. Anne has been named a featured leader in the museum's "2026 Women in Energy" exhibit, a Women's History Month pop-up tied to MSI's new permanent "Powering the Future" exhibition that spotlights women driving innovation in clean energy. Elevate is a Chicago-based nonprofit that aims to make clean energy more accessible nationally.

Dr. Jill Goff Wenger C'89 is serving as the first female chief of staff at Ascension St. John Medical Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After working as an intensivist in the ICU during COVID, Jill says she "needed a change." She went into primary care and is teaching internal medicine to medical students at the University of Oklahoma and physician-assistant students at Oklahoma State University.

1993

R. Tali Epstein L'93 was recently appointed to be a New Jersey State Superior Court Judge. Prior to this appointment, Tali had been serving as an administrative law judge.

1995

Oreste R. Ramos C'95 L'98, a capital member at Pietrantoni Méndez & Alvarez LLC whose practice focuses on civil and commercial litigation, has been named the 2026 Lawyer of the Year for Arbitration and Mediation in San Juan, Puerto Rico, by *Best Lawyers*.

Christina Uss C'95 has published her "sixth ridiculous book for young readers," *Midnight Mayhem*. Explaining the story, she writes, "Kaz has just moved to West Philly and will never sleep again. How will he fill his long, lonely nights? Releasing wild animals into the Penn Museum is one idea, and hunting for the world's most perfect pretzel is another. Any fellow Quakers fondly re-

member eating well in Philadelphia? Le Anh's cart, cheese fries at the all-night food truck in front of CHOP, the Amish pretzels at the Reading Terminal Market, Astral Plane or Zanzibar Blue or even Le Bec Fin? Please get in touch to reminisce!" More information about Christina's books and her contact information is available at christinauss.com.

1998

Rachel Ehrlich Albanese C'98 L'01 recently joined the law firm Debevoise & Plimpton LLP in New York as a partner and cochair of the Restructuring Group. She also recently became cochair of the Federal Bar Council Bankruptcy Litigation Committee.

Ashley Wren Collins C'98 see **Jordan Rockwell C'00.**

2000

Paulita David C'00, senior managing director and head of US large customer sales at Reddit, has joined the board of directors for the Boston Arts Academy Foundation. Boston Arts Academy is a public high school dedicated to the visual and performing arts, and according to the press release, "David's appointment signals a powerful intersection between digital storytelling and arts education."

Michelle Holme C'00, a creative director and graphic artist, has won a Grammy for Best Recording Package for Bruce Springsteen's *Tracks II: The Lost Albums*. This is her second Grammy win and third nomination ("Arts blog," March 12, 2012).

Jordan Rockwell C'00 writes, "As I mentioned a few issues ago, my writing partner **Ashley Wren Collins C'98** and I have written a romantic comedy novel, *She Wrote, He Wrote: A New York Love Story*, which releases worldwide on May 12. As part of our book tour, we will be having a book signing event at the Penn Bookstore on Thursday, May 14, at 5:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!"

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2001

Louis T. Horst III WG'01 see **Nancy Horst CW'65.**

2005

Hilal Isler GrEd'05 writes, "My debut short-story collection, *Har Mar*, will be published by Northwestern University Press this summer. The collection explores women's lives in the in-between—between countries, languages, selves—and moves from Turkey to the United States and back again, tracing migrations both physical and emotional. One of the stories takes place in West Philly, just off campus." Hilal is an associate professor of instruction at the University of Texas at Austin College of Education.

Lindsey Palmer C'05 shares that her fifth novel, *Salt Sisters*, will be published in July by Lake Union Publishing. She writes, "Set against the stunning backdrop of Cape Cod, the novel follows two sisters who reunite and confront their painful past in a powerful story about family expectations and life's unforeseen turns. It's an exploration of sisterhood and motherhood, and the courage it takes to face the past, forgive, and finally let go." More information about Lindsey and her books can be found at lindseyjpalmer.com.

2008

Pierce Cravens C'08 produced the feature film *Mouse*, which had its world premiere at Berlinale (the Berlin International Film Festival) in February. The film was critically lauded and has received a 100 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes. It will be released theatrically in the North America later this year.

Tim Kaijala C'08 has been promoted to senior vice president and chief investment officer at Spinnaker Trust, a wealth management firm based in Portland, Maine. In this expanded role, Tim leads the firm's investment strategy and due diligence efforts across public and private markets. He works closely with client advisors and service teams to align portfolio construction with client goals and serves on the firm's Investment Committee.

2010

Christine Hernandez GEd'10 was honored by the City of Westminster, California, as one of five Women of Distinction during Women's History Month in March. The annual award recognizes women who have made a positive impact in the community through leadership, activism, volunteerism, and service. Christine currently serves on the city's Parks and Recreation Commission and as a trustee on the Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees. She is the deputy director at IGNITE National, a nonpartisan nonprofit that empowers young women to unleash their political power and influence policies that affect their communities.

Annie Jean-Baptiste C'10, veteran tech executive and director of Products for All at Google, has written a new book, *Empowerment for All: A Four-Step Framework for Creating Change in Teams and Communities*. In the book, she "explains how people of any experience level can use their individual voices and experiences to help everyone in their organization actively and fully participate," according to the press materials.

William Shotzbarger C'10 has been promoted to partner at Duane Morris LLP. He works in the Trial Practice group out of the firm's Philadelphia office and specializes in antitrust and commercial disputes.

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2016

Elizabeth Hitti EAS'16 is the founder and director of the first field hockey club in the southeast US, the Atlanta Field Hockey Club (AtlantaFHC.com). In 2025, Atlanta Field Hockey clinched its first national title: the US Field Hockey League Women's National Club Championship. As a student at Penn, Elizabeth was a member of the varsity field hockey team, finishing her four-year career with 26 goals and 34 assists while starting almost every game for the Quakers. With this new endeavor, she continues to grow the game for youth and adults.

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2021

Joe Kemp GEd'21, founder of the educational game publisher Games That Matter, is excited to share that he competed on season two of *60 Day Hustle*, streaming now on Prime Video. Joe writes, "From my days at Penn and the training and support I received from programs that help entrepreneurs like me, to taking on this high-stakes business reality challenge, it's been quite the journey. I'd be thrilled if students and alumni tune in to watch the journey unfold!" The trailer is available at youtu.be/2ZnaefoA64o.

1944

Helen Ross Staley Ar'44, Cary, NC, a retired architect; Jan. 1, at 104. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

1946

Martin A. Cohen C'46 G'49, New York, a rabbi and history professor at Hebrew Union College; Jan. 23. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

Donald M. Solenberger W'46, Media, PA, a retired life insurance agent; Feb. 9, at 103. He served in the US Army during World War II. As a student at Penn, he was a member of the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, Penn Players, Sphinx Senior Society, and the tennis and lacrosse teams. As an alumnus, he was a volunteer for his Class and received the Alumni Award of Merit in 1974. His son is Stephen D. Solenberger W'78.

1947

D. Richard "Dick" Wenner C'47 WG'62, West Chester, PA, retired executive director of the Fund for an Open Society, a nonprofit housing organization; Dec. 18. Earlier in his career, he was the deputy secretary for agriculture for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He served in the US Navy Reserve during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

1948

Israel A. David Ch'48, Wilmington, DE, a retired researcher at DuPont; Jan. 8, at 100. He served in the US Army during World War II. One son is Bernard J. David C'79 W'79 WG'82.

Shirley Bailey Huntington Ed'48, New Providence, NJ, a former kindergarten teacher; Feb. 16, at 100. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and WXPN. One daughter is Ann Huntington Barnett WG'80.

Roberta Basch Schneidman CW'48, Washington, DC, a former department manager at Neiman Marcus; Feb. 7, at 100. Her brother is Jay J. Basch C'56.

1949

Ellen Fitts Millick Ed'49, West Chester, PA, a retired educator and women's athletic director at Wilmington Friends School in Delaware; Dec. 22. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority, and the basketball, lacrosse, and field hockey teams.

1950

Dr. Hugh R. Gilmore III M'50 GM'54, Aventura, FL, a retired physician and professor of medicine at the University of Miami; Nov. 24, at 99.

Ilene "Beany" Webler Tomber CW'50, Tucson, AZ, a retired public education coordinator for PBS affiliate WKAR in Michigan; July 16.

1951

Paul C. Astor W'51 L'54, Bala Cynwyd, PA, a retired attorney; Jan. 30. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity. One daughter is Janice Astor Blumenthal C'80, and one grandchild is Emily J. Fox C'11.

Alva Aubrey Marticelli HUP'51, McLean, VA, a retired nurse-educator; Jan. 4.

William Z. Shetter C'51, Bloomington, IN, a retired professor of German, Dutch, and linguistics at Indiana University; Jan. 23. He served in the US Army.

Gertrude Gehman Walsh HUP'51, Manitowoc, WI, a retired nurse; Jan. 23.

Eloise Culmer Whitten G'51, Detroit, a civil rights advocate and community activist; March 6. She served on the boards of Planned Parenthood, the Michigan Department of Social Services, the Wayne State University School of Social Work, and many others.

1952

Dr. Frederick O. Bowman Jr. M'52, Chapel Hill, NC, professor emeritus of clinical surgery at Columbia University; Jan. 20. He served in the US Army Medical Corps.

Bruce E. Crawford W'52, New York, a former advertising executive who later led the Metropolitan Opera as general manager and the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts as its chairman; Dec. 28. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. His son is Robert B. Wright C'74.

Theodore O. Haas WEv'52 CCC'56, Haverford, PA, retired director of passenger rates and tariffs at Conrail; April 12, 2025.

Charles R. Latimer C'52, Cary, NC, Jan. 20. He retired from IBM. He served in the US military during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Jack Sirott L'52, Langhorne, PA, a retired attorney and longtime solicitor for the Lower Bucks County (PA) Joint Municipal Authority; Dec. 30, at 99. One son is David L. Sirott WEv'95.

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.

1953

Ettore Alosio Jr. C'53, Pagosa Springs, CO, a retired pharmaceutical executive; Oct. 21, 2024. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

Dr. Silas Kendrick Eshleman III M'53 GM'57, Lititz, PA, a retired physician and psychiatrist; Dec. 21. He served in the US Army Medical Corps.

Ronald P. Lassin W'53, Elkins Park, PA, March 4, 2024. His son is Gary D. Lassin WG'79.

James W. "Jay" Lillie Jr. W'53 L'59, Cary, NC, a retired attorney and essayist; Jan. 17. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and the sailing and baseball teams.

G. William "Bill" Ward W'53, Hollidaysburg, PA, retired chairman of a trucking company; Dec. 17. He served in the US Navy Amphibious Forces. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, and the ROTC.

1954

Dr. Walter J. Baker V'54, Pittsburgh, a retired ophthalmologist and professor of ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh; Jan. 10. He held two medical degrees and treated both humans and animals. He served in the US Navy during World War II and in the US Air Force during the Korean War.

Col. Frank M. Schoendorfer W'54, Norristown, PA, a retired officer in the US Army; Dec. 17. He served for 22 years, including during the Vietnam War. After retirement, he was dean of admissions at Valley Forge Military College and then a mortgage development officer at a bank. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and the Penn Band. One son is David L. Schoendorfer G'85.

1955

Jack S. Huang EE'55, Maple Grove, MN, a retired professor of electrical engineering at the University of Minnesota and an engineer

and manager at Honeywell; Jan. 11. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Xi fraternity.

Allen I. Markelson WG'55, North Bay Village, FL, March 2025.

Dr. George E. McLaughlin C'55, Hockessin, DE, a retired rheumatologist and associate clinical professor of medicine at Temple University; Feb. 11. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, Mask & Wig, the swimming team, Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, and Sphinx Senior Society.

Willetta Riley Rissell OT'55, Grantsville, MD, a retired occupational therapist at a nursing home; Jan. 10.

Robert H. Whitehead WG'55, Kintnersville, PA, Dec. 1.

1956

Leonard C. "Dick" Dill III C'56, Juno Beach, FL, a retired hospitality developer; Feb. 17. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and the squash team. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. His sister is Julie Dill Williams CW'58.

William C. Fawley Jr. C'56, Drexel Hill, PA, Sept. 9. He served in the US Army.

Joan Jackson Jeffers Ed'56, Stroudsburg, PA, a former high school English teacher; Sept. 19. As a student at Penn, she was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, Sphinx Senior Society, and the fencing team. As an alumna, she volunteered for her Class Reunion.

Dr. Aaron H. Katcher M'56 GM'63, Cedar Hill, TX, an associate professor emeritus of oral medicine and behavioral science at Penn's School of Dental Medicine and of psychiatry in the Perelman School of Medicine; Jan. 6. He joined the School of Medicine in 1957 as an assistant instructor of psychiatry. In 1963, after completing his residency and internship at Penn, he was promoted to instructor, and two years later, he joined the tenure track as an associate professor. In 1968, he also joined the faculty of Penn's School of Dental Medicine, as an assistant professor of oral medicine and behavioral science. He later became an associate professor in both schools and also taught in the School of Arts and Sciences. He won the Human of the Year Award of the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association in 1986. He retired from Penn in 1991. His son is Dr. Paul A. Menard-Katcher M'05 GM'08.

Ronald J. Linder W'56, San Francisco, an accountant and estate attorney; June 17. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity and the swimming team.

Ronald G. Powers W'56, Glens Falls, NY, retired founder of Boardroom Advisors, a consulting service to senior management in banks; Feb. 25.

Dr. Max A. Van Buskirk Jr. V'56, Mechanicsburg, PA, retired director of the Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture; Dec. 26.

Dr. Theodore V. Yuhas V'56, Newtown Square, PA, a retired veterinarian; Sept. 29.

1957

Lynn Brussock Barrell WG'57, Gladwyne, PA, a former financial analyst at Penn and later at a bank; Nov. 16, 2024.

Dr. Edgar R. Kunz Jr. D'57, Newtown Square, PA, Jan. 4. One son is Dr. Brian S. Kunz D'76 GD'77.

1958

Thomas M. Hay W'58, Guilford, CT, a retired regional development manager for Dayton (OH) Power and Light; Dec. 25. He was also president and CEO of the Troy Area Chamber of Commerce and the Troy Development Council in Ohio. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Xi fraternity and the swimming team.

George J. Kramer W'58, Jupiter, FL, a philatelist; Dec. 31. He exhibited his stamp collection internationally and served as a judge at competitions. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity, Penn Players, and the rowing team. One brother is Frederick L. Kramer C'62, and one grandchild is Isaiah B. Kramer L'23.

Arthur Jim Light W'58, Springfield, VA, a retired accountant on the audit staff of the CIA's Inspector General's Office; Jan. 12.

Richard Stevens III WG'58, Bethlehem, PA, a retired division manager for a software company; July 3. He served in the US Army.

Sue Spalding Stevens HUP'58, Arkport, NY, a retired nurse at a blood bank; Feb. 14.

1959

Virginia "Ginny" Duffy W'59, Philadelphia, a retired counselor, Reiki practitioner, and interior designer; Jan. 19. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, the swimming team, and the Pennguinettes synchronized swimming team.

Charles W. Edwards Jr. WG'59, Birmingham, AL, a retired banking executive; Jan. 23. He was also a professor at several universities. He served in the US Air Force, the US Air National Guard, and the US Air Force Reserve.

Elliot L. Goldman WG'59, King of Prussia, PA, a financial consultant; Dec. 24. His wife is Muriel Freedman Goldman MT'62.

Jonathan M. Hall Ar'59, Seattle, an architect; May 2023.

Stanford M. Lembeck GCP'59, State College, PA, professor emeritus of community planning and agricultural sciences at Penn State University; Sept. 13. His wife is Carolyn Sehl Lembeck CP'58.

Florence Arne' Dupree Prince OT'59, Durham, NC, a retired occupational therapist at Cleveland Public Schools. Oct. 9, 2023.

Dr. Leonard M. Rosenfeld C'59, Rydal, PA, a retired physiologist and former professor and assistant dean at Thomas Jefferson University; Dec. 28. One son is Gregg A. Rosenfeld GEd'95.

Dr. Jay J. Weiner M'59, Danbury, CT, a retired physician; Jan. 9.

1960

David Buten W'60, Philadelphia, an investment manager and former museum director who authored four books on Wedgwood porcelain; Jan. 18. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity, the lacrosse and soccer teams, and the Sphinx Senior Society. A member of the Penn Men's Lacrosse Hall of Fame, he was a three-time honorable mention All-American goalkeeper.

Dr. Roger B. Daniels M'60, Bala Cynwyd, PA, a retired physician and professor of medicine at Thomas Jefferson University; Dec. 7. He served in the US military.

Lawrence R. Glenn W'60, Newport, RI, a retired banker; Jan. 17. He served in the US Navy Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity, the sailing team, and the ROTC.

Tim E. Hollandsworth Jr. W'60, Huntington, WV, a retired executive; Jan. 16. One stepdaughter is Mary Kelly Freiberg C'88 GEd'88.

1961

Dr. Eric L. Leonardo C'61, Emmaus, PA, a retired physician; Jan. 26. His son is Marc E. Leonardo C'91.

Charles E. Neu MTE'61 GMT'73, Lower Gwynedd, PA, a retired metallurgical engineer at the Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster, PA; April 28, 2025. After retirement, he served as an expert witness in investigations surrounding equipment failure. He served in the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Sphinx Senior Society. Two siblings are Marian Neu Finkler CW'57 and Thomas F. Neu ME'63.

1962

Donald P. Calcagnini WG'62, North Palm Beach, FL, a retired bank executive; Jan. 21. He served in the US military.

E. Barclay Cale Jr. L'62, West Chester, PA, a retired attorney; Dec. 22. One sister is Audrey Cale Bedford Ed'55.

Dr. Eugene P. DiMagno M'62, Rochester, MN, a retired gastroenterologist and professor emeritus of medicine at the Mayo Clinic; Nov. 30. He served in the US Army Medical Corps.

Marvin J. Goodfriend W'62, Santa Monica, CA, an accountant and business manager; Dec. 20. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity.

Harold H. "Hal" Krider Jr. W'62, Lake Oswego, OR, a retired chief financial officer of a shipbuilder for the US Navy; Dec. 9. He served in the US Army and the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, the rowing team, and the ROTC.

Richard M. "Buzz" Norton W'62, Lake Bluff, IL, president of his family's antiques business; Jan. 17. He served in the Illinois Air National Guard. As a student at Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity, the ROTC, and the rowing and ice hockey teams. As an alumnus, he was a member of the University Council, and he received the Alumni Award of Merit in 1992. His children are Richard P. Norton C'91, Alexander T. Norton C'93, and Mary Elizabeth L. Norton Redfield C'97

1963

Dr. Richard A. Bohn D'63, Lititz, PA, a retired dentist; Jan. 26. He served in the US Army.

Raymond C. Burton Jr. WG'63, New York, a retired railroad executive; June 19. He served in the US Army.

Mildred Sossong Capwell HUP'63, Clarks Summit, PA, a retired nurse; Dec. 24.

Francis V. Crumley Jr. SW'63, Doylestown, PA, a retired chief adult probation officer for Bucks County, PA; Jan. 20. He was also a pilot who flew donated organs and transplant teams to hospitals.

Judi Seltzer Dubow CW'63, Rydal, PA, a retired high school English teacher; Jan. 8. At Penn, she was a member of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority, Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, and the *Pennsylvania News*. Two children are Dr. Scott Ryan Dubow M'01 GM'08 and Bryn L. Michaels L'02.

Jonathan P. Harvey C'63, Wynantskill, NY, a retired trial attorney; Jan. 15.

Charles R. Hurlbut C'63 GEd'64, Tuscola, TX, Jan. 11. He worked in the chemistry and physics applications industry, and his main focus was radiation detection. He held a number of patents for his scientific inventions. At Penn, he was a member of the rowing team. His wife is Priscilla Humber Hurlbut CW'64.

Morris C. Kellett L'63, Gladwyne, PA, a retired lawyer who focused on real estate and corporate law; Feb. 20. He served in the US Marine Corps.

Leonard M. "Chris" Melley GEd'63, Southampton, PA, a retired high school science teacher; July 23.

Dr. Myron Nevins D'63, Swampscott, MA, a periodontist; Dec. 24. For a time, he taught periodontics at Penn.

William W. Rettew GEd'63, West Chester, PA, a retired high school math teacher; Oct. 9. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War.

1964

Stanley M. Coren C'64, Broomall, PA, a former NASA engineer, restaurateur, and computer programmer; Jan. 3. He served in the US Air Force.

Martin A. Leibowitz EE'64, Copley, OH, a retired telecommunications executive; Dec. 29.

Barry L. Mendelson W'64, Palm Beach Gardens, FL, an attorney and litigator who also ran his family's real estate business; Nov. 13. His daughters are Rabbi Alysa F. Mendelson Graf C'93 and Dr. Ali Mendelson, who is a pediatrician at CHOP. One grandson is Solomon F. Graf EAS'27, GEng'27.

Claire E. Morris GEd'64 GrEd'70, Reading, PA, a retired professor of education and literature at the University of Cincinnati; Dec. 5.

Hon. William H. Platt L'64, Emmaus, PA, a former judge on the Pennsylvania Superior Court; Oct. 21. He received the James Wilson Award for Lifetime Achievement from Penn Carey Law in 2023. He served in the US Army Military Police Corps.

Robert J. Ruth WEv'64, Lewes, DE, a retired trust officer at a bank; Dec. 2.

Dr. Norman S. Sarachek M'64, Orefield, PA, a cardiologist and photographer; Jan. 13.

Dr. James D. Smallwood D'64, Leola, PA, a retired dentist; Dec. 13. He served in the US Air Force.

1965

Carl E. Bolch Jr. W'65, Atlanta, chairman emeritus of RaceTrac, a national gas station and convenience store chain; Dec. 26. He and his wife created the Susan and Carl Bolch, Jr. Endowed Fund for continuing education at Wharton. As a student at Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Two daughters are Melanie Bolch Isbill WG'11 and Natalie Bolch Morhous WG'12.

Bailey W. Brown Jr. C'65, Atlanta, a tennis teacher and coach and a former professional tennis player; Jan. 18. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the tennis and squash teams.

John A. Coller M'65 GM'72, Waltham, MA, a physician and colorectal surgeon; Nov. 18. He served in the US Navy.

David A. Crawford WG'65, Middlebury, VT, former town manager of Middlebury; Dec. 31.

Walter Halberg GME'65, Media, PA, a former mechanical engineer in the steam turbine divisions of General Electric, Boeing, and Westinghouse; Jan. 5. He served in the US Navy.

Frederic Warren Jacoby W'65, Wyndmoor, PA, an attorney who specialized in financial services, real estate, and construction law; Jan. 15. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. One daughter is Hannah K. Jacoby Rupp CGS'10.

Robert G. Morse C'65, Bristol, RI, a retired life insurance agent and financial planner; July 20. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Psi Upsilon fraternity.

Margaret Ann J. Newman CW'65, Erdenheim, PA, a retired high school English and math teacher; Jan. 15. At Penn, she was a member of Penn Players.

Jeremiah P. "Jerry" O'Grady WG'65, Bryn Mawr, PA, an investment banker; Oct. 31.

Edward J. Pacitti WEv'65, West Chester, PA, a retired risk manager at the telecommunications company Bell Atlantic; Jan. 19. He served in the US Marine Corps.

Albert S. Roberts Jr. C'65 GAr'72, Cary, NC, an architect; Dec. 8. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity and the squash and rowing teams.

Robert R. Slade GEd'65, Escanaba, MI, retired executive director at an education association representing 16 school districts in Michigan; Dec. 18.

June Perron Truex HUP'65, Freehold, NJ, a former pediatric nurse and office manager; Jan. 7.

Parker H. Wilson L'65, Lake Nuangola, PA, a retired attorney; Jan. 11. His wife is Jill Schmucker Wilson PT'62.

1966

Edward A. Bulanowski Jr. GME'66 Gr'69, Yardley, PA, a retired engineer at a steam turbine company; Jan. 1.

Dennis E. Gosier G'66, Lady Lake, FL, a retired analyst at the US Census Bureau; Jan. 16. He served in the US Army.

Clifton D. Mitchell WG'66, Ocean View, DE, a retired accountant and comptroller at the Brookings Institute; Jan. 21. His wife is Mary Pritchard Mitchell CW'65.

Dr. Richard K. Straley M'66, Williamsport, PA, a retired orthopedic surgeon; Nov. 14, 2024. He served in the US Navy.

George T. "Terry" Van Gilder C'66 WAM'89, South Burlington, VT, a retired insurance underwriter and executive; Dec. 27. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of the ROTC.

1967

Allen B. Carlson G'67, Waynesboro, PA, retired associate dean of learning resources at Montgomery County Community College; Feb 19, 2025.

Susan E. Klepp G'67 Gr'80, Philadelphia, a history professor at Temple University; January 2026.

Dr. Stephen Machinton C'67, Sharon, MA, an obstetrician and gynecologist; Nov. 11. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta fraternity.

1968

Dr. Thomas M. Fasy M'68, Southampton, PA, a professor of pathology and attending pathologist at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Mount Sinai Hospital in New York; Jan. 14.

George L. Head Gr'68, Collegeville, PA, a risk management educator and director emeritus of the American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters; Jan. 19.

Robert J. Leonard C'68 WG'72, Washington, DC, Dec. 4, 2023.

Thomas E. Taylor C'68, Wilmington, NC, a retired corporate tax lawyer; Dec. 28. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Michael W. Vernimb GFA'68, Scottsdale, AZ, an artist, a college teacher, and an activities director; Jan. 21. He served in the US Army.

1969

Dan R. DesFosses PT'69, Pocatello, ID, a retired physical therapist; Jan. 20.

Susan Bachman Farber HUP'69, Easton, PA, a nurse and nurse educator; Dec. 24. For a time, she worked in critical care at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Stuart N. Francis WG'69, Mason, OH, a financial consultant; Dec. 18.

Robert S. Morrison WG'69, Lake Forest, IL, retired vice chairman of PepsiCo; Jan. 16. He served in the US Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

Dr. Richard J. Siegel M'69, Honolulu, a retired physician; Oct. 14.

Edgar E. Stern SW'69, Cinnaminson, NJ, July 17, 2023.

Charles A. Stiteler WG'69, Philadelphia, a securities compliance examiner for the Pennsylvania Securities Commission; July 24. His daughter is Jessica M. Mono C'96.

1970

Bruce J. Boydell GEE'70, Ephrata, PA, a retired engineering program manager at DuPont; Jan. 15. He served in the US Navy. His son is Mark E. Boydell EAS'90.

Sung Moon Cho G'70, Marietta, GA, a former geophysicist at Texas Instruments; Dec. 20. He later became a full-time missionary. One daughter is Catherine J. Bae C'02.

Charles E. Clark Jr. WG'70, Madison, WI, Jan. 8.

Raymond L. Colotti WG'70, Verona, NJ, retired corporate vice president and treasurer of ADP, a human resources management and payroll company; Dec. 28. One son is Austin W. Colotti C'01.

Russell J. Fryman W'70, Montgomery, TX, a retired accountant; Oct. 31. He served in the US Air Force.

I. Michael Greenberger L'70, Baltimore, a retired law professor at the University of Maryland; Dec. 21. Earlier in his career, he served as counselor to Attorney General Janet Reno and then Associate Deputy Attorney General, overseeing several counterterrorism efforts. His wife is Marcia Devins Greenberger CW'67 L'70 and his daughters are Anne D. Greenberger C'00 and Sarah D. Greenberger L'05.

Christopher T. Maurer WG'70, Audubon, PA, a retired market researcher for AstraZeneca; Jan. 3. He served in the US Navy.

Joan Warner Wilson G'70, Naples, FL, a former social worker; Jan. 18.

1971

Lawrence A. Carter WG'71, Savannah, GA, a retired executive at Xerox; Jan. 5. He served in the US Merchant Marine.

Ann Ghering Flynn SW'71, Newport Beach, CA, owner of a giftware business; Dec. 24. Her husband is John A. Flynn WG'71.

Jane Dalton Holly L'71, West Chester, PA, the first woman attorney at the law firm Duane Morris; Dec. 20.

Allen K. Shenk Jr. WG'71, Glastonbury, CT, a retired institutional investor at Travelers; Dec. 31. He served in the US Navy.

1972

Reginald L. Jones GEd'72, Bennington, VT, a former computer teacher and park ranger; June 20, 2025. He retired from the Covered Bridge Museum in Bennington, Vermont. He served in the US Army.

David L. Parker Gr'72, Warwick, RI, a retired English professor at Brown University; Jan. 20. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War.

1973

Hisham N. Ashkouri GAr'73, Newton Highlands, MA, an architect; Dec. 23.

Donald J. Doudna G'73 Gr'76, Ponce Inlet, FL, a former investment executive; Nov. 21.

Ann Cosgrove Ehret SW'73, Broomall, PA, a former nursery school teacher and longtime ambulance volunteer; July 16.

Lewis B. Lee WG'73, Thompson, PA, a retired executive director for the State Division of the Pennsylvania Economy League; Jan. 20. He served in the US Navy.

Capt. Lorraine Rogers Maciag Nu'73, Falmouth, ME, retired head nurse of cancer and AIDS units at the National Institutes of Health; Jan. 14. Later in life, she opened a popular art gallery in Portland, Maine. She served in the US Army Nursing Corps during the Vietnam War.

Radmila "Rada" Zeljic Vuchic G'73, Media, PA, a former high school French and Latin teacher; June 18. She later trained foreign language teachers and consulted for the Delaware Department of Education. Her husband is Dr. Vukan R. Vuchic, professor emeritus of transportation systems and city planning at Penn; and three children are Monika V. Jelic C'87 Nu'91 GNu'92, Boris V. Vuchic MTE'89, and Victor V. Vuchic EAS'98.

1974

Jay D. Ahrens WG'74, Savannah, GA, a retired CEO of a real estate hotel management company; Sept. 9. He served in the US Air Force during the Vietnam War.

Harold R. Cheesman GEE'74, Millville, NJ, a retired electrical engineer; Jan. 11. He served in the US Army.

Thomas A. Egan GrEd'74, East Bradford Township, PA, retired program manager for hybrid education at Arcadia University and longtime supervisor for East Bradford Township; Jan. 5.

John C. Lockard PT'74, Dresher, PA, retired owner of a physical therapy practice and a youth soccer coach; Jan. 2.

1975

Dr. Richard J. Dozor C'75, Point Pleasant, PA, Jan. 2. At Penn, he was a member of the Choral Society.

Janet C. Pyewell Nu'75, West Chester, PA, a retired nurse; Dec. 31.

John B. Scott WG'75, New Providence, NJ, a retired financial manager at ExxonMobil; Jan. 15. One son is John B. Scott WG'75.

1976

Joseph J. Dochney C'76, Toms River, NJ, an attorney; Dec. 28.

Robert P. Hirst-Hermans W'76, Drexel Hill, PA, a computer programmer; Jan. 1.

Dr. Patrick J. Vallano D'76, Greensburg, PA, a retired dentist; Jan. 15. He served in the US Air Force.

1977

Eric M. Benshetler EE'77 GEE'77, Dresher, PA, a former project manager for NextGen Healthcare and a lecturer at Rutgers University; Dec. 22. As an alumnus, he was a volunteer for his Class. Two sons are Jeffrey B. Benshetler EAS'07 EAS'08 and Evan Benshetler EAS'10, GEng'10.

Dr. Richard J. Cusick GM'77, Allentown, PA, a dermatologist and pain management physician; July 13. He also founded a hospice center.

Roger P. Harman Gr'77, Philadelphia, a restaurateur; Feb. 3. He co-owned and operated a number of eateries in West Philadelphia, including the Gold Standard, the Palladium, Abbraccio, and the Gold Standard Café ["Bistro Days," sidebar, Mar|Apr 2008].

James G. Murray Jr. C'77 W'77, Sunset Beach, NC, retired executive vice president for South and Southeast Asia at Visa International; Dec. 22. He also operated a bed and breakfast for a time with his former wife Susan Hinkle C'77. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Phi fraternity (St. Elmo's Club).

1978

Doris E. McGovern CGS'78 GEd'88, Media, PA, an ornithologist; Dec. 29. Earlier in her career, she worked at Penn.

Dr. Harold L. "Skip" Nelson Jr. V'78, Waverly Township, PA, a veterinarian; Jan. 22.

Anthony F. Zabicki Jr. C'78, Philadelphia, an attorney; Jan. 20. At Penn, he was manager of the basketball team.

1979

Mark D. Bryfogle ME'79, Kensington, MD, a former consulting engineer focused primarily on robotic design and nuclear waste cleanup; Dec. 28. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity and the rowing team. One brother is Dean G. Bryfogle C'78.

Francis A. Delbalzo WG'79, Riva, MD, co-owner of a real estate development company; Dec. 27. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War.

Nicholas D. Roush SW'79, Philadelphia, a psychiatric social worker for the Philadelphia Department of Prisons; Aug. 12. He served in the US Merchant Marine.

Peter J. Stamatis W'79, Norristown, PA, Jan. 7. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

1980

Dr. John Hugh Bryan GM'80, Fayetteville, NC, a retired radiation oncologist and director of a medical center; Dec. 18. In the early 1980s, he served as assistant professor of radiation therapy at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine.

Jan J. Klohonatz W'80, Larkspur, CA, an attorney; Jan. 2.

Steven S. Schwartzberg C'80, Brookline, MA, a former psychotherapist and Buddhist meditation teacher; Dec. 10. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and the Benjamin Franklin Scholars.

David H. Trautenberg C'80 GEd'80 GrEd'16, Denver, a former investment banker who later became a chief financial officer and consultant to school districts in Colorado, Louisiana, and Nebraska; Jan. 10. He also worked as CFO for the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office in New Orleans. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, and he was a Thouron Award recipient. One son is Ezekiel E. Trautenberg C'12.

1981

Malcolm J. "Jack" Anderson WG'81, Philadelphia, a retired executive at Proctor & Gamble; Dec. 30.

Dr. Winston Chu GM'81, Erie, PA, a retired aesthetic and reconstructive surgeon specializing in head and neck surgery; Jan. 3.

1982

Maureen Ryan Guerry WG'82, Signal Mountain, TN, Dec. 1. She worked in the banking and entertainment industries. Her former husband is J. Pemberton Guerry WG'82.

Dr. David P. Telasha GM'82, Wilsonville, OR, a retired obstetrician-gynecologist and cofounder of Apidae Technologies; Sept. 17.

1983

Dr. Edward J. Kozinn D'83 GD'84, Shelton, CT, a dentist; Jan. 1.

1985

Ronald V. Petrilla Gr'85, Hazleton, PA, an assistant professor of healthcare administration at Misericordia University; Jan. 7. He was also a longtime executive director of the Hazleton and Greater Wilkes-Barre Associations for the Blind. He served in the US Navy Reserve.

1986

Dr. Kathleen A. Murphy GM'86, Westfield, NJ, a urologist; Nov. 19.

1987

Thomas P. Davis WG'87, Jacksonville, FL, a retired institutional investment manager; Dec. 14.

Robert W. Paster C'87, Saint Louis, an estate attorney; Jan. 9. At Penn, he was a member of the *Daily Pennsylvanian*.

1988

Anita B. Cameron GNu'88, Flagler Beach, FL, a midwife; Jan. 7.

1991

Eda R. Kauffman SW'91, Philadelphia, a therapist and former director of the field placement office at Penn's School of Social Policy and Practice; Dec. 29.

1992

William J. Gault Jr. G'92, Bensalem, PA, a computer network engineer; Aug. 20. He served in the US Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

1993

Mary L. Folts Gr'93 GEd'00, St. Simons Island, GA, retired curriculum director for the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District (PA); Dec. 6, 2024.

1996

Jason Tyler Worth WG'96, Fleetwood, PA, a former financial executive, entrepreneur, and owner of Banner Uniforms; July 5.

1998

Stephen H. Irish G'98, Galloway, NJ, a professor of business at several colleges in New Jersey and Delaware; Dec. 29.

1999

Susan K. Hutchison GrEd'99, Berwyn, PA, retired director of the Discovery Center at Delaware County Christian School; Nov. 21.

2000

William E. "Bolo" Vought Jr. CGS'00 CGS'05 CGS'07, Philadelphia, a lab technician at Penn; Dec. 8.

2001

Michelle A. Rutherford GNu'01, Mullica Hill, NJ, a retired nurse at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Dec. 21.

2004

Linda Klein Yates CGS'04, Mohrsville, PA, a financial professional; Dec. 30.

2005

Eliot M. Jarrett W'05, Austin, TX, a management consultant; March 8, 2025. He evaluated early-stage investment and acquisition opportunities in the nexus of entertainment content and media distribution. At Penn, he was a member of the fencing team.

Cynthia D. Sleet L'05, Lanham, MD, a tax attorney; Dec. 15.

2012

Robin Buckholtz Hollis GrEd'12, Phoenix, AZ, a consultant who helped secure funding and support for youth-centered community programs; Feb. 7. She was also an ordained deacon in the Episcopal Church.

2017

Divinity L. Matovu WG'17, Milwaukee, WI, an entrepreneur and founder of a health and wellness cannabis infusion brand; Dec. 28.

2023

Sebastian E. Read G'23 WG'23, Philadelphia, a finance director; Oct. 18.

2026

Jillian L. Flanagan GEd'26 GEd'28, Philadelphia, a student in Penn's Graduate School of Education and an administrative coordinator in Penn Carey Law School; Feb. 1. She joined Penn's law school in early 2024 as an alumni relations and gift processing coordinator. Concurrently, she was also pursuing a master of science degree in education in school and mental health counseling at Penn's Graduate School of Education. As part of her graduate degree, she was completing a clinical practicum at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in the eating disorder assessment and treatment program. She aimed to become a licensed professional counselor.

Faculty & Staff

Lynn Brussock Barrell. *See Class of 1957.*

Dr. John Hugh Bryan. *See Class of 1980.*

Susan Bachman Farber. *See Class of 1969.*

David J. Farber, Tokyo, a professor emeritus in the department of computer and information science in Penn's School of Engineering and Applied Science who was often called a "grandfather of the internet"; Feb. 7. He joined Penn in 1987 as a professor of computer and information science. In 1993, he was named the Alfred Fitler Moore Professor of Telecommunication Systems, which he held until his retirement in 2003. He also held a secondary appointment in the department of electrical and systems engineering, as well as appointments in the Wharton School and the Annenberg School for Communication. A pioneering computer scientist and visionary educator, he is widely regarded as one of the architects of modern computer networking. His paper "The Convergence of Computing and Telecommunications Systems," written with Paul Baran in 1977, was a seminal work that suggested that computers could take over communication functions, later to take the form of email, text messaging, and more. He also played a central role in establishing the NSF- and DARPA-funded Gigabit Network Testbed Initiative, chairing its coordinating committee and advancing the development of high-speed networking technologies that would underpin the modern internet. From 2000 to 2001, while on leave from Penn, he served as chief technologist of the Federal Communications Commission, where he advised on telecommunications and internet policy at a critical moment in the evolution of digital infrastructure. In 2018, he became a distinguished professor at Keio University in Japan and codirector of the Keio Cyber Civilization Research Center, continuing to teach, mentor, and advance international dialogue on the future of cyberspace until shortly before his death. The *Gazette* wrote about him in "Wired Man" [Mar 1997] and "An Internet 'Grandfather' on its Past, Present, Future" [May|Jun 2002].

Jillian L. Flanagan. *See Class of 2026.*

Dr. Aaron H. Katcher. *See Class of 1956.*

Eda R. Kauffman. *See Class of 1991.*

Doris E. McGovern. *See Class of 1978.*

Michelle A. Rutherford. *See Class of 2001.*

William E. "Bolo" Vought Jr. *See Class of 2000.*

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Bicentennial Flashback

The *Gazette*'s July 1976 issue looked back at the previous 200 years of this country's history.

This isn't the *Gazette*'s first time covering our nation's anniversary party. Fifty years ago, we published a special issue focusing on the United States Bicentennial (July 1976).

The cover was drawn by none other than Samuel Maitin FA'51, who illustrated some 20-plus covers for this magazine ["The Art of Life," Mar|Apr 2005]. He and editor Anthony Lyle C'61 decided the subject should be the iconic American eagle. "I think we are old enough as a nation to treat our eagle as art, not as a religious relic," Maitin said at the time. "I have tried to make my eagle hopeful. It looks toward a future that I hope we still have."

Feature articles included "The Signers," written by graphologist Daniel Anthony, who analyzed the handwriting of 20 signers of the Declaration of Independence, including nine who were affiliated with Penn. Of Benjamin Franklin, he wrote, "Not only is this signature less beautifully penned than was customary for him, but it was comparatively smaller than his usual size." He ponders, "Could it be that the famous and brilliant man … was feeling the jitters of awe as he inscribed his tentative and rather plain signature on that world-changing document?"

Franklin was also highlighted in another feature, "Who Was B. Franklin?" which catalogued 47 quotations from "mostly famous people" giving their impressions of Penn's founder. "His mind was ever young, his temper ever serene," effused Thomas Paine. "His conversation was civil and sweet, he seemed to be a man of much wit," noted Charles Gravier.

A spread of American art filled a few pages, as well as a look back at the 1876 US Centennial from the view of English actress Fanny Kemble (in sum: she was not impressed). Penn Museum consultant Elisabeth Tooker wrote about Native populations in "The First Americans." And Caroline Werkley, longtime research librarian for anthropology professor Loren Eiseley Gr'37, wrote about an even older American, a dinosaur named *Hadrosaurus foulkii*, native to Haddonfield, New Jersey.

The features capped off with a reprint of Chief Justice Warren E. Burger Hon'76's Commencement speech, and Penn President Martin Meyerson Hon'70's remarks to the Class of 1976, where he encouraged them to "take risks." He explained, "Our founder, Benjamin Franklin, was a first-rate risk-taker." —*NP*

Franklin's Vision. Your Legacy.

Planning for the future reflects the forward-thinking spirit of our founder, Benjamin Franklin, who believed education should serve both knowledge and society. His bold vision laid the foundation for a University dedicated to generating and applying knowledge to improve lives and strengthen communities.

Following Franklin's example, countless alumni and friends have imagined something extraordinary. Now, you can create your own legacy. By including Penn in your estate plans, you can direct your support to the University's greatest needs or to the area that matters most to you. A bequest in your will—whether a percentage of your estate or a specific gift amount—is a simple yet powerful way to extend your impact for generations to come.

Penn's Office of Gift Planning is here to help you take the next step. Contact us today for language specific to your giving situation.

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