

# THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

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Efrén Olivares C'05**

**David Skeel's True Paradox**

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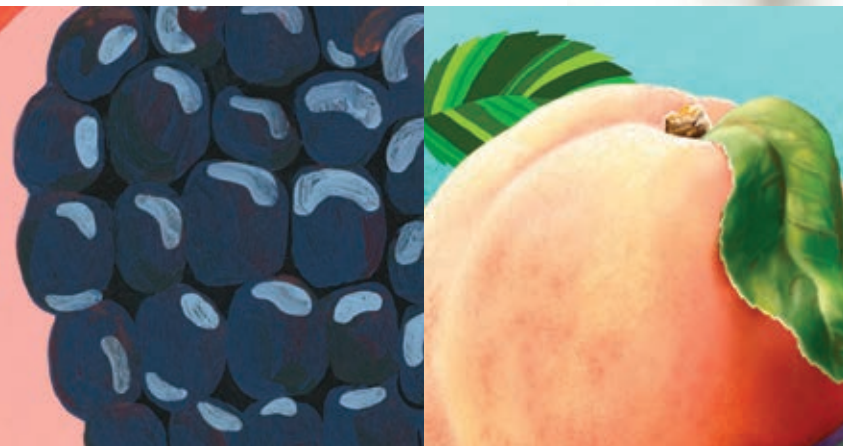
**COVER**

Photography by Tommy Leonardi C'89

Vol. 120, No. 6

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Published by Benjamin Franklin from 1729 to 1748.



## Features

### Crossing Borders

**18** For Efrén Olivares, whose childhood was split between Texas and Mexico, the push to reform US immigration policies and practices is both a marathon and a sprint. He shares his story of legal battles and personal struggles in an emotional new memoir, *My Boy Will Die of Sorrow*.

By **Julia M. Klein**

### Alumni Weekend 2022

**24** A sometimes wet—but welcome!—return. Photos by **Tommy Leonardi**

### The Law, The Gospel, and David Skeel

**26** How Penn's foremost expert on bankruptcy law became one of the most surprising voices in contemporary evangelical Christianity.

By **Trey Popp**

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# THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

VOL. 120, NO. 6

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

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## Departments

3 **From the Editor** | Reunions and separations.

4 **Letters** | Ukraine danger, Beck's full life.

## Views

6 **Alumni Voices** | Possibilities of the present moment.

7 **Elsewhere** | "The warm, velvety, juicy morsel found my mouth."

## Gazetteer

9 **Commencement I** | An in-person celebration for the Class of 2022.

12 **Commencement II** | ... and the Class of 2020 comes back strong.

13 **Lost Landmark** | "If we scored 100 points, we were going to Abner's."

14 **Honors** | 2022 President's Prize winners announced.

15 **Heard on Campus** | Burns on Franklin at this year's Silfen Forum.

16 **Research** | Report details impacts on children who lost caregivers to COVID.

17 **Sports** | Men's lacrosse takes Ivy League championship.

## Arts

36 **Calendar**

37 **Architecture** | Reveling in the row. *City of Homes*.

38 **History** | Allen Guelzo G'79 Gr'86's *Robert E. Lee: A Life*.

40 **Medicine** | Sara Peskin Gr'13 M'15 GM'19 on "hijacked" brains.

## Alumni

42 **Rachel Drori C'04** cultivates plant-based meal service Daily Harvest.

44 **Lindsay Shaw C'05** guards the Cleveland Guardians' mental health.

45 **Duke Lacroix C'15** expresses himself through soccer and design.

48 **Notes**

55 **Obituaries**

64 **Old Penn** | First Commencement on campus.

# Coming Together, Torn Apart

**A**s reported in this issue's "Old Penn," 2022 marks the 100th anniversary of the first time a Penn Commencement took place on campus, being held in Weightman Hall rather than at the Academy of Music or Metropolitan Opera House downtown, the previous usual venues—which is the third most notable Penn Commencement-related fact about this year.

Much more significant for the graduating students ranged on Franklin Field, their families and friends in the stadium stands, and the University leaders and honorees gathered on stage on the morning of May 16, the year 2022 also marked the return of a fully in-person Commencement after a virtual ceremony in 2020 and a limited-attendance event for undergraduates only in 2021.

The Class of 2022 was approaching the three-quarter mark of their sophomore year when the pandemic struck, and they have mostly spent their time since then virtual, masked, and socially distanced. Interim President and former provost Wendell Pritchett Gr'97 praised their

"heightened resilience and responsiveness" and ability to see the world "with near superhuman keenness. Where others see a roadblock, you discern a path forward."

And 2022 will also be remembered as the year of *two* Commencements, as the University held a second ceremony on Sunday, May 22, to celebrate the Class of 2020 and the 2021 graduate students shut out from their live event last year. Pritchett called them "the oft delayed but never deterred, most amazing, most incredible Class of 2020."

Read more about both events in this issue's "Gazetteer."

Alumni Weekend was back on campus in full force as well—extra strength, in fact—as this year's reunion classes were joined by the five-year classes whose gatherings were put off, swelling the ranks of returning alumni, who were undeterred by rain, especially heavy during the parade down Locust Walk (see our photo essay on page 24). Neither the weather nor lingering concerns about COVID kept people away. According to Alumni Relations figures, 2022 set a record for undergraduate

attendance, and the overall number was close.

As in pre-pandemic times, the weekend also featured a variety of expert talks and panels—freshly novel in that they were accessed by foot rather than Zoom—on topics ranging from Hollywood to climate change. It was a talk that he gave in 2019 to first-generation and low-income students at Penn that helped lead human-rights lawyer Efrén Olivares C'05 to write his new memoir, *My Boy Will Die of Sorrow: A Memoir of Immigration from the Front Lines*.

As frequent contributor Julia M. Klein recounts in "Crossing Borders," Olivares had come to speak at the

resent and reunite families separated at the border.

Also in this issue, senior editor Trey Popp profiles David Skeel, a professor specializing in bankruptcy law and an evangelical Christian, who has in recent years increasingly come to blend those two interests in his scholarship and other writing. "The Law, the Gospel, and David Skeel" traces Skeel's intellectual and spiritual journey from a college English major so ignorant of the Judeo-Christian tradition that he was unfamiliar with the story of Abraham and Isaac to a leading figure in one of the least English-majority corners of the legal profession and a committed believer in the Bible as the "true and authoritative" guide to life.

According to a June 30, 1922, article in the *Gazette*, moving Commencement to Weightman Hall meant that the 1,196 students in the Class of 1922 had to graduate in shifts, undergrads in the morning and graduate and professional schools in the afternoon (leading to a plug for construction of Irvine Auditorium, then in the planning stages). Even so, the article concluded that the experiment—by providing "a truly academic atmosphere"—was worth continuing: "Holding the graduating exercises on the campus proved a success from every angle."

**Returning alumni were undeterred by rain during the parade.**

Greenfield Intercultural Center, where he was a work-study student and found his social and cultural home on campus, when for the first time he began to see the connections between his own immigration story and the plight of the much more desperate families caught up in the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" policy at the US-Mexico border in 2018. The book weaves together Olivares' own journey coming to the US as a teenager with limited English skills to Penn, Yale law school, and a legal career with his efforts to fight the policy and to rep-



# Undeclared war, a life to emulate, controversy's cause, constitutional questions.

## We Welcome Letters

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

### What Ifs Don't Educate

As I recall, three of our past presidents have told the heads of Russia that we would not push to put Ukraine in NATO. The Russians accepted our word. Their principal interest is Sevastopol, which is their warm-water port. If Ukraine entered NATO, this port would be in danger of being lost to Russia's use. That is the crux of the issue.

Why Russia continues to destroy Ukraine I cannot speak to, unless Putin cannot obtain assurances of Russia's access to Sevastopol.

I think of greater interest is that the United States has *entered an undeclared war with Russia* via Ukraine. Providing military hardware, security advice, and funds to Ukraine has in effect put us in a war with Russia. No news (opinion) personnel have approached this. Biden has entered a war with Russia.

The article in the *Gazette* ["Thinking About Ukraine," May|Jun 2022] goes into all sorts of what ifs but with little or no documentation. In reality that does not educate me in any way. The article is a subjective list of possibilities associated with the various players. We in an education institution should be more grounded in facts.

*Beach Carre W'62, Fairfax, VA*

### Extraordinary

I read with great interest my classmate Stephen Fried's article "Tim Beck's Final Brainstorms" [May|Jun 2022]. While many Penn alumni are aware of Dr. Beck's towering accomplishments in psychiatry, especially his development of cognitive behavioral therapy, I was amazed to read how he continued to modify his therapy in his 90s to benefit patients with more

severe issues. Dr. Beck truly lived a rich, full life, and he maintained his extraordinary intellectual curiosity and his humanity to the very end. That is something I hope to emulate as I age.

*Ralph L. Landy W'79 L'84, Gaithersburg, MD*

### Taken Aback

I was taken aback by a statement in the article "Spotlight on Swimming" ["Sports," Mar|Apr 2022]. The discussion was about Lia Thomas and the controversy surrounding her competition in the NCAA championships. The writer stated that the controversy was "driven largely by right wing outlets publishing anonymous quotes." Where did this conclusion come from? It was a political statement where none was necessary or helpful.

Rather than just criticize, I offer a suggestion: how about surveying parents of female athletes (and perhaps the aspiring athletes as well) across the country on this issue, with responses collected, of course without attribution. I think the results may surprise and inform the author and others.

*Don Nemerov W'72, Lake Forest, IL*

### In Defense of the Electoral College

In disagreement with most everything author Beau Breslin is reported to espouse in "Constitution, Revised" ["Arts," Mar|Apr 2022], I write, in particular, in defense of the Electoral College (EC) on these grounds:

First, while the EC arose to avoid a tyranny of the majority of large states over small, it today protects the rural from urban tyranny and also may protect minorities from a tyranny of a majority or regions from a tyranny of other regions.

Second, imagine the chaos, costs, and uncertainty of a *national* recount, against which the EC further protects.

Third, voters insist our presidents be *capable* of enduring great stress, possess *above* average if not superior intelligence, and be possessed of vision as the antidote to blind ambition. Requiring candidates to develop a national campaign to win tests those qualities. Alaska, Hawaii, Wyoming, North Dakota, and other low-density states won't see another candidate again.

Lastly, eliminating the EC weakens federalism. The states, in Jefferson's words, are the "laboratory of democracy." While national uniformity may have an appeal of consistency, it will be and already is, to the extent of federal mandates, a dampener on innovation and personal freedoms. More centralized uniformity is anti-democratic.

*Morris A. Nunes C'70 W'70, Waleska, GA*

### The Antithesis of Democracy

I was pleased to see Beau Breslin include reforming the undemocratic US Senate among his constitutional reform proposals. The antithesis of democracy is 576,851 Americans living in Wyoming having the same power in the Senate as 39,538,223 Americans living in California. Each California American has only 1.46 percent of the Senatorial representation of a Wyoming American. No Taxation With 1.46 Percent Representation!

Such reform need not affect each state's right to exercise its sovereignty within its own borders.

One could factor out non-citizens, but the case for redressing the inequity would remain.

*Bill Marker C'72, Baltimore*



# Nearing Ninety

"I find it impossible not to wonder what's left."

By Nick Lyons



**P**icasso described his paintings as “the sum of destructions.” Aging can lean that way.

First, with new titanium hips, my doctor tells me that I must stop running and must never even do so much as jump rope. Then I fall: once, then twice, and before long a dozen times. And though I suffer only minimal injury, I know that’s just dumb luck and that the odds will grow much worse. I can remember Meryl Streep but not that actress—what’s her name?—who was in the movie I loved (but have forgotten), and that thin actor,

you know, what’s his name. More and more friends and loved ones have died. Mari, my wife of 58 years, is gone and my eldest son, Paul, of melanoma. After the abject grief and sleepless nights, the dulling of my senses as if some parts of me have been smashed irretrievably, I worry that with so much lost I may have lost the capacity to love. The frequency of these defeats and casualties accelerated as I marched through my 80s, and now, nearing 90, I find it impossible not to wonder what’s left.

As it turns out, a lot.

Suddenly one summer afternoon a spark tingles my senses. It is tentative, elusive. Another life reaches out and touches mine. Just possibly, I think, something is left. Yet the weight of so much past experience cautions me: Probably not. This could easily lead to rejection, more loss. I am in dangerous territory. And it was such a little spark—does it merit faith, or action? Yet perhaps! It is impossible to know, and I feel a new kind of guardedness. Against my fears. Against myself. Is this mere dreaming, desperate hope? I think of bolting: saying with as much grace as I can muster, “It’s not you. I’m just not ready yet.”

I resolve to get up out of my chair and walk and talk more, not cling to the safe and moleish world of my desk. But it’s not easy after having spent decades learning the art of *sitzfleisch*, sitting still and trying to make a few words sing. My quiver had long been full of prepared excuses for not rising: I needed to finish a paragraph, I could not risk my fragile heart. I was nearing 90. So many other acts I once managed easily—throw a basketball, jump rope, pitch a fly to some recalcitrant trout—I simply could not do. Loving someone new was impossible.

Frankly, what spooked me was the very idea of turning 90. It was such a large and defining number. It possessed a numinous power to delete whatever gains had become a part of me. My limitations would only claim more territory, aggressively, becoming physical impossibilities. I would have to outwit the grim gray fellow who kept whispering “You cannot do this”—walk more, do at least a few more of those terrifically boring exercises.

But the present moment turns out to hold the same amount of possibility as it ever did.

When Ruth first took my hand, pressed it in a way that shot like electricity into my brain—when even our first dinner found us chatting like old pals—something in each of us was reaching out. And now the new and the unpredictable

lie ahead. There's something left in the romance department, even if, so unpracticed, I feel buffoonish. We inch closer, laughing a lot. We talk about books we read long ago, or last week, and either loved or hated. We speak about what our lives had been, what they were, and what would make each of us flourish now. We each enter into that strange world of the other's memories.

We find that we can be together or apart, each with work of our own. Our world grows to include more children and grandchildren, my work and work of hers, new friends and circles of friends. We share connections to the throbbing universe, anger at rotten politicians, stark worry for the world, hope for some writing we both have done, some orchestration of the duet of geriatric flesh.

The loss of Mari, whom I had loved so deeply, brought pain that never ended. I live with her paintings and Paul's essays etched into my brain, and my new life never thinks to let them go. Sometimes I call Ruth "Mari" but she, channeling the great wisdom of the East and gurus who encouraged her to become the person she is, never looks the other way as if waiting for those old loves to fade. We each of us had what we had. It was ours. It gave us life. Now we give each other life, and she helps those loves for Mari and Paul flourish.

And so I hobble my way through until my nose is pressed up close against an inescapable new decade. Nearing 90 I am flooded with a storm of memories, but also a temperament that has survived: unyielding, pliant, sensuous. I try not to fill my chest with too many hopes for too much, or worry about when more will be lost. But I hold tight claim to what I can still do and remember—at my new pace, at my desk, or anywhere. Ninety looms, but has become a minor marker on the arc of my life, the sum and challenge of a few last possibilities.

Nick Lyons W'53 has been a longtime contributor to the *Gazette*.



## Orchard Bounty

"The back-lit, bright green canopies were gilded, too—with bright orange balls."

By Cynthia McVay

Some years ago, after spending a few days in Istanbul, a friend and I drove into the interior of Turkey. We got out in the town of Göreme, a World Heritage Site in Cappadocia, one of the most extraordinary places I've ever been. One civilization after another has passed through this plateau—Christian, Byzantine, Roman, Turkish, Armenian—settling among and within toothy formations of soft volcanic rock people hollowed out to create surreal dwellings and sites of worship. So it is a realm

where civilizations as well as anthropology and geology collide. How does an archaeologist or preservationist, contemplating the dome of one of these fairy drip castles, decide whether to restore the 16th-century frescoes, the 13th-century gilded ceilings a few inches beyond, or third-century Roman drawings that predate them all? What a dilemma!

We slept in an unadorned castle-cave and rose in the morning to trek along the rim of the Ihlara Valley. No one else was there. You'd think it would be jump-

ing with tourists, but we were alone, discovering and savoring one breath-taking, intimate room after another. Inside some of them, gold leaf or paint glittered from dusty walls, lit by sun that filtered through dozens of small round openings that punctured the walls, which from a distance created a visual rhythm in the landscape. These nooks, we learned, were of more recent vintage—carved in the last century by pigeon keepers who occupied the spaces.

When we'd had our cultural fill, we descended into a vast expanse of trees, happy to find shade for our walk across the valley. When we looked up, we saw that the back-lit, bright green canopies were gilded, too—with bright orange balls. We were in an apricot orchard, each branch jam-packed with perfectly ripe Turkish apricots. I freed a soft, blushing one and rolled it in my palm. The warm, velvety, juicy morsel found my mouth. Its flavor was unlike any apricot I'd eaten in the States—bursting with a concentrated intensity that recalled the dried variety. Low on water, we inhaled dozens of succulent apricots as we made our way through the valley to the other side.

Still, there was not a soul in sight. There were no signs posted, no one to ask permission for our walking harvest, or to offer recompense. Just branch after branch bent under the weight of fruits beyond counting. At the time we didn't feel like trespassers, but appreciators.

This unexpected apricot bounty reminded me of half a dozen stocky white peach trees I had discovered years earlier on my own defunct farm in the Hudson Valley. Perhaps the previous owner had mentioned them, as he did his grandmother's heirloom rose bush, three pear trees, and the watercress in a stream bed that took me a while to locate. But I think I found those modest white peach trees on my own, dotting the slope behind the lean-to.

These peach trees were in survival mode: gnarly and weather-worn, undoubtedly on their last legs. But when

the fruit arrived in August, I parked myself in the shade of the largest tree, reached up and pulled down a large orb. As my teeth punctured the taut skin and bit into its rose-infused flesh, the juice exploded. It was, to this day, the best peach bite I have ever eaten.

But I wasn't the only one ravaging the peaches. Beetle borers had settled into the trunks and the fruit was covered with black holes and sticky spots where the juice bubbled and gelled. I ate as many peaches as I found, savoring one or two bites per peach while avoiding those scary spots. Is that why they tasted so good, even more precious?

A few seasons later I took down the infested, by-then-unproductive trees before they became poison ivy magnets, so I could get the tractor through. I mourned their loss for years.

The astonishing thing about fruit trees is how much fruit a single tree can generate. Many of the couple dozen apple trees I excavated from poison ivy, pruned, and nursed back to life have toppled over the decades. But the one closest to the house produces so many very organic apples that I eat three or four per day in the fall to keep up. The tree has overwhelmed me for years, yet it still astonishes me anew each season.

Meanwhile, two Bartlett trees drop dozens of pears per day to litter the ground below. If I leave them, they attract bees or are smushed by the lawnmower. The pressure to keep up is immense. But what a problem to have: too many unblemished ripe pears! I poach, dry, freeze, puree, and serve with cheese. I give them away to everyone I bump into. Bags and bags and bags.

When my Labrador Charlotte was still with us, she used to check under the pear trees first thing when we arrived for the weekend. Dexter, my current canine companion, doesn't eat the pears but dives for the apples on a hot day.

Eating from the land provides immense satisfaction. I anchor the seasons in my daily walks. Foraging in spots I know

about and picking from old fruit trees carries an element of comfort along with renewed discovery every year. In the spring, asparagus pushes through the thick grass in the meadow: warm, fresh, exquisite. Fiddlehead ferns and most mushrooms are, of course, toxic when eaten raw, so I look forward to sauteing them with garlic and chili flakes.

In July, taking a walk through the field, I hover on the edge among the blackberry and raspberry thickets. My hands rummage for flawless ripened raspberries releasing from their torus, sometimes too quickly to apprehend. I press the amalgamation of 100 drupelets onto my tongue. Mmmm. I remind myself that blackberries are better cooked, as jam.

I am fortunate to be able to casually graze my land, but the demise of the white peach trees left a void. I must have mentioned them frequently because not so long ago my daughter gave me three one-foot-tall peach saplings.

"You loved your peach trees, right, Mom?"

I planted the small sticks in my garden, near the house, so I could keep an eye on them, and think of my daughter when I see them, which is daily. They have grown a yard a year, and last year, one had more fruit than I could keep up with. They dropped from the tree: small, rock hard, greenish, perhaps prematurely. I gathered them from the garden floor and brushed them off. Sadly, in their raw state they were almost inedible. I was considering fertilizing and pruning them this year to see if there's a way to sweeten them. But maybe I won't. After drying, poaching, and stewing them in sugared water, they remind me of those Cappadocia apricots.

And on the off chance that a certain Turkish tree farmer should stumble upon my tiny orchard on a holiday of his own, it would behoove me to have some ready at hand to share.

---

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



# The Pursuit of Progress

Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns urges the Class of 2022 to be "virtuous and purposeful." ▶



evelt gave inside the same stadium when he accepted the Democratic Party's nomination for a second term as president. "As I thought about all the strains on the fragile republic Benjamin Franklin hoped we could keep," Burns said, "there's one sentence Franklin Roosevelt spoke that day that stands out: 'Better the occasional faults of a government that lives in a spirit of charity, than the consistent omissions of a government frozen in the ice of its own indifference.'"

That sentiment—of accepting imperfection, contradiction, and error to achieve change—animated Burns's

**M**idway through Commencement speaker Ken Burns's address to the Class of 2022, a threatening, cloud-covered sky gave way to a quick and ferocious downpour on Franklin Field.

"We need more lightning rods!" Burns quipped as a sea of umbrellas sprouted from the graduates seated on the field, and parents and friends in the stands rushed upwards for cover. Yet the filmmaker—who recently released a PBS documentary on lightning rod inventor and University founder Benjamin Franklin—continued his speech despite the adverse weather. "You sit here, all potentiality and wonder," Burns said through the driving rain, highlighting some of Franklin's characteristic themes during Penn's first full-capacity Commencement since 2019.



**"The question becomes for us now—what will we choose as our inspiration?"**

The shadow cast by COVID-19 loomed large over Penn's 266th Commencement, as well as pandemic-created economic instability, ongoing protests for racial and social justice, the war in Ukraine, and the ever-grow-



ing threat of the climate crisis. No speaker during the May 16 ceremony shied away from the challenges that await Penn's more than 6,000 graduates, but Burns looked to the past to issue a call to action to the Class of 2022, recounting the "remarkable" 1936 speech Franklin Roos-

address. "Over my professional life, I have come to the realization that history is not a fixed thing, a collection of precise dates and facts, but a mysterious and malleable thing, constantly changing, not just as new information emerges, but as our own interests, emotions, and incli-

nations change,” he said. “The question becomes for us now—for you graduates especially—what will we choose as our inspiration?”

Burns was not the only speaker to touch on themes of progress and perseverance. Penn Interim President Wendell Pritchett Gr’97—presiding over his first Commencement after succeeding Amy Gutmann (whom he presented with an honorary degree during the ceremony)—spoke to the graduates as a group “who have endured more than many classes who came before,” facing down “fundamental threats to democratic norms and values, pandemics

challenges, and unmapped possibilities—with near superhuman keenness. Where others see a roadblock, you discern a path forward.”

Benjamin Franklin certainly carved out myriad paths forward during his life, whether in politics, science, or civic service. In Burns’ eyes, the University’s founder represents many things—a man who “has been held up by every succeeding generation as the self-made person ... a libertarian’s dream of self-reliance and self-interest”; a man whose “striving for material success was always tethered to a deep and abiding conviction, that, as he said, ‘The

could not escape the sins the flesh is heir to, who was often distant and disconnected from his own family, a deeply prejudiced person who enslaved other human beings,” before he became an abolitionist later in life.

Relating Franklin’s legacy to today’s graduates, Burns noted the key to the Founding Father was that he was “always searching—nature, art, society, politics, science, faith, himself, looking for ways to improve in all those arenas, especially himself, for he understood deeply and painfully that he was a mass of contradictions and limitations, just like the rest of us.

## Honorary Degrees

**Ken Burns**

Honorary Doctor of Arts

**Mary Frances Berry**

Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

**Atul Gawande**

Honorary Doctor of Sciences

**Amy Gutmann**

Honorary Doctor of Laws

**Carla D. Hayden**

Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

**George E. Lewis**

Honorary Doctor of Music

**Margaret H. Marshall**

Honorary Doctor of Laws

**Edward Witten**

Honorary Doctor of Sciences

*Bios of honorands are at [commencement.upenn.edu](https://commencement.upenn.edu)*



and climate change, the rip currents of war.” But, in spite of those challenges, “your class exhibits heightened resilience and responsiveness; exceptional optimism, tempered by pragmatism; courageous compassion and selflessness. ... You see the world—its many countless

most acceptable service we render to God is doing good to his other children”; a man “who saw himself as a spiritual being, obligated, in the best sense of that word, to contribute meaningfully to society.” And yet, “for all of that, he was also a profoundly flawed human being, who



He was a work in progress, *always* in progress.”

Perfection cannot be the goal for the class of 2022, Burns argued. Rather, it is the pursuit of progress, the pursuit of what is right and good, that must be strived for by any human being—and this striving cannot only be in one’s own interest. “Unfortunately, we live in an age in which we are constantly encouraged to be independent free agents, economic units, seekers not of truth but of Benjamins,” Burns said. And in a time when collective action is more crucial than ever, when “our future as a democracy depends on you making things better,” the Class of 2022 will “have to learn and then reteach the rest of us that equality—real equality—is the hallmark and birth-right of all Americans.”

In his closing remarks, Burns encouraged the graduates to be “curious, not cool. Be virtuous and purposeful. Do good things. Help others. Do not get frozen in the ice of your own indifference.” He spoke particularly to the graduates’ responsibility to remain thoughtful, intellectually engaged citizens. “Do not descend too deeply into specialism. Educate all of your parts—you will be healthier. Read. The book is still the greatest manmade machine of all. Not the car. Not the computer. Not the smartphone. *The book.* I think if Franklin came back today and thought about the Internet, the web, he’d say, ‘I observed in nature that a web is a place where you get caught, and then killed.’”

—Daphne Glatter C’25



## A Long-Delayed, In-Person Commencement for 2020 and 2021 Graduates, Too

**“It** is never too late to turn around and finish what you started.

It is never too late to try again. It is never too late to chase a dream held in your heart. ... And it’s never too late to celebrate.”

So said University chaplain and vice president for social equity and community Charles “Chaz” Howard C’00 during the invocation for Penn’s long-awaited in-person Commencement ceremony for the Class of 2020 as well as Class of 2021 master’s and doctoral graduates.

Roughly 3,500 graduates returned to Franklin Field on May 22 to celebrate their graduations, which, like so many other things, had previously been pushed to a virtual format because of the pandemic. And more than 12,000

guests filled the stadium stands on a scorching day to cheer on, as Penn Interim President Wendell Pritchett Gr’97 called them, “the oft delayed but never deterred, most amazing, most incredible Class of 2020.”

Angela Duckworth G’03 Gr’06, the Rosa Lee and Egbert Chang Professor in Penn’s psychology department and a renowned expert on “grit,” was a fitting keynote speaker for the ceremony. Duckworth took a novel approach to address the graduates’ grit by comparing them to a paramecium—“among the most primitive of organisms, just a fifth of a millimeter in length at full maturity, just one cell,” she said.

What could this brainless, single-celled organism have in common with the very

human members of the Class of 2020? According to Duckworth, the answer lies in the “one basic principle” of how the paramecium survives and thrives: “If things are getting better, keep swimming in that direction—and if not, change course.”

“More and more, I’m convinced that the vast majority of world-class performers struggled for years figuring out where they were heading,” Duckworth continued. Whether an elite athlete or a Nobel laureate, the highest achieving among us “tend to take a longer, more winding path than you might imagine,” and often explore many different interests and passions before specializing in one area—something Duckworth termed “sampling.”

“Graduates, perhaps achieving the milestone of this degree makes you feel like time is running out,” Duckworth told the crowd. But “with a lot more living to do,” she encouraged them to “make a little room for sampling” before finding their way in life, while crediting this “paramecium principle” for helping her become the specialist she is today.

“My advice is not to worry if you don’t have your whole life mapped out right now,” the psychology professor said. “If you feel a little lost, try something new—a new job, a new city, a new friendship. If you feel like things are getting better, keep going in that direction. And if not, change course.”

—Daphne Glatter C’25

## Nostalgia, Wit Onions

A once-lively cheesesteak haven shuts off its grill for good.

**“E**veryone has their own story about this place.” It was a Friday in late April, and Mike Badlis stood near giant tubs of Cheez Whiz and sliced banana peppers, watching a bigger-than-usual lunchtime rush at Abner’s—University’s City’s preeminent cheesesteak establishment for much of the last four decades.

When Badlis, the restaurant’s manager, first learned the lease to its space on 38th and Chestnut wouldn’t be renewed, he cried. Then he began packing things up and trying to sell the memorabilia that helped tell that story.

There were old pictures of various Penn sports teams on the shop’s walls, as well as photos of fraternity fundraisers and of the “youngest child to eat a cheesesteak at Abner’s.” (He was 21 months old.) There were letters from coaches saying how much they enjoyed taking recruits to Abner’s, and framed *Daily Pennsylvanian* articles recounting times the restaurant became overrun with fans after the Penn basketball team scored 100 points to trigger its crowd-pleasing free cheesesteak promotion.

Since 1981, Abner’s had become an indelible slice of Penn campus life (and Drexel too), part of a quirky corner that once included a Chili’s, a basement “gentleman’s club,” and more recently, the popular



**“There used to be a lot of action here. This place has history.”**

fast-casual Korean restaurant Koreana. But when the parcel on 38th and Chestnut was recently sold to make room for the construction of a 13-story

Mike Badlis (top) and Helen Robinson (on the grill) worked at Abner’s for decades—and in the shop’s final week, chatted with customers like Elisabeth Leiderman C’98 WG’07 and her son.

life sciences office tower, Koreana and Abner’s had to clear out by the end of April.

Badlis doesn’t have plans to try to open the cheesesteak, hoagie, wings, and pizza spot elsewhere. “Abner’s has to be here,” he said. “If it’s not here, then it’s not Abner’s.” Even before losing its lease, the eatery’s popularity had been dimming, and the pandemic further decimated business. But few places around Penn can boast a heyday quite like Abner’s, which was opened by Abner Silver, the late owner of the famed Jim’s Steaks on South Street. And in its final days, many alumni passed through the store to pay their respects.

“I haven’t seen this kind of rush since before COVID,” marveled Badlis, who started working at Abner’s in 1999 before becoming a partner. “There used to be a lot of action here,” he added, recalling nights in the ’90s when stu-

dents packed the joint until 3 a.m. “This place has history.”

Elisabeth Leiderman C’98 WG’07 happened to stop by two days before it closed because she was in town from New York with her son for a Penn tour. “This was my favorite spot on campus,” Leiderman said, as she watched Helen Robinson cook up steaks for her and her son. Robinson spent 38 years on that grill, telling customers that she raised her kids on the job. “I don’t know what I’ll do now,” she lamented.

Paul Weidner, who works in Penn’s Division of Finance, rushed over when he heard about the closure so he could have one last Abner’s cheesesteak—though he ended up scarfing down two while recalling the time in the early 2000s he raced from the Palestra to the restaurant to exchange his ticket stub for a free steak. He had left a couple of minutes before the game



ended (when it was clear Penn would reach 100 points) and even left his wife behind. But as he trekked the half-mile across campus in boots that felt like cement, “all these kids started passing me,” he laughed. “The next thing I know, I’m 80th in line.”

Why wait that long for a single cheesesteak? It was about more than just saving a few bucks. Ask any hoops fan from the ’90s and early 2000s and you’d likely hear a similar story about running from the Palestra to Abner’s, or keeping tabs in their head to see if the Quakers were on “cheesesteak pace” (10 points every four minutes of game play). “It was part of the game for them,” Badlis said.

The Penn players knew about the promotion too—and would cheer as wildly as the fans when the team reached 100 points (a rare feat in college basketball). And the player who hit the shot to put them at the century mark—often a reserve only on the court because the Quakers were winning by so much—would be showered in cheesesteak glory. It’s hard to overstate the reaction when Dan Solomito C’02 took a pass from Duane King C’03 and buried a three-pointer in the final seconds of a 100–62 rout of Dartmouth on February 16, 2002. In a *Daily Pennsylvanian* article published the next day, one Penn student was quoted as saying, “Dan Solomito is the king.” Another said, “Solomito is a god.”

When he arrived at Abner’s after the game, Solomito—

then a senior who played sparingly on some excellent Penn teams—was serenaded with the same “SO-LO-MI-TO” chant that used to echo throughout the Palestra when the Quakers got out to big leads and fans wanted head coach Fran Dunphy to empty the bench. His cover blown, Solomito made sure to apologize to his friend behind the counter, who shook his head and chuckled, before taking his steak (provolone “wit”) to go because he felt uncomfortable with so many eyes on him.

“I remember kind of saying to myself, *Do I get in line?* And then everyone sees me and started the chant and ushered me in, in front of everyone,” recalled Solomito, who lives in Brooklyn and has worked in the music, copywriting, and restaurant industries. “It had that celebrity-walking-into-a-club feel.”

Before graduating from Penn, Solomito told the *Daily Pennsylvanian* that he “wouldn’t be surprised if I see someone in 10 years and they remind me of it. My mom will have that copy of the newspaper forever.” Indeed, 20 years later, Solomito’s name remains etched in Penn hoops lore, along with the other players who hit “cheesesteak shots”—Nate Allison W’99, Patrick Lang C’05, Brian Grandieri C’08, and Ray Jerome C’20—before the Abner’s partnership with Penn Athletics ended a few years back and a Penn tradition that had taken on a life of its own died.

“Whenever I reconnect with classmates and we

## HONORS

## President’s Prizes Unveiled

**Twelve graduating seniors** were awarded the 2022 President’s Engagement, Innovation, and Sustainability Prizes, which provide \$100,000 in funding for projects designed to make a positive, lasting difference in the world. Each team member also receives a \$50,000 living stipend and mentorship from a Penn faculty member. Here are this year’s winning projects:

### PRESIDENT’S ENGAGEMENT PRIZES

**Cosmic Writers** | Rowana Miller C’22 and Manoj Simha W’22 will provide free creative writing education and develop literacy and communication skills for K–12 students across the US, regardless of their socioeconomic background. Mentor: Al Filreis, the Kelly Family Professor of English in the School of Arts & Sciences.

**College Green Ventures** | Seungkwon Son C’22 W’22, Max Strickberger C’22, and Sam Strickberger C’22 are building an organization that aims to be a centralized hub for supporting student social entrepreneurs—and creating more of them. Mentor: Tyler Wry, associate professor of management at Wharton.

### PRESIDENT’S INNOVATION PRIZE

**Grapevine** | William Kohler Danon C’22 and Lukas Achilles Yancopoulos C’22 EAS’22 will offer a software solution and networking platform to connect small-to-medium-sized businesses across the healthcare supply chain. The two friends previously ran a venture that delivered \$20 million of healthcare supplies to frontline workers at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mentor: David F. Meaney, the Solomon R. Pollack Professor of Bioengineering and senior associate dean of Penn Engineering.

### INAUGURAL PRESIDENT’S SUSTAINABILITY PRIZES

**Shinkei Systems** | Saif Khawaja W’21 will continue to grow his start-up, which builds robots to minimize fish waste and maximize their shelf life, ensuring that every fish caught makes it to a plate. Mentor: Jacqueline Kirtley, assistant professor of management at Wharton.

**EcoSPIN** | Sarah Beth Gleeson EE’22, Shoshana Weintraub EAS’22, and Julia Yan EAS’22 GEng’22 created an innovative device that captures microfibers from synthetic clothes during a typical laundry cycle, protecting oceans and waterways from pollution. Mentor: Karen I. Winey, the Harold Pender Professor of Engineering and Applied Science.

**The Community Grocer** | Eli Moraru C’21 aims to promote health equity and fight food insecurity in Philadelphia by reimagining the local corner store as a nonprofit community market and education center with EBT-accessible meal solutions. Mentor: Akira Drake Rodriguez, assistant professor in the Stuart Weitzman School of Design’s Department of City and Regional Planning.

speak about our Penn days, it always comes up,” said Solomito, who called Abner’s a “special place.”

“I can only speak to my time there,” he added, “but I can say that for four years,

whether it ended up happening or not, everyone at the school, everyone who came to games, and everyone in that locker room knew that if we scored 100 points, we were going to Abner’s.” —DZ

## It's Complicated

Ken Burns reflects on the filmic portrayal of historical heroes.

**A** story is the editing of human experience,” Ken Burns observed to Penn Interim President Wendell Pritchett Gr’97 during the 2022 David and Lyn Silfen University Forum in April. “‘Honey, how was your day?’ does not begin, ‘I backed slowly down the driveway, avoiding the garbage can at the curb...,’” the documentary filmmaker continued. “We edit human experience. Everybody does, whether you’re making fiction or fact-based stuff.”

Burns, who came to Irvine Auditorium ahead of his turn as this year’s Penn Commencement speaker, engaged in a wide-ranging conversation about his latest film: the two-part, four-hour *Benjamin Franklin* for PBS. His conversation with Pritchett took prompts from screened excerpts stamped with the director’s characteristic style—slow pans over archival images interspersed with curated commentary from a handful of historians, ranging from popular biographer Walter Isaacson to Erica Armstrong Dunbar C’94, a scholar of early US and African American history [“Profiles,” May/June 2017].

The film, which received funding from the University of Pennsylvania via the Better Angels Society, endeavors to situate Franklin’s complexities within a familiar frame: a



view of the American experience bending ever toward redemption. “Franklin was pretty simple in his moral code,” Isaacson intones in the first minute. “He was driven by a desire to pour forth benefits for the common good. But there’s a lot in Benjamin Franklin that makes you flinch. And we see Franklin not as a perfect person, but somebody evolving to see if he could become more perfect.”

The documentary does not shy away from the ways its subject reflected or even exemplified the anti-Black racism that suffused 18th-century America. “We have so fair an opportunity, by excluding all Blacks and Tawnys, of increasing the lovely White and Red,” we hear Franklin proclaim (as voiced by actor Mandy Patinkin). “But perhaps I am partial to the complexion of my country.” To whom the country truly belonged, and to what and whom contemporary Americans can credit for the evolution of its social contract, remain subjects of lively debate among historians. But few would dispute the signifi-

**“In my business, if a scene is working, you don’t want to touch it.**

And I put that sign up—it’s in cursive and it’s lower case: *it’s complicated*—just to remind people that we do a better service when we find out new information and have to destabilize a pretty good scene. Because it’s always worthwhile. Maybe it’s no longer the great scene that it was. But maybe the adjacent scenes are improved by that. The whole thing is better for tolerating that complexity.

Let’s just think about heroes. We lament that we don’t have any heroes. But what is a hero, the Greeks would tell us, but a negotiation between a person’s very obvious strengths and their flaws? And the negotiation—which is sometimes a war between those things—is what defines heroism. Not perfection. So Achilles had his heel and his hubris to go along with his great strengths. The best way I know to explain it is through a story I recently heard about I. F. Stone, the muckraking progressive journalist and historian. A student of his said, ‘How could he possibly admire Thomas Jefferson?’ And he said: Because history—meaning everything—history is tragedy, not melodrama. In melodrama all villains are perfectly villainous, and all heroes are perfectly virtuous. But that’s not the way life is. And if you attend to tragedy—none of us are getting out of here alive, which is the first and essential point—then you’ve got a chance to do something.

And that’s complicated. Wynton Marsalis, in our jazz film, stunned me, because I felt he had just spoken directly to my soul when he said, ‘Sometimes a thing and the opposite of a thing are true at the same time.’ And you have to be able to hold those competing things at the same time and understand them. You can’t be married if you don’t get that. You can’t be a parent if you don’t get that. You can’t be a good friend. And I think that you can’t be wise.”

cance of Franklin, whose claim upon a “quintessentially American” life draws sustenance from areas as diverse as his outsized influence on early American print culture, to his variegated support of and late-life opposition to slavery, to a genius for common-good innovation that ran from the many inventions for which he never sought patent exclusivity to his pioneering forma-

tion of mutual-aid societies like the Philadelphia Library Company and the volunteer Union Fire Company.

During the conversation, Burns explained his approach to portraying “heroes” in film, tying it to a neon sign hanging in his editing room that reads *it’s complicated*. His remarks have been edited for length and clarity. —TP

# Hidden Pain

SP2 professor coauthored a report on the grieving children of the pandemic.

One of the few silver linings of the COVID pandemic, if there is such a thing, is that children have been largely spared the worst health effects of the virus. But that doesn't mean young people aren't affected by COVID deaths.

New data show that more than 215,000 American children have lost at least one parent or caregiver to the virus. And last October, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a "Declaration of a National Emergency in Child and Adolescent Mental Health," citing "soaring rates of depression, anxiety, trauma, loneliness, and suicidality" due in part to losing a primary and/or secondary caregiver.

Who will help young people struggling after such a profound loss?

Dan Treglia C'05 SWP'16, an associate professor of practice at Penn's School of Social Policy and Practice (SP2), recently led a team of national policy experts who produced a report called "Hidden Pain: Children Who Lost a Parent or Caretaker to COVID-19 and What the Nation Can Do to Help Them."

"One of the things that's unique about caregiver loss over the last two years is that the infrastructure that's usually there to help a child has been, at times, absent," Treglia says. "A teacher who would see a child regularly might notice the child showing signs

of depression, but that incidental finding was less likely to happen when schools were remote. Teachers are providing frontline services to their students, and we need to provide more support to them."

Treglia was the lead social policy analyst on the 80-page "Hidden Pain" report, which was produced by the COVID

ter's at Harvard's Kennedy School for Government and became deputy director of research and evaluation for New York City's Department of Homeless Services, where he assessed how many thousands of people and families were homeless in New York City. He says he was shocked by the number of "invisible" homeless—those who survived in temporary lodging but weren't always seen on the street or in a shelter.

Wanting to continue to study homelessness, Treglia

number because we saw action from the federal government and key stakeholders," which included moving people to non-congregate settings such as motel rooms.

It felt like a natural progression to examine how other vulnerable populations were dealing with their losses, and what came out of Treglia's research were stories of children who didn't know how to handle their grief.

On the COVID Collaborative website, a 15-year-old from Maryland who lost a mother is quoted as saying, "It is difficult to go to sleep at night when you're thinking of that special person. It's hard to get out of bed when you're thinking of that person. It is just hard to do stuff when you're thinking of that person."

As the US COVID-19 death tally surpassed one million this spring, Treglia became a visible advocate about the need for schools to identify and help students who lost someone. According to the report, as of February 28, more than 91,000 children are missing a parent and more than 15,000 lost their *only* in-home caregiver, many coming from disadvantaged communities. In New York City, one in every 200 children lost a caregiver—with Black, Hispanic, and Asian children three times more likely to have experienced such a loss compared to their white peers.

"What surprised me the most," Treglia says, "is how little attention this issue has gotten over the course of the pandemic. I think part of the reason our report was called



Collaborative—a bipartisan group of leaders, medical professionals, and researchers studying the scope and long-term effects of the virus.

Treglia never intended to study grief or pandemics, but the Staten Island native got his first lesson in analyzing social problems as a Penn undergraduate when he took the class "Religion and Social Welfare" with John Dilulio ["John Dilulio Gets Religion," Oct 1997]. After graduating in 2005, Treglia earned a mas-

returned to Penn, where he earned a doctorate in social welfare from SP2 and continued postdoctoral work.

When Treglia heard stirrings about COVID-19, he knew the homeless population would be especially vulnerable, since they live in congregate settings and interact with people on the street. "We estimated 3,500 people experiencing homelessness in America could die ... if we did nothing," Treglia says. But, he adds, "we don't think it's reached this

'Hidden Pain' is because our headlines are saturated with case numbers and death numbers. We, as a society, have not been paying enough attention to the consequences of those deaths, particularly for this group. Children looked to the parent or caregiver for love, comfort, emotional support, housing, food. Their whole world has come tumbling down. It's important that we and others shed some light on that."

This spring, members of the COVID Collaborative wrote an open letter to the Biden administration recommending that the president issue an executive order "charging your departments and agencies to shape a comprehensive response to support these children and families nationally."

The report's architects have suggested interventions such as peer support programs, weekend grief camps, "a federally funded mentorship program to ensure that COVID-bereaved children have access to caring adults," family bereavement programs, and more funding to social service programs and agencies that help impoverished families.

Despite the politicization of the pandemic, Treglia stresses that the "Hidden Pain" report managed to cross partisan divides. "We have not seen pushback on our work," he says. "We've been met by thanks that we're shedding light on this problem, and there's an urgency from community leaders, public officials, and others to address it."

—Caren Lissner C'93

## Tournament Tested

An Ivy title and a dramatic NCAA tourney win for the "Cardiac Quakers."



**A**fter the Ivy League became the only Division I conference to cancel spring sports last year, Penn men's lacrosse coach Mike Murphy GED'04 had little idea what to expect from the 2022 season.

So for the Ivy League to emerge as the premier conference in men's lacrosse, with a staggering *six* teams qualifying for the NCAA tournament, "really was a surprise," Murphy says.

So was the Quakers' rise to the top of the Ivy heap, as they battled back from a 1-3 start in league play to win their final two regular-season conference games and sneak into the four-team Ivy League Tournament as the No. 4 seed—thanks to a tie-breaking formula and a Yale win over Harvard that had the Penn players "going nuts" on a bus ride back from a game in Albany.

With "renewed energy," Penn then captured the Ivy

tourney championship with resounding victories over host Brown and Yale. The semifinal game in Providence was "as hostile an environment as I've ever coached in," Murphy says, and the 16-9 win over Yale in the title game two days later was "the best we've probably played in five or 10 years."

### PENN HALL OF FAME WELCOMES NEW CLASS

Stan Bergman  
Jesse Carlin C'08 Gr'14  
Ali DeLuca Cloherty C'10  
Jessica DiMauro C'99 G'00  
Matthew Feast W'05  
Michael Jordan C'00  
Paul E. Raudenbush W'54  
Vincent Scarpetta W'74  
Gail Silberthau Silverman W'84  
*Lifetime Achievement Award*  
David Pottruck C'70 WG'72  
*Director's Award*  
Margaret Majer Kelly  
[Visit thepenngazette.com](http://Visit.thepenngazette.com) for more

The Ivy crown also came with an automatic berth to the NCAA tournament, where Penn hosted Rich-

The Penn men's lacrosse team celebrated its second straight Ivy League Tournament title after cruising past Yale in the title game on May 8.

mond on May 14 during Alumni Weekend. With the team's usual home, Franklin Field, getting prepped for Commencement, the Quakers had to play at Penn Park. There, in front of lacrosse alumni, other curious Alumni Weekend attendees, and a raucous supporters' section for both teams, the Quakers had their most dramatic win of the season. Trailing by one in the final minute, freshman Ben Smith scored the tying goal, before netting the sudden-death game-winner early in overtime, sending Penn to the final eight of NAAs and reviving the "Cardiac Quakers" nickname for a program prone to dramatic victories.

Sam Handley, who helped set up both goals, finished the season with 73 points (36 goals, 37 assists) and became the first player in program history to be a finalist for the Tewaaron Award, given annually to the nation's best player.

In the end, Handley and the Quakers were stopped one game short of the final four—just as they were the last time they played a full season, in 2019—with an 11-9 loss to Rutgers. But after seeing the grit his players showed following two straight seasons lost to the pandemic (and encouraged that Handley and fellow seniors BJ Farrare, Piper Bond, and Dylan Gergar plan to return next season), Murphy can feel the momentum rising.

"We want to win the whole thing," the head coach says. "We don't just want to go to the final four and enjoy being there." —DZ

# CROSSING BORDERS

For Efrén Olivares, whose childhood was split between Texas and Mexico, the push to reform US immigration policies and practices is both a marathon and a sprint. He shares his story of legal battles and personal struggles in an emotional new memoir, *My Boy Will Die of Sorrow*.

By Julia M. Klein

**An** invitation to campus three years ago helped change how Efrén C. Olivares C'05 viewed his own life story.

As Racial and Economic Justice Program Director for the Texas Civil Rights Project, Olivares had represented desperate families fleeing violence and poverty in Central America. With official US entry ports logjammed, they were crossing the border wherever they could. Beginning in spring 2018, the Trump administration, under a “zero tolerance” policy, charged the adults with illegal entry and took away their children, triggering chaos, heartbreak, and media outrage.

Olivares, an immigrant himself, mounted a successful international legal challenge to the policy and worked to unite families. But his address to a group of first-generation and low-income students at Penn in April 2019 marked “the very first time,” he says, “when I started

making the connections between my own experience and the experiences of the families of my clients.”

His own family separation had been different, to be sure: less brutal and abrupt, involving parental choice and a happy ending. “What I was seeing my clients being subjected to was so outrageous and so shocking that I didn’t even conceive of myself having gone through something like that,” he says. But Olivares, who directs the Immigrant Justice Project at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), had endured loneliness and pain of his own when his father left northern Mexico to work in Texas.

For four years, he and his younger brother, Héctor, saw their father at most a couple of weekends a month. Finally, when he was 13, the family decided to relocate to Texas’s Rio Grande Valley. Though Olivares started junior high school speaking virtually no English, he

became his high school class valedictorian, and found his way to Penn, Yale Law School—and the zealous practice of human rights law.

Two parallel but contrasting tales—of America as a land of dreams both fulfilled and deferred—are braided together in Olivares’s first book, *My Boy Will Die of Sorrow: A Memoir of Immigration from the Front Lines*. The title is inspired by a Guatemalan father’s response when Olivares asked what would happen if he was deported without his 11-year-old son.

Published by Hachette Books in July, Olivares’s memoir recounts his personal immigration story and describes his efforts to help other aspiring immigrants surmount legal and bureaucratic obstacles and recover their families. The book has a strong political edge, with Olivares indicting US immigration policy as historically sullied by racism. “Overt racism and white supremacist



views have been part and parcel of immigration law and policy in the United States for more than two centuries,” he writes, citing the Nationality Act of 1790, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, and the Immigration Act of 1924.

Olivares, who turned 40 in June, says that he “never thought of my life or my journey as remarkable, really.” He was, he thought, “just this kid [who] came to the US and went to school and tried my best,” someone who “struggled to accept that maybe there *are* some remarkable things about my experience.”

But the memoir, like Olivares himself, has a broader mission. “I hope to remind people that, save for Native Americans, we’re all coming from somebody who came here looking for safety or opportunity,” he says. “So why then are we so cruel to those coming today? What’s the difference?”

“We’re told this story that what makes an American an American is not race, it’s not religion, it’s not ethnicity—it’s the ideals in the Constitution: justice, equality under the law, freedom, the pursuit of happiness. But how come we are breaching those otherwise inviolable principles at the border? Why does that border become so meaningful when it comes to these ideas? I posit that the color of the skin of those knocking at our doors might have something to do with that.”

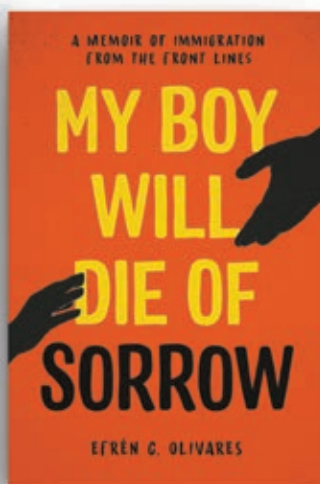
**I**n the memoir, Olivares makes an ironic confession: a lawyer who helped his father gain custody of children from a previous relationship, “separating them from their mother in the process,” first sparked Olivares’s interest in the profession.

“I had no real understanding of what a lawyer does,” he says. “I just thought, ‘That seems cool.’” Much later, at Penn, where he majored in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, he experienced a “social justice awakening” that shaped the kind of law he would practice.

Olivares spent his childhood in the small Mexican town of Allende, where

his family owned “a decent, three-bedroom cinderblock home” whose yard was filled with roses and geraniums, and lived among relatives and friends. But the family situation was complex, and separation was a theme.

Olivares’s father had an earlier, long-term relationship in southern Mexico that produced a boy and two girls. A self-employed truck driver, he was often absent, and his partner had problems of her own. When their relationship dis-



solved, he took the children north with him—a move assisted by their maternal grandmother and later ratified by a Mexican court. Though it was the right decision, Olivares says, “it was extremely hard for them and traumatizing to the point that, when they were teenagers, they left my father to go back to their mother.”

Months later, they returned to northern Mexico, in part for better educational and economic opportunities, Olivares says. But the revived connection with their mother held; they stayed in touch and visit her regularly to this day. “To me,” Olivares says, “the takeaway is that no matter what your mother does, you love her, and you want to be with her, and being ripped apart is still traumatizing to a child.”

When Efrén was nine, his father—whose own father had been born in the United States, making them both US citizens—left Mexico in search of employment, and became a school bus driver and janitor in South Texas. “It was only in writing the book and reflecting more about it that I really came to see how difficult that was,” Olivares says, “and the effect that had on who I’ve become as a person,” including his advocacy for immigrant rights.

His parents’ eventual decision to move the whole family across the border was a welcome one—at first. “We were excited about all four of us being together under the same roof,” Olivares says. “The prospect of being together with our father far outweighed the cost of not being around our cousins.”

But the reality of their new life was unsettling. The family, including two of Efrén’s half-siblings, had to cram into a tiny apartment far less comfortable than their Mexican home. He and Héctor shared a single scratchy mattress. “This is worse! Why did we do it?” he remembers thinking.

“Add, on top of that, not speaking the language, not knowing anybody, not having any friends, having fewer family members around,” he says. “So the excitement of rejoining our father was quickly met with the realization that economically we were worse off.”

Héctor Olivares, now residential director of a treatment center in Texas’s Hidalgo County, recalls a similar disappointment. “We were always excited about the whole concept of moving to the US,” he says. “But then, it hits you, the separation from everything you ever had: school, friends, cousins.”

Noting Efrén’s lack of English proficiency, the school insisted that he repeat seventh grade. It seemed like another blow, “but, in retrospect, that was such a good thing,” he says, because it gave him time to master the language before the required eighth-grade standardized tests.

He and his brother attended schools in the district where their father worked—

an area so impoverished that nearly every student qualified for a federally subsidized free lunch. In eighth grade, an English teacher offered Olivares after-school aid with pronunciation, but other students were always there “who needed more help than I did with grammar or vocabulary.” So Olivares never got the promised assist. “Now I love having an accent,” he says. “It’s part of my identity, of my heritage.”

Olivares’s high grades gave him a wide choice of colleges. He didn’t know much about Penn, but the University’s financial aid package was the most generous. Arriving in Philadelphia was a shock: “It’s cold, and the radio stations don’t have music in Spanish, like they all do in South Texas. The food is different—it’s not all Mexican or Tex-Mex.” He remembers thinking: “Oh, *this* is the US.”

“It was hard. I was feeling very homesick,” he says. “I wrote a letter to my parents saying how much I missed them, and how much I wanted to be back.”

One cultural disconnect, described in the memoir, involved an academic advisor who denied him permission to take a fifth course one semester. Olivares wanted to add a Spanish literature class, on Cervantes’s novel *Don Quixote*—not an outsized challenge for a native speaker. But the advisor expressed concern that Olivares’s parents would place an angry call to him if their son’s grades suffered. “His response was unfathomable to me,” Olivares says. His parents didn’t even speak English. “They had zero connection to my life at Penn.”

But Olivares did find community at the University, befriending international students from Mexico, members of the broader Latinx diaspora, and classmates who shared his academic interests. At the Albert M. Greenfield Intercultural Center, he acquired both a work-study job and “a home away from home.” It was the center that invited him back to campus in 2019, and it plans to host him again in late September in connection with his memoir.

Olivares’s “social justice awakening” began with a course titled Writing About the Essay. Reading Virginia Woolf’s *A Room of One’s Own* helped make him “a proud feminist,” he says. He also loved his classes on political philosophy and the history of economic thought. “Seeing what I perceived to be injustice in the world reaffirmed my desire to go to law school,” he says, “but now with this twist to do social justice and public-interest law.”

## “I wrote a letter to my parents saying how much I missed them, and how much I wanted to be back.”

Graduating *summa cum laude*, he applied to 15 law schools. He was accepted to 13. Only Stanford said no; Penn wait-listed him. (“I won’t deny that it stung a little bit,” he says.)

Olivares chose Yale and thrived there, becoming a student director of the Schell Center for International Human Rights and articles editor of the *Yale Human Rights and Development Law Journal*.

His father, who had a heart condition, died the fall semester of Efrén’s second year of law school. It was a major emotional blow that temporarily diverted Olivares’s career trajectory. “He took over the family financially,” his brother Héctor recalls. “That was very impressive. He didn’t have to do that.”

After graduation, Olivares worked at the Houston law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP, “doing corporate litigation, representing the big multinational com-

panies, making way too much money for a 26-year-old,” he says. He used much of it to help his mother pay off her house.

After four years, he felt able to pursue his real interests. As a Bernstein International Human Rights Fellow at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, he traveled to Guatemala with a delegation to chronicle human rights abuses. He also gained a useful connection: the fellowship was named for Robert L. Bernstein, the longtime president of Random House and a strong human rights advocate, who died in 2019. Bernstein’s son Peter and his wife, Amy, would become Olivares’s literary agents.

Olivares landed at the Texas Civil Rights Project, in Alamo, Texas, in 2013. Based near the border, he initially handled a range of cases, involving the First Amendment, wage theft, disability rights, and other issues. Then, in May and June 2014, came “the first ‘crisis’ of unaccompanied children from Central America coming across the border,” Olivares says. “I was at the right place at the right time to do that work. And that’s when I started focusing my career on immigrant rights.”

In 2015, Olivares, on behalf of the Texas Civil Rights Project, filed a successful lawsuit against the state of Texas, which had been denying US birth certificates to the children of undocumented immigrants. Immediately after the 2016 election, marked by candidate Donald Trump W’68’s castigation of Mexican immigrants and focus on building a border wall, he and his colleagues contacted landowners in the area. Olivares told them, “You don’t have to sell your property. You have the right to force the government to take you to court, and we’ll represent you.”

That was another success. “The eminent domain process is so inherently slow that,” with a single exception, “every single landowner that we advised and who refused to sign their land over eventually got it back from the Biden

administration,” Olivares says. “I am extremely proud of that fact.”

Mimi Marziani, who became president of the Texas Civil Rights Project in February 2016, quickly promoted Olivares to her leadership team. Praising his “brilliant legal mind” and “deep compassion,” she says: “One of the hardest things in law is to push away the minutiae and quickly grasp what is fundamentally important about a situation—and he has that skill.”

Marziani was fundraising in New York in May 2018 when Olivares called to report a problem. “I’ll never forget the conversation,” she says. Olivares conveyed the experience of a federal public defender he knew: “All of a sudden, she showed up in court, and rather than the normal docket of illegal entry, maybe some drug cases, suddenly there’s dozens of parents crying, asking where their kids are. And nobody knew—not the judge, not the prosecutors, not the immigration agents.

“When he heard that fact pattern, he quickly grasped that this was likely to be a manifestation of [Attorney General] Jeff Sessions’ ‘zero tolerance’ policy,” Marziani says. “I believe that he was one of the very first people in the country to realize that this was being rolled out in a systematic way. He helped me understand very quickly what a crisis it was.” As a result, she says, “we decided to push every ounce of resources we could toward South Texas,” tracking separations, filing a complaint with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and reaching out to the media.

Nationally, other organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union and RAICES (the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services), were also active in the fight. But in McAllen, Texas, a major destination for asylum seekers because of its proximity to the Mexican border, the Texas Civil Rights Project and Olivares took the lead.

Thousands of families were fleeing Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador because of “gang violence, extreme pov-

erty, and, in Guatemala in particular, extreme anti-Indigenous discrimination,” Olivares says. The Trump administration’s initial response was to turn asylum seekers away from official ports of entry once a daily cap was reached (a practice known as “metering”). Prevented from entering legally, families crossed the Rio Grande River, in many cases deliberately seeking out US Border Patrol agents to start the asylum process. “They were going the only way the system would allow them,” Olivares says.

To win asylum, he says, those seeking protection need to show they face threats to their life or safety in their home countries, and that their own governments or police forces can’t protect them. They also must demonstrate that they are being targeted for their “race, nationality, religion, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.” Olivares has argued that gender and LGBTQ status should be included in that last category, but not all courts have agreed.

Historically, Olivares explains, Border Patrol agents have had discretion about whether to refer asylum seekers entering the country illegally for criminal prosecution, and such referrals were uncommon. The “zero tolerance” policy eliminated that discretion. Going to court entailed parents’ separation from their children “if only for a few hours,” Olivares says. The catch was that, at that point, these “unaccompanied alien children,” as they were designated, fell under the jurisdiction of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which was sending them to detention centers and other facilities around the country. In many cases, neither the US Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the border, nor HHS kept adequate records of the process.

*My Boy Will Die of Sorrow* captures the frenzy of those days. With court permission, Olivares and his small Spanish-speaking team showed up early each morning to federal court to talk to shackled and traumatized parents whose chil-

dren had been wrested away, and who had no idea when they would see them again. “I interviewed dozens of these parents,” he writes, “and heard firsthand how Border Patrol agents took their children from them through deceit, subterfuge, and sometimes outright violence.”

He met a woman whose husband had been beaten to death in a field, who had left Guatemala to save herself and her 11-year-old son. Border Patrol agents had separated them. Another mother had fled Honduran gangs with her six-year-old son; he had medical problems, and he, too, was missing.

Maggy Krell, then chief legal counsel for Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California and now special advisor to the California attorney general, traveled to South Texas to provide *pro bono* assistance. “It was pretty chaotic,” she recalls, “and very terrifying for the families. For a lawyer, it was a dizzying array of changing rules and policies and bureaucracies, and how to figure out how best to intervene was part of the challenge.” Later, she would help reunite that Honduran mother and son, and would go on to win their asylum case.

As a former attorney for US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Laura Peña had litigated the government’s side of the issue. But when she heard a Father’s Day rally speech by Olivares, livestreamed on Facebook, she was so moved that she left a private immigration law practice in California to become a visiting attorney at the Texas Civil Rights Project. She is now legal director of its Beyond Borders program.

“The world was looking for leadership,” she says, and Olivares “really stepped up.” At the height of the tumult, “he was so busy and dogged and committed,” she adds. “And even though this was really a marathon that lasted months, maybe years, he was always sprinting.”

The Trump administration said at the time that zero tolerance was meant to deter the growing number of asylum seekers. In Olivares’s view, family separa-

tion was integral to that project, not merely its unfortunate byproduct.

“There was no plan for reuniting anyone,” he says. “They didn’t care about reuniting them. That was never their concern. Their concern was just to inflict as much pain and suffering as possible. There was no care for the family relationship.”

The Texas Civil Rights Project logged 382 cases of family separation, ultimately finding lawyers to represent 120 families. Some of the asylum claims were granted; some were denied; others are still pending, Olivares says. Still other families made it to their US destinations and found representation there. Others were deported. The project lost track of about 100.

Most families eventually were reunited, thanks to advocates such as Olivares. But not all. “I am now thinking that in 20, 30 years, we’re going to hear stories of children who are still looking for their parents or finding them, like out of the Argentinian dictatorship,” he says. “It’s really hard to come to terms with it.”

The peak of the crisis lasted less than a month, from mid-May to June 20, 2018, when President Trump’s executive order officially ended the family separation policy. Separations continued after that, Olivares says, but more sporadically. One key factor in the turnabout, Olivares says, was the leak, on June 18, of an eight-minute audio recording from a South Texas detention center where children were crying and begging for their parents. “In the audio, you only hear their cries and their voices. You don’t see the color of their skin,” he says. “That’s why it was so powerful, in my view.”

Both Olivares’s leadership and views on immigration impressed Margaret Huang, president and chief executive officer of the Southern Poverty Law Center. In November 2020, she tapped him to serve as deputy legal director in charge of the organization’s Immigrant Justice Project.

“We hired Efrén because of his extensive experience not only doing litigation on immigrant justice issues, but also his stra-

tegic thinking about the threats to immigrant communities in the country,” she says. “What I appreciated about Efrén’s work is that it was encapsulated in a framework of understanding how white supremacy drives so much of the anti-immigrant sentiment and policymaking.”

For Olivares, it was a chance to do the work he loved on a wider, more ambitious scale. At SPLC, he now supervises a staff of about 50 attorneys and others advocating on behalf of detained immigrants, other immigrant workers and families, and asylum seekers.

**T**he first step in composing a book about his experiences was showing notes from his 2019 Penn presentation to a cousin, José Antonio Rodríguez, an associate professor of creative writing at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley. Rodríguez was encouraging.

Writing a memoir while working full-time—and parenting two young children, with his wife, Karla, an occupational therapist—wasn’t easy. In college and law school, Olivares had been a night owl. But he found he wrote best in the dawn hours, between 5 and 7 a.m., before his children woke up. “The other thing that was difficult,” he says, “was being vulnerable about my experience and opening up in that personal way that I have never had to do.”

Olivares remains passionate about immigration and America’s tortured response to it. “Even the starting point of [casting] immigration as a problem is already a narrative position,” he says. “This notion that there’s a surge, that ‘they’re coming in droves,’ is created and reinforced by anti-immigrant advocates, people who don’t want immigration—those who are themselves descendants of immigrants, by the way.

“There is a need for an orderly way for people to come to the US, especially those who are fleeing death and persecution, and we don’t have that—it’s very limited. The system is plagued with abuses. There’s a shortage of workers



**“Even the starting point of [casting] immigration as a problem is already a narrative position.”**

right now, and yet we’re turning people away from the border. The other piece of it is this idea that we cannot process the immigrants on the border, that ‘it’s so many of them and we’re overwhelmed.’

“We’re the most powerful country in the world. We have sent rockets to Mars,” he says. “The idea that we cannot cobble together some staplers and copy paper to process people at the border is just unacceptable, to say the least. That argument is disingenuous, frankly. It’s a lack of political will to really live up to the dream that is the United States.”

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# Alumni Weekend





2022



# The Law, The Gospel, and David Skeel

How Penn's foremost expert on bankruptcy law  
became one of the most surprising voices in  
contemporary evangelical Christianity.

By Trey Popp

**On** March 11, 2021, the *Wall Street Journal's* Opinion section published a piece by David Skeel, the chair of a federal oversight board established by Congress five years before to restore economic stability to Puerto Rico, in part by reducing the island's unsustainable public debt. Skeel, the S. Samuel Arshat Professor of Corporate Law at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, was one of four Republicans appointed to the seven-member PROMESA oversight board by President Barack Obama in 2016. He'd already written in support of the board's work a couple times for the *Journal's* Opinion page, which on balance had given more space to critics aligned with the interests of Puerto Rico's creditors—hedge funds and other entities that stood to lose tens of billions of dollars on the risks they had taken.

Skeel had also taken fire from the left, where some painted the PROMESA board as a colonialist device empowered to impose pension cuts and penalizing austerity upon a territory where four in 10 residents lived in poverty. In 2018, a rash of Wild West-style "Wanted" posters went up around Penn's campus, depicting Skeel as a "mercenary" who "demands the blood of Puerto Rican people to pay rich Wall Street bondholders."

Skeel's latest *Journal* opinion piece came on the heels of a brokered agreement to shave some \$25 billion worth of face-value debt and more than \$50 billion in interest payments from the Commonwealth's original contractual obligations. The deal also approached the island's unfunded pension problem via an 8.5 percent benefit cut for retirees receiving more than \$1,500 per month. (Subsequent ne-

gotiations did away with the pension cuts.) The fiscal result for Puerto Rican taxpayers would be substantial: instead of having to pay 25 cents of every tax dollar directly to creditors, that burden would fall to roughly seven cents. Yet Skeel did not take to the *Journal's* pages to defend the specifics of the plan, which amounted to the largest debt restructuring in the history of US municipal bond markets. Instead he framed it in religious terms.

"This process wouldn't make many Christians think of Christianity," he wrote, "but it should." Citing Old Testament provisions for the regular cancellation of loans, as well as Jesus's penchant for economic illustrations in parables and other teachings, Skeel laid out a Biblical case for debt relief. In doing so he was hewing to a central tenet of his practice as an evangelical Christian: preaching beyond the choir.



"The effort to restructure the debt in a way that balances the importance of contractual promises with Puerto Rico's desperate need for a fresh start," he concluded, "may be the most Christian activity I've ever been involved in."

**Skeel's resume abounds** with more conventional Christian activities. For 17 years he has been an elder of Philadelphia's Tenth Presbyterian Church, whose Christian high school he also served as a trustee. He's spent more than a decade on the board of directors of God's World Publications, the publisher of *World* magazine, whose motto is "Sound journalism, grounded in facts and Biblical truth." In 2014 Skeel authored *True Paradox: How Christianity Makes Sense of Our Complex World*, a slim volume of personal reflection and light-footed theological commentary in the vein of C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*.

Skeel wasn't asked to help resolve Puerto Rico's fiscal crisis on account of his faith. He has been teaching and writing about bankruptcy law for far longer than he has engaged in Christian apologetics. In 2001, after a dozen years of wide-ranging academic scholarship in the area, he authored *Debt's Dominion*, a 200-year history of US bankruptcy codes. Since then he has become an outspoken advocate of permitting states to declare bankruptcy ["Gazetteer," Mar/Apr 2011]. At Penn Law his teaching load includes courses on bankruptcy, global corporate governance, and sovereign debt restructuring.

But in recent years Skeel has increasingly used his legal scholarship to advance a view of the law rooted in theologically conservative evangelical Christianity. This is partly intriguing on account of which areas of law attract his attention. The lion's share of US legal commentary involving religion deals with the First Amendment's Establishment and Free Exercise clauses. Skeel focuses virtually anywhere else. Christianity and the large-scale corporation.

Christianity and bankruptcy. Christianity and criminal law. In a recent contribution to *Pepperdine Law Review*, he contended that contrasting theological frameworks left American evangelicals "Divided by the Sermon on the Mount," with political ramifications that might help to explain many "evangelicals' embrace of Donald Trump, despite his obvious flaws and their insistence two decades ago that a president's character is essential." He has written shorter pieces for the popular press addressing questions like "Was it Immoral for American Airlines to File for Bankruptcy?" (No, he argued to the readers of *Christianity Today*.) Taken as a whole, this growing body of work comprises a project to rectify a decades-long deficiency he has dubbed, in the title of another law review article, "The Unbearable Lightness of Christian Legal Scholarship."

As an attempt to expand his field's scholarly boundaries, this project is noteworthy in a similar way to the emergence of economics-orientated legal analysis at the University of Chicago in the 1950s and '60s, or critical race theory in the 1970s and '80s. Skeel is one of a small number of academics developing this Protestant evangelical approach to contemporary US law, and it is too early, of course, to know how much or little influence they may come to have. But what makes Skeel's contributions especially interesting is how often his understanding of theologically conservative Christianity produces conclusions that run counter to the dominant strain of legal and legislative activism among American evangelicals, in areas ranging from vice regulation to abortion.

Contemporary evangelicals have a "tendency" he says, "to think that anything that's immoral should be illegal—that the legal system should completely track our system of, or our common understanding of, morals. And I strongly disagree with that."

Making his case for Christianity in *True Paradox*, he stated it strongly indeed: "When Christians seek to usher in

the kingdom of God through law, they are denying Christianity's teachings, not promoting them."

## A Disciple's Path

Like many American evangelicals, David Skeel came to Christ in a roundabout way. The son of a teacher and an Air Force doctor, he spent his childhood trailing his father's military assignments: Washington, DC; central California; Michigan; the Philippines; northern California; and finally Augusta, Georgia, where his dad left the service when David was in middle school.

One setting into which the family rarely ventured was a house of worship.

"I was inside a church maybe three or four times in the first 18 years of my life," says Skeel. "We were not even Christmas-and-Easter Christians."

By the time he enrolled at the University of North Carolina in 1979, his obliviousness to religious life was impressive even for a kid who'd never gone to Sunday school. It came to a head during a class discussion of a short story called "The Ram in the Thicket," by the 20th-century American novelist Wright Morris. The titular reference to Abraham's narrowly averted sacrifice of Isaac was completely lost on Skeel. "I had no idea what that was about—even when the story was discussed," he recalls. "I had no familiarity with it at all."

Among other things, that was an embarrassment. So the duly humbled English major made a resolution: "The Bible might be just a complete crock. It may be all mythology and not worth reading. But I needed to at least know what was in it. And so I decided to read the Bible."

Skeel traveled his personal road to Damascus the summer after his sophomore year, in a van that he and two buddies drove across the country for a vehicle-transfer company whose reliance on collegiate would-be hitchhikers did not bode especially well for the firm's long-term viability. "By the time we got to Las

Vegas, the van was still running, and it still looked the same,” Skeel chuckles, “but I’m quite confident it was not the same van anymore.”

More importantly, he wasn’t the same anymore, either. When it wasn’t his turn to drive, he sat in the back, reading the Old Testament from page one. “And by the time I was not even finished with Genesis, I just knew in my heart it was true,” he remembers. “I had never read anything like it. It spoke to me about who I am, and what it means to be human, in a way that just completely blew me away.”

It was the beginning of a journey that led to Skeel’s rebirth as a theologically conservative Protestant who accepted the Bible as the “true and authoritative” source of teachings that form “the basis for everything else.”

The notion of Biblical “truth” attracts a certain amount of facile derision as a simpleton’s credo. After all, if God made the plants and animals before creating mankind in his own image, as described in the first chapter of Genesis, how could God also have created man *before* the plants and animals—as described in the second chapter? And did 42 generations separate Jesus from King David (as in the Gospel of Luke), or just 28 (as in the Gospel of Matthew)? Does the Bible’s “authoritative” nature extend to the Levitical prohibition against wearing garments woven from two kinds of materials? Or God’s insistence to a compliant Moses that a man caught gathering sticks on the Sabbath be stoned to death?

For Skeel, though, the Bible’s thought-provoking inconsistencies, as well as its disconnects with some contemporary mores whose wisdom he had already begun to question, were marks of a text that tackled the complicated nature of human existence head on. “The psychological complexity of Christianity was really powerful for me, as was the complexity of the language in the Bible,” he said in an interview some years back. “Truth can’t be conveyed in a single genre, so the Bible’s mix of genres, lan-

## “The story of Christianity and the idea of a fresh start with bankruptcy are very closely parallel.”

guage, and images is part of the evidence for its veracity.”

Skeel doesn’t go in for the hallmark literalism of Christian fundamentalism. “I don’t believe creation took place in six 24-hour days. It just doesn’t make sense,” he says. “My view is that in the opening chapters of Genesis, for instance, God is not trying to give a recipe for creation; I think he’s telling us something about who he is and what creation is. So in some ways it’s a matter of genre: What’s God trying to do? Is this poetic, is it literal? Someone like me tends to view genre as a very important interpretive tool.

“I’m very much evangelical,” he concludes, “but very much *not* fundamentalist.” Yet he also rejects the theologically liberal urge to discard or “neutralize” elements of scripture that clash with present-day secular values. “If you read the Bible, and it says something that you don’t like—and no matter how you read it, you can’t read it another way—someone who believes it is authoritative concludes that it is binding, even if they don’t like it, or even if it’s out of step with modern life.”

**As his spiritual awakening** progressed, Skeel meanwhile fell into the grip of another captivation: bankruptcy law. This too was an unexpected development.

“Like most literature majors who wind up in law school,” he observed in the preface to *Debt’s Dominion*, “I knew little about business and finance, and even less about bankruptcy.” But by the

1980s, bankruptcy law had shed its “faintly unsavory” reputation to gain prominence in an era that was becoming rife with tactical Chapter 11 filings—from oil-giant Texaco’s bid to stave off a \$10 billion jury verdict obtained by its competitor Pennzoil, to TV actress Tia Carrere’s unsuccessful attempt to use bankruptcy proceedings to wriggle out of a contract with *General Hospital* in search of a bigger payday from *The A-Team*.

Skeel “found the travails of financially troubled individuals and corporations riveting. It also became clear that American bankruptcy law touches on all aspects of American life.” After graduating from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1987, he began plying the trade for Philadelphia’s Duane, Morris & Hecksher before shifting to academia. In 1999, after eight years at Temple University Law, he joined the faculty at Penn Law, where that year’s graduating class voted to give him the Harvey Levin Award for Excellence in Teaching—the first of several teaching honors including a University-wide Lindback Award in 2004.

Skeel’s scholarship reflected wide-ranging but more or less conventional interests. He published about the controversial rise of Delaware as a bankruptcy venue of choice for corporate debtors. He authored a comparative analysis of corporate governance under bankruptcy proceedings in Germany, Japan, and the United States. He wrote about corporate lockup provisions, sovereign bankruptcy regimes, and the racial dimensions of credit and bankruptcy. (A 2004 paper on the latter subject—which included a fascinating gloss on the “mystifying” absence of “significant bankruptcy practice” in the mid-20th-century lawyering of Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Ed1918 G1919 Gr1921 L’27 Hon’74—was characteristic of Skeel’s nuanced reasoning, keen perception of historical ironies, and measured approach in the suggestion of legal and legislative remedies. Its intricate social and institutional analysis, by a scholar whose politics tend right of center, was also a model for

the analytical power of critical race theory before that academic subdiscipline was seized upon as a culture-war cudgel.) His 2005 book *Icarus in the Boardroom: The Fundamental Flaws in Corporate America and Where They Came From* examined the history of corporate crises from the 19th century to the Enron and WorldCom scandals, and it advocated for a series of focused reforms to protect corporate shareholders, suppliers, and employees from executives who are often incentivized to take “excessive or fraudulent risks.”

It wasn't until the mid-2000s that an explicit attention to Christianity began to percolate through his prose. One of the first instances came in 2003, after the Archdiocese of Boston hinted at declaring bankruptcy as it faced massive liabilities stemming from hundreds of clergy sexual misconduct cases. In an article for the *Boston College Law Review* titled “Avoiding Moral Bankruptcy,” Skeel warned against the temptation for the Church to “evade obligations to victims,” but argued for the potential merits of a filing. Chapter 11's provisions for “pervasive court oversight and extensive scrutiny” could force the archdiocese to reckon with its wrongs—“confirming the Church's accountability rather than undermining it.”

The next year, Skeel began a critical appreciation of Elizabeth Warren—who at the time was not yet a US Senator but rather “the nation's leading consumer bankruptcy scholar”—by recounting a “wonderful passage in the New Testament.” The article was otherwise unconcerned with Christianity, but its author seemed to be gaining comfort wearing his own in plain view.

“There came a point,” Skeel reflects, “where I realized that the story of Christianity—the story of the Gospel, as we would put it—and the idea of the fresh start with bankruptcy are very closely parallel. The idea that you're indebted beyond your ability ever to escape that indebtedness, you can't get out on your own ... it's almost exactly the same trajectory as the idea of what Jesus is” from an evangelical

perspective, which emphasizes that reconciliation with God can come only by embracing Christ as the Savior, not through a believer's good works.

“And when that occurred to me, I started to see all of the economic language in Christ's teachings, and just how close that parallel was,” he says. “I mean, the most dramatic example of it in my view is in the Lord's Prayer, when Christ teaches his disciples to pray, ‘forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,’” Skeel continues, citing the Gospel of Matthew phrasing favored by many Protestant denominations. “I had always thought of that in spiritual terms—and it is meant, I think, to be understood spiritually. But I also think it's quite literal, that it's not accidental that Jesus used so many economic metaphors in his teaching.”

This observation is hardly unique to David Skeel. “Other than sex,” as he put it in a more recent article, “almost no other feature of daily life figures so prominently in Scripture as debt.”

And that was only one aspect of his growing interest in examining the law through the prism of his faith.

## The Irony of Moralist Law

A philosophical watershed moment came in 2006, via a paper he coauthored with Harvard Law School professor William Stuntz, an influential and somewhat iconoclastic theorist of criminal law and procedure who died in 2011. “Christianity and the (Modest) Rule of Law,” which appeared in the *Journal of Constitutional Law*, brought the two scholars' evangelical Christianity directly to bear on US criminal justice.

Skeel and Stuntz presented the Bible as a seedbed of ideas supporting the classic secular conception of the rule of law: all men and women have dignity in the eyes of God, hence “government should treat even those it punishes” with the “respect due to creatures made in God's image”—an egalitarian requirement “that is heightened when the government's

wrath is visited on the poor, who are usually the recipients of criminal punishment.” Yet everyone needs to be governed, because all humans are prone to sin. “And since sin is universal and since those who do the governing must themselves be governed, law (not government officials) must do the restraining.”

Observing that “clearly articulated rules” that “punish conduct, and never intent alone” are foundational to the rule of law, the authors emphasized a major threat to it: the individual officials, prosecutors, and regulators empowered to decide who to target for breaking rules. “Discretionary power means the power to oppress,” and the abuse of that power was visible anywhere you looked. “Drug crimes in poor city neighborhoods regularly lead to long prison terms” whereas “upper-class drug crime is treated more generously.” Martha Stewart was just the latest CEO to have been targeted mostly “for being famous and unpopular,” they argued—jailed for “crimes that are committed every day without legal consequence” by people whose convictions wouldn't land a prosecutor on the front page. Excessive discretion, Skeel and Stuntz contended, sets the stage for discriminatory enforcement—and consequently breeds contempt for the rule of law as a mere “veneer that hides the rule of discretion.”

So how does God's law measure up to this standard? Horribly, Skeel and Stuntz observed. It's virtually the opposite. Consider the Golden Rule, which commands that we love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Forget the principle that rules must be defined with reasonable specificity. “One can barely imagine a more vague and open-ended legal requirement.” And it gets worse. Turning to the Sermon on the Mount, the authors noted that Jesus “defines as murderers ‘everyone who is angry with his brother,’” and declares that adulterers include “not only those who have sexual relations with others' spouses, but ‘everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent.’

“No legal system that defined murder and adultery as Jesus did could enforce those offenses with any consistency. Such laws would function like highway speed limits—all drivers violate them, so the *real* law is whatever state troopers decide. And Jesus himself applied God’s law differently to different people,” they continued, “violating the principle that all should be bound by the same rules.”

“God’s law,” Skeel and Stuntz wrote, “violates every single principle that flies under the banner of the ‘rule of law.’ If the state tried to replicate this law in a legal code, police and prosecutors would have total, absolute discretion to choose who should be sent to jail and who should go free; and civil law regulators could pick their least favorite CEO and punish him or her whenever they chose. In practice, the discretionary choices of the governors, rather than God’s law itself, would govern the people.”

And that, they contended, is what tends to happen whenever “legal moralists”—including Biblically inspired ones—gain the upper hand.

At one extreme lies the 18th Amendment, which criminalized the production, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages. Zealous enforcement of a prohibition that was opposed by a substantial minority of citizens—and majorities among some ethnic and geographic groups—arguably did more to undermine respect for the rule of law than it did to advance the moral project of the Temperance movement. “The proprietor of an establishment that sold beer in a working-class Irish or Italian neighborhood in New York City might well wind up in jail,” Skeel wrote elsewhere. “[T]hose who sold gin in an upscale, upper East Side neighborhood were far more likely to wind up in an F. Scott Fitzgerald novel.”

At the other end of the spectrum are largely symbolic laws ranging from the 1910 Mann Act, which made it a felony to transport “any woman or girl for the purpose of prostitution or debauchery, or for any other immoral purpose” (emphasis

added); to Republican efforts in the mid-2000s, under pressure from conservative Christians, to keep Terri Schiavo alive in a persistent vegetative state by inserting Congress into the private medical decisions of a single family; to various bipartisan spates of redundant “corporate responsibility legislation” in reaction to the business scandal of the moment.

Skeel and Stuntz were equally scathing about that brand of legislative moral posturing. “Members of Congress can please constituents who wish to condemn the relevant conduct, without paying either the fiscal or political price of stopping that conduct. In contrast to legislation that embodies compromises and tradeoffs, federal criminal law is a land of broad ‘thou shalt not,’ leaving the compromises and tradeoffs for law enforcers.”

God’s law, in short, exemplifies the radical and potentially transformational scope of all good moral principles, which “reach into every nook and cranny of our lives and our thoughts” to stir us to virtue. But its instructive power curdles upon contact with the institutions by which men and women police one another. In a world where “all sin but only some sinners can be punished” and “rulers are prone to favoritism and exploitation,” Skeel and Stuntz wrote, the law must play a “double game: restraining the worst wrongs by the citizenry without empowering judges and prosecutors to do wrong themselves.” This is best accomplished, they contended, by limiting the law’s reach—“draw[ing] lines not between right and wrong, but between the most destructive and verifiable wrongs, and everything else.”

Our secular legal system would do well to learn that “moralist criminal law turns out not to be particularly moral,” they concluded. And “conservative Christians could stand to learn the same lesson.” Not just because Paul the Apostle preached it in the first century, but because converting moral codes into abuse-prone legal ones risks damaging the evangelical project itself. When over-

weening Christians try to “write morality into the statute books” via campaigns targeting widely tolerated practices like gambling, alcohol, or abortion, they make their faith alien and aggressive toward those they should be seeking to attract—while “distract[ing] religious believers from other, more limited efforts that might command widespread support.” In effect, they yield to the temptation to “turn God’s law into a list of purposeless rules, a kind of Biblical version of the Internal Revenue Code,” reprising the pitfall for which Jesus criticized the Pharisees.

“Conflating God’s law and man’s law,” they declared, “does violence to both. It makes far too much of man’s law, and far too little of God’s.”

## The Justice Paradox

In the years since he and Stuntz articulated their Christian case for a minimally ambitious legal code, Skeel has continued to evangelize about the perils of legal moralism and symbolic religious legislation. He devoted a chapter of *True Paradox*—which was pitched at general readers, not legal scholars—to what he calls the “justice paradox.” It flows from two observations. Humans have long placed remarkable faith in the idea that the right system of law can produce a just social order. Yet from Hammurabi’s Code to Napoleon’s, and from Marxism to the libertarian system of laws inspired by John Stuart Mill, we have been disappointed over and over again.

“Both parts of that pattern—the hubris about our capacity for justice and the failure that follows—are important,” Skeel wrote. The New Testament demonstrates this dynamic twice over, as first the Jewish authorities and then the Roman ones condemn Jesus on suspect grounds. “The hero of the Christian story was murdered by impressive legal systems, not transparently evil ones,” Skeel noted. “Lest we think that it is simply an accident that one system of law failed, the Jesus story

shows that even two legal systems working together and potentially correcting one another cannot ensure a just outcome. The justice paradox lies at the very heart of the Christian story.”

Yet it’s hard to read Skeel’s stipulation that “Christians believe ... that the legal codes we create to foster morality will always fail” without marveling at just how distant it is from the reigning spirit of the American religious right.

He acknowledges as much. “For many evangelicals and other theologically conservative Christians,” he lamented in one law review article, “the legal system is the solution of first resort for nearly every conceivable issue.”

It bears mention here that theological conservatism frequently overlaps with the political variety, as in the case of Christian sexual ethics. But it can also veer in other directions. Skeel is by no means the first, for instance, to find the Mosaic law “unabashedly paternalistic in its concern for the dignity of the poor.” By the same token, the religious enthusiasms of the political right do not always hold water with theological conservatives. The fervor for so-called “muscular Christianity”—whose manifestations have ranged from early-20th-century missionary excesses to today’s #GodGunsAndCountry crowd—strikes Skeel as being “more about American culture and values than about Christianity and the Bible.” He calls the “prosperity Gospel” of Joel Osteen and Paula White (who chaired President Donald Trump W’68’s evangelical advisory board) “deeply unbiblical” and “very damaging.” Skeel has been a registered Republican for some time, but professes to have a “lover’s quarrel with both parties.” Leery of state power and impatient with culture war, he is “not optimistic about there ever being a party that captures my views in a robust way.”

In his legal scholarship, he has focused most consistently on the pitfalls of moralistic legislation—contending that it not only makes for bad secular law, but often undermines the moral

authority and effectiveness of its proponents, especially when they are motivated by religious concerns.

This tendency has periodically animated American Christianity since at least the era of Prohibition, which Skeel condemns in terms that echo the contemporaneous criticism of the Protestant intellectual Reinhold Niebuhr.

“Ideally, laws should be adopted by common consent, so that they would require enforcement only upon that small minority of chaotic souls who are incapable of self-discipline,” Niebuhr wrote in 1928. “Whatever the State may do to secure conformity to its standards, it is hardly the business of the Church, ostensibly committed to the task of creating morally disciplined and dependable character, to use the ‘secular arm’ for accomplishing by violence what it is unable to attain by moral suasion.” Characterizing Prohibition as an effort by a Protestant majority to bring “more recent immigrant groups which are loyal to Latin religious ideals and traditions under the dominion of Puritan ideas by the use of political force,” Niebuhr charged that “it is alien to the true character of religion.

“And its effect upon the nation is permanently schismatic,” Niebuhr emphasized. “Such a degree of animosity has been created by the policy that a mutual exchange of values between the two cultural and religious worlds has become difficult, if not impossible.”

It is perhaps no coincidence that Skeel, writing in another era of national schism, should take up a parallel argument.

“The spirit of Prohibition lives on,” he wrote in *True Paradox*. “Americans’ confidence in the curative powers of the law has not dimmed a whit. Lawmakers continue to pass laws designed to regulate morality, such as the laws making many forms of gambling (most recently, Internet gambling) illegal, and other laws creating a special category of additional punishment for hate crimes.”

Legislative crusades against vices like gambling, in Skeel’s view, succeed most-

ly in teaching millions of citizens to ignore laws that lack common consent while driving the targeted activity underground—to be policed, or not, at the whims of beat cops and prosecutors. (They may also lack staying power, as shown by the widening scope of legal gambling in the last several years.)

The religious right’s quest to outlaw abortion, exemplified most recently by a Texas ban that effectively outsources enforcement to self-appointed vigilantes, nettles him for similar reasons. “I am personally pro-life, so I would love to see a society where there’s no abortion,” Skeel says. “But that’s not the society that we live in at the moment. So I’m not a big fan of the Texas law, because I think the law goes way beyond where we are now as a society.

“I am sympathetic to banning late-term abortions, as the Supreme Court allowed a while back,” he adds. “But the idea of completely making abortion illegal, I think, would create social chaos.”

One of the things that distinguishes Skeel’s Christian-inflected legal commentary is its earnest genuflection toward pluralism. Another is his propensity to challenge the assumption that two opposing perspectives are in fact ineluctably at odds with one another—often by complicating debates that have been dumbed down via relentless simplification.

“The deep divide between moralists and libertarians may be needless, the result more of theological error than of spiritual disagreement,” he and Stuntz wrote in their case for modest rule-of-law. “Libertarians seek to minimize formal legal restraints on private conduct. That agenda should hold some appeal for wise moralists, at least if the moralists are Christian. After all, the rule of law is a moral good in Christian terms.” Meanwhile, their critique of prosecutorial overreach has lately found the loudest echo among progressive proponents of criminal-justice reform, including some who have marched under Black Lives Matter banners.

The dangers of symbolic religious legislation are “particularly stark in the current

political environment,” Skeel warned in 2008, suggesting that the almost whole-sale alignment of evangelical Christians with a single political party “invites strategic extremism” that could come back to haunt their cause. The irony of abortion politics, he observes, is that the side that prevails in the legal realm has a way of losing in the court of public opinion—a hearts-and-minds battle that may matter more. In the 1960s, when abortion was a crime, public sympathy for the plight of women forced to seek black-market procedures drove a successful movement to make it a right. Whereupon the actual rate of abortion, which had risen steeply in the years leading up to *Roe v. Wade*, soon began a long and lasting decline—sustained in part, one can argue, by the ability of anti-abortion advocates to redirect public attention from the horrors of back-alley abortions (which all but disappeared) toward sympathy for embryos and fetuses. “When the relevant legal territory is morally contested, the law’s weaponry tends to wound those who wield it,” Skeel and Stuntz wrote. “Legal victory produces cultural and political defeat.”

**The tenor of much contemporary religious discourse** in the United States, where moralism often manifests as self-righteousness and the spirit of self-actualizing individualism suffers no shortage of champions in church pews, leaves a lot to be desired. Popular concepts like prosperity theology and muscular Christianity can seem hard to square with the Lamb of God’s thoroughgoing concern with the poor. Meanwhile, anti-intellectualism is worn as a badge of honor in too many evangelical pulpits—where cultural “victories” are apt to be measured by how easily bakers and florists can deny services to people they condemn as sinners. The consequences of all this can be seen both in the antipathy with which many secularly oriented Americans regard evangelicals, and in the shrinking numbers of evangelicals themselves over the past 15 years.

“Christianity was introduced to America,” as one caustic formulation goes, “and America triumphed.”

Against that backdrop, reading David Skeel is like entering a parallel universe, where theological conservatism never became estranged from the academy, nor so thoroughly entangled with the gospel of American materialism.

## “Moralist criminal law turns out not to be particularly moral.”

Skeel’s mission with *True Paradox* was to reclaim “complexity” as a central element of his faith. “The assumption that Christianity and complexity don’t mix seems to be shared not just by religious skeptics, but also by many Christians,” he wrote. “Yet it actually gets things precisely backward. Complexity is not an embarrassment for Christianity; it is Christianity’s natural element.”

The book, he says, is “for people who think there’s no reason to take Christianity seriously. It’s to show people of that sort—they surround me in my professional life—that Christianity is much more plausible than they think.”

These days, when David Skeel thinks about the purpose of the law, he increasingly frames it in terms of creating relationships.

“If the dignity that comes from our being made in the image of God requires that we seek one another’s flourishing, as Christians believe it does, one positive contribution that laws can sometimes make is to foster relationships in contexts where they otherwise might not occur,” he writes. He holds up the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of

1965 as paragons—in no small part because, “unlike many social and moral reforms,” they were not criminal laws. “They were not designed to put offenders in jail or even to impose damages for the wrongs committed against blacks in the past.” Rather, the former sought to give us a more integrated workplace, while the latter aimed to give us an integrated political community in which Black and white citizens can vote side by side.

“The main reason these laws have been so successful,” he concludes, is that they “actually help to create relationships in our communities.”

Reflecting on the long trajectory of his scholarship, he calls that idea “a scattered theme in my writing that I’ve come to see as more and more central. So if you ask me what the objective of a legal system ought to be, my short answer would be that it should be designed to try to foster right relationships within our communities. What that means in a given context is complicated, and it could mean different things. But to me it encompasses seemingly disparate parts of the law.

“I would argue that it’s a goal of our bankruptcy system, as well,” he adds. “People who are overwhelmed by debt are effectively excluded from the community. ... It crushes everything else. It interferes with relationships. It complicates a person’s life in a variety of different ways. So a bankruptcy system that works effectively helps with your relationship from a financial perspective.”

Then Skeel zooms back out for the wider view.

“To me, the art of justice is trying to balance freedom and equality, which are often in tension with one another. And to do it in a way that fosters relationships. If someone asked me for my abstract definition of justice, that’s what it would be.”

And there he pauses, an unpredictable scholar and uncommon evangelist, who is so often to be found on the cusp of an idea that repays close attention.

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For questions, please call:

(215) 898-7811 or

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



## Calendar

### Arthur Ross Gallery

arthurrossgallery.org

open Tues.–Sun.

From Studio to Doorstep:

Associated American Artists

Through Aug. 21

### ICA

icaphila.org

Poetic Cinema: Isaac Julien and the Sankofa Film and Video Collective

Jun. 13–Aug. 3

### Penn Museum

penn.museum

Galleries open; advance booking recommended

### World Café Live

worldcafelive.com

Jul. 8 Karate

Jul. 13 Foxing

Jul. 14 Bebel Gilberto

Jul. 16 Squirrel Nut Zippers

Jul. 23 Beyond the Blinds

Jul. 26 Laura Veirs

Jul. 27 Shinyribs

Aug. 3 Yussef Dayes

Aug. 4 Marian Hill

Aug. 6 Jawn of the Dead

Aug. 9–13 The Rock Orchestra's BeatleFest 2022

Aug. 17 Ana Popovic

Aug. 19 Cimafunk with Raul y su ClaveAché

Above: *Floral Magic*, 1953 by Arnold Blanch Courtesy Arthur Ross Gallery



# Fraternal Twins

West Philadelphia's unmatched pairs.

These 1895 Queen Anne-style twins on Cedar Avenue are not symmetrical on their own, but grouped in pairs they form mirror-image compositions accentuated by end-positioned turrets capped by unusual bell-shaped roofs.

**T**he row house,” proclaimed architect Alfred Bendiner Ar1922 GAR’27, “is the backbone of Philadelphia city living. There are so many examples of rowhouse architecture that even the archaeologists can’t make up their minds which is the best.”

Neither can David S. Traub GAR’65. The longtime local architect, who works out of a restored Victorian carriage house in Philadelphia’s Fairmount neighborhood, is an aficionado of the city’s housing stock. And Philly’s roughly 400,000 rowhouses—more than any other city but London, he notes—hold a special affection. It shows in *City of*



*Homes* (Camino Books, 2021), his third photo-rich book about Philadelphia’s urban fabric. From the first page, which depicts a classically ornamented red-brick block of Fairmount’s Woodstock Street, to the last (a 2017 “New Vernacular” development in South Philly’s Newbold section featuring “no masonry materials of any type”), Traub lavishes plenty of love on Philadelphia’s iconic form of single-family living.

The block-long enclave of Woodland Terrace, designed in 1861 by Samuel Sloan, looks at first glance like five single-family mansions—but they are in fact twins whose asymmetrical facades give the illusion of grander quarters.

It is also an impressively adaptable form. Rowhouses account for some 70 percent of Philadelphia dwellings, but they range from the tony townhomes near Rittenhouse Square to the ultra-compact “baby doll houses” built in the city’s far northeast after World War II. The sheer variety—Tudor detailing here, Spanish villa styling there—is a main charm of *City of Homes*.



These Georgian Revival-style twins on Hazel Street were born identical, but the enclosure of one of the south-facing porches by a multipaned glass wall transformed the composition.

Penn alumni with fond (or not) memories of West Philadelphia’s housing stock may be drawn to a subspecies that either is or isn’t a rowhouse at all, depending on one’s classification criteria. We are speaking here of the twin: two homes that share a party wall. These paired domiciles are perhaps less than the three required to constitute a true row, but they often appear west of the Schuylkill in block-long groupings that share a single architectural identity. These houses are often symmetrical, but not always—as in these three examples Traub includes in a chapter devoted to twins.—TP

## Marble Dignity, Hollow Soul

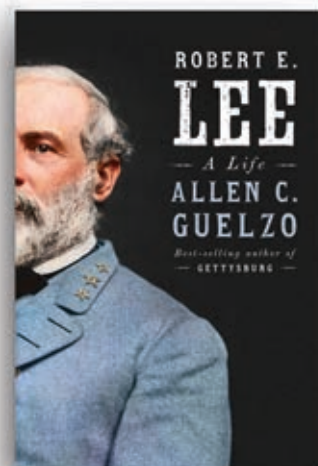
Allen Guelzo’s biography of Robert E. Lee depicts the Confederate general as a “complicated rather than complex person.”

Princeton history professor Allen Guelzo G’79 Gr’86 asks his readers to do something difficult. In the first sentence of his 2021 biography *Robert E. Lee: A Life*, he calls out the Confederate commander as a traitor. For many readers, that’s likely easy to swallow; the US Army colonel violated his duty to the Constitution and took up arms against his country. But later, after weaving a portrait of this “very complicated character” who was noted for his “marble dignity,” Guelzo asks his audience to have compassion for the man who opted for rebellion over duty.

One of the nation’s leading Civil War scholars, Guelzo is the author of 11 books on the conflict, Lincoln, and Reconstruction, notably the award-winning *Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President* and *Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America*.

He looks back on his years at Penn as “a glorious time, one that I treasure.” Guelzo wrote his dissertation on colonial-era theologian Jonathan Edwards. When he graduated he thought that his interest in 18th-century moral philosophy would guide his career. Almost by chance he wrote a well-received paper on Lincoln, which begat an offer to write a book on the 16th president.

“I got my hand in the Lincoln cookie jar, and I have nothing to complain about on that score,” says Guelzo, who after many years felt compelled to take “a very deep plunge” into the Civil War from the Southern point of view.



*Robert E. Lee: A Life*  
By Allen C. Guelzo  
Penguin, \$35

In *Lee* he found a man who lacked the vision to reckon with his era’s central moral issue—slavery. “It’s not that Lee is ignoble. It’s not that he is some kind of grotesque monster. That’s one of the complexities of dealing with the man. When you deal with Lincoln, you’re dealing with someone who is very complex in the sense that he has his hands in many of the currents of ideas in his time, and he’s working very hard to reconcile them,” says Guelzo. “Lee is a complicated rather than a complex person, because he sees those same currents but does nothing to reconcile them. He makes no effort to sort them out and come to some kind of coherent conclusion.”

While Lee's noble demeanor and dignified surrender led generations of Southerners to imagine him as possessing marble integrity to the core, Guelzo instead finds a hollow man. His father, Revolutionary War hero Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee III, abandoned his family when Robert was six. The resulting trauma led him to become devoted to his mother and to adopt a spotless persona. He earned no demerits at West Point, graduating second in his class in 1829. (Compare that to the flamboyant and ferocious George Custer, who years later hauled in a record 726 demerits and barely got his degree.)

Lee chose to be a military engineer and for 25 years worked on coastal engineering projects. This path suited Lee, according to Guelzo, because it offered financial security, rather than glory on blazing battlefields. At the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862 he was famously quoted saying, "It is well that this is so terrible [lest] we should grow too fond of it."

After the Civil War, during the last five years of his life when he was president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia (now Washington and Lee University), Lee made an offhand comment that revealed an inner torment that haunted him all his life. "He said the great mistake of his life was taking a military education," Guelzo reports. "Now that is simply a bombshell of a statement coming from Robert E. Lee. That sense of regret that pervades him, that sense of loss, of absence, of never quite finding what it was he was trying to find—it just runs through so much of the man."

The most visible sign of this confused sense of purpose came in April 1861. Shortly after the attack on Fort Sumter, Lincoln's senior adviser Francis Preston Blair offered Lee command of the US Army. The meeting lasted hours. Lee showed supreme hesitation, and Guelzo untangles seven contemporaneous recollections of the event. In Lee's defense, at the time no one knew if a long conflict would ensue.

Lee at the time wrote to an in-law that "a fearful calamity is upon us." It dumbfounded him that "our people," his fellow Southerners, "will destroy a government inaugurated by the blood & wisdom of our patriot fathers, that has given us peace & prosperity at home, power & security abroad & under which we have acquired a colossal strength unequalled in the history of mankind."

## **"One comes away from Robert E. Lee with a sense of very deep sorrow and regret about the man."**

Even when Lee then journeyed to Richmond, no martial fire burned in his heart. He wrote to a son that he thought assuming command of Virginia's troops "might lead to a peaceful settlement of our difficulties" and that he might play the heroic role of "mediator, rather as an umpire & settle the question."

Ultimately, according to Guelzo, Lee chose to lead the Army of Northern Virginia, the Confederacy's key fighting force, not to defend slavery or because he lusted to fight but to save his 1,100-acre Arlington hilltop estate across the Potomac from Washington, DC. He feared the Confederates would confiscate it if he declined to defect. (In the end, the federal government not only seized the property but—to add eternal indignity to Lee's memory—established Arlington National Cemetery at the site.) "The property belonging to my children,

all they possess, lies in Virginia," Lee told his mentor General Scott in a frosty exchange. "They will be ruined if they do not go with their State. I cannot raise my hand against my children."

"All of this," writes Guelzo, "was done for the sake of a political regime whose acknowledged purpose was the preservation of a system of chattel slavery that he knew to be evil."

Lee had inherited 42 slaves in 1857 when he became executor of his father-in-law's Arlington property. Though the will bound him under its terms to free them, he kept them to help stabilize the estate's finances, only liberating them in 1863.

Throughout his life, Lee seems to have never thought deeply about the South's "peculiar institution." In the 1850s he wrote to his wife that slavery—"a moral and political evil"—is "known & ordered...by a wise & merciful Providence." Lee went on to tell her slavery does more harm to whites than Blacks and that their "painful discipline" will "prepare & lead them to better things."

"It is one of those perfectly preposterous statements that suggests someone who is looking at Black people but not really seeing them," says Guelzo. "On the other hand, take the thread of that and pull on it, and you learn something very interesting: slavery poisons every relationship—not just the relationship of Black and white; it also poisons the relationship of Black and Black and the relationship of white and white."

As Guelzo sees it, slave ownership was "a Midas touch in reverse" that corroded Lee's soul. When three of his slaves escaped—two men and a woman—and were returned, Lee ordered severe punishment. An overseer refused to whip them, but Lee told the constable who delivered them to "lay it on well." Lee himself, according to a newspaper account, may have stripped the woman and given her 39 lashes.

That kind of brutality "was peculiar," Guelzo believes. "It's uncharacteristic of

the man from what we otherwise know. It suggests there's somehow a layer there that he worked over his life to conceal."

Guelzo does credit Lee with being a keen military strategist. He invaded the North twice and tried to do so a third time, moves that held "the possibility of ending the war and achieving the independence of this people by one short and brilliant stroke of genius, endurance, and courage," Lee later wrote. He knew that if he could break the Union's will to fight by turning voters against Lincoln, the South might win a negotiated settlement.

Today Guelzo is working on a book about Lincoln and democracy. "It's like I took a long journey in a deserted land, but now I'm finally back home, and I'm where I'm most comfortable," he says. As for the hollow subject of his past scrutiny, Guelzo says "one comes away from Robert E. Lee with a sense of very deep sorrow and regret about the man."

The recent racial protests and violence that has swept the US and the cruel divides of modern politics trouble Guelzo much in the way that slavery appalls him. "Behaving mercilessly sometimes seems like it comes natural to human beings, either because we're easily tempted to anger and defensiveness, or we're tempted to various varieties of self-righteousness, and we see in others' eyes the mote and miss the beam in our own," he says.

"I suppose I'm asking with regard about Lee not only for a sense of compassion in trying to understand the man but also some compassion in trying to understand ourselves." But Guelzo is quick to append an addendum: "Compassion is not the same thing as condoning. Compassion is not the same thing as forgiveness.

"But at the same time," Guelzo adds, "There can be no true will, no real judgment without that measure of compassion, because otherwise it tempts us to become monsters, and that is something I think we fail to see time and time again."

—George Spencer

## Tales of Havoc

Sara Manning Peskin takes readers on a harrowing journey through the "hijacked brain."

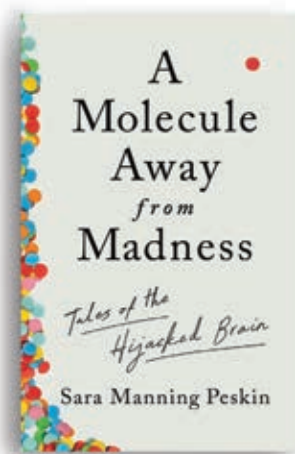
In *A Molecule Away from Madness: Tales of the Hijacked Brain* (W. W. Norton & Company), Sara Manning Peskin Gr'13 M'15 GM'19, an assistant professor of clinical neurology at Penn, unveils a series of medical mysteries. Writing at the intersection of medicine, public health, and molecular biology, she describes how missing, mutated, malformed, or toxic molecules can result in a panoply of neurological illnesses.

She begins with DNA mutations associated with Huntington's disease, frontotemporal dementia, and early-onset Alzheimer's—frightening degenerative diseases for which we still have no cure, though some treatments are in the pipeline. Then she discusses "rebel" proteins, whose malfunctioning can cause a range of ailments—often hard to diagnose but possible to cure. She ends with small molecules: both vitamins like thiamine and niacin that we need for health, and toxins like mercury that can destroy it.

Her debut book combines medical history and contemporary case studies: the Colombian clan plagued for two centuries by early-onset Alzheimer's disease, the woman who hallucinates that she is in the TV show *The Walking Dead*, Abraham Lincoln's spasms of temper that were possibly caused by mercury poisoning.

"These are tales of havoc—wild personality changes, memory loss, death, and afflictions in between—that illustrate what any neurologist knows, and what the people in these accounts have come to understand intimately: we are each just a molecule away from madness," Peskin writes.

She recently spoke about her book with frequent *Gazette* contributor Julia M. Klein.



**A Molecule Away From Madness:**  
*Tales of the Hijacked Brain*  
By Sara Manning Peskin  
W. W. Norton, \$25.95

### Why neurology?

I was interested in diseases that changed people's personalities and identities. Diseases of the body can change the way that people think or act, but it's really only diseases of the brain that can fundamentally change someone's identity.

### How difficult was it to secure cooperation from the patients whose stories you told?

Most of the things I chose were relatively rare diseases, and people like telling their stories because it's really lonely having these diseases. A lot of them had diseases that were undiagnosed for a long time, and there's a feeling of wanting to publicize what happened so that other people in the future don't suffer as long. It can be therapeutic for patients to tell their stories, and they don't really get a chance to do that.

### What was the thinking behind your title?

So much of cognitive neurology is trying to distill the macro to the micro. A

patient comes in and they describe what's going on in the real world. And our job is to distill that into what we think is going on in a molecular level in their brain. I wanted to capture that process, the trajectory of going from patient story to molecular diagnosis.

**You suggest that we're on a frontier when it comes to treating neurological diseases—that oncology is ahead, and maybe neurology will catch up.**

They're ahead of us in terms of figuring out what molecules are causing their diseases, but we're getting there. Once they figured out some of the molecules that mark tumors, then they have treatments that target those molecules. And that's what we're trying in neurology. About 20 percent of people with frontotemporal dementia will have a genetic mutation causing it. And, for some of those mutations, we have [drug] trials.

**In researching the book, what did you learn that was new or surprising to you?**

I didn't really know any of the medical history. When [Alois] Alzheimer first presented his description of Alzheimer's disease, there was complete silence in the audience. Nobody cared at all. Later in the day, someone made a presentation about masturbation, and everyone was so excited to talk about it. Here Alzheimer had just defined this disease that's going to change the world, but no one reacted at all. I just loved learning these stories.

**The book has a hopeful tone.**

That was very purposeful because earlier drafts did not. People felt it was too depressing. I actually feel that the field is in a hopeful place. We're in this incredible time where we have tools that we never had before, and we can diagnose things that we could never diagnose before. A lot of the diseases I wrote about are now curable.

**You call yourself a dementia doctor, and those diseases are the most intractable ones.**

I'm part-time in the Penn Memory Center and then I'm part-time in the Penn Frontotemporal Degeneration Center. I also do some [work at] the Penn Neuro COVID Clinic, started this year, seeing folks who had COVID before and are noticing symptoms. So much of what we struggle with is the lack of tools to care for people, and the biggest thing we treat is really isolation. COVID has just been awful.

**What impacts have you seen?**

There have been some good things and some bad things. We certainly never did telemedicine before, [which] can be incredibly useful. On the other side, when we see new patients with prominent movement symptoms, telemedicine can be really frustrating because you sometimes can't figure out what's going on.

In terms of the social impact, it's been tough. The way that we make life better for people who have cognitive symptoms is to keep them engaged and interactive, and that's been so difficult with COVID. For partners and caregivers, it's been particularly painful because being married to someone who has cognitive issues can be extraordinarily isolating. And then we've just taken away their face-to-face interactions.

**What should happen?**

If I could choose one thing that I wanted to do, I would have a lot more adult day centers. And then the other thing I would choose is better mental health support for caregivers, and for people with dementia.

**What are some of the takeaways you'd like readers to draw from the book?**

I would like people to feel an awe for the brain and an awe for how we function in everyday life with all of these molecular pathways that we have. We don't even think about it, and then when one of them gets broken, it can have these dramatic effects. I wanted to impart a sense of awe for how we're all living on the edge, and we don't realize it.

## Briefly Noted



**THE APPROACHING STORM: Roosevelt, Wilson, Addams, and Their Clash Over America's Future** by Neil Lanctot C'87 (Riverhead Books, 2021, \$30.00.)

This history examines how three extraordinary leaders—Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Jane Addams—debated, quarreled, and split over America's response to World War I.



**RUSE: Lying the American Dream from Hollywood to Wall Street** by Robert M. Kerbeck C'85 (Steerforth Press, 2022, \$16.00.) Kerbeck's memoir recalls his years as a corporate spy, lying

on the phone, charming people into revealing their employers' most valuable information. This fast-paced story spins through the lies he told, the cons he ran, and the money he made (and lost) along the way.



**OUR LITTLE WORLD** by Karen Winn Nu'OO (Dutton, 2022, \$26.00.)

Set in the 1980s in a small New Jersey town, this lyrical coming-of-age story centers on two sisters whose relationship becomes forever altered in the aftermath of a neighborhood girl's disappearance.



**MUTINOUS WOMEN: How French Convicts Became Founding Mothers of the Gulf Coast** by Joan DeJean, faculty (Basic Books, 2022, \$32.00.) Falsely accused of sex crimes

in 18th-century France, more than 100 Frenchwomen were exiled to colonial Louisiana aboard the ship *La Mutine*. Only 62 survived, but they established lives that would have been impossible in France, making advantageous marriages and accumulating property—exemplifying the New World's possibilities and the diversity of the people who pursued them.

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



## Eat Your Veggies

This health-conscious entrepreneur is shaking up the meal delivery service game. ▶

**R**achel Drori C'04 was beyond stressed.

As a 20-something living in New York and working for a leading e-commerce company, she was “running between meetings without a second to eat or go to the bathroom.” It didn’t help that she was also planning her own wedding at the time. “I was burning the candle at both ends,” Drori says.

She hit a low when her body broke out in hives, something doctors believed was linked to a poor diet. “I realized I was eating trail mix and stale birthday cake between meetings, and it was taking its toll,” she says.

Knowing she needed to eat healthier, she hatched an idea. Meal kit delivery services like Blue Apron and Home Chef had been around for a few years—but what if she created one that delivered nutrient-packed meals like smoothies, soups, and vegetable bowls that customers could put in their freezer and pull out when they needed to eat?

And that’s how Daily Harvest, a plant-based meal delivery service, was born.

Launched in 2016, Daily Harvest earned more than \$250 million in revenue five years later, while raising \$77 million from big-name investors including Serena Williams and Gwyneth Paltrow, and reaching a valuation of \$1.1 billion. It now has more than 325 employees, most of whom work out of its New York headquarters.

Drori had always been interested in nutrition. Growing up in Long Island, New

York, she was a competitive lightweight rower and learned about “fueling your body and optimizing your performance.” At Penn, she became involved in the Urban Nutrition Initiative, a Netter Center program that works to improve food access in West Philadelphia. There she taught first graders how to garden and helped run a food stand where kids or their parents could trade in cookies and chips for oranges and avocados.

Those experiences taught her the crucial link between nutrition and access. And after initially working in marketing out of college at the Four Seasons, American Express, and the Gilt Groupe, in between a stint at Columbia Business School, she returned to those lessons a decade later.

When Drori first came up with the idea for Daily Harvest, she “literally bought frozen ingredients from Trader Joe’s and packaged it up at a commercial kitchen in Long Island City,” she says. “I bagged everything into this really ugly packaging and delivered it in my car”—mostly to friends and family members. Within eight weeks, she achieved her initial goal: to have five times more subscribers who were strangers than people she knew. “It was very, very fast, and I think it’s because I was solving a real problem,” she says.

Daily Harvest’s mission is to make it more convenient for people to eat at least one more daily dose of fruits and vegetables, and it works with

**“We partner with farmers on their journey to becoming organic and let them know that we will buy their crops.”**

450 farmers around the globe to make sure it can include a diversity of plants in its offerings. “Our supply chain is really robust,” Drori says. “It gives us tons of ability to create differentiated food for individuals and to be able to respond to customers’ needs in real time.” The team works with farmers directly to find unusual and interesting crops that will be good for their soil (soil needs crop diversity or it will get depleted) and satisfying to customers. For example, when a farmer in Montana expressed a need to plant a new cash crop, the company combed through its data and learned customers wanted more protein. The farmer is now growing black butte chickpeas, a rare and protein-rich type of chickpea traditionally found in India.

The vast majority of the farms Daily Harvest works with are already organic, and the company is working with the others to help them transition within the next three years. “We partner with farmers on their journey to

becoming organic and let them know that we will buy their crops,” Drori says.

Drori also knows that if her mission is to get everyone to eat more fruits and vegetables, she has to expand beyond frozen meals. Even though frozen food can be more nutritious than fresh food that lingers too long on the shelf, there are still some people who won’t buy it because of a certain stigma. “You have years of microwave dinners etched into people’s minds,” Drori says.

In April the company started selling more grocery-like items for people who want to add something healthy to food they already make. One is a plant-based crumble that you could add to a salad or a pasta. Another is almond milk that you can actually make at home. “A carton of almond milk is like 10 almonds and a gallon of water. Food companies add a lot of junk-like fillers and stabilizers so it can sit on a store shelf for weeks,” Drori says. “Ours is undiluted almonds and oats that you add your own water to make almond milk. There is nothing else added to it.”

In February Daily Harvest also debuted its first brick-and-mortar tasting room in Chicago, where customers can sample items and buy meals to eat there or take home.

“Sixty five percent of people don’t buy food online, even after the pandemic,” Drori says. “If our goal is to get everyone to eat more fruits and vegetables, we decided we had to create a place like this.”

—Alyson Krueger C'07

# Guardian of the Guardians

From Olympians to pro baseball players, this mental health specialist trains athletes to “know what’s going on in their brains.”

**A**lmost immediately after becoming director of sport psychology for the Cleveland Guardians (recently renamed from the Cleveland Indians), Lindsay Shaw C’05 had to deal with a death in the organization, which spans the gamut from low-level minor leaguers to Major League Baseball front office staff. On December 16, Andres Melendez, a 20-year-old catching prospect, died suddenly of natural causes brought on by multiple organ failure. Melendez had just completed a season playing for the Class A Lynchburg Hellcats, a Guardians’ minor league team.

“It was such an unexpected loss for everyone, especially those who had played alongside him,” Shaw says. “I held group and one-on-one Zoom sessions about the grieving process and let everyone know it’s OK to cry.”

Even front-office staff members who weren’t familiar with Melendez were affected by the loss, Shaw says. “It’s normal for people to suddenly confront their own mortality and think, ‘My gosh, what if it was me?’”

The Guardians weathered the emotional storm with the help of Shaw, who came to the organization after nine years as a sports psychophysiolgist



with the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), where she worked primarily with the rock climbing, archery, shooting, and BMX teams on everything from performance issues to dealing with the media.

A sports psychophysiolgist works to harmonize the mind and body to enhance athletic performance and prevent injuries. “Athletes want to know what’s going on in their brains,” she says. “My mantra is: ‘Your emotions are going

**“In athletics, as in life, anxiety is basically worrying about the future. It’s always best to stay in the moment.”**

to happen.’ I train people to be open to that idea.”

With the Guardians, Shaw expects to visit the organization’s six minor-league teams

over the course of the season and spend many of the Guardians’ homestands in Cleveland. Shaw, who lives in Denver, is also available on call when needed.

Working her first spring training with the team in February, she found many players receptive to her skills. “Oftentimes, players come to me to work on performance enhancement,” she says. “They know they’re capable of doing more, but they can’t figure out why [that isn’t happening]. So I have to play detective and investigate their behavior patterns to find where the problem lies.”

It could be something as simple as learning strategies for sleeping better, or as complex as working through deep-seated issues involving past trauma. Getting to the heart of any issue begins by having athletes talk about themselves, which enables Shaw to identify stressors in their off-field lives.

During spring training, several players wanted to talk about their performance, including a pitcher who was recovering from “significant injuries,” she says. “His coaches said he was experiencing the ‘yips’—command issues in his delivery. After talking for a bit, he revealed his biggest fear was: *what if he never recovers?*”

Shaw talked with him about his surgery, subsequent rehab, and current recovery. Then the player revealed the cause of his anxiety. “He told me he really wanted to contribute to the team, but was afraid that if

he didn't perform well, his teammates would think he was unreliable," Shaw says. "That got him all wound up, which contributed to his losing control of his pitches. I told him: 'Let's focus on the things you need to do to have command of your delivery and also acknowledge that all pitchers experience infrequent loss of control.'"

Her advice: Be in the moment. Concentrate on one pitch at a time. She also took the player, who she declined to name, through visualizations with the goal of feeling comfortable on the pitching mound. He eventually regained the ability to control his pitches, which lessened his anxiety on the mound.

"In athletics, as in life, anxiety is basically worrying about the future. It's always best to stay in the moment," notes Shaw, whose sessions often involve looking at film with players and training them about the importance of their breathing.

"We use breathing techniques as a way to manage the activation in the nervous system—specifically as a way to dial it down," she explains. "It could be used before a guy gets into the batter's box if he notices he's more amped than he wants to be, or after a game when a guy has trouble shifting into recovery mode. It could also be used in the middle of the night if he wakes up and can't fall back asleep."

Lonnie Soloff, senior vice president of medical services for the Guardians, says Shaw "brings a unique skill set of

sports psychology and mental health awareness counseling to the team. The players find her very easy to talk to. And her background experience with USOC athletes made her a highly desirable candidate for us."

An injury as a freshman on Penn's gymnastics team ended Shaw's athletic career but deepened her interest in sports psychology. "Fear can be a big part of your life," she says. "From an early age, I read a lot of books on how we can manage our fears."

After graduating with a degree in philosophy, politics, and economics, she spent a year in Germany, where she coached sports at an international school in Munich. She returned to the US and earned two degrees in counseling psychology with a sports psychology specialization from Boston University. After working in private practice, she joined the USOC in 2013.

"So many athletes are speaking out now about mental health issues," she says, pointing to tennis star Naomi Osaka and gymnast Simone Biles, both of whom have been especially prominent in disclosing their struggles.

"Unfortunately, many athletes don't get explicit instructions on how to work with themselves and their nervous feelings. My job is to help them work with their self and be successful. It's a privilege to sit with a player and get into his mind and show him how to deal with explicit stressors."

—Benjamin Gleisser



## Dreaming in Color

This pro soccer player's interests extend well beyond the field.

**D**uke Lacroix C'15 was one game into his sixth season as a professional soccer player when play was halted in March 2020 at the onset of the pandemic. In his first year with the Charlotte Independence of the United Soccer League (USL) Championship, the second tier of American soccer, Lacroix was new in town and needed something to do.

In between occasional workouts at a park and trips to the

grocery store, Lacroix first dabbled in video editing, before tinkering with design programs, indulging an interest in drawing he'd had since childhood but had never cultivated. When the summer of 2020 exploded into roiling racial unrest over the murder of George Floyd, Lacroix saw an outlet to express his emotions.

What resulted is a symbol for social justice to complement his soccer path. During Black History Month in February,

Lacroix designed a “Dream in Color” scarf, a limited-edition collaboration between the USL and its Black Players Alliance. Selling for \$30, proceeds from the scarf, which quickly sold out, went to charitable initiatives in the Charlotte and Sacramento areas.

“It was always something I was interested in, but never took the time to formally develop,” Lacroix says. “And with the extra time I had during the pandemic, and a lot of these issues that affected me, I wanted an expressive way to get it out.”

The words “Dream in Color” are emblazoned on a black background in a Pan-African color scheme of red, green, and yellow. The reverse side features motifs common to the Black empowerment movement, including a Black face in silhouette, a deep-rooted tree, and a raised fist. The slogans “Inspire the Future” and “Honor the Past” fill near the fringed ends.

Lacroix teamed with one of the league’s graphic artists, T.J. Grier, on the project. The two aligned quickly on what they wanted to convey. Lacroix drew upon his parents’ Haitian heritage and Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech to encapsulate what he calls “the multitude and fluidity of life,” something that he hopes resonates with people of all racial identities.

“Working with Duke was amazing,” Grier says. “There’s only so many opportunities you get to work as an artist directly with an athlete, so this was an incredible opportunity.

Coming up with the idea, it was really fluid. It seemed like we were on the same page right out of the gate.”

Lacroix never thought of himself as particularly artistic. He started at Penn as an engineering student before switching to sociology, initially a better fit with the athletic demands in his schedule but a subject that he “fell in love with.” He started playing guitar as a hobby in college, to unwind during an All-Ivy career on the pitch that included the fifth most points in program history. He was named the 2013 Ivy League Offensive Player of the Year, helping the Quakers win their first outright league title since 1972.

Soccer has always been just one aspect of Lacroix’s identity, something that Rudy Fuller recognized during the recruiting process. The former men’s soccer coach, now Penn’s senior associate athletic director for intercollegiate programs, understood that Lacroix could play for just about any program in the country. But he chose the education and opportunity that Penn offered.

“Duke has always been an incredible representative and steward of our program,” Fuller says. “I take a great deal of pride in watching him grow and develop not only as a player at the professional level but as a leader of men, and what he stands for and his values. He’s a very special young man.”

Much of that comes from what Fuller calls a quiet self-confidence that made Lac-

## **Lacroix is planning to start an online store for his design work, selling digital prints whose proceeds will benefit community soccer charities.**

roix an instant leader for the Quakers. The two-year captain went undrafted by Major League Soccer in 2014, but he caught on in the lower levels. He’s in his second season with Sacramento Republic FC, following stints with teams in Indianapolis; Orange County, California; Reno, Nevada; and Charlotte. He overcame a knee reconstruction in 2017 with Orange County, and at 28, he’s playing as well as he ever has. He’s translated his offensive gifts into a career as a technical and capable defender who can still deliver a scoring punch, as he did with his game-winner on March 27 against FC Tulsa and his two-goal effort in a US Open Cup victory on April 7.

And at every stop on his pro soccer journey, he’s been active in the community, fostering grassroots support from fans and hosting soccer clinics for kids. He learned from Charlotte’s contingent of advocates, including several founders of the USL Black Players Alliance, and has become a valued member to a Sacramento club with a reputation throughout American soccer for its efforts at inclusive community engagement. To that end, Lacroix is planning to start an online store for his design work, sell-

ing digital prints whose proceeds will benefit community soccer charities.

While creating the “Dream in Color” scarf, Lacroix reflected on something his father told him often as a kid. Patrick, one of eight kids, emigrated from Haiti to the United States during middle school. In addition to being Duke’s first coach, he provided his early exposure to the sport: before Lacroix started club soccer as a 10-year-old, he cut his teeth against cousins and friends in the North Jersey Haitian diaspora who would turn family gatherings into soccer sessions. “My first soccer experiences were just playing with my dad and brother,” Duke says. “My brother was a little older, and he got into organized soccer a little earlier than me. So my first memories of soccer were playing at my grandma’s house.”

Patrick always urged Duke to approach the game of soccer with creativity—which Duke has taken to heart, on and off the field.

“My dad always said when I was younger that the field is a canvas and you go out there and create and paint and do something special,” Lacroix says. “It’s kind of cool to work within the framework of the rules of the game to make something beautiful. And it’s the same thing with art: you build your own framework and you want to make something of it and you put a personal touch to whatever you put on the field or on the page.”

—Matthew De George

# DIGITAL+ IPAD



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“My wife Jayne and I are pleased to announce a new set of Penn alumni, our triplets Emma Davies C’22, Julia Davies C’22, and Pryce Davies C’22, who graduated as Benjamin Franklin Scholars, each *summa cum laude*.”

—Richard J. Davies C’83

#### Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12–15, 2023!

## 1953

**Nick Lyons W’53** writes, “I recently edited a book of selections from my late wife Mari Lyons’s essays, journals, and talks, with more than 75 photographs of her paintings. It’s called *A Painter’s Life* and includes an essay on Mari by Jed Perl. It will be published by Skyhorse Publishing in November. I turned 90 in June and still write every day, following Delacroix’s motto, ‘Never a day without a stroke.’” Nick’s latest Alumni Voices essay, “Nearing Ninety,” appears in this issue.

## 1959

**Samantha Grier CW’59** writes, “Delighted to announce that my spiritual self-help book has published under a pen name (not Penn name)—Shulamit Sofia—to rave reviews. *Climbing the Sacred Ladder: Your Path to Love, Joy, Peace, and Purpose* is now available on Kindle. This book is designed to help support you in coping with the many challenges and stressors of your life, including aging and other personal issues, as well as supporting you in maintaining a calm and

positive attitude at this difficult time in history. Personal consultations are available at [info@soulstrengthseminars.com](mailto:info@soulstrengthseminars.com).”

**Paul D. Pearlstein C’59** wrote a review of Walter Stahr’s new book, *Salmon P. Chase: Lincoln’s Vital Rival*, which was posted on the *Washington Independent Review of Books*’ website on March 4 ([tinyurl.com/pearlstein](http://tinyurl.com/pearlstein)). Paul, a retired lawyer, writes, “I have been writing book reviews since the mid-1950s.”

## 1961

**Dr. Henry Greenberg C’61**, a lecturer in the department of epidemiology at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, writes, “My new book, *No Ordinary Doctor; No Ordinary Time*, is available in paperback and digital format at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. I had a wide-ranging medical career, delving into many of the nooks and crannies of medicine, a career that is not possible in today’s imperial and corporate healthcare world. I also witnessed and was a participant in the most dramatic changes ever in medical science. All in all, a career in full.”

**Dr. Jerry Levin CGS’61** writes, “My play *Herzl’s Analysis* will be given a dramatic read-

## We Want to Hear from You

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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.

ing at the Peconic, New York, community hall on June 12. Theodor Herzl and Sigmund Freud lived on the same street but, until I brought them together, had little connection. Last year a similar reading of *Edith Stein*, my play about a Jewish woman who became a Carmelite nun, perished in Auschwitz, and was subsequently canonized, was very well received. Seventeen books and four *Gazette* travel articles later—some of which have been translated into Farsi, Italian, and Greek—I continue to practice psychotherapy. Although I am aware that the ice gets thinner, so far I am a happy and lucky guy.” Jerry’s latest Alumni Voices essay, about his 200-mile bike ride in southern Italy at age 81, appeared in our Nov/Dec 2018 issue.

## 1962

**Richard Light W’62 G’64** and **Allison Jegla C’16** have coauthored a new book, *Becoming Great Universities: Small Steps for Sustained Excellence* (Princeton University Press). Richard is a professor of teaching and learning at Harvard University, and Allison is a nonprofit leader and higher education strategist.

## 1964

**Dr. Ed Rossomando D’64** has been inducted into the 2022 Innovators Hall of Fame by *Incisal Edge*, a magazine for dental professionals. Ed, a professor emeritus at the University of Connecticut School of Dentistry, was honored for his work with the Center for Research and Education in Technology and in promoting dental education. *Incisal Edge*’s profile of him can be read in its Spring 2022 issue, at [tinyurl.com/rossomando](http://tinyurl.com/rossomando).

## 1965

**Dale Richard Perelman WG'65** writes, "I've recently completed my ninth book, *Death at the Cecil Hotel in Los Angeles*, a true crime story about the serial killers, the suicides, and the unusual happenings for which the hotel is famous."

## 1966

**Dr. Joel Brenner C'66**, director emeritus of the Taussig Heart Center/Pediatric Cardiology at Johns Hopkins Hospital, 1999–2019, and previous director of pediatric cardiology at the University of Maryland Medical Center, 1982–1999, has retired from practice. He is also a former president of the Maryland affiliate of the American Heart Association and a former president of the medical staff at the University of Maryland Medical Center. He writes, "After training, I served two years of active duty in the US Navy/Bethesda Naval Hospital, returning to my academic career at the University of Virginia Medical Center as director of the Pediatric Cardiac Catheterization lab, before moving to Baltimore. Working with wonderful colleagues during my 50-year career, I have authored more than 70 peer-reviewed articles and a dozen book chapters. In the 1990s our group was instrumental in the promulgation of information in the emerging field of fetal cardiology, sponsoring meetings around the world. I am most proud of our fellowship training program, producing the next generation of leaders in our field. I have begun a new position, teaching practice/management issues in pediatric cardiology to the Graduate Nurse Practitioner PhD program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. I have also had the good fortune to have the support and love of my wife of 54 years, who eschewed acceptance at Penn to attend Cornell, but we still remained together."

## 1969

**Andrew Beckerman C'69** writes, "When you last heard from me, I was living in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In late 1995, I participated in the first successful highly active anti-retroviral drug trial and began 26 years of an undetectable HIV viral load. On November 1, 2005, I immigrated to 'kinder, gentler Canada,' specifically Victoria, and was thrilled to become

a Canadian citizen on February 11, 2015. Although trained as an architect and after running a small hotel, my life in Canada has traveled a different pathway. As an HIV+ person, I was comfortable being a public face of HIV and I found myself volunteering with charitable societies and attending conferences across the country advocating for better treatment of my struggling peers. Like every immigrant and refugee, I work hard to repay the generosity of the very warm welcome I received from Canada. I have been awarded medals from United Way of Greater Victoria (Honorary Lifetime Member), my home province, British Columbia (Good Citizenship), the City of Victoria (Honorary Citizen), and the Association of Philanthropic Professionals on Vancouver Island. Immigration is a veritable fountain of youth as one gets to begin a whole new life. November 1 is my Canadian birthday; on November 1, 2021, I turned 16!"

**Martin Bornstein W'69** writes, "I've published a book on how to solve cryptograms, called *Keys to the Crypt*. The book demonstrates how to identify patterns of letters, words, and phrases through observation, analyzing the data by deductive reasoning and the use of probability, drawing conclusions on what are the most likely answers and then testing those hypotheses. This book has received high praise from several experts in this field, including Jeff Allen, president of the American Cryptogram Association, and Randall Nichols, professor emeritus of cybersecurity, intelligence, and forensics at Utica College."

**Joseph Cooper W'69 L'72** has published his debut picture book, *Grandpa's Lonely, Isn't He?* Joseph writes, "The story depicts a young boy's concern for his grandfather, from whom he is distanced during the height of the COVID contagion. The story is intended to serve as a tribute to all those—of all ages and backgrounds—who, by various means and strategies, managed to deal with the separations, uncertainties, isolation, and loneliness of the COVID years. At its core, the story is about missing those we care about—about being missed, about being cared about." More information can be found at [grandpaslonelyisnthe.com](http://grandpaslonelyisnthe.com) or by emailing [book@grandpaslonelyisnthe.com](mailto:book@grandpaslonelyisnthe.com).



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**Phil DeSantis ChE'69** writes, "I'm pleased to announce the publication of the fourth edition of *The Handbook of Validation of Pharmaceutical Processes*, which I coedited. I have been a long-time contributor to this series in the areas of sterilization, project management, pharmaceutical equipment qualification, and process validation. In my more than 50 years in the pharmaceutical industry, I have worked to establish the discipline of pharmaceutical engineering as a key contributor to the safety and efficacy of the drug products that we deliver to patients, and my work has taken me all over the globe. I have also served as a trainer for the FDA field investigator training program. Now semi-retired, I continue to provide consulting services where I can contribute to the important effort to fight disease. I recently completed my term as chair of the Science Advisory Board of the Parenteral Drug Association and continue to be active in that organization, as well as the International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering and the Council for Pharmaceutical Excellence. Visit the council's website ([councilforpharmaceuticalexcellence.org](http://councilforpharmaceuticalexcellence.org)) for some of my thoughts

regarding the state of pharmaceutical manufacturing and its applicable regulations.”

**Dr. Barry R. Zitin C’69** writes, “Off to a good start! On April 22, 1972, I married my Harvard Medical School classmate, Melinda Grindrod. On April 22, 2022, we celebrated our 50th anniversary (via Zoom call with family and friends). After satisfying careers in pediatrics (Melinda) and psychiatry (me), we retired and moved from Boston to Jersey City. We have two daughters (a librarian in Boston and an English professor at Rutgers) and one terrific grandson. I still try to see the Mask & Wig show every year and remain convinced that my singing and dancing in high heels helped get me admitted to med school.”

## 1970

**Ted Gilmore W’70, Sandi Shustak Kligman MT’70, and Maureen Hare Luschini Nu’70**, 50th Reunion cohorts, write, “We’d like to congratulate and thank **Andy Wolk C’70, Tim Carson W’70, Toni Schmiegelow CW’70, Ira Harkavy C’70 Gr’79, Helen Frame Peters CW’70 G’74 Gr’79, Don Maynard ChE’70, and Judy Nemez Vredenburg CW’70** for their outstanding panel presentation ‘The Way We Were’ on May 13. The unsung stars of our Alumni Day parade were the two adorable grandchildren in a decorated float, but we need help in identifying the ‘70 classmate who is their proud grandfather. Please contact Lisbeth Willis at [lisbethw@upenn.edu](mailto:lisbethw@upenn.edu) with any information!”

**Tom Madden ASC’70**, CEO and founder of the public relations firm TransMedia Group, has written a new book, *Wordshine Man: Tips for Polishing Words Until They Sparkle*. Tom writes frequently for CommPro, a magazine for communications professionals, and his most recent article, “As Our World Becomes More Digital, NFTs Are Our Digital Property Rights,” can be read at [tinyurl.com/maddenNFT](https://tinyurl.com/maddenNFT).

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## 1973

**Seth D. Bergmann GEE’73** writes, “On March 18–19, I competed in three events, the 3,000 meters, the mile, and the 4x800-meter relay, at the USATF National Masters Indoor

Track championship meet in New York, finishing last in my age group in all three events.” Seth is 72 years old.

**Douglas Richardson ASC’73** writes, “I’ve been celebrating publication of my first novel, *Down Wind and Out of Sight*, with book signings in the US and abroad—Doha, Bangalore, Goa, Udaipur, Delhi, and London. I find writing fiction a wonderful, if challenging, change from my years as a nonfiction business book author and decades as a Dow Jones columnist. Interviewers seem interested in how the publishing world regards a 75-year-old debut novelist and recovering lawyer, and how best to market an off-the-wall genre-bender that already has been nominated for multiple awards. My Annenberg class reunion was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and indulge in lengthy games of show and tell.”

## 1974

**Amy Meislin Pollack GEd’74** writes, “After I retired from a long career in teaching, I became an author and recently published a middle-grade book, for ages 8–13. *The Adventures of Jelly Bean* is the story of a forthright fourth grader whom everyone calls Jelly Bean. The challenges she meets include being the youngest in her family and having three older brothers; feeling as if her parents and teachers often don’t understand her; dealing with the death of her beloved grandfather ... and more.” More information can be found at [amypollack.com](http://amypollack.com).

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## 1978

**Diane Kaplan C’78** announced in March that she will be leaving Rasmuson Foundation, a private Alaska-based family philanthropy, in early 2023. Diane joined the foundation in 1995 as the first employee and became president and CEO in 2001. Her announcement can be read at [rasmuson.org](http://rasmuson.org).

## 1979

**Patricia Reid-Merriitt SW’79 GrS’84**, Distinguished Professor of Africana Studies and Social Work at Stockton University,

writes, “I served as a Goodwill Ambassador to Soles 4 Souls, a national and international nonprofit organization that distributes free shoes in poor, economically disadvantaged communities. DSW (the shoe company) put out a call, seeking to identify 10 individuals willing to travel to Honduras to distribute free shoes to children in several local communities. Sharing my personal experiences about growing up in poverty, always in need of a good pair of shoes, resulted in my selection from a national pool of more than 3,000. However, due to the pandemic, the Honduras trip was delayed for two years. DSW, the sponsors of the program (providing complete financial support for the ambassadors and their guests), decided to switch the program to several project communities in Los Angeles County. I spent four days trying to find the perfect shoe and perfect fit for hundreds of children. It was such an exciting moment for the children and their parents. I am grateful to DSW and Soles 4 Souls for providing me with this unique opportunity.”

## 1981

**Dr. Gregg Coodley C’81** writes, “I’ve just published a new book, *Taming Infection: The American Response to Illness from Smallpox to COVID*. The book tells the story of how 15 major infections, such as tuberculosis, yellow fever, malaria, and syphilis, have affected American history. It looks at how Americans have often responded with scapegoating of certain populations, ignorance and fear, and yet eventual triumph to each of these diseases. I continue to work full time as a primary care doctor at the Fanno Creek Clinic in Portland, Oregon. My next book will address the crisis in primary care in America and is scheduled for a late fall publication date.”

**Joe Jablonski C’81 L’87** shares that his novel *A Thing with Feathers* is a finalist for two 2022 Eric Hoffer Book Awards, the Montaigne Medal and the da Vinci Eye. The Montaigne Medal is awarded to “books that either illuminate, progress, or redirect thought.” The da Vinci Eye is awarded “to books with superior cover artwork ... judged on both content and style.” The image on the cover of Joe’s book is created by Russian artist Julia Tochilina.

## 1982

**Dr. Beth Desaretz Chiatti CGS'82 WEv'84**, associate professor of nursing at Drexel University, has been appointed director of the RN to BSN Completion Program at Drexel University's College of Nursing and Health Professions. She has published numerous papers and given presentations related to transcultural nursing, immigrant health, reproductive health, and culturally competent care. Her dissertation research, "Culture Care Beliefs and Practices of Ethiopian Immigrants," won a Research Award from the Transcultural Nursing Society and a NEF Scholarship from the Nurses Educational Fund. She recently authored a chapter on culture and diversity for a fundamentals of nursing textbook. For many years, Beth worked as a nurse, a genetic counselor, and a clinical resource coordinator at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

**Deborah Wong C'82** writes, "I've recently joined the boards of the Chinese American Museum DC, the nonprofit arts organization Great Leap in Los Angeles, and Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale (RILM), which produces resources for the music research community. My most recent book, *Louder and Faster: Pain, Joy, and the Body Politic in Asian American Taiko* (University of California Press, 2019), was recognized with best book awards from the Society for Ethnomusicology and the International Association for the Study of Popular Music, US Chapter."

**Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12-15, 2023!**

## 1983

**Dr. Andrew Chapman C'83** has been appointed enterprise director and executive vice president of oncology services at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health in Philadelphia.

**Richard J. Davies C'83** writes, "My wife Jayne and I are pleased to announce a new set of Penn alumni, our triplets **Emma Davies C'22**, **Julia Davies C'22**, and **Pryce Davies C'22**, Class of 2022, who graduated as Benjamin Franklin Scholars, each *summa cum laude*. Emma will be attending Harvard

Law School this fall, Julia will be researching thrombosis at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital before attending medical school, and Pryce will be pursuing research in applied economics at MIT."

**Howard Yaruss L'83** has written a new book, which will be published in September, *Understandable Economics: Because Understanding Our Economy Is Easier Than You Think and More Important Than You Know*. Howard is an economist, attorney, and adjunct professor of real estate at New York University.

## 1984

**Helen "Honey" Beuf CGS'84** writes, "After the death of my beloved 19-year-old daughter Liv in 2019, my daughter Tess and I started the Liv Project, a nonprofit organization developing creative tools that encourage fearless conversations to turn the tide of youth suicide. We have a film coming out this year, *My Sister Liv*, directed by Grammy Award-winning director Alan Hicks and produced by Oscar-winning producer Paula DuPré Pesmen. It reveals the realities of stigma, the struggles of mental health, and the aftermath for the survivors left behind in a suicide. We have also developed a fun and relatable conversation game for ages 13 and older: *The Game that Goes There*, cocreated with Humanaut and made in collaboration with mental health professionals and youth advisors. Our organization has a number of creative programs, tools, and workshops, all designed to normalize the conversation around youth mental health and suicide. Please check out our website, [thelivproject.org](http://thelivproject.org), and consider making a donation to help us continue our work to bring these valuable tools to young people around the country." Honey invites alumni contact at [honey@thelivproject.org](mailto:honey@thelivproject.org).

## 1985

**Nancy Bea Miller C'85** exhibited new still life and landscape paintings at F.A.N. Gallery in Philadelphia's Old City neighborhood, April 1-29. More than 40 oil paintings in sizes ranging from a few inches to a few feet were on display. Nancy writes that most

of the paintings were created during the pandemic and are "the expression of ideas and feelings that have been forming in my mind for many years. Having a long period of enforced downtime meant that I finally had the time to focus more intensively on what I have been wanting to express."

## 1986

**Joan Roop GNu'86** has been awarded a doctorate in education from Saint Elizabeth University.

## 1987

**Adam Finerman W'87 L'90 WG'90** writes, "I recently moved law firms to become a partner at BakerHostetler and cohead of its IPOs and Securities Offerings Team."

**Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12-15, 2023!**

## 1988

**Karen Weintraub C'88** and **Michael Kuchta C'88** have coauthored a new book, *Born in Cambridge: 400 Years of Ideas and Innovators* (MIT Press). The book chronicles cultural icons, influential ideas, and world-changing innovations that all came from Cambridge, Massachusetts, where the authors are based.

## 1989

**Thomas Lambert C'89**, a managing partner of FLB Law in Westport, Connecticut, has been named an honoree of the 2022 Connecticut Legal Awards, presented by the *Connecticut Law Tribune*. Thomas is one of three finalists in the Best Mentor category.

## 1990

**David J. Glass C'90** has been elected to another term as managing partner at Enenstein Pham & Glass, a law firm focusing on civil litigation and family law.

**Laura Ferguson Richardson C'90**, a first-grade teacher at Edith C. Baker School in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, is the recipient of a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award, administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House

Office of Science and Technology Policy, recognizes “outstanding teachers for their contributions to the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science.”

## 1991

**William Hudders GFA’91** writes, “Two of my most recent collages were featured in a group show at Gross McLeaf Gallery in Philadelphia in May.” Titled *Residential Tourist*, the show “considers voyeurism a tonic for isolation, interrupted socializing, and deferred travel.” William exhibited his collages titled *Monkey Puzzle* and *Viewfinder*.

**Tom Jester GFA’91**, a principal with the architecture firm Quinn Evans, has been named chief operating officer for the firm. He joined Quinn Evans in 2006 and has directed many of the firm’s most challenging projects, including the modernization of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC.

**Darren Rosenblum C’91 L’95**, a law professor at McGill University, has been appointed associate dean of graduate studies at McGill’s Faculty of Law.

## 1992

**Yvonne Armendariz C’92 CGS’98** was elected to serve as president of the Wake County Bar Association (WCBA) in North Carolina for 2022. She served as president elect of the WCBA in 2021 and has been a member of the WCBA board of directors since 2018. The WCBA/Tenth Judicial District is the largest bar organization in North Carolina, and she serves as its first Latinx president in its over 95-year history. Yvonne is a family law attorney in private practice. She invites alumni contact at [yvonne@armendarizlaw.com](mailto:yvonne@armendarizlaw.com).

**Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12–15, 2023!**

## 1993

**Lisa Nass Grabelle C’93 L’96** and **Kiera Reilly C’93** write, “We can’t wait to ‘Talk Thirty to Me’ for our 30th Reunion, May 12–13, 2023. Our reunion planning committee rocks—there is so much enthusiasm on our planning Zoom calls. Special thanks to **Eli**

**Faskha EAS’93 W’93** for being our tech and Zoom guru, **Jen Eisenberg Bernstein C’93** for leading our outreach committee, **Joel Yarbrough W’93** and **Monica Goldstein Avinami C’93** for sharing flashback photos, **Mitchell Kraus C’93** for writing lyrics for our theme song, and **David Foster EAS’93** and Joel for leading our LinkedIn/Facebook targeted outreach. Join our Class of ‘93 Facebook group and email us at [upenn1993@gmail.com](mailto:upenn1993@gmail.com) if you’d like to join the planning committee! #talk30tome93”

## 1994

**Pamela Grebow Ehrenberg C’94** has coauthored a middle-grade novel (for readers ages 9–12) with Tracy López. Titled *Detour Ahead*, it tells the story of Gilah, a 12-year-old neurodiverse Jewish girl who is finally allowed to ride the bus alone. There, she strikes up a friendship with Guillermo, a young Salvadoran American boy resigned to taking the bus while his bicycle is being repaired. “Through Guillermo’s poetry and Gilah’s prose, the two navigate the detours of their families, their friendship, and themselves.”

**Omolola Ijeoma Ogunyemi GEng’94 Gr’99** has written her first book, a novel in stories, titled *Jollof Rice and Other Revolutions*. From the press materials, “Nigerian author [Ogunyemi] makes her American debut with this dazzling novel, which explores her homeland’s past, present, and possible future through the interconnected stories of four fearless globe-trotting women. Moving between Nigeria and America, [the book] is a window into the world of accomplished Nigerian women, illuminating the challenges they face and the risks they take to control their destinies.”

## 1996

**Salamishah Tillet C’96**, a contributing critic at large for the *New York Times*, received a 2022 Pulitzer Prize for journalism in the Criticism category “for learned and stylish writing about Black stories in art and popular culture—work that successfully bridges academic and nonacademic critical discourse.” Salamishah is also a professor of creative writing and African American and

African studies at Rutgers University. (See “Salamishah Tillet’s Journey,” Sep/Oct 2014.)

**Jared Viders C’96** has published his second book, *The Light of Day: Slices of Life and the Lessons They Teach*, published by Mosaica Press.

## 1999

**Andrea Canepari GL’99**, a former counsel general of Italy in Philadelphia, and Judith Goode, a professor emerita of anthropology at Temple University, are coeditors of a new book from Temple University Press. Andrea writes, “*The Italian Legacy in Philadelphia: History, Culture, People, and Ideas* tells the centuries-long story of Italian heritage in the Philadelphia region.” The book was featured on *Philadelphia* magazine’s website on December 23 ([tinyurl.com/canepari](http://tinyurl.com/canepari)). Andrea Canepari GL’99 also received a 2022 honorary degree from the American University of Rome in May.

**Jared Fishman C’99** is a former federal civil rights prosecutor and founding executive director of Justice Innovation Lab, a nonprofit that works towards a more equitable, effective, and fair justice system.

**Richard Hollman C’99** see Josué “Joshua” Brenner C’02.

**Kevin Schmiesing Gr’99** has authored a new book, *A Catholic Pilgrimage through American History: People and Places that Shaped the Church in the United States*.

## 2000

**Iosefa Alofaituli C’00** is executive director and cofounder of CIELO, a nonprofit that trains residents of Orange County, California, to become economically self-sufficient through entrepreneurship. His organization was recently featured in 11 regional magazines in southern California ([tinyurl.com/IosefaCIELO](http://tinyurl.com/IosefaCIELO)).

## 2001

**Fabian Castro W’01** has been promoted to executive vice president of multicultural marketing at Universal Pictures.

**Jared Susco W’01 GrEd’14** writes, “After four fabulous years with Benefits Data Trust (a social enterprise that assists vulnerable populations with accessing public benefits through policy/practice modernization and

tech-enabled, human-centered, data-driven strategies), I moved in March to the Department of Radiation Oncology at Penn Medicine, one of the world's premier centers for research, care, and education in cancer. It's a bittersweet transition for sure, but the role of chief financial officer for the department opened while I was recuperating in a hospital bed after my final (let's hope) surgery this winter, and I knew I had to apply there and then. Having recently waged (and won) a three-year battle with cancer and its after-maths, I think it's a special opportunity to match personal connection and professional growth. Put another way, given that I'm lucky enough to still be around to complain about my cancer-related ailments, I'm delighted to be a part of this fight from the inside."

## 2002

**Nafeez Amin W'02 WMP'19** is cofounder of Smart with a Heart, a nonprofit GMAT and GRE prep test provider. Nafeez writes, "Smart with a Heart offers a full-service ecosystem of intimate live-instruction classes, free office hours, private mentoring and admissions advice from full-time teachers with 99th percentile scores, and a no-questions-asked free repeat policy. Our mission is to level the MBA playing field by making bespoken test prep accessible to everyone."

**Joshué "Joshua" Brenner C'02** writes, "I wrote and directed *Harris Kooler*, a short film that deals with mental health. It stars my fellow Mask & Wig and AEPI alum **Richard Holman C'99**, with cinematography by **Samantha Lynn Cohen EAS'15 GEng'15**. My hope is to launch a film production company that focuses on mental health recovery, but movies you'd watch anyway." The five-minute film can be viewed at [vimeo.com/703731129](https://vimeo.com/703731129).

**Solimar Otero Gr'02**, a professor of folklore and ethnomusicology at Indiana University and director of the Folklore Institute, shares that her book *Archives of Conjure: Stories of the Dead in Afrolatinx Religious Culture* has won the 2021 Albert J. Raboteau Prize for the Best Book in Africana Religions.

**Kim Rittberg C'02** writes, "After launching *Us Weekly's* video unit and working at Netflix, I founded Henry Street Media, a com-

munications company focused on content strategy, video production, and media training. I'm also the host of *Mom's Exit Interview*, a podcast highlighting women making bold choices in their search for professional and personal fulfillment. What happened to the two million moms who dropped out of the workforce during the pandemic? This podcast may have the answer. Guests include Rebecca Minkoff, Gretchen Rubin of the Happiness Project, and Carley Roney, cofounder of the billion-dollar Knot.com, in addition to inspirational everyday women. Its tagline is 'Working moms are learning we don't need a boss to give us permission—or a promotion—to create the lives we want.'"

## 2005

**Blair Kaminsky C'05**, a partner at the law firm Holwell Shuster & Goldberg (HSG), has been appointed to the firm's management committee. She also co-leads HSG's marketing and recruiting efforts, and she cofounded its diversity and inclusion committee.

**Clayton Rose G'05 Gr'07** announced that he will be stepping down as president of Bowdoin College on June 30, 2023. Since 2015, when he was named Bowdoin's president, applications for admission have risen 40 percent, with those from first-generation students up 115 percent and those from students of color up almost 50 percent. The school also created a senior position of chief diversity officer, built new residence halls and athletic facilities, and raised more than 85 percent of its goal of \$500 million, with more than two campaign years remaining.

**Nolan Tully C'05**, a partner at the law firm Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, has been appointed co-leader of the firm's insurance industry team.

## 2006

**Dr. Kenneth Katz GM'06** has been named a Patient Care Hero by the American Academy of Dermatology for his work as co-chair of the US Food and Drug Administration's Dermatologic and Ophthalmic Drug Advisory Committee, which provides advice to the FDA on new therapies to improve patients' skin, hair, and nail conditions.

## Alumni in Business

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

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**Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12–15, 2023!**

## 2008

**Wendy Chan WG'08** is cofounder of a grassroots movement called One Journey. She writes, "Motivated by my family's refugee stories and moved by the Syrian refugee crisis, I have been organizing this thousand-people free event with a group of refugee activists since 2018. Our most recent festival was held on June 25 at the Washington National Cathedral. At our festivals, people experience refugee life via virtual reality, converse with refugees living overseas, take studio lessons taught by refugee dancers and

artists, listen to inspiring refugee stories, purchase products to support refugees, and more importantly, visit the Take Action Tent that features local and global NGOs working to help refugees. More information can be found at [onejourneymfestival.org](http://onejourneymfestival.org).”

**Jim Saksa C’08** writes, “I celebrated an extremely well-lubricated ‘dadhelcor’ weekend in March, joined by 20 of my nearest and dearest friends. Penn was well represented by a coterie of sweet bros from SigEp and Penn Rugby, including **JJ Anthony C’09 GEd’14**, **Brian London C’06**, **Stel Plakas C’09**, **Tripper Sivick C’08**, **Kyle Srivastava EAS’10 W’10**, and **Zach Zwicker EAS’10**; and **Kyle Johnson W’06** was also there in the form of a cardboard cutout. For three blissful days, beers were chugged, boats were raced, songs were sung, shots were slugged, and—for a brief, beautiful moment—all of us gathered in the Poconos forgot that we’re not 23 anymore. Relatedly, my hangover lasted three days. (Totally worth it.) Oh, also, I should probably mention that my son, Georges Francis, was born May 7. And that I married his mom, Jennifer Khouri, last year. The pandemic screwed up our wedding plans, so we eloped at the dive bar where we had our first date. I’m a journalist, Jenn is an attorney at the US Department of Justice, and Georges is a freeloader who cries whenever I tell him to get a job.”

## 2009

**Colin Fegeley GEd’09** has been named the 2022 NCADA Athletic Director of the Year for the state of North Carolina by the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association. Colin is the athletic director for Green Level High School in Cary, North Carolina.

**Gerald Griffin Gr’09**, a former postdoctoral researcher in Penn’s department of microbiology, has been appointed provost of Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Gerald is a neuroscientist and virologist who has been a member of the Hope College faculty since 2015.

**Radhika Sen W’09** has published her first children’s picture book, *The Indian Dance Show*. She writes, “I created this book after realizing that I couldn’t find many children’s books about Indian dance, something

I have always loved so much. In this joyful and colorful book, children can enjoy learning over a dozen graceful dance styles from across India. I hope this story is fun for readers and also inspires them to learn about diverse global cultures.” *The Indian Dance Show* can be ordered from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other bookstores.

**Serena Stein C’09** and **Tiago Sanfelice C’09** write, “We were married in São Paulo, Brazil, on March 25. Among the guests in attendance were Best Man **Ercole Volonino W’09** and **Nina Johnson Windgätter C’09 G’09**. We met at Gregory College House, where we lived all four years at Penn.”

## 2010

**Nakita Reed GAR’10 GFA’10**, an architect at Quinn Evans, has been selected by the American Institute of Architects to receive a 2022 Young Architects Award. According to the release, “The national award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the profession in the early stages of their architectural careers.”

**Marissa Rosen C’10** has been promoted to chief of staff of Salesforce Industries at Salesforce, a cloud-based software company.

## 2014

**Adam Pascarella L’14**, founder and CEO of Second Order Capital Management, has published his first book, *Reversed in Part: 15 Law School Grads on Pursuing Non-Traditional Careers*. He writes, “The book shares the stories of 15 law school graduates who have created notable careers outside of traditional, day-to-day legal practice. Feel free to send any feedback or comments to [reversedinpart@gmail.com](mailto:reversedinpart@gmail.com).” More information can be found at [reversedinpart.com](http://reversedinpart.com). Adam lives in New York City.

## 2015

**Samantha Lynn Cohen EAS’15 GEng’15** see **Josué “Joshua” Brenner C’02**.

**John A. McCabe LPS’15** has written a new novel, *The Girl in Japan: A Young Soldier’s Story*, which centers on his studies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It tells the story of Joe

McGrath, an Army recruit who, after being exposed to the ravages of atomic bomb detonations in the Nevada desert, meets the titular girl in Japan, Reiko, who was exposed to atomic detonations at the end of World War II.

**Michael J. Sorrell GrEd’15**, president of Paul Quinn College, is the recipient of the 2022 J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award from Southern Methodist University’s Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility. The award is given to “individuals who epitomize the spirit of moral leadership and public virtue.”

## 2016

**Allison Jegla C’16** see **Richard Light W’62 G’64**.

*Celebrate Your Reunion, May 12–15, 2023!*

## 2018

**Mana Sazegara GAR’18** has won a 2022 ICFF Editors Award, in the Body of Work category, from the International Contemporary Furniture Fair. The awards recognize the top designs in the furniture industry.

## 2021

**Daniel Rubin W’20**, a board member of the Global Livingston Institute (GLI), coordinated an Earth Day project for the nonprofit. He writes, “We hosted community cleanups in eight different locations around Uganda. Across all locations, we purchased over 100,000 pounds of plastic from the community, injecting nearly \$10,000 into the local economy. This plastic will be responsibly recycled and revenue/profit generating! We couldn’t have done this without our outstanding team in Uganda, partners, supporters, and friends. The GLI recycling initiative has a bright future ahead of it, and we are just getting started in making Uganda a greener, better place one recycled plastic bottle at a time.”

## 2022

**Emma Davies C’22** see **Richard J. Davies C’83**.

**Julia Davies C’22** see **Richard J. Davies C’83**.

**Pryce Davies C’22** see **Richard J. Davies C’83**.

## 1942

**Grace Russell Foley Mu'42**, Springfield, OH, a former executive secretary at a life insurance company; July 10, 2021, at 101. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority and the choral society.

**William M. Watt EF'42**, Annapolis, MD, a data systems developer for NASA; September 20, 2020. He served in the US Coast Guard.

## 1943

**Jessica Tofani Dimuzio CW'43**, Anthony, FL, March 4. One daughter is Dr. Jessica P. Dimuzio CW'74 V'78.

**Myron Feldman W'43**, Short, Hills, NJ, an executive in the wine and spirits industry; Feb. 28. He served in the US Navy during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity. One brother is Edward Feldman W'48, and his daughter is Allison F. LeVine CW'73.

**John Shacter ChE'43**, Kingston, TN, retired manager of planning for the chemical corporation Union Carbide; March 1, at 100.

**Arthur H. Simms W'43**, Bethesda, MD, a retired deputy general solicitor for Western Union; March 3. He served in the US Army during World War II.

## 1946

**Priscilla Silver Fourer CW'46**, Nipomo, CA, a retired biochemist; Dec. 25.

**Mary "ML" McKinney Loughran CW'46**, Lansdale, PA, a former schoolteacher; March 9. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority, and the badminton, field hockey, golf, and softball teams. Her husband is Francis H. Loughran W'45, and one daughter is Frances Loughran Garvey C'83, who is married to Paul G. Garvey W'82.

## 1947

**Rosalie Klein Gerson Mu'47**, Gladwyne, PA, April 27.

**Thomas P. Lyons W'47**, Wynnewood, PA, a hardware store owner; March 21. He served in the US Navy construction battalion (Seabees) during World War II.

**Herman Mattleman W'47 L'49**, Philadelphia, a lawyer who also served as Philadelphia's school board president from 1983 to 1990; April 2. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity.

**Morton J. Miller W'47**, Allentown, PA, cofounder and co-owner of a silk manufacturer; March 30. He served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II. One daughter is Nancy S. Miller C'79.

**Stanley Small W'47**, Hempstead, NY, April 15. He served in the US Army during World War II, earning a Purple Heart. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity. Three children are Bonnie Small Greenberg CW'71 GEd'72, Robin Small Margent CW'73, and Hillary Small Oser OT'76.

## 1948

**Mary T. "Terry" Flynn HUP'48**, Alexandria, VA, a retired nurse; March 27.

**Elizabeth M. Malizia Ed'48**, Philadelphia, a former teacher; March 24.

**Edwin J. Rosenbaum W'48**, Boca Raton, FL, former owner of an accounting firm; April 16.

**Edmund S. "Bud" Wartels W'48**, Green Hills, PA, a corporate attorney; April 2. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity. One daughter is Jodi F. Krueger C'87.

## 1949

**Cintra Morgan Badenhause CW'49**, Ellington, CT, a retired social worker and psychoanalyst; March 7, 2021. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, Penn Players, and the swimming team. Her son is John Phillips Badenhause EE'76.

**Gilbert M. Besser ME'49**, Havertown, PA, a former senior design specialist at Boeing; December 22. His brother is Dr. William F. Besser M'54.

**Maurice B. de Angeli C'49**, Pennsburg, PA, a vintage car restoration specialist; March 26. Two sons are Michael M. de Angeli C'73 and Daniel J. de Angeli C'82.

**Robert H. Farwell WG'49**, Hudson, OH, retired president of GTE Communications Systems; Feb. 20. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

## Notifications

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

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

Newspaper obits are appreciated.

**George S. Hershey C'49**, Chicago, a retired district contract manager for Armstrong World Industries, a floor and ceiling manufacturer; Nov. 21. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, Sphinx Senior Society, and the wrestling team.

**Margaret Mansley Kranich GEd'49**, Shrewsbury, MA, a former teacher and portrait artist; April 6.

**Franklin M. Milgrim W'49**, Miami, an employee in his family's fashion business, Milgrim Incorporated; Feb. 28. He served in the US Navy during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity.

**Henry R. Rossell W'49**, Moorestown, NJ, a retired director of insurance for Sunoco; April 24. He served in the US Armed Forces during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of the baseball and football teams.

**Joel B. Rothberg C'49**, Warminster, PA, a retired pharmacist; June 4, 2021. He served in the US Navy during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity.

**Alvin H. Weiss ChE'49 Gr'65**, Shrewsbury, MA, professor emeritus of chemical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute; March 6. He served in the US Army Chemical Corps during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi and the ROTC.

## 1950

**Dr. Stuart A. Fox C'50 V'53**, St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, a retired veterinarian; Jan. 31. He served in the US Army during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity. His children include Susan Fox CW'68 and Dr. Edgar Mark Fox V'81 LPS'15.

**Paul F. Mallon C'50**, Basking Ridge, NJ, a retired bank executive; Feb. 26. He served in the US Army during World War

II. His children are Linda Mallon CW'75 and Stephen R. Mallon GAr'77.

**John P. McGinnis C'50**, New York, retired chairman of a financial planning firm; Feb. 26. He is a veteran of World War II.

**Marianne Ortals HUP'50**, Springfield, PA, a retired nurse; March 2.

## 1952

**Mark K. Ford W'52**, Chester, MD, May 22, 2020. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Chi Rho fraternity. One daughter is Linda Ford Pustizzi CW'75.

**John L. Mather III W'52**, Villanova, PA, a sales executive in the paper and envelope industry; April 4. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and the soccer team.

**Dr. Raymond W. Salm Jr. D'52**, Palm Coast, FL, a retired dentist; Feb. 13. He served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II.

**Lewis F. H. Smith WG'52**, Cedar Park, TX, a retired executive assistant to the president for Bergen Community College; Jan. 22. He is a veteran of the Korean War.

**H. William Westerman W'52**, Ocean City, NJ, a retired CPA and owner of a candy shop; Jan. 9. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the ROTC.

## 1953

**Mel A. Adlerman C'53**, Monroe Township, NJ, former owner of an insurance company; Feb. 20. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Nu fraternity.

**Leon Galey W'53**, Carlsbad, CA, Oct. 1.

**Dr. Reuel May Jr. GD'53**, Ridgeland, MS, a retired oral and maxillofacial surgeon; March 27. He served in the US Air Force.

**Dr. John W. Severinghaus GM'53**, Ross, CA, professor emeritus of anesthesiology at the University of California San Francisco; June 2, 2021, at 99. He invented the first three-function blood gas analyzer, which monitored carbon dioxide, oxygen, and pH, and his prototype resides at the Smithsonian Institution.

**Barton M. Silverman MTE'53 CGS'07**, Bala Cynwyd, PA, a retired executive at Goldman Sachs; March 31. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity. One son is Michael Ward Silverman C'87.

**Grace A. Slotterback HUP'53 Nu'59 GNu'64**, Elizabethtown, PA, a nurse in the US Air Force; April 17.

**Leonard M. Voynow W'53**, Wynnewood, PA, a retired CPA; Feb. 26. He served in the US Navy. Two daughters are Dr. Judith A. Voynow C'78 M'82 and Sonia Voynow C'80.

## 1954

**Earl C. Conway C'54**, West Chester, PA, a retired sales and marketing representative for Procter & Gamble; March 24. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, the ROTC, and the swimming team.

**Russel I. Kully W'54**, Altadena, CA, a retired attorney; Feb. 24. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the tennis team.

**Dr. Edward J. Lemos C'54 V'57**, Barrington, NH, a retired veterinarian; March 16.

**Rabbi Simeon J. Maslin G'54**, Philadelphia, a longtime rabbi and author; Jan. 29. His wife is Judith Blumberg Maslin CW'57.

**R. Chase McDaniel II W'54**, Norristown, PA, managing partner of a commercial real estate agency; Feb. 22. He served in the US Air Force.

**Jerry S. Pressner W'54**, Lawrence, NY, retired president of his family's business that imported, exported, and manufactured toys and novelties; Jan. 5. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Nu fraternity. One daughter is Marlene K. Pressner C'83, and one grandchild is Michal Edelman WG'22.

**Dr. Leonard S. Ross M'54**, Barnstable, MA, a retired radiologist; March 9. He served in the US Army Medical Corps.

**Hon. Ronald P. Wertheim W'54 L'57**, Blue Hill, ME, a retired senior judge for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia; March 6. At Penn, he was a mem-

ber of Pi Sigma Alpha fraternity. His wife is Elizabeth Osborne FA'59.

**Dr. Robert E. Wilson C'54 V'57**, Surprise, AZ, a retired veterinarian; March 19. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and the tennis team.

## 1955

**Dr. Horace MacVaugh III M'55 GM'62**, Wayne, PA, a former associate professor of surgery in Penn's Perelman School of Medicine and a former chair of surgery at Lankenau Medical Center (PA); Jan. 24. He joined Penn's faculty in 1960 as an assistant instructor in surgery and became an associate professor in 1974, teaching at Penn until 1978. He was a prolific heart surgeon, performing 700 to 800 surgeries per year. He completed one of the first coronary artery bypass operations at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He served in the US Navy for more than three decades.

**David Milne IV W'55**, West Palm Beach, FL, Feb. 17. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Phi fraternity.

**Edwin R. Onimus C'55**, West Chester, PA, an executive at AT&T; April 3. He served in the US Air Force.

## 1956

**Nancy C. Crumling HUP'56 Nu'63 GNu'77**, Lititz, PA, a retired nurse; March 26.

**Horacio "Peter" Fabrega Jr. C'56**, Salt Lake City, a psychiatrist, professor, and medical anthropologist; Feb. 21. He served in the US Army Medical Department. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Xi fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the baseball team. His wife is Joan Sporkin Fabrega CW'57.

**Dr. Richard I. Feinbloom C'56 M'60**, Seattle, a retired physician; March 18. At Penn, he was a member of the debate council.

**Mark L. Hess C'56**, Georgetown, SC, a retired program director for the IT company Weston; April 24. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity and the ROTC.

**Robert J. Hiel C'56**, Trenton, NJ, April 14. He worked for the newspaper *US I:*

*Princeton's Business and Entertainment Journal*. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

**Clara Stevenson McGonigal CW'56**, Glenside, PA, an editor of chemical manuals for Sadtler Research Laboratories; March 4. Her children include Robert S. McGonigal C'81 and Ruth McGonigal Gundermann Nu'85.

**Dr. John F. Munnell V'56**, Athens, GA, professor emeritus of anatomy at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine; April 18.

## 1957

**Dr. William M. Anderson III C'57**, Camp Hill, PA, a retired pulmonologist; Nov. 13. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Acacia fraternity and the ROTC.

**Dr. Gene V. Bogaty M'57**, Vancouver, WA, a retired pathologist; Nov. 7. One son is David L. Bogaty C'91 W'91.

**Ellis A. Horwitz C'57**, Bryn Mawr, PA, a retired general counsel of Scott Paper and the trading services company ITOCHU International; March 24. His wife is Margot Freedman Horwitz CW'58 ASC'62, and his daughter is Claudia B. Horwitz C'88.

**John P. Illges III W'57**, Columbus, GA, a retired executive at a brokerage firm; April 3. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Patricia Worth Petrie DH'57**, Doylestown, PA, a former office manager at a dental clinic; Feb. 18.

**Dr. Nicholas A. Prioli V'57**, Jackson, FL, a firefighter; Oct. 23.

**Dr. Charles L. Putnam V'57**, Concord, NH, a retired veterinarian for the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture; Feb. 1.

**Harold R. Stone WG'57**, Verona, NJ, a retired market researcher for pharmaceutical companies; May 25, 2021. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

**Ramona Truncer HUP'57**, Allentown, NJ, a former nurse; Feb. 28, 2021.

**Donald S. Tuck W'57**, Boca Raton, FL, a former investment banker; April 6, 2021.

At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity. One daughter is Stephanie Beth Tuck C'87.

**Edward J. Vickers C'57**, New York, a retired stockbroker; March 8. At Penn, he was a member of the baseball and squash teams.

**Nancy Galbraith Washburne CW'57**, Jenkintown, PA, a medical librarian at Temple University and a domestic violence counselor; March 4.

## 1958

**J. Ralph Bennett W'58**, Port St Lucie, FL, July 28. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the golf team.

**Carol M. "Bill" Gatton WG'58**, Bristol, TN, a retired owner of an automobile dealership; April 18. He served in the US Army.

**Lorraine S. Kulpinski HUP'58**, Scottsdale, AZ, July 1.

**Mitchell Pierson Jr. C'58**, Rochester, NY, owner of a realty company; April 17. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity, Penn Players, and the heavyweight rowing team.

**Francis J. "Frank" Riepl W'58**, Vero Beach, FL, a retired executive at a New Jersey electric and gas company; April 9. At Penn, he was a member of Sphinx Senior Society and the football team, where he's best remembered for his 108-yard kickoff return for a touchdown against Notre Dame in 1955. One son is Glenn F. Riepl EE'87.

**Jere A. Young W'58**, West Chester, PA, former bank executive; March 24. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and the heavyweight rowing team. His wife is Constance W. Young HUP'57, and two daughters are Karen Young Deuschle Nu'84 and Tracy Young Merrill Nu'88, who is married to Allan Perry Merrill W'87. His brother is Ronald A. Young W'56.

## 1959

**Anna Miller Epling W'59**, Shreveport, LA, March 8.

**Harold L. Horsington WG'59**, Marblehead, MA, a former bank executive; March 19. He served in the US Army.

**Frederick G. Watson W'59**, Phoenix,

Feb. 23. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity and Penn Players.

## 1960

**Stephen J. Bier WG'60**, Lakewood, NJ, April 9.

**Helen C. Rogoff Davies Gr'60**, Philadelphia, a trailblazing professor of microbiology and associate dean for students and housestaff affairs in Penn's Perelman School of Medicine; March 23. She joined Penn's faculty in 1960 as an assistant professor of physical biochemistry, a department in which she was the first female faculty member. She became a full professor of microbiology in 1982, once again the first woman to do so. From 1991 to 1995, she was the School of Medicine's associate dean for student affairs. She was an expert on bacterial energetics, electron transfer, and the cytochrome system, and she studied infectious agents that did not use DNA or RNA to reproduce. Known as the "singing professor" because she used songs to help her students remember complex concepts, she won Penn's Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1977 and the Medical School's Distinguished Educator Award in 1989. Beginning in the late 1980s, she won the Medical Student Government Award for Basic Science Teaching over 30 times. She was also a strong supporter of women on campus. She and her husband, the late Robert E. Davies, Benjamin Franklin Professor and University Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry at Penn Vet, were both active in Penn's governing bodies and other campus organizations, and used these platforms to advocate for increased roles for women at Penn. She retired in 2021.

**William C. Fenn ChE'60**, Vero Beach, FL, a former executive at a manufacturer of fine china; April 4. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the lacrosse team.

**Gertrude Rowland Healy CW'60**, Skillman, NJ, a retired elementary school teacher; Feb. 10. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, Penn Players, and the field hockey and lacrosse teams. Her sister is Ann Rowland Reath CW'63.

**Marion Mural Krewson CW'60**, Springfield, PA, a retired high school math teacher; Feb. 5.

**Dr. Paul H. Langner C'60 V'66**, Albuquerque, NM, a veterinarian; March 29. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

**Eileen Rosenblum Mackevich CW'60**, Chicago, executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and cofounder of the Chicago Humanities Festival; March 14. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Phi Epsilon sorority, Mortar Board Senior Society, and the swimming and tennis teams.

**Angela C. Rossi HUP'60**, Parsippany, NJ, a nurse; April 1.

**Jane Davis Rourk OT'60**, Durham, NC, a retired clinical associate professor of occupational therapy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Jan. 3, 2021. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority.

**John G. Zimmerman Jr. WG'60**, Moon Township, PA, a retired business planning manager for Aristech Chemical; March 16. He served in the US Navy and the US Navy Reserve.

## 1961

**Andrew J. Callahan ChE'61**, Bartlesville, OK, a former engineer; June 17, 2021.

**Selma Roseman Davis CW'61 G'62**, Bala Cynwyd, PA, a researcher and psychology teacher at the Community College of Philadelphia; May 17. She was also a musician, journalist, and author of four mystery novels. At Penn, she was a member of WXPB and Penn Players. Her children include Wendy Davis Pollack C'85 L'88, Sally M. Davis C'89 G'90 Gr'95, and Morris A. Davis C'93 G'95 Gr'98. One grandson is Harrison A. Meyer C'19.

**Evelyn F. Embessi Nu'61 GNu'63**, Winchester, VA, a retired nurse; Jan. 26.

**David J. Feinberg Ar'61**, Cutler Bay, FL, a retired architect; Feb. 21. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity, WXPB, and the ROTC.

**Pamela "Penny" Palmer MacGahan EE'61**, Chevy Chase, MD, a retired software

engineer for the Naval Electronic Systems Security Engineering Center; July 20, 2018. At Penn, she was a member of WXPB.

**JoHanne Zerbey Martz L'61**, Orwigsburg, PA, a retired lawyer who also ran a bed and breakfast; Feb. 1.

**Peter G. Sparks C'61 Gr'68**, Wilmington, DE, a former director of preservation at the Library of Congress; March 16. He served in the US Army Corps of Engineers. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

**Deborah Peltz Wesson Ed'61**, Ponte Vedra, FL, a retired K-12 and college educator; March 14. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**Bruce B. Wilson L'61**, Wayne, PA, a retired executive and general counsel for the old railroad Conrail; April 13.

## 1962

**Robert N. Birnbaum C'62 L'65 G'76**, Wynnwood, PA, a former attorney; Jan. 1.

**R. David Bradley L'62**, Glenside, PA, a former lawyer; Dec. 13.

**Sr. Marie K. Conaughton GEd'62**, Lambertville, NJ, a retired nurse who later became a nun and directed a Catholic school for preschoolers and kindergarteners; Jan. 5. Earlier in her career, she served as acting director of nursing at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

**John W. Crosby W'62**, Trumbull, CT, a former Wall Street executive; March 16. He served in the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and the swimming and basketball teams.

**Augustus M. Filbert Gr'62**, Corning, NY, a retired director of Corning Incorporated; Feb. 24. He served in the US Army Ordnance Corps. At Penn, he was a member of the ROTC and the basketball team.

**Thomas M. Garrott III WG'62**, Memphis, TN, a retired bank executive; March 30. He served in the US Navy. One granddaughter is Allison Morrison WG'22.

## 1963

**George C. Ealer Jr. ME'63**, Glen Mills, PA, March 30. He designed steam turbines for Westinghouse and later was a systems

administrator for Comcast. His son is Jeffrey Parke Ealer WG'96.

**Dr. Morris Z. Gardner M'63**, Cheswick, PA, a radiologist; Jan. 14. He served in the US Army.

**Eugene P. Kaiser GEE'63 GrE'70**, Amissville, VA, a retired electronics engineer for the US Department of Defense; March 4.

**Giora M. Lebl WG'63**, Woodbury, CT, an international business consultant; Feb. 3. He was a survivor of the Holocaust.

**Roger T. Sheftel W'63**, Saint Davids, PA, former president of an information technology and services company; Feb. 19. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, Friars Senior Society, the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, Mask & Wig, and the football, rowing, and volleyball teams. His wife is Phoebe A. Sheftel Gr'74, and two children are Tisha Bradbury Martin CGS'93 and Ryan Brewster Sheftel EAS'95 W'95.

**James M. Thorne Ar'63**, Draper, UT, a retired architect; March 7.

## 1964

**Francis W. Deegan L'64**, Mattituck, NY, an attorney and former mayor of the Village of Sea Cliff (NY); April 18.

**Paul F. Noll GA'64 GFA'64**, Palm Coast, FL, a retired administrator for the State of Florida Department of Community Affairs; Feb. 8. Earlier, he was a professor of housing and urban design at several universities.

**Craig Robins C'64**, West Chester, PA, March 30.

**James E. Rogalski EE'64**, Barnegat, NJ, a former manager at AT&T; March 2.

**Robert L. Rubenstein C'64**, Williamsburg, VA, a former CPA and a retired director of administration at a law firm; Oct. 13, 2020. At Penn, he was a member of the fencing and track teams.

## 1965

**Richard J. Benz WEv'65**, Cinnaminson, NJ, Nov. 23, 2020.

**Lucian W. Dixon C'65**, Oxford, MS, a writer and director of independent films; July 9, 2021. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and the *Daily Pennsylvanian*.

**Nancy T. Snyder GNu'65**, Newtown Square, PA, a retired associate director of Lankenau Hospital School of Nursing (PA); April 9.

**George B. Warner PT'65**, Hummelstown, PA, a retired physical therapist; March 19.

## 1966

**Dr. Louis H. Betz M'66 GM'70**, Lewisburg, PA, a retired ophthalmologist; April 7. He served in the US Navy as a trauma surgeon during the Vietnam War. His wife is Joyce Fedders Betz CW'66, and his daughter is E. Dana B. Johns C'99.

**Dr. Jordan E. Bluth D'66**, Las Vegas, a former dentist; July 19, 2021. He served in the US Army as a dentist. His brother is Dr. Norman Bluth D'60.

**Rocco Conte II L'66**, Darien, CT, an attorney; Dec. 15, 2020. He served in the US military during the Vietnam War.

**Paul G. Gitlin C'66**, Newton Upper Falls, MA, a lawyer; March 15.

**Edwin S. Jackson Jr. W'66 WG'68**, St. Simons Island, GA, a retired entrepreneur who owned several small businesses; April 22. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

**Kenneth M. Robins W'66**, Denver, a retired attorney; April 6. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity and Mask & Wig.

**Arthur R. Steinberg Gr'66**, Brownsville, VT, professor emeritus at MIT; April 3.

**Marcia Stein-Tretler CW'66**, Great Neck, NY, Jan. 7. Her husband is Richard S. Tretler W'66, and one son is Jonathan Tretler C'93 WG'97.

**Burton H. Strom GEE'66**, Wakefield, RI, CEO of a Volkswagon restoration specialist; Oct. 14.

**David L. Talbott GCP'66**, Arlington, VA, a former urban planner for the City of Falls Church (VA); March 12. He was also a professor at the University of the District of Columbia.

## 1967

**Marc M. Diamond C'67**, Baltimore, a fundraising executive at several founda-

tions and universities; Dec. 16. At Penn, he was a member of WXPB.

**Dr. Thomas P. Nigra M'67**, Washington, DC, a dermatologist; March 21.

**Bernard C. Topper Jr. L'67**, Darien, CT, a retired attorney; April 7.

**Kenneth L. Wolfe WG'67**, Lebanon, PA, retired chairman and CEO of the Hershey Company; May 9, 2020. He served in the US Navy.

## 1968

**Dr. Dennis W. Cronin M'68**, Media, PA, a surgeon; April 1. He served in the US Air Force.

**Bruce T. Grimm Gr'68**, Potomac, MD, a retired economist for the US Department of Commerce; April 18, 2021.

**Robert A. O'Hare GEE'68**, Flourtown, PA, an electrical engineer for the UNIVAC division of Remington Rand; July 25.

**Dr. Joseph J. Zukoski Jr. D'68**, Panama City, FL, a retired dentist; January 21. He served in the US Navy Dental Corps.

## 1969

**E. Foster De Reitzes L'69**, Santa Fe, NM, a retired lawyer; Feb. 27.

**Frank N. Dimeo Sr. GrEng'69**, Drexel Hill, PA, a retired professor of electrical engineering at Villanova University; Feb. 19. He was also a research engineer for a defense contractor. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

**Barry A. Ebert WG'69**, Melbourne, FL, a retired business broker; Nov. 17.

**Patricia M. Haynor-Maaswinkel GNu'69**, Woodbury, NJ, a professor of nursing leadership and administration at Villanova University; Oct. 14.

**Sr. Rose M. Kershbaumer Nu'69 GNu'71**, Philadelphia, a former faculty member at Penn Nursing and the founder and director of several Penn centers that had global impact; March 20. She joined the Medical Mission Sisters in the early 1950s and trained as a nurse-midwife. After working abroad for organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the Peace Corps, and the Rockefeller Foundation, she returned to the US and took a

faculty position at Penn Nursing, where she cofounded a post-master's Teacher Education Program. She also served as associate director of Penn's Pan-American Health Organization/WHO Collaborating Center for Nursing and Midwifery Leadership and coordinator of the Penn-Malawi Women for Women's Health project. In Malawi, she delivered between 1,500 and 2,000 newborns. Over the course of her career, she published several journal articles and book chapters about her work, including multiple works discussing how she learned to incorporate Western medicine with the traditional medicine she encountered in Africa. She retired from the WHO Collaborating Center in 2003.

**Dr. Jeffrey A. Wortman V'69**, King of Prussia, PA, a professor emeritus of radiology and the former associate dean for academic and curricular affairs at Penn Vet and a former faculty member at the Perelman School of Medicine; March 11. He was hired as an assistant professor of radiology at Penn Vet in 1981 (he also accepted a secondary appointment as an assistant professor of radiology in Penn's School of Medicine in 1984). In 1987, he was promoted to associate professor of radiology. In 1999, he became the associate dean for academic and curricular affairs at Penn Vet, serving under three consecutive deans of the school. Among other accolades, he received the Veterinary Student Government Award for Excellence in Teaching and a Penn Alumni Award of Merit. He retired from Penn in 2012. He served in the US Army Veterinary Corps during the Vietnam War.

**Peter B. Vasta Jr. PT'69**, Savannah, GA, a retired home health physical therapist; March 26.

## 1970

**Dr. Thomas J. Braun W'70**, Denver, a retired physician at a Veterans Affairs hospital; Nov. 5. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity and the ice hockey team.

**Charles P. Green GME'70**, Kennett Square, PA, a mechanical engineer who founded his own company, Sierra Concepts; May 13, 2021.

**Janet E. McLaughlin FA'70**, Cottage Grove, OR, March 9.

## 1971

**Charles J. Hobe Jr. W'71**, Warminster, PA, an artist and owner of an antique restoration business; March 10. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, and the baseball and sprint football teams.

**John C. Kelbaugh Jr. WG'71**, Mount Pleasant, SC, an executive in the boat manufacturing industry; February 2. He served in the US Navy.

**Eugene F. Noel Jr. PT'71**, Alexandria, LA, a physical therapist; April 3.

## 1972

**Amy Ryerson Borer CW'72**, Newtown Square, PA, a horticulturist and owner of a landscape design company; March 1. Her husband is Edward Turner Borer W'60.

**Dr. Robert A. Doughty M'72 Gr'73 GM'73**, Easton, MD, a retired pediatric rheumatologist and former medical director at Nemours Children's Hospital; Jan. 21. He also held faculty appointments at the University of Pennsylvania and Thomas Jefferson University.

**Dr. Samuel W. Feinstein C'72 D'76**, Greenwich, NJ, a dentist; April 13, 2021. At Penn, he was a member of the fencing team. Two brothers are Michael A. Feinstein C'75 and David Feinstein GEng'76.

**Hon. Randy J. Holland L'72**, Rehoboth Beach, DE, a retired Delaware Supreme Court justice; March 15. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity.

**Dr. William C. Schlansker D'72**, Anchorage, AK, a retired dentist; Feb. 12.

## 1973

**Stephan H. Levitt Gr'73**, Flushing, NY, Oct. 14, 2020.

**Walter A. Levy G'73**, Philadelphia, a retired telecommunications consultant; April 11. He served in the US Army Signal Corps. His wife is Deborah H. Wolff, Esq. CW'62 GED'66, one son is Andrew G. Levy Gr'91, and one stepdaughter is Lesley Anne Wolff C'93.

## 1974

**Seth T. Gardner WG'74**, Wawa, PA, a banker and owner of a custom framing shop; March 5. He served in the US Army and the National Guard. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Phi fraternity.

**Anita Nosovsky Goldberg SW'74**, Baltimore, Sept. 6.

**Hollis T. Hurd L'74**, Presto, PA, an attorney; Feb. 25.

**David S. Machlowitz C'74**, Westfield, NJ, a retired general counsel in the pharmaceutical industry; Jan. 22. At Penn, he was a member of the *Daily Pennsylvanian*.

**Bonita "Bonnie" M. Moore Nu'74**, South Hamilton, MA, a nurse specializing in trauma and cardiac care; March 4.

**Mary M. Logrando Rubin Nu'74 GNu'82 GrN'92**, Sausalito, CA, a professor of nursing at the University of California San Francisco; Feb. 28.

## 1975

**Sung J. Choi G'75**, Philadelphia, a retired high school ESL (English as a second language) teacher; July 20, 2021. He served in the US Army. His wife is Monica Wolcott Choi GNu'72.

**John P. Claypool GFA'75 GAr'76 GCP'76**, Greenwood Village, CO, former director of AIA Philadelphia/Center for Architecture; June 29, 2020.

**Dr. Francis C. Plucinsky GM'75**, Spring Twp., PA, an anesthesiologist and director of a hospital's anesthesia department; Dec. 12. He served in the US Army.

**Jeffrey N. Savitz G'75 WG'75**, Dallas, founder of a market research company; Jan. 18, 2021. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity.

## 1976

**Hon. Bruce F. Bratton L'76**, Susquehanna Twp., PA, a former judge in the Dauphin County (PA) Court of Common Pleas; March 10. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

**Prentice S. Cole Jr. W'76**, Philadelphia, former owner of a wine distribution business and a barbecue restaurant; March 31. At Penn, he was a member of the Glee Club. His wife is Paula L. Rubin-Cole PT'76.

**Lawrence D. Norton WG'76**, Havana, FL, a retired marketing director for McDonald's; March 19. He served in the US Navy. His wife is Patricia D. Norton SW'76.

**Alan B. Vlcek L'76**, Jacksonville, FL, a lawyer; Feb. 24. He served in the US Navy and the US Navy Reserve.

## 1977

**Jo Ann Taricani G'77 Gr'86**, Seattle, a professor of music history at the University of Washington; Feb. 1.

## 1978

**Barrie Rabinowitz Cassileth Gr'78**, Los Angeles, a former associate professor of medical sociology in Penn's Perelman School of Medicine and a pioneer of cancer care; Feb. 26. After graduating from Penn, she was hired as a research assistant professor of medicine, eventually becoming an associate professor. She also served as director of Penn's Hospice Program and director of the psychosocial program at Penn's Cancer Center. She later taught at Duke, Harvard, and the University of North Carolina, and she founded the Integrative Medicine Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. She brought treatments like acupuncture and massage into mainstream cancer care, while emphasizing that natural methods should not be a substitute for conventional medicine. She retired from Memorial Sloan Kettering in 2016. Her children include Jodi Cassileth Greenspan C'84, Wendy Cassileth C'86, and Gregory M. Cassileth C'93.

**Jennifer R. Londre W'78**, Lincoln, NE, a corporate marketer and fitness instructor; March 21.

## 1979

**Eleanor Platt Erisman SW'79**, Gladwyne, PA, a former hospice worker; April 13.

**James E. Staker Jr. WG'79**, Bradenton, FL, a business manager and consultant; Feb. 23.

## 1980

**Charles E. DeBerry Jr. C'80**, Windsor, CT, an insurance underwriter; March 18.

## 1981

**Robert W. Larson Jr. C'81**, Tinton Falls, NJ, Dec. 24.

**Dr. Stephen E. Shpeen D'81**, Voorhees, NJ, a dentist and adjunct professor of dentistry at Penn Dental; April 19.

## 1982

**Gary A. Miller W'82 L'85**, Philadelphia, a lawyer; Oct. 8. One daughter is Rebecca Miller W'10.

## 1984

**Joan B. Bester C'84**, Port Washington, NY, a former school psychologist; Nov. 1.

**E. Juanita Hyson SW'84**, Lansdale, PA, a retired hospice social worker; March 12.

**Michael Lacovara C'84**, Riverside, CT, a lawyer specializing in mergers and acquisitions; Feb. 25.

**Rodney W. Meadows GAR'84**, Louisville, OH, an architect; March 25.

**Victoria M. Posner WG'84**, Rochester, NY, Dec. 24.

**Susan B. Rosle GNu'84**, Colchester, VT, a former assistant director of a child and adolescent mental health agency; April 11.

## 1985

**Thomas S. McCleary WG'85**, Hinsdale, IL, a retired investment bank executive; March 12. At Penn, he was a member of the Wharton Follies.

## 1987

**Dr. R. Earl Bartley III M'87**, Columbus, OH, an orthopedic surgeon; Aug. 16. His mother is Olis Fields Bartley GED'62.

## 1989

**Susan B. Baird G'89**, Buzzards Bay, MA, a retired cancer nursing administrator at various hospitals; March 30. Earlier, she was a research associate at Penn Nursing.

**Milton L. Cofield WG'89**, Doha, Qatar, a professor of management at Carnegie Mellon University's Qatar campus; April 20.

**Mary Beth Marschik G'89**, Hummelstown, PA, a retired employee of the Pennsylvania Judicial Center and a former adjunct professor at Central Penn College; Feb. 14.

### School Abbreviations

Ar	Architecture	GEE	master's, Electrical Engineering	HUP	Nurse training (till 1978)
ASC	Annenberg	GEng	master's, Engineering and Applied Science	L	Law
C	College (bachelor's)	GEx	master's, Engineering Executive	LAr	Landscape Architecture
CCC	College Collateral Courses	GFA	master's, Fine Arts	LPS	Liberal and Professional Studies
CE	Civil Engineering	GGS	master's, College of General Studies	M	Medicine
CGS	College of General Studies (till 2008)	GL	master's, Law	ME	Mechanical Engineering
Ch	Chemistry	GLA	master's, Landscape Architecture	MT	Medical Technology
ChE	Chemical Engineering	GME	master's, Mechanical Engineering	MtE	Metallurgical Engineering
CW	College for Women (till 1975)	GM	Medicine, post-degree	Mu	Music
D	Dental Medicine	Gmt	master's, Metallurgical Engineering	NEd	Certificate in Nursing
DH	Dental Hygiene	GNu	master's, Nursing	Nu	Nursing (bachelor's)
EAS	Engineering and Applied Science (bachelor's)	GPU	master's, Governmental Administration	OT	Occupational Therapy
Ed	Education	Gr	doctorate	PSW	Pennsylvania School of Social Work
EE	Electrical Engineering	GrC	doctorate, Civil Engineering	PT	Physical Therapy
FA	Fine Arts	GrE	doctorate, Electrical Engineering	SAMP	School of Allied Medical Professions
G	master's, Arts and Sciences	GrEd	doctorate, Education	SPP	Social Policy and Practice (master's)
GA	master's, Architecture	GrL	doctorate, Law	SW	Social Work (master's) (till 2005)
GCE	master's, Civil Engineering	GrN	doctorate, Nursing	V	Veterinary Medicine
GCh	master's, Chemical Engineering	GRP	master's, Regional Planning	W	Wharton (bachelor's)
GCP	master's, City Planning	GrS	doctorate, Social Work	WAM	Wharton Advanced Management
GD	Dental, post-degree	GrW	doctorate, Wharton	WEF	Wharton Extension Finance
GE	master's, Education	GV	Veterinary, post-degree	WEv	Wharton Evening School
		Hon	Honorary	WG	master's, Wharton
				WMP	Wharton Management Program

**Louis B. Roitblat WG'89**, Piedmont, CA, a former marketing executive; Feb. 25.

## 1990

**Miriam Cardozo Charney L'90**, Saint Paul, MN, a rabbi, lawyer, and law professor; March 24.

## 1993

**Christopher S. Van Riet C'93 W'93**, Houston, cofounder of Radius Group, a warehouse developer in Russia; May 16, 2021. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Sigma Chi fraternity, and the football team. His father is Dr. Lieven J. Van Riet GM'62, and one brother is Gleeson Van Riet C'91 W'91.

## 1994

**Dr. Kelly Ka-Lai Siu C'94 M'99**, Walnut Creek, CA, a former Penn faculty member, an ophthalmologist, and an assistant chief of community health at Kaiser Permanente; Nov. 5. At Penn, her research involvement included the Human Genome Project and she was awarded a Petrus Camper Award for research in the Neth-

erlands. She received a distinguished teaching award in biology. As a student at Penn, she was a member of Bloomers and the Penn Band. The Kelly K. Siu, MD C'94 M'99 Scholarship Fund has been established in her memory at Penn.

**Dr. Tara N. Vandegrift C'94**, Mount Pleasant, SC, a primary care physician; March 17. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Phi sorority.

## 1995

**Michael S. Graves W'95**, New York, an investment manager and founder of several companies; Jan. 21.

**John R. Karam GAR'95**, Trent Woods, NC, an architect; Feb. 26.

## 1996

**Fernando Antonio Hadba WG'96**, Sao Paulo, Brazil, a banker; Nov. 1.

**Dr. Nancy Resciniti V'96**, Mountain Top, PA, a veterinarian; Feb. 11.

## 2000

**Tanya Seaman GCP'00**, Philadelphia, an environmentalist, traffic safety advo-

cate, and cofounder of PhillyCarShare, a nonprofit car-sharing service; March 17.

## 2001

**Nancy L. Pinto-Orton Gr'01**, Ogden, UT, a former professor of anthropology at the University of Maryland and Widener University; Feb. 17.

## 2003

**Dr. Saul Torres D'03**, Tampa, FL, a dentist; July 17.

## 2007

**Andrew Kiracofe C'07**, Mayo, MD, an engagement director at the international management consultancy firm Wilson Perumal & Co.; Sept. 1. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

## 2011

**Kirk D. Junco WAM'11**, East Granby, CT, a retired chief operating officer of a construction company; Sept. 18.

## 2015

**Nicholas F. Normile W'15**, New York, a vice president of technology investing at Willoughby Capital Holdings; April 18. His parents are Thomas J. Normile CE'78 and Rosemarie Fabien Gr'94.

## 2019

**Elizabeth H. Guner C'19**, Weehawken, NJ, an analyst for the investment bank Raymond James; Jan. 30.

## Faculty & Staff

**Harold Bonavita-Goldman**, Kingston, NY, a former member of the board of advisors at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy & Practice and the first openly gay president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia; Feb. 5. His husband is Dr. John Bonavita-Goldman M'73 GM'77.

**Barrie Rabinowitz Cassileth**. *See Class of 1978.*

**Sr. Marie K. Conaughton**. *See Class of 1962.*

**Helen C. Rogoff Davies**. *See Class of 1960.*

**Dr. Robert A. Doughty**. *See Class of 1972.*

**Sr. Rose M. Kershbaumer**. *See Class of 1969.*

**Stephen J. Kobrin**, the William H. Wurster Emeritus Professor of Multinational Management at the Wharton School; May 6. In 1987, he joined the Wharton faculty as the Anheuser-Busch Term Professor of Management, becoming the department's chair in 1989. In 1992, he was named the Wurster Professor and director of the Wurster Center for International Management Studies. In 1994, he was named codirector of the Lauder Institute, a dual-degree program between Wharton and the School of Arts and Sciences that had been formed from the organizational framework of the Wurster Center. He served as director of the Lauder Institute until 2000, then again as its interim director from 2006 to 2007. In 2008, he launched Wharton School Press; he was also a Wharton Group Speaker from 2000 until 2014, when he retired from Penn.

**Dr. Horace MacVaugh III**. *See Class of 1955.*

**Dr. Franz M. Matschinsky**, Wallingford, PA, a former professor in the Perelman School of Medicine's department of biochemistry and biophysics and "the father of glucokinase research"; March 31. He became a visiting professor in biochemistry and biophysics at Penn in 1976, and a full professor the following year. At Penn, he continued his groundbreaking research of glucokinase, which he started at Washington University. In 1983, he became the director of what is now Penn's Institute for Diabetes, Obesity, and Metabolism. In 1985, he was designated the Benjamin Rush Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics, a chair he held until 2004. One son is Benno Matschinsky EAS'87.

**Max Mintz**, professor emeritus of computer and information science in Penn's School of Engineering and Applied Science; April 18. In 1974, he joined Penn's faculty as an assistant professor of systems engineering and was promoted to associate professor in 1976. Ten years later, he was named the Alfred G. and Meta A. En-

nis Associate Professor of Computer and Information Science. He twice won Penn Engineering's S. Reid Warren Jr. Award for Distinguished Teaching, and he also received Penn's Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2000.

**James Pickands III**, Clearwater, FL, an emeritus professor in the Wharton School's department of statistics; March 9. He joined Wharton's faculty in 1969 as an associate professor of statistics and operations research. A highly regarded mathematical statistician, he published and lectured widely on the Central Limit Theorem and on Gaussian processes. He was promoted to a full professor in 1984 and retired in 1996. He served in the US Army.

**Benjamin Shih-Ping Shen**, Philadelphia, the Reese W. Flower Professor Emeritus in the department of physics and astronomy of Penn's School of Arts and Sciences, and Penn's interim provost from 1980 to 1981; April 10. He joined the Penn faculty in 1966 as an associate professor of astronomy, becoming a full professor in 1968 and receiving his named professorship in 1972. He served as chair of the department of astronomy and astrophysics from 1973 to 1979. Beginning in 1968, he served as director of Penn's Flower and Cook Observatory. In 1979, he was named associate provost by then provost Vartan Gregorian Hon'88. The next year, he was named acting (interim) provost after Gregorian's resignation. In 1981, he resigned as acting provost, continuing his faculty work at Penn. He was a pioneer in the use of particle accelerators for astrophysical research, and his work centered around the cascade of nuclear interactions triggered by cosmic rays, high energy particles that move through space at nearly the speed of light. He retired from Penn in 1996.

**Dr. Stephen E. Shpeen**. *See Class of 1981.*

**Dr. Kelly Ka-Lai Siu**. *See Class of 1994.*

**Dr. Jeffrey A. Wortman**. *See Class of 1969.*

## Classifieds

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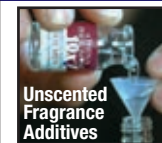
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# A Wise Move

**A**fter 165 Commencement ceremonies across Philadelphia—in venues such as the Metropolitan Opera House, the Academy of Music, and the halls of the original campus at Fourth and Arch Streets—Penn’s 166th Commencement was held for the first time at the University’s West Philadelphia campus 100 years ago on June 14, 1922. The move supplied something that was missing at the earlier locations: “a truly academic atmosphere,” explained *Pennsylvania Gazette* editors in the June 30 issue that year.

The chosen spot was Weightman Hall, built as an athletic field house in 1904 by architect Frank Miles Day C1883 Hon1918. Although it lacked the seating and acoustics of a music venue, “everybody is ready to concede to the wisdom of holding the 1922 Commencement exercises on campus.”

To compensate for the limited seating, undergraduate and professional schools were split up into two sessions, and attendees were limited to the graduates themselves and their immediate families. But in return, this allowed time for the reading of each of the graduates’ names—all 1,196 of them—instead of awarding their degrees en masse, as had been the custom.

The move also provided an opportunity for graduates to process across campus in their regalia, a scene “whose pictorial qualities will not soon be forgotten.” And another innovation “that deserved more attention than it received” was the use of an official ceremonial stage and platform, with the University’s coat of arms painted on the backdrop.

“This Commencement is somewhat different,” Acting Provost Josiah Penniman Hon1922 told the Class of



The caption from this page of the June 30, 1922, *Gazette* reads, “Some Commencement Day Scenes Through a Movie Camera: 1) Seniors arriving at Weightman Hall 2) Acting Provost Penniman and recipients leaving Weightman Hall 3) Some of the guests 4) Dr. Weygandt speaking 5) In the ‘bleachers’ 6) Another section of the parade.”

1922, as he sent them out into the “less-sheltered, less-protected and more exacting life of the great world.”

After five years at Weightman Hall, Commencement was moved in 1927 to the recently opened Palestra. In 1932 it

moved to Municipal Auditorium (better known as Convention Hall), where the Perelman Center now sits. It remained there, with a few notable exceptions, until moving to its current location at Franklin Field in 1986.—NP

# Timing Matters

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Photo by Eric Sucoff, Office of University Communications

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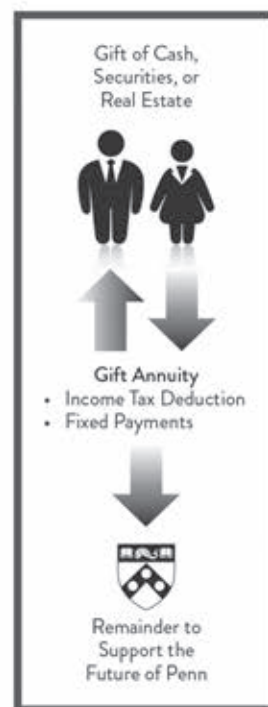
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