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Mann in the Middle

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Positive Action

Here is a quote near the start of frequent contributor JoAnn Greco’s cover story on climate scientist Michael E. Mann, who joined Penn’s faculty last fall, that pretty well encapsulates his approach to the issue of climate change. In the course of a class discussion on reports that the 2015 Paris Accords’ goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius likely will not be met, Mann used the analogy of a highway: “We may miss the 1.5 exit, but we can still take the 1.6 exit. Our only obstacle is political—a self-defeating prophecy.”

The lead author of a 1998 Nature article that introduced the iconic “hockey stick” graph’s vivid visualization of the rise of global temperatures in tandem with industrialization, Mann has been a lightning rod in the battle between climate action and denial ever since. As the evidence for human impact on the climate has gained wider acceptance, fossil fuel companies and their allies have shifted to a variety of deflection strategies to block action, he argues in his 2021 book, The New Climate War. Meanwhile, other voices, mostly on the left, offer a message of doom, despairing that the world will ever get its act together to respond before disaster strikes. With a message that balances “urgency and agency,” Mann has become what JoAnn describes as a “calming voice to offset the gloomy prognosis”—or the “Mann in the Middle,” as our title has it.

Ever since he was leading protests on campus as an undergraduate, Ira Harkavy C’70Gr’79 has been working to improve university–community relations in West Philadelphia and, more recently, across the country and around the world, serving as the founding director of what is now the Netter Center for Community Partnerships since 1992. In “Ode to Ira,” associate editor Dave Zeitlin C’03 reports on a discussion about the center’s roots and guiding principles between Harkavy and John Jackson, Penn’s new provost and an admirer and collaborator of Harkavy as faculty member and administrator. He also shares highlights from a panel of alumni whose work with Harkavy and the Netter Center has shaped their subsequent careers that was convened as part of the center’s 30th anniversary celebrations. (“That is the reach of reaches, where others spread the word and teach others,” said Harkavy. “And it was profound.”)

Renewed and expanded community engagement is also in the air at Morris Arboretum and Gardens, which is marking its 90th anniversary with a name change that highlights its riches in flowers and plants as well as trees, along with a variety of accessibility improvements and new programs. We took the occasion to ask photographer Candace diCarlo—whose last assignment, “The Olden Bough” [Mar|Apr 2023], was also tree-related—to pay a visit back in May for “Birthday Blooms.” Assistant editor Nicole Perry supplies a brief text on the venue’s history and some of what’s new in the way of exhibits and research work.

Spring also brings with it the annual rites of Alumni Weekend and Commencement. Both went forward in happily normal fashion this year, but the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic and its role in shaping the experience—and demonstrating the resilience—of the Class of 2023 was acknowledged at several points during the Commencement ceremony. Meg Gladiex C’23GE’d24, who wrote our story in “Gazetteer,” puts it well: “Coming together again did feel like a triumph—that we could once again have some community when a few short years ago it felt so irreparably broken.”

“Our only obstacle is political—a self-defeating prophecy.”
Praise for AI article, College Green photo IDs (and one lingering mystery), fruitful essay, and more.

The Best (No BS)
Trey Popp’s piece on AI [“Alien Minds, Immaculate Bullshit, Outstanding Questions,” May|Jun 2023] is the best thing I’ve ever read on the topic. It’s also superbly written—the kind of prose that, in this humanist’s non-humble opinion, AI is unlikely ever to match.

Benjamin Nathans, faculty, Philadelphia

Chatbot, Assess Thyself
I read the article about ChatGPT with a mixture of curiosity and trepidation. Does the world really need AI technology—long on the Artificial and short on the Intelligence—as an additional source of banality and misinformation? Aren’t we inundated with enough of that from the internet and social media—and from recent stories in this publication featuring either meaningless narcissism or liberal propaganda?

The challenge for instructors and for users is to view AI tools as a starting point—a foundation, however shaky—rather than as the end point, i.e., the final answer, in the thought process. I foresee most AI users choosing among three strategies: (1) to succumb to the mediocrity of the analysis (the easy approach), (2) to embrace and then react to erroneous information (the Trump-ish approach), or (3) to plagiarize whatever information appears to be valid, whether accurate or not (the Biden-ish approach).

None are satisfactory choices. The user needs to inject a healthy dose of skepticism into the analysis, just as in scientific studies. The most likely beneficiaries from the output of ChatGPT already will have a firm grasp of the subject matter, possessing enough skill in critical thinking to discern the good from the bad and from the downright ugly.

The Achilles’ heel of AI systems like ChatGPT lies in discarding the ideas of the truly innovative and/or artistic as outliers to be dismissed summarily from the data-set. Had the explorers in the Age of Discovery used a product like ChatGPT, they might have concluded and insisted that the world was flat based on a preponderance of myths, legends, and conventional “wisdom.” As the article reveals, with examples from writing to recipes, the exclusion of contributions from out-of-the-box thinkers will skew the AI results toward conformity and mediocrity.

I’d like to propose an experiment: instruct ChatGPT to perform a self-assessment of its own usefulness and pitfalls, then summarize the results in the format of a letter to the editor. Let’s see how persuasively the program can speak for itself.

John H. Brand C’79, Gardnerville, NV

Defensible Version of the Truth
For the defense in white collar criminal cases, my essential task is to determine if the client has a defensible version of the truth. From “Alien Minds, Immaculate Bullshit, Outstanding Questions” I gather that ChatGPT-4 sets the same task for me and is quite convincing. I am not sure I can manage both.

James Backstrom L’76, Wayne, PA

A Taste of Home
There’s just something about people who go to Penn!
Witness Lila Dubois, sophomore from the San Fernando Valley. Her essay...
Delicious
The reference to Philly’s “very good apples” in Lila Dubois’s “Oranges” evoked old memories of my undergraduate years at Penn. Those apples played an important role in my time there. With a full complement of classes and a work-study job, I realized during the first week of my freshman year that I had no time for lunch. But then I discovered the apple man and his cart, selling right outside my classroom building at 34th and Walnut. His Delicious apples were enormous and, indeed, delicious. And they cost only a quarter each! Two problems solved at once—food to carry me through till dinner and a price perfect for my budget. Thank you, apple man.

Pam Weiss CW’71, Pittsburgh

Another Tale of Revenge

sand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as best I could; but when he ventured upon insult, I vowed to take revenge.”

Mary Ann Froehlich EA’48, Rye, NY

Well Done, Everyone!
Thanks for an upbeat article on Mask and Wig’s first show with women in the company (“Gazetteer,” May|Jun 2023). It seems, onstage and off, that this overdue change is reinvigorating the Club. Well done, everyone!

I somehow made the cut and was in the 1965, ’66 and ’67 shows. But I never was cast to play a female. Granddaughter asked why and my late wife, Betsey, also Penn, then legendary on campus as “Bevans,” said, “he had a mustache.”

Stan Haislip W’67, Baltimore

The writer also submitted “proof,” available at our website, in the form of “a recreation of my portrait on the wall of the Mask and Wig Clubhouse. Still have it!” —Ed.

Tyger on the Green
I can identify some of the people in “Hippie Splendor” (“Old Penn,” May|Jun 2023). The band is Tyger, of which I was a member. That’s me, on the left, holding the guitar and facing away from the camera and with the holey belt and the wallet outline on my back pocket. Bill Carpenter C’74 (headband and big beard, and no longer with us) is in the center, and Dick Carpenter (Bill’s brother, a graduate of Eastern College four years earlier) is on the right holding the violin.

We played around campus, including several gigs at frat houses, at Irvine and at the Catacombs, including an original folk-rock opera we performed there in spring of 1974. We also played at some clubs around town, most notably in long-term engagements at La Terrasse between 34th and 36th on Sansom Street—near what eventually became the White Dog Cafe and what, at the time, was the home base for Le Bus, which operated out of, well, a bus, parked outside the Law School—and at the Khyber Pass Pub on 2nd Street near Chestnut.

I could identify four others in the picture, all of whom lived in a 12-person communal house at 4005 Baltimore Avenue with the band in our senior year. We ate dinner together every night (feasts, really), had shopping and cleaning teams each week, had intense table hockey challenges after dinner each night in the spring and, of course, got high on all the music (maybe not just the music). Those four include Mark Guido C’74, who is in the process of sitting down to the left of the group in back of the open guitar case, in the striped sweater; Barry Champney C’74 (and no longer with us) further left a bit and looking down at the ground; Mary Carpenter (Dick’s wife and also a 1970 graduate of Eastern College), just to the right of Barry’s head, sitting behind him with the blond hair; and Vicki Lopus (Temple, 1975) in front of the guitar case and Mark’s girlfriend at the time.

But how did the Church Lady from Saturday Night Live get into the photo (just above the violinist’s left shoulder)? Photoshop? This was before the show ever aired!

Steve Hastie C’74, Philadelphia

Thanks to Marisa (Maria L.) Guerin CW’74, who also supplied some of these identifications—and copied Steve Hastie for further details. “Wow,” she wrote. “Memories, for sure.” —Ed.

 Unexpected Deja Vu
I graduated from the College in May 1969. So I do not recognize anyone in the photograph. However, like Michael Malyszko C’73, I studied for most of my senior year with Michael Smith in Powelton Village. I also, for economy, bulk loaded my Tri-X film!

By early that spring, I had printed and matted enough photographs (25–35) to have an exhibition in the art gallery at Beaver College. As I was hanging my work, I was accosted by a very attractive woman about my age who was dressed in tennis whites and dangerously swing-
ing her tennis racquet. She demanded to know what I was doing. And so, I met an important woman in my life who I dated for about a year and a half. Our relationship was challenged when in mid-August 1969, I flew out to California to begin my Master of Architecture program at UC Berkeley, at the time the most highly ranked program in the US. I imagine that some of the samples of work from my design program at the University of Pennsylvania that went to UC Berkeley’s College of Environmental Design also included some of those photographs that I developed and printed in Michael’s darkroom and gained me the letter of acceptance that dramatically changed and influenced my life.

Thank you Michael Malyszko for the unexpected déjà vu from a time I barely remember as it is so very long ago and far away.

Andrew Beckerman C’69, Victoria, BC, Canada

A Mentor’s Memorable Motto

I was sorry to see Paul Rubincam W’60’s obituary in the *Gazette* [“Obituaries,” May|Jun 2023]. Few if any mentors have had more of an impact on my life. I was a work-study student in his office at Wharton Graduate Alumni Affairs, and he gave me my first full-time job in alumni relations, which began my career. But most importantly, he reminded me to “Be Nice.” I think that’s a motto we all could aspire to.

Neil Plakcy C’79, Hollywood, FL

Penn’s Last 60-Minute Man

The *Gazette’s* obituary for James D. Dunsom W’61 [May|Jun 2023] overlooked his unique place in Penn’s football history. In the 1960 Penn–Dartmouth game, Jim became the last Penn football player (at least so far) to play all 60 minutes of a varsity game. That was a remarkable feat for anyone, but especially so considering that Jim never played organized football before he entered Penn. He was an early avatar of the Ivy League ideal: a “walk-on” student who seized the opportunity to try out for a team and made the most of it.

Jim stands out in my memory for one other reason: he was the only Penn student I ever knew (aside from myself) who walked around campus singing Penn songs.

Dan Rottenberg C’64, Philadelphia

The author of 12 books, including *Fight On*, Pennsylvania (1985), a history of Penn football, Rottenberg [“Professional Contrarian,” Sep|Oct 2022] notes that he is currently working on “an oral history of Penn’s struggle to join the Ivy League in the mid-20th century.”—Ed.

Marching Multi-Instrumentalist

I was a member of the Penn Band [“And the Band Played On,” Jan|Feb 2023]. But as an oboe player, a marching band and I were not a good fit. So I taught myself to play trumpet, not well, but adequately. I and others like me would arrive for a game and look for a trumpet. Sometimes one was not available, but the euphonium used the same fingering. So we played that if available. If not, some of us found that a French horn, not keying it, with a trumpet embouchure, could play the first trumpet part. We may not have sounded so good, but we marched well.

By the way, the band director was Dr. Bruce Beach, whose full-time job was band director at Lower Merion High School.

George Fern C’51, Oceanside, CA

Budget Accommodations

I was the Penn Band manager in 1958–1960. The comment about sleeping in the overhead racks [“Letters,” May|June 2023] was correct. I was up there. The trip was to Dartmouth, an overnight venture. The free food was provided by an alumnus who was traveling on the train and felt sorry for the band members. The band did not have much of a budget back then. As regards females in the marching band at that time, the consensus was that the Ivy League would not allow this and the band could be penalized, not that the members were against the change.

Barry Borodkin W’60, Valley Stream, NY
Mother Tongue

“Why doesn’t your mom just come here to pick you up?”

By May Hathaway
I. Ducks in a Row
My mother’s English is like a duckling—not fully fledged, like an almost-mature juvenile from which we expect very little. In another time and place we might have called it a lame duckling, but in our time and place, “lame” is used for things like the Sophomore Caucus bake sale, not the way my mother presses her lips together in defiant silence each time my father corrects her pronunciation with an edge in his voice.

My Chinese, however, is a cracked plate; it was once whole but has now been shattered by years of carelessness and neglect. No matter how I try to glue the pieces back together, no matter how many Chinese dramas I watch with subtitles, no matter how many times I try to navigate the pinyin keyboard on my phone, there are always missing fragments that have already been crushed to a fine dust.

And yet, when I think of ducklings, what comes to mind isn’t my mother’s linguistic abilities (or lack thereof) but the rare afternoons my mother was willing to go on a walk with me to the nearby duck pond, where we stood on the spongy grass and stared at the glassy surface of the water. “Ta men hui fei ma?” I once asked. Can they fly? or, Will they fly? My mother paused for a second and then said, “I think they’re happy like this.”

II. Babble
I attended my first and last pool party when I was seven. I laid on my magenta towel next to my best friend and we gossiped about our crushes, passing a plate of goldfish back and forth while our classmates shrieked in the chilly water. Our bathing suits were varying shades of orange and yellow and pink; from a distance, we must have looked like lollipops. The early summer air was restless—we were all desperate to finish first grade and move on to more exciting prospects like Fourth of July barbecues and sleepaway camp. The adults were chatty as always, but the sound of splashing water drowned them out. I licked the salt off my fingers, which were still shriveled from hours spent in the pool.

Near the end of the pool party, I kept asking Mrs. Schneider, my best friend’s mom, what time it was. I was terrified that I would somehow miss my mother’s strict 5 o’clock pick-up and that she would leave without me. “Why doesn’t your mom just come here to pick you up?” Mrs. Schneider asked after the third or fourth time.

“She says that it’s really hard to find parking,” I said in a mousy voice, trying not to make eye contact. I was still at the age when lying to adults was difficult. I didn’t want to tell her the somewhat humiliating truth: that my mother wouldn’t come in because she was afraid of misspeaking.

My mother pronounces “towel” as “tower.” Though she prides herself on figuring out the proper way to use pronouns and limits her vocabulary because she doesn’t want to misuse it, she has never quite perfected this distinction. Her clunky mispronunciation used to mortify me (“When my friends are around, can you please just not talk?”), but I developed a sort of defensive anger when I saw my blond neighbors snicker at her as she struggled during brief mailbox conversations. Still, I couldn’t help but think that everything would be easier if my dad were the one picking me up. He would come to the backyard with a wide smile and make small talk with everyone. He would walk with me back to the car instead of making me search for it on my own.

When my mother came to pick me up after the pool party, I gathered my belongings in my arms and dumped them in the backseat. Too used to my habits, my mother ran through her checklist: “Goggles?” “Yes.” “Bathing suit?” “Mm-hmm.” “Snacks?” “Yeah.” “Tower?” “Oh.”

The slick grass stuck to my ankles as I ran toward the backyard. “Has anyone seen my tower?” I asked, too out of breath to properly filter my speech. I realized my mistake too late as I was met with a sea of confused faces.

“Honey, do you mean ‘towel’?” Mrs. Schneider asked, and my cheeks flushed. “Um, yeah.” My classmates who had been so lively earlier were suddenly quiet, and I thought I heard one of them giggle. My hair fell into my eyes as I bent down to pick up my magenta towel, and I ran faster this time, not caring about the grass or the wind, just wanting to get inside and away. When I finally reached the car door, I clung to my towel and cried into it on the way home. I told my mom it was just the chlorine.

III. Motherland
In New York, summer makes the city move faster. We stand, cramped, on sticky subway floors, stray hairs clinging to our foreheads and necks. We sip lemonade and beat the soles of our shoes into the concrete sidewalk. Trips to the beach are a temporary respite that pass
Both of us were new to upcountry life, mad for it, and loved the little ritual of our weekend excursions. Sometimes there was merely a distressed table, some plastic children’s toys, a rickety chair or two. But there were also full yard and lawn bazaars in which half a dozen families—or more—unburdened themselves of all that was redundant in their lives, trying to convert junk to coin. What would we find? Would this stuff yield the secrets of other lives?

At various times we bought scarves, a kimono that cost more to repair than we paid for it, plates (most chipped), a Paloma Picasso pocketbook, a raggedy yard sales were a summer staple when we lived in the country. You could check any local newspaper from May through September and be sure to find dozens of ads for weekend sales. The sales could be dull or pleasant or exciting but they were always rife with surprise. You might find anything. Woodstock, New York, where we lived, teemed with yard sales. We didn’t need any of the stuff, of course, and neither did the sellers—who, after all, were ridding themselves of it. Yet the ads were irresistible to a yard-sale addict, of which I was one, as was my late wife, Mari, who called the whole business “redistributing the junk.”

Redistributing the Junk
An ode to the country yard sale.

By Nick Lyons

Both of us were new to upcountry life, mad for it, and loved the little ritual of our weekend excursions. Sometimes there was merely a distressed table, some plastic children's toys, a rickety chair or two. But there were also full yard and lawn bazaars in which half a dozen families—or more—unburdened themselves of all that was redundant in their lives, trying to convert junk to coin. What would we find? Would this stuff yield the secrets of other lives?

At various times we bought scarves, a kimono that cost more to repair than we paid for it, plates (most chipped), a Paloma Picasso pocketbook, a raggedy

May Hathaway is a College sophomore from New York City. This essay was adapted from a piece that originally appeared in *Sine Theta Magazine.*
quilt, a busted spinning wheel, an old carousel horse, an antique easel and three cheap metal ones, two sculpture stands, a fainting couch, books and books and more books, two end tables, well-used trout flies, a trout net, an old locked fly reel, three usable chairs, several hammers, a plumber’s wrench, four rusted pocket knives, a lot of paste jewelry that Mari festooned her models with, a shoebox full of low-value European coins, assorted spoons, forks, and knives, a batch of candlesticks, a large broken candelabra—all of them emblems of lives paring down or gone, folks relocating to San Miguel, Tahiti, or the next county, out of overflowing basements or garages.

Most of it slept in closets or on crowded tables, though Mari’s studio reaped an infusion of stuff for still lifes or studio scenes, and she had always wanted to pose a model on a genuine fainting couch. We were rarely early birds. We preferred to lose the choice worm and the crowds, arriving instead at an hour conducive to giveaway prices. We never went too far afield—not wanting to lose too much of a bright summer day—though an enticing ad could tempt us as far as four towns to the west. Tools always interested me, though I have three thumbs. We bought shelves full of local crafts, and many ceramic pots and bowls when we found them. But books were always the greatest prize. We were shrewd and picky about books—tight about price and condition as well as title and edition. One permanent yard sale had nearly 100 books, week after week, and we got excellent buys from it until the owner asked what I prized. I told him about first editions, and soon silly books were overpriced because, he told me, they were first editions. We once followed a trail to an advertised cache of “great books” only to end up buying a box of 48 canning jars, of which we used exactly two, four years after carting them home.

We looked for hints in the ads that an odd item might indicate a cluster of similar but better items; an easel might herald the presence of brushes, studio props, palette knives, frames, abandoned canvas. But we soon learned that coming upon the unexpected, in unexpected places, was more probable. We often visited a place called simply “Garage,” run by a good-natured guy named Jimi, from whom we had bought a cement rooster, a Buddha head, and a couple of fishing lures. One year we could not agree on the price of an abstract marble sculpture, priced much higher than his usual fare. After Jimi said he’d sold it for nearly a thousand dollars I became absolutely convinced, and lost sleep over the thought, that it had been a Brancusi.

At a yard sale we never looked for a particular item the way one would go into a Target or a Macy’s. What you want is the shock of the unimagined. You want a glimpse into a neighbor’s life. You want to understand a bit more about this disparate world of rural America that you have come to love. You revel in the thousand occasions for hope. You will find that spoon with the exact configuration of the one you used so comfortably for soup in another country. An old weathervane, a hall mirror, an oak umbrella stand, a bamboo fly rod, something large or small, needed or not needed, to fit into some arcane corner of the scheme of your life, something that for whatever reason you just can’t live one more hour without.

Some autumns ago, on the last day of yard sale season, I screeched to a halt on Route 28, made a hazardous U-turn, and pulled up to four or five tables and bookcases. The books had drawn us and they proved an eclectic stew: romances by the yard; old Reader’s Digest books (I’ve always preferred getting all the words); books on natural healing; on brothels in Butte, Montana; on juicing; and one called Harris on the Pig. This last was irresistible and I was happy to get it—and, a few years later, to publish a new edition of the century-old classic on pig farming; I reprinted it 11 times at my little press. Mari settled gleefully on a spotted wooden cow with udders that wiggled—offered as a piece of “authentic Catskill folk art.” I shook my head when she forked over $11 for the cow after a customary round of bargaining.

In the car she was deliciously pleased with her purchase. I showed her the hammer that I bought for $1 along with the pig classic. I have four others, similarly purchased. But how could I pass up such a tool, with such a fine tawny patina and exactly the right heft?

“Starting a hammer collection?” Mari asked blithely.

I did not respond—nor did I offer one word of praise or wonder about the authentic Catskill folk art with the wandering udders.

Nick Lyons W’53 is a longtime Gazette contributor.
passing through Ponferrada—a city on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route famed for its towering Templar castle and its position at the heart of the Bierzo wine region. I had reached it on foot, through a valley striped with grape vines surrounded by mountains on all sides.

I’d dipped into this café for a quick breakfast before hitting the trail once more, another day in more than a month of walking and research that had begun on the French side of the Pyrenees. I loved this route, so much so that I returned almost annually to delve more deeply into the lands it crossed and connected. There was always another historic, folkloric, archaeological, or cultural layer beneath the ones I’d previously trained my anthropological attention on. But the Camino to me was more than an intellectual fascination. It was a way to hit a reset button on my life, offering fresh perspectives that seemed easier to absorb when I reduced my life needs to what I could carry in a backpack, ditched my routines, and relied on my feet and sense of direction to move across hundreds of miles. In more than one way, I’d been here before. But this was the first time I had seen anyone down orujo so early in the morning. I’d first encountered the 80-proof liquid two decades earlier in a Galician village on the Atlantic coast where a chef cheered by my enjoyment of his cooking gave me a complimentary shot of an herb-infused version as an after-dinner drink. People all across northern Spain, I learned, revered it as a digestion aid and a health tonic.

Tired and worn and tempted after weeks of walking, I looked at the café’s clock and thought better of following the woman’s example. I paid my bill, hoisted my pack, and returned to the trail. I was likely to find more orujo ahead, and with better timing. Practically everyone still made their own, in homes and bars alike. What I really wanted was to imbibe it in its full-blown Galician purifying and cleansing ritual, queimada, a Camino ritual I had yet to experience.

A woman at the neighboring table stood, lifted her coffee spoon from its saucer, and walked to the bar. Though it was not yet seven in the morning, she wore a tailored beige wool skirt and jacket over an ivory silk blouse, its scarf tie knotted in a perfect flouncy bow. Her hair, like that of her equally elegant friend, had been salon-styled and frosted after the season’s fashion among women in their seventies. By contrast, I had barely managed to tuck in my T-shirt and zip up my rain jacket. I watched as she pushed her spoon toward the bartender.

“Hit me up,” she said, “I don't want to go to the doctor.”

Without skipping a beat, the bartender grabbed a clear liquid bottle and tipped a splash of orujo into her spoon. She downed it and held her spoon out again. “Uno más.” The bartender obliged. The woman gulped it, thanked him, and returned to her friend.

“I already feel better,” she said, and sat.

Orujo, the local eau de vie, is fermented and distilled from the pressed skins, stems, and seeds left over from wine-making, much like Italian grappa and French marc. I was in northwest Spain, Path to a Burning
Pilgrimage and purification.

By Beebe Bahrami

Illustration by Juan Bernabeu
Queimada is a Galician word related to the Spanish verb quemar, to burn. It’s a tradition that may go back to the Middle Ages, or even earlier, that burns off bad energy and evil spirits. Long a part of festivals and large family gatherings in León and Galicia, it has lately gained popularity among pilgrims crossing these regions on their way to Santiago de Compostela. But it’s never planned; it is offered as a spontaneous gift, given when the mood strikes among local hosts in pilgrim lodgings and cafés.

From Ponferrada I crossed a fertile valley of vines and orchards before climbing the final mountains that stood between me and Santiago. Along that 155-kilometer crossing I passed several pilgrims’ hostels famed for their queimada, but at each one the spell-maker was either absent or not feeling the mood. I arrived in Santiago de Compostela unburned.

Exhausted but elated after seven weeks on the trail, I dove into the rituals of arrival, most importantly visiting the cathedral and hugging the statue of Saint James the Greater on the altar, delivering the prayers and blessings of all the people who along the way had wished me buen Camino and asked me to carry their hopes to Santiago with mine. By the time I finished, night had fallen and a cold rain pelted the cobblestones and arched passageways of the medieval town.

Having arrived at my pilgrim’s goal, my walking had no sense of direction. I wandered the streets aimlessly, content but also sad that this adventure had ended, wondering if this walk had changed me.

The rain intensified. The temperature dropped. I ran and ducked into a porticoed passageway where a large picture window looked into a candlelit Belle Époque café filled with cozy overstuffed lounge chairs. I entered and was soon installed in one, wrapped in companionable conversation from surrounding tables.

All that suddenly stopped. I followed others’ eyes to a waiter emerging from the kitchen with a large clay bowl fitted with a clay lid. He set it on a low central table next to an array of espresso-sized clay cups and a clay ladle. A colleague then draped a hooded medieval-style cape over the man’s shoulders and handed him a large walking staff. All remained quiet as he removed the bowl’s lid, set it aside, and began a slow chant as he took up a bottle of orujo and decanted it into the pot.

The flame surged, the room was still, the spellcaster silent, the air electrified with zest, coffee, and firewater fumes. I inhaled.

As he continued the spell and lit the surface with a torch, I heard the words, "owls, toads, and witches..."

Throwing in lemon and orange peels, coffee beans, and sugar, stirring it all with the ladle, he called upon “the earth, air, water, and fire” to give power and grace to this act of purification and restored balance. And as the bowl became more and more a clay cauldron afire with red-blue flames rising several feet above the rim, he beckoned good spirits to join us and help us dispel all that was negative and unwanted.

The flame surged, the room was still, the spellcaster silent, the air electrified with zest, coffee, and firewater fumes. I inhaled. In that fragrant lungful I felt the fatigue, sadness, and uncertainty begin to fall away as joy rose in their place. The cloaked man then put out the flame with the clay lid and ladled the elixir into cups, handing me one with a luminous smile—more druid than waiter.

I cupped the warm drink and cautiously sipped. It was unexpectedly light, and complex with its mingled zests and coffee. More surprising was how that first sip began to melt away any outdated thoughts and replaced them with insights from the long trek. Five-hundred miles of carrying only what I needed had built muscle and dropped useless ideas—like worrying too much about what others thought, or revisiting old regrets over things said and unsaid. Life was not perfect and neither had this walk been; plans had come undone and been replaced. I had met so many people and received so much kindness. I thought of the Riojan family who shared figs from their garden, the Castilian grandmother who offered fresh water and her life story, the Galician mother who hugged me and called me brave, confessing her dream to walk this walk, too. I thought of crossing the Pyrenees with the American soldier walking for healing, the North Carolinian family who had lost everything in a fire walking in gratitude for each other, the young Korean looking in test herself outside of social expectations, the Swedish couple striving to heal their marriage, the Coloradan walking in gratitude after battling cancer, and the many conversations over communal pilgrim dinners talking about life’s mysteries, never once asking each other what we did for a living. I thought of the three mountain ranges, the open plains, the valleys and rivers I had crossed. How could one walk this and not be changed?

I wondered how those changes would reveal themselves as I returned home. All this passed in that first sip. I took a second and understood that the Camino’s transformative magic operated on a simple principle: it gave each person what she or he needed most, in perfect timing, when least expected. What it asked in return was that you trusted the process, and walked freely into the unknown.

Beebe Bahrami Gr’95 is the author of The Way of the Wild Goose—Three Pilgrimages Following Geese, Stars, and Hunches on the Camino de Santiago (Monkfish Book Publishing) and Moon Camino de Santiago (Hachette).
The Pipeline Versus the Pioneers
How the US biomedical research system hinders young scientists and undercuts the innovative spirit.

By Andrew Lam

We live at a time when extraordinary medical advances seem commonplace. From mRNA vaccines to stem cell transplants to immunotherapy against cancer, we are living in a golden age of technological discoveries and should be forgiven for believing that such progress is both inexorable and inevitable. But that is not the case. My research for a book on medical breakthroughs shows that medical progress is not linear. It advances in fits and starts—driven, most often, not by hard work or serendipity, but by the mavericks among us.

Mavericks are people with the imagination and creativity to think outside the box. Their minds are receptive to the possibility that an inquiry might yield answers to questions neither they, nor anyone else, has previously thought to ask. They view problems from a new perspective, and have the courage to follow their convictions even when it goes against convention. They are, in short, brilliant.

Edward Jenner was a maverick who, in 1796, vaccinated a boy with cowpox and then, in a daring act, intentionally infected the boy with lethal smallpox to validate a hunch. Ignaz Semmelweis was a 19th-century obstetrician who realized that doctors themselves were causing maternal deaths from puerperal fever after childbirth when they failed to wash their hands before pelvic exams; his crusade to correct this led to ridicule and ultimately his death in an insane asylum. Frederick Banting was a failed surgeon who, in 1920, had an epiphany that led to the discovery of insulin, galvanizing a field completely different from his own. Andreas Grüntzig was a young East German doctor who contrived to glue a balloon to the tip of a catheter and use it to widen narrowed arteries; his first successful coronary angioplasty in 1977 was one of the greatest advances of the 20th century.

The most important question we can ask ourselves today is, where will the next medical mavericks come from and how can we support their development? While it is unquestionably difficult to predict which young scientists will become future Nobel Prize winners, there is one thing we can certainly do to serve humanity: maximize the number of physicians and scientists engaged in research and the fight against disease to increase the pool of possible mavericks. On this measure we have significant room for improvement. A look at the highest levels of scientific research, where the greatest discoveries are likely to be made, reveals
conditions that deter many young scientists from staying in their fields.

For one thing, it is now harder than ever for investigators to receive research funding from the National Institutes of Health. In the year 2000, slightly more than 30 percent of NIH grant applications were approved. This funding rate has steadily declined and in 2020 had dropped to approximately 20 percent. This means only one in five projects proposed by scientists moves ahead. As a result, investigators are spending more and more of their time writing research grants instead of performing actual research, and the intense competition for funding means scientists are less likely to take risks and propose novel research ideas. The system also appears to favor well-known or experienced scientists over up-and-coming young ones, and may be biased against women and minority researchers.

Another, potentially greater, hindrance to future discoveries is the attrition of scientists in academia as countless PhD graduates become discouraged and disillusioned by a traditional system of advancement that seems to disfavor them at every turn. In every college in America, promising science students are encouraged to pursue doctorates. They spend years working toward their degrees, which many do not attain until their 30s. Unfortunately, these new graduates quickly learn that there are far too many of them vying for far too few tenure-track university positions. In the field of biomedicine, it has been estimated that fewer than one in six PhD graduates will succeed in attaining such a post. This means that over 80 percent will never get the job they trained for: to pursue their own original research and lead a team of younger investigators. Instead, many scientists find themselves spending years in limbo, working as “postdocs,” a term denoting junior scientists who work for tenured professors as they wait to secure a permanent position that will likely never materialize.

Postdoctoral researchers serve as the supremely well-educated, cheap labor that works at the direction of those vaunted, few professors atop the research pyramid—professors who sometimes compound the problem if they become reluctant to retire. A 2018 study that surveyed data on almost 14,000 postdoc employees revealed a median annual salary of $47,484, indicating that half earned less than this, some potentially as low as $23,660. These income levels prove untenable for many people in their 30s and 40s, at a time when they are likely to be having children and building their families. Add low pay to poor job security and no guarantee of advancement, and it’s no wonder that many of our most brilliant young scientists leave academia to seek jobs in industry or on Wall Street that pay salaries five or ten times higher.

A 2020 survey by the journal Nature revealed that 55 percent of biomedical researchers held a negative view of their job prospects. These are dedicated, well-trained, accomplished professionals—top students who devoted over a decade of their lives to the pursuit of science. Even luminaries like Emmanuelle Charpentier, who won a Nobel Prize in 2020 for codiscovering CRISPR gene editing, spent 25 years of her career bouncing around among various positions at nine different institutions before landing as a director at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in Berlin in 2015.

Facing long odds, numerous young researchers burn out, quit, or move on to other jobs. As a result, approximately half of America’s postdoctoral workers are foreigners from countries like China. Immigrants appear more willing to accept the modest wages and dim prospects that many Americans will not. But now, even this is beginning to change. As countries like China catch up to and in some arenas even surpass the US in science and technology, increasingly fewer foreigners are willing to come. Instead, they choose to stay in their home countries, which benefit from their talents.

The United States has a well-worn tradition of importing great scientists. European professors fleeing the Nazis were integral to the Manhattan Project. The Cold War prompted a relaxation of immigration restrictions to allow a wave of physicians, engineers, and scientists from Asia in the 1960s and 1970s. But in this century, it would be unwise to count on importing our geniuses. It is more prudent to develop and nurture homegrown talent. It is not enough to merely encourage students to become scientists—we must also show our commitment to their success by paying them appropriately, funding more of their proposals, and giving them secure paths to careers in which they continue to apply their talents toward making discoveries.

We need new mavericks to push forward into novel arenas of discovery, and it will fall to members of the next generation to take up the mantle of scientific innovation, knowing that medical progress is far from assured. Our children and grandchildren must meet the challenges of this century and the next to expand upon the astounding progress we’ve made. In the blink of an eye, they will be our physicians and surgeons. And there is no predicting which one of them will make the next crucial breakthrough.

Andrew Lam M’02 is a retina surgeon, assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and author of the new book The Masters of Medicine: Our Greatest Triumphs in the Race to Cure Humanity’s Deadliest Diseases, from which this essay is adapted with permission of BenBella Books. Learn more at AndrewLamMD.com.
Let Your Voice Be Heard

Broadway veteran Idina Menzel sings for the Class of 2023—including our reporter—and encourages them to use their own voices too.
Do you think she’s going to sing?
That was the question on everyone’s mind in the days leading up to Idina Menzel’s Penn Commencement address on May 15. As the Broadway actress and singer took her place at the podium, whispered guesses for “Defying Gravity” or “Let it Go” murmured among the roughly 6,000 graduates sitting on Franklin Field—myself included.

The answer was yes—three times, in fact. Never a full song, only a few bars that weaved into the speech, but each poignant and meaningful.

Before the graduates could hear Menzel speak and sing, we marched down Locust Walk and into the stadium—a trickier than usual procession because of the presence of President Joe Biden Hon’13 and First Lady Jill Biden, who were on hand to support their graduating granddaughter, Roberta “Maisy” Biden C’23.

With heightened security in place, everyone was required to walk through a metal detector, and balloons, signs, and other paraphernalia were confiscated at the checkpoint. But many of the students who got through security first made their way to the edge of the field, leaning in to capture a selfie with the president in the background. (In the days following the ceremony, Instagram was flooded with grainy, zoomed-in shots of Biden, clad in aviator sunglasses, waving stoically in the corner of the image. Some of the pictures were captioned “We did it, Joe!”—a reference to the viral video of Vice President Kamala Harris calling Biden after they won the 2020 election.)

The ceremony also marked Liz Magill’s first Commencement as Penn’s president. Her message: the Class of 2023’s strength lies in our collective power, that we are stronger when we support each other. She had every graduate rise and face the stands to give a standing ovation to the friends and family who were there to support us. “Our ability to do the big things, things great and good, depends on the community around us,” Magill said.

“Think about the pandemic and how you persevered,” she continued. It was hard not to. Many members of the Class of 2023 didn’t finish our first year on campus because of the COVID-19 shutdown. Then our sophomore year was entirely online. Many took semesters, or even whole academic years off—several classmates who entered with me became part of the Class of 2024 or even 2025.
Coming together again did feel like a triumph—that we could once again have some community when a few short years ago it felt so irreparably broken. A friend sitting next to me marveled, “This is probably the first time we’ve all been together since NSO [New Student Orientation].” At the end of her address, Magill reminded us: “Graduates, always remember that community is our force multiplier. It is our place to stand and our means to move the world.”

Menzel opened her address by asking graduates to shout, sing, or sign themselves. “Pretend you’re at the Annenberg Center and the curtain just fell. Pretend you’re at the Palestra and Kayla Padilla [W’23] just sank a three-pointer,” Menzel said, shouting out a graduating women’s basketball star. (A few rows ahead of me, one student dressed like Elsa from Frozen—one of Menzel’s defining roles—stood, raised their arms in the air, and cheered.)

“So I was a small child, people have told me that my power is my voice,” Menzel continued. “And now I know, Class of 2023, we definitely have that in common.”

Twenty years earlier, though, Menzel said that her voice failed her, during auditions for the role of Elphaba in Wicked. As she went to hit the high note of the song “Defying Gravity,” her voice cracked, she recalled, singing to the crowd for the first time, intentionally off key and cracking. “I was so mad at myself. I shouted—profanely and loudly. I fought the instinct to run. Then I took a deep breath, looked at the accompanist, and I said, ‘We’re gonna do that again.’ And then I nailed it.” Menzel not only got the part in Wicked but won a Tony Award for it, hitting that high note “more times than I can count” while performing the show eight times a week for years (but also missing the note a few times, too).

“Look, we are all human,” Menzel continued. “Even you, Class of 2023, with your world-class education and your relentless determination. Your business might struggle. Your experiment might falter. Your voice might crack.” But if you never try to use your voice, you’ll never hit that note. Practice and repetition should be a guiding force, always. “Feel whatever you feel, all that you feel, and then keep going.”

Later in her address, Menzel sang for a second time, the same song she sang in Pittsburgh in 2018 after the Tree of Life synagogue shooting—“No Day but Today” from the Broadway musical Rent, in which she played Maureen. Her voice getting soft, Menzel sang a few bars:

“There’s only now
There’s only here
Give in to love
Or live in fear.”

“Those words took on new meaning that day,” Menzel
instance, has seven sites on the UNESCO list and Russia claims to have touched none of them while waging war on the country during the last 18 months. But “this is why Russia feels so entitled and no one can stop them from destroying many other buildings and sites that also have meaning to Ukrainians,” says Meskell, a Penn Integrates Knowledge (PIK) professor with dual appointments in anthropology and historic preservation. Recently, Russia tried to block Ukraine from nominating Odesa on an emergency basis; the city’s historic center was nonetheless inscribed as a UNESCO endangered World Heritage site in January, giving it access to international assistance to protect property and, if necessary, assist in its rehabilitation.

The idea of a World Heritage list is rooted in 1959 pleas by the governments of Egypt and Sudan for UNESCO to help protect and conserve monuments and sites threatened by the construction of the Aswan High Dam. It wasn’t long before other nations began submitting similar requests. But what began as an idealistic enterprise increasingly looks like a tangled mess wrapped inside a knotty web of geopolitics, colonialism, and even war mongering, notes Meskell. “Since the rise of the Islamic State, the international community has been forced to confront the deployment of cultural heritage as a [new weapon],” she says. “The protection, destruction, utilization, and manipulation of heritage by state and non-state actors has become the new normal.”

Meskell’s research investigates what makes cultural heritage “such a strategic resource and target in international conflict,” she continues.
adding that in some cases countries attempt to use the list “to self-aggrandize and rewrite history” by nominating war sites like the Battle of the Somme and genocide sites in Rwanda. “It turns the UN into a forum for aggrieved nations, not really the world peace model it set out to be.”

Meskell also believes that UNESCO elevates the interests of “tourists or art historians or preservationists” above those of people who actually live among the heritage sites. “It’s staggering to me that no one asks the people on the ground for their preferences on what to modernize, restore, memorialize,” she says.

In February, Meskell presented research she conducted with Witold Henisz, vice dean and faculty director of Wharton’s ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) Initiative, to a panel of NATO-member delegations. With support from the Penn Global Engagement Fund, Meskell and her team examined public sentiment at World Heritage Sites and found that “having this list generates more conflict than cooperation, which was its initial reason for being,” she says, stemming mostly from intergovernmental and labor issues. “People feel aggrieved that sites haven’t delivered on the benefits that were promised—like, more jobs, for instance—and as such a great deal of hostility is aimed at listed sites. The international community has poured money into sites while citizens are starving. That just doesn’t make a lot of sense in the eyes of those who live in those nations.”

Meskell also recently completed, with colleagues from Princeton, Duke and Australia’s Deakin University, surveys of 1,600 citizens each in Mosul, Iraq and Aleppo, Syria, about the priority of heritage reconstruction in the context of health, education, employment, and security concerns. “It won’t surprise people that it turns out to be quite a low priority,” she says.


She characterizes the collaborative ‘one world’ ideal of UNESCO, which was founded in 1945 in the wake of two destructive world wars, as an outdated vision of heritage rooted in “a mid-century, romantic and Eurocentric perspective.” She doesn’t advocate for getting rid of the list but believes that UNESCO needs to “develop new instruments that [can combat] heritage weaponization, and it also needs to diversify and work with other [community-based] agencies” to better prioritize local concerns.

Meskell will continue to conduct field research around the globe (this summer in Jordan, where she’ll study heritage organizations in the region), on top of a packed schedule of keynotes and summits, her position as a curator in the Near East and Asia sections of the Penn Museum, and this fall’s anthropology and historic preservation course, “World Heritage in Global Conflict,” which will explore the political tensions stemming from UNESCO’s World Heritage list.

“Coming to Penn has opened so many doors.”

—JoAnn Greco

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## President’s Prizes Announced

Seven graduating seniors and one December 2022 graduate were awarded the 2023 President’s Engagement and Innovation 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. The prizes are the largest of their kind in higher education. Here are this year’s winning projects:

**PRESIDENT’S ENGAGEMENT PRIZES**

**Communities for Childbirth** | Seungwon “Lucy” Lee C’23 is creating a community-based referral system that helps women get efficient transportation to health facilities and improve maternal and child health outcomes during obstetric emergencies in Uganda. Mentor: Lisa D. Levine, the Michael T. Mennuti, M.D., Associate Professor in Reproductive Health in the Perelman School of Medicine.

**Act First** | Kenneth Pham C’23 and Catherine Chang C’22, both of whom have worked with Penn’s Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT), will provide critical first-aid training to high school students in Philadelphia, including opioid reversal, CPR, and bleeding prevention. Mentor: Joshua Glick, assistant professor of emergency medicine in the Perelman School of Medicine.

**PRESIDENT’S INNOVATION PRIZE**

**Sonura** | Gabriella Daltoso EAS’23, Sophie Ishiwari EAS’23, Gabriela Cano EAS’23, Caroline Amanda Magro EAS’23, and Tifara Eliana Boyce EAS’23 are developing a beanie (composed of a frequency-dependent filter and a mobile application) that promotes the cognitive and socioemotional development of newborns in the NICU by protecting them from the auditory hazards of their environments while fostering parental connection. Mentor: Brian Halak, a lecturer in the Engineering Entrepreneurship program.
All Roads Lead to Pech
How colleagues united to complete Harold Dibble’s final project in France.

Before his sudden and unexpected death in June 2018 ("Obituaries," Nov|Dec 2018), Penn archaeologist Harold Dibble Hon’91 was planning a “dream project” at a site in Dordogne, France, where since 1976 he had been involved in digs in caves once occupied by Neandertals and where he had established warm relationships with French colleagues and the inhabitants of the nearby village of Carsac. Dibble and colleagues had devised a plan to collect and analyze the oldest sediment found in a cave known as Pech IV, which held the potential to yield more comprehensive and detailed information on Neandertal lifeways than possible by focusing primarily on objects alone.

Dibble managed to tell family and close friends and colleagues some of his final wishes—among them, to “finish the Pech project.” His longtime colleagues, many who had worked for decades with him in France—Dennis Sandgathe of Simon Fraser University, Paul Goldberg (University of Tübingen), Vera Aldeias Gr’12 (University of the Algarve), Deb Oliszewski (Penn), Shannon McPherron Gr’94 (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology), and Teresa Steele (University of California Davis)—came together to fulfill his request. This past summer I joined their crew, which included researchers from France, China, Germany, Ethiopia, Portugal, Canada, and the US.

Pech IV is set on a steep limestone ridge covered in oak forest on a hill that bears the Occitan name Pech de l’Azé—Hill of the Donkey. This donkey hill has four caves, three of which—Pech I, II and IV—contain Middle Paleolithic Neandertal occupations dating back as far as 180,000 years. Pech IV is especially rich, and its vertical face shows meters-high strata of frequent Neandertal presence from some 100,000 to around 42,000 years ago. The first comprehensive excavation was by renowned French archaeologist François Bordes from 1970 to 1977; from 2000 to 2003, Dibble and Shannon McPherron led a second excavation, joined in 2001 by Goldberg and Sandgathe.

From the moment the team arrived in Carsac in July 2022, Harold’s absence was palpable everywhere. You could feel it in the local house he had rented since 2000, whose long backyard served as the dig camp next to a barn he had set up as a lab. His memory was alive in the village center at the hotel-restaurant run by the Delpeyrat family—Philippe and Aline and their children Aurelie and Sebastian—who had known Harold since 1976. And the village road named after his mentor, François Bordes, now sported a new street sign marking an intersecting cul-de-sac: Impasse Harold Dibble. His old friends had installed it in early 2021. When I saw it, I couldn’t help thinking that, were he alive, Harold would crack some dead-end joke, while also being touched by the act.

First as a graduate student in his courses, then as editor of Expedition magazine at the Penn Museum, and later as a writer reporting on his work for the Gazette ("On Hearths, Ancient and Modern," Nov|Dec 2010) and in my book Café Neandertal, I witnessed how Harold dedicated his life to studying Neandertal and early modern human behavior. He was a world-renowned lithics specialist whose work and ideas influenced and often instigated debates—about what drove site formation, stone tool variability, early human fire use, burial practices, and more. Above all, he emphasized the need in archaeology for better methodologies that promoted scientific—standardized, consistent, methodical, replicable—approaches to research.

“He’s one of the few [non-French archaeologists] who actually understood the French way to do things and he critiqued it professionally,” Alexandre Steenhuyse Gr’07 told me one evening in Carsac, “but also, he cared about the connections between people. [It] was all about respect and I think he’s respected here for that.”
Steenhuyse, one of Harold’s former doctoral students, had come down from Paris for the summer to join the 2022 dig. “And,” he added, “[Harold] was sincerely welcoming of any real challengers with generosity and kindness.”

Harold’s son Flint Dibble C’04, who is also an archaeologist, told me his father “had an amazing amount of empathy, and ability to listen, and the ability, therefore, with logic and emotion, to see to the crux of stuff.”

Harold first came to Carsac in 1976, having met Bordes the year before through Art Jelinek, an archaeologist at the University of Arizona, Tucson. Invited to join the dig at Pech IV, Harold pitched his tent with the rest of the crew in the Bordes’ orchard, which was near the village house the family was fixing up to use during summer dig seasons. The crew bathed at the river and took their meals up the hill in the village center at the Delpeyrat’s.

From the start, Harold got along well with François Bordes and with Bordes’ wife, Denise de Sonneville-Bordes, also a renowned archaeologist, who later helped him secure permission to dig at Combé-Capelle in the Dordogne, getting him more firmly established in French archaeology.

Their daughter Cécile Bordes, who was living abroad until the early 2000s, had not yet met Harold, but “I heard about [him] through my mother, and realized that he was becoming important [in] the modern progress of French prehistory with his innovative approach, partly based on my parents’ work and with the help of new technologies.”

When she returned to France, Harold invited Cécile and her mother to dinner, “for dégustation of his famous ‘Beans a la Dibble,’ in his amazing outdoor dining room,” she recalled, tongue-in-cheek, referring to the rough digs of the dig house’s backyard kitchen. It was the first of many evenings of conversation, aperitifs, and dinner at each other’s homes.

As a part of the 2000–2003 dig at Pech IV, Harold and McPherron’s team had worked on the earliest sediment layer, which they called Layer 8. It sat on bedrock and contained incredibly rich ancient fire and hearth activity. Applying different excavation techniques to investigate the layer’s features but finding nothing worked, they decided that rather than risk destroying it they would instead leave it for future researchers who could return with better methods.

In 2015, Harold and Dennis Sandgathe were back in Carsac, having recently finished digging at the nearby Neandertal site of La Ferrassie, and contemplating their next project. They circled back to Pech IV. Paul Goldberg and Vera Aldeias, joining the conversation, wondered about a different approach: What if, instead of focusing so much on objects—bones and lithics—they focused on sediment, and did a microscopic excavation instead of the usual macroscopic method? To that end they devised a vacuum system to collect all the sediment into sterile test tubes as they excavated each block. To systematically record the resulting data, McPherron rewrote mapping and cataloguing software he had originally written with Harold. With this new methodology, they had their new project; the future researchers of Pech IV Layer 8 turned out to be themselves.

They tested their method with Harold in 2017. In 2018, Harold died just as he was about to fly to France for what Flint said he called “a dream project.” His colleagues vowed to see it through.

In 2019 and 2021 (the pandemic halted work in 2020) they set up the lab, trouble-shot the procedural design, and began excavating blocks. In 2022 they hoped to complete the job. When I walked into the lab, I witnessed an expertly choreographed excavation. At each sediment block, a dedicated excavator dug, collected, and recorded. Wearing nitrite gloves to minimize contaminants, the excavators scraped with dental tools and vacuumed the earth into attached vials, while colleagues sorted and stored the materials in freezers.

In the foreseeable future, these gathered sediments will be analyzed by molecular specialists to discern many things, from fire features that may illuminate Neandertal fire use, to DNA, phytoliths (plant remains), coprolites (fecal remains), and more, potentially recreating past environments and lifeways at a level never seen before.

They also continued another Bordes and Dibble tradition, having dinners prepared by the Delpeyrats, bringing large pots back to the dig house: hearty cassoulet, confit, roasts, salads, and other traditional southwestern French fare.

Once the last block was completed, the dig team had a final, harder, task: to remove all the equipment and materials from the dig house, to return it to the owners. The fact of so many endings—Harold, the team, France, Carsac—weighed heavily.

One evening at dinner, someone proposed walking to the other side of the village to where Rue François Bordes meets with the newly named Impasse Harold Dibble.

“Where the two greats intersect,” I said. “Harold Dibble Dead End,” Dennis replied, channeling exactly the joke I was sure Harold would have lobbed had he been there.

I strolled that night down to the intersection. It was a comfort seeing his name on the sign, knowing that his nearly 42 years of life here would not be forgotten. Someone had left a stone tool atop the sign’s wall, a tradition that the Bordes’ students had begun on their own mentors’ tombstones in the cemetery on the other side of the village. I decided to follow the impasse to its end and discovered that instead of being a dead end, the road faded into a hillside and became a field—an ending of one thing and a beginning of something else. I could almost hear Harold laugh.

—Beebe Bahrami Gr’95

Gazetteer
New Deans at GSE and Penn Carey Law
And a former dean returns on an interim basis at Annenberg.

To fill open deanships at the Graduate School of Education, Penn Carey Law School, and the Annenberg School for Communication, Penn has turned to a scholar new to the University, a current faculty member, and a former leader of the School, respectively.

At GSE, Katherine O. Strunk, the Clifford E. Erickson Distinguished Chair in Education at Michigan State University, was named to succeed Pam Grossman, who had served as dean since 2015, effective July 1. An expert on teacher labor markets, school and district improvement and accountability policies, and efforts to boost student achievement, Strunk has collaborated with school district and state policymakers in Michigan, Los Angeles, and elsewhere, and has advised on numerous major school funding and governance reforms.

“Katharine Strunk’s career has been built around the concept of ‘research with consequence,’” said Penn President Liz Magill in announcing the appointment. “She has a long and distinguished track record and an exciting vision for the role of educators and education schools in research universities and society. Her mission-driven leadership is an ideal match for Penn’s top-ranked Graduate School of Education.”

A graduate of Princeton and Stanford, Strunk was on the faculty of the University of California at Davis School of Education from 2007 to 2009 and the University of Southern California’s Rossier School of Education and Sol Price School of Public Policy from 2009 to 2017 before moving to Michigan State. Strunk has raised more than $21 million in outside funding from government and philanthropic sources to support her work, and she has been widely published in peer-reviewed journals and in reports aimed at improving policies and programs, with a particular focus on impacts to the most traditionally underserved communities.

“I could not be more excited about this opportunity,” Strunk said. “Penn GSE is known as a leader for its collaborative and evidence-based efforts to improve policy and practice. This approach and commitment to real-world impact has never been more important than today. I look forward to working together with our partners in Philadelphia, nationally, and around the world in service of GSE’s mission to expand educational access, especially for those underserved by society.”

Incoming law dean Sophia Z. Lee, whose appointment also began on July 1, has been on the Penn Law faculty since 2009. A professor of law with a secondary appointment in the faculty of the University—known as a leader for its constitutional and administrative law, she served as deputy dean from 2015 to 2017 to her predecessor, Theodore W. Ruger, who is returning to the faculty after an eight-year tenure as dean.

Magill called Lee “a proven leader and a consensus builder” who “embodies Penn Carey Law’s core values” and is “the right leader at the right time to elevate [the School’s] status to even greater heights.”

A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and of Yale University, Lee has written on the role of administrative agencies in shaping constitutional law, civil rights and labor challenges to workplace discrimination, and conservative legal movements in the post-New Deal era.

“I look forward to working together to build on the law school’s defining strengths, ensure that we remain at the forefront of scholarly excellence, and prepare our graduates for fulfilling lives of practice, leadership, scholarship, and service at the highest levels,” Lee said in the announcement.

Michael X. Delli Carpini C’75 G’75, the Oscar H. Gandy Emeritus Professor of Communication and Democracy at Annenberg, has the longest tenure with the University—as an alumnus, faculty member, Annenberg dean from 2003 to 2018, and inaugural faculty director of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) Paideia Program.

His term in office this time around is likely to be brief. When Dean John L. Jackson Jr. departed Annenberg to become Penn Provost on June 1 [“Gazetteer,” May|Jun 2023], Magill asked Delli Carpini to step in while the search for a permanent replacement is completed, possibly by this fall. “Time and again,” Magill said, “Michael has answered the call of service.”

Delli Carpini called his return a “small way to repay” the debt he owes Penn “from my time as a first-generation undergraduate student to over 20 years as a faculty member and dean,” and said he looked forward “to working again with the school’s great faculty, staff, and students.” —JP
The Quake Show Goes National
Penn baseball rekindled 1990s glory with a long-awaited Ivy championship—and then made some noise at the NCAA tournament.

As the 1995 Ivy League baseball championship trophy gleamed within a glass case in the background, the 2023 Quakers gathered in the Dunning Coaches Center in late May to find out where they’d be headed for the program’s first NCAA tournament appearance in 28 years.

Cheers and knowing smiles filled the room when ESPN announced Penn’s destination and opponent: Auburn, the same team that the Quakers played—and lost to—the last time they were on this stage in 1995.

“We haven’t done this in so long and of course we’re going right back to where we were last time,” said slugging third baseman Wyatt Henseler C’24 just after the NCAA selection show concluded. “Hopefully we can make a little more noise than last time.”

“The Quake Show,” as Penn baseball has come to be known, ended up making a lot more noise.

Fresh off titles in the Ivy League regular season and inaugural Ivy tournament, the Quakers upset Auburn, 6–3, for their first NCAA regional victory since 1990. The next day, Penn notched a 5–4 win over Samford to become the first Ivy team to win its first two games at a regional since the NCAA went to a bracket with 16 four-team regionals in 1999. But with the chance to become the first Ivy team to win a regional and advance to a Super Regional (the final round before the eight-team College World Series), Penn lost two straight games to Southern Mississippi, ending its historic season with a program-record 34 victories.

“The way it all played out was really special,” said Penn coach John Yurkow, who, before the Auburn game, organized a Zoom call with his players and the 1995 baseball alums—including Mark DeRosa W’97, a former Major League baseball veteran who is currently an analyst for the MLB Network and recently managed Team USA at the 2023 World Baseball Classic. The message from the alums, Yurkow said, was that “they felt like if they would have gone in with a little different mindset, the results may have been different. And that was the one thing they stressed to our guys: You guys belong in the postseason. Go in there and expect to win.”

Yurkow knew beating a team from the baseball-rich Southeastern Conference would be a tall task but felt confident with Ryan Dromboski C’25 on the mound, calling the Ivy League Pitcher of the Year “one of a kind” because of his boundless energy. “The fans and the crowd, I knew it wouldn’t affect him,” Yurkow said. Dromboski did his part, striking out eight in five-plus innings, but the Quakers trailed 2–1 heading into the eighth—the same score the ’95 team lost to Auburn by, which was not lost on Yurkow. “I was like, You have to be kidding me,” the Penn coach said. “Then, sure enough, everything kind of turned.”

With Penn down by a run, catcher Jackson Appel W’23—“the total package [who] came through in some really big spots,” Yurkow said—cranked a go-ahead two-run homer in the eighth. And after Auburn tied the game at 3–3 to force extra innings, Penn executed three straight perfect bunts to bring home three runs in the 11th, silencing the boisterous Au-
burn crowd and giving the Ivy League its first-ever NCAA tourney win over an SEC opponent.

The Quakers kept rolling the next day, thanks to an eight-inning gem from pitcher Cole Zaffiro W’24 and a heads-up defensive play by first baseman Ben Miller C’23 to end the game by throwing out the tying Samford runner at third base. That dramatic finish, like the three consecu-
tive bunts, got the Quakers some attention from around the country—but it was nothing compared to their next game, when Calvin Brown C’24 was called out for a pitch-clock violation with the bases loaded and two outs. The call, which ended up falling 11–2. The next day they surrendered a 5–1 lead to lose 11–7. It was a crushing exit from the tournament, but a tweet from one of Penn baseball’s most famous alums, Doug Glanville EAS’93, helped put it in perspective.

“So proud and thankful for your inspiring run,” wrote Glanville, a retired MLB player who continues to work in baseball and was part of the 1990 Penn team that had been the last to win an NCAA tournament game. “Because of it, you had a bunch of old-head Penn players navigating WhatsApp to reconnect after many years. It made us recall great memories and connections. Grateful you brought us back together.”

That proved to be a familiar theme, said Yurkow, who heard from “five different eras of guys that texted me to say, ‘John, one of the best things about this was not only you guys winning but that we all hopped on these group text chains and WhatsApp threads while watching,’” the Penn coach said. “It really brought together people that hadn’t connected in a long time.”

Yurkow had been trying to energize alums and build a national-caliber program since taking over as head coach a decade ago and felt a shift in 2019 when Penn swept nationally ranked Duke on the road. “I thought we were gonna go on a run and win four championships in a row,” he said. That didn’t happen, in large part due to COVID-19 wiping out 2020 and 2021. The Quakers lost to Columbia for the league championship in 2022, before getting their revenge on the Lions this year, closing the regular season with three straight wins against them, including a monster five-run ninth-inning comeback. “I think that comeback won us the rest of the season, honestly,” said Henseler, who’s already hit more home runs than anybody in program history heading into his senior season. “That really showed us what we were capable of.”

As the top seed playing at home, Penn beat Columbia again to open the Ivy League Tournament, then knocked off Harvard and crushed Princeton in the title game to capture the trophy and secure the automatic NCAA berth. “It was just a special group of kids,” Yurkow said. “People are never going to forget what they did.”

**Women’s Lacrosse Back on Top**

Like the baseball team, the Quakers’ women’s lacrosse squad utilized Zoom and the program’s alumni base to motivate and inspire en route to a championship.

After an uncharacteristically poor 2022 campaign in which longtime head coach Karin Corbett felt the team didn’t understand the meaning of “Penn Pride,” Corbett had this year’s players connect with ones from 2007–10. “I think that is going to be a big steppingstone for us next year.”

Since many key players, including Niki Miles (the Ivy League Attacker of the Year) and Izzy Rohr (the Ivy League Defender of the Year), are planning to return for a fifth year since they took the 2021 spring semester off when the season was canceled, perhaps the Quakers can rekindle the magic from the NCAA Final Four teams of 2007, 2008, and 2009?

“What is the limit for us next year?” Corbett said. “We can go far.” —DZ
As about 30 undergraduates sleepily settled into their seats one morning this past February for an introductory level course called Global Climate Change, Michael E. Mann filled the time by asking them what they’d been reading.

Someone mentioned seeing an Associated Press article reporting on a study in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* predicting that, within the next decade or so, the planet will warm beyond the 2015 Paris Agreement’s call to limit the increase in average global temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. To elude that grim fate, according to the United Nations, greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest and decline 43 percent by 2030. The student pointed out that Mann was quoted in the article as a calming voice to offset the gloomy prognosis.

“Yeah, that spin was actually something I disagreed with,” Mann told the class. “The laws of physics may be immutable, but the laws of policy are not. This is not a cliff—it’s a highway. We may miss the 1.5 exit, but we can still take the 1.6 exit. Our only obstacle is political—a self-defeating prophecy.”

“I feel like over the last couple of years, doomism has become the predominant rhetoric around the issue of climate,” the student complained, frustration quickening her voice. “It’s such a copout.”

“It might be gratuitous of me to say, but I very much concur with you,” Mann responded dryly.

It’s been 25 years since Mann—the star climate scientist who joined Penn’s faculty last fall as a Presidential Distinguished Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science after 17 years at Penn State University—made his first entrance into the great climate battle for the environment since the “hockey stick” graph made him a target for climate change deniers 25 years ago.

Now on Penn’s faculty and heading the Center for Science, Sustainability, and the Media, he’s fending off a new generation of “inactivists” comprised of climate change defectors on the right and doomists on the left to get out the message that it’s still within our power to save the planet.

By JoAnn Greco

Michael E. Mann has been a central figure in the battle for the environment since the “hockey stick” graph made him a target for climate change deniers 25 years ago. Now on Penn’s faculty and heading the Center for Science, Sustainability, and the Media, he’s fending off a new generation of “inactivists” comprised of climate change defectors on the right and doomists on the left to get out the message that it’s still within our power to save the planet.

By JoAnn Greco
change debate after coauthoring a paper that introduced the immediately iconic and enduringly controversial “hockey stick” graph.

So dubbed for its mostly flat and then steeply ascending shape, the graph neatly distilled complex and disparate data to illustrate, simply and clearly, the dramatic uptick in world temperatures during the late 20th century. From the start, climate deniers questioned Mann and his colleagues’ methods and conclusions, and things grew ever nastier over the years.

Mann emerged from the flurry of attacks intent on pursuing his science but also determined to fight climate change deniers in the public arena. Looking back, he offers a summary of the decades-long brawl: “I was subject to attacks on my ideas, my integrity, my livelihood, and my life,” he says. “I do feel privileged, though, to be in the position of being an important voice in the greatest challenge we’ve ever faced. None of that would have happened if not for the hockey stick.”

Drew Shindell, an earth sciences professor at Duke University who’s known Mann for 20 years, observes that “rather than retreating into a shell and not engaging, Mike has used those attacks and made them part of his very compelling personal narrative.”

There’s been no shortage of accolades to balance the attacks. Along with fistfuls of awards and citations from a variety of professional associations, Mann has been rated as among the 50 leading visionaries in science and technology by Scientific American, and his work was cited as contributing to the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize jointly awarded to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Al Gore. Just months ago, he was named the 2023 Humanist of the Year by the American Humanist Association.

In the classroom, he’s a nonintimidating, genial presence, offering patient tutelage and spot-on metaphors delivered with Wallace Shawn-like intonations and quizzical sidelong glances. His commitment as an educator is one of Mann’s “best qualities,” says his friend Bill Nye (aka “the Science Guy”). “He’s someone who is playing at the very top of his game, and here he is teaching classes to undergraduates. He wants them to get excited about their ability to do something about the climate crisis.”

That’s certainly the case for Jasper MacLean C’23, an environmental science major who, though he found the class itself “a bit elementary,” adds that he “really wanted to take it because I like exploring the policy and philosophy behind educating people in these issues. Most professors don’t go into that.”

Mann’s current scientific research includes studies on factors affecting the beginning and end of ice ages, which have implications for predicting the behavior of melting ice sheets in the present day, and on the connections between climate change and extreme weather. With a secondary appointment in the Annenberg School for Communication, he also has a platform to combat the forces of denial and spread accurate information on climate change as director of the new Center for Science, Sustainability, and the Media.

“Michael Mann is not only a distinguished scientist but a highly visible and accessible communicator of science,” says Kathleen Hall Jamieson, the Elizabeth Ware Packard Professor of Communication and director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. “He is very interested in the ways in which media shape our understanding of climate science.”

Mann has been a source for the APPC’s factcheck.org for decades, Jamieson adds. “As Penn was trying to recruit him, I met with Michael and told him we were standing ready to do anything that we could to help him join us.” Next year, she notes, the annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Journalists will be held at Penn “as one of the first major activities to tell the world that Michael Mann is here.” In the meantime, the Center has presented several interdisciplinary panels, including an introduction to the business and investment approach known as ESG (for Environmental, Social, and Governance) that takes nonfinancial factors into account, cosponsored with the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy and the Wharton Climate Center. Last fall, Jamieson moderated a panel discussion at Perry World House with Mann and Malcolm Turnbull, who advocated for sustainable energy and climate action policies as prime minister of Australia (“Gazetteer,” Nov/Dec 2022).

The Center “will host events to bring together policy and business leaders, researchers, students, and faculty,” Mann says. “We want to propel Penn to the very forefront of the climate conversation today. It’s exciting for me to be here at this time.”

Mann’s latest book, The New Climate War (PublicAffairs, 2021), gives a good sense of how he views the current state of battle. In it, he takes on the fossil fuel industry, internet trolls, and bad actors in government and media, who he says conspire to deflect attention from the problem—since outright denial of the physical evidence of climate change is no longer credible.

This “new climate war” adopts the playbook of deflection campaigns mounted by the tobacco industry and the gun lobby. An early example of the genre in the environmental area was the “crying Indian” anti-littering public service announcement of 1971, released under the auspices of an organization called Keep America Beautiful. Beyond the deception of using a buckskin-adorned Italian American actor with a talent for tearing up as the star, a consortium of beverage companies was behind the ads, with the goal of stopping the passage of bottle bills that would be costly and burdensome for them to implement and manage. The idea in all cases: we as individuals need to step up and take responsibility, absolving corporations from taking a role.

Similarly, climate “inactivists,” as Mann calls them, tout personal actions—
Another technique involves advocating for “non-solution solutions” like large-scale carbon capture and sequestration or using geoengineering, say, to control the climate—a favorite of former Microsoft CEO, philanthropist, and tech visionary Bill Gates, who Mann notes has spent millions supporting research on the con-

climate deniers, the “hockey stick” graph also helped make Mann “an important voice in the greatest challenge we’ve ever faced.”

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Another technique involves advocating for “non-solution solutions” like large-scale carbon capture and sequestration or using geoengineering, say, to control the climate—a favorite of former Microsoft CEO, philanthropist, and tech visionary Bill Gates, who Mann notes has spent millions supporting research on the con-

Recycle, become a vegetarian, stop flying—as the primary solution to the climate crisis. “Though these actions are worth taking,” Mann writes, “a fixation on voluntary action alone takes the pressure off of the push for governmental policies to hold [companies like Exxon-Mobil, Shell, and BP] accountable.”

Emphasis on the individual’s responsibility is also handy in attempts to divide and conquer, such as by pitting climate scientists and environmentalist factions against each other over how much their “personal carbon footprint” (a concept that BP was an early promoter of in the mid-2000s, Mann says) undermines their authority as advocates for policy change. In one passage, he details a cooked-up controversy in which he was accused of indirectly attacking the young Swedish activist Greta Thunberg (for actions like sailing rather than flying across the Atlantic for a UN climate summit)—during an interview where he criticized inactivists for deflecting attention from systemic solutions to personal action. He also recounts stories of other climate scientists, as well as celebrity advocates like Leonardo DiCaprio and Al Gore, who have been charged with hypocrisy for their excessive consumption of, say, meat, energy, or jet fuel.

Climate change deniers turned defectors have also worked to thwart economic measures like cap and trade, a carbon tax, or carbon credits designed to level the playing field between fossil fuels and renewables—aided at times, to Mann’s regret, by climate advocates on the left; fan fears that climate action will destroy jobs; and paint renewable energy projects as unreliable because the sun isn’t always shining or the wind blowing.

“This is not a cliff—it’s a highway. We may miss the 1.5 exit, but we can still take the 1.6 exit. Our only obstacle is political—a self-defeating prophecy.”
cept. For various reasons, Mann argues, all of these technologies will be ineffective and/or dangerous—and are unnecessary. A truly viable path forward “involves a combination of energy efficiency, electrification, and decarbonization of the grid through an array of complementary renewable energy sources,” he writes. “The problem is that fossil fuel interests lose out in that scenario, and so they have used their immense wealth and influence to ... deflect attention from these real climate solutions, promoting in their place ostensible alternatives.”

Mann frequently uses the phrase “urgency and agency” to characterize his own perspective, emphasizing both the enormous stakes involved in climate change and the conviction that acting quickly and forcefully to implement policies to combat it can have an impact. A significant chunk of the book addresses commentators—many of them ostensible allies—who dismiss the second part of that mantra. In a chapter titled “The Truth Is Bad Enough,” he takes on climate activists who display “a distinct appetite for all-out doomism—portraying climate change not just as a threat that requires urgent response, but as an essentially lost cause, a hopeless fight.”

Citing both fringe outlets and high-profile examples like the novelist Jonathan Franzen’s *New Yorker* article, “What If We Stopped Pretending? The Climate Apocalypse Is Coming. To Prepare for It, We Need to Admit We Can’t Prevent It,” and journalist David Wallace-Wells’ *New York Magazine* article and later book *The Uninhabitable Earth*, Mann argues that their claims about runaway temperatures and cascading effects leading to a hellscape future landscape have little basis in climate science (which has actually done a pretty good job of predicting impacts so far) and also reinforce more general doubt and distrust of that science—playing into the hands of climate deniers/deniers. Such “climate doom porn” may now be “a greater threat to climate action than outright denial,” he suggests.

As an alternative, Mann offers his own four-point battle plan for the new climate war: Disregard the doom-sayers. (“The climate crisis is very real. But it is not unsolvable. And it’s not too late to act,” he writes. “Every ounce of carbon we don’t burn makes things better.”) Take to heart the example of young people like real-life activist Thunberg and the fictional Sophia, protagonist of a children’s book Mann coauthored, *The Tantrum That Saved the World.* (“The children speak with a moral clarity that is undeniable to all but the most jaded and cynical. It is a game-changer.”) Don’t allow climate denials to pose as good faith “skeptics” and focus on educating “those who are reachable, teachable, and moveable.” Finally, while acknowledging the value of individual action, concentrate on systemic changes aimed toward decarbonizing the energy sector. On this last point, the coronavirus offered a telling lesson “about the limits of behavior change alone,” when widespread lockdowns only cut global emissions by 4 percent.

Mann grew up in Amherst, where his father was a math professor at the University of Massachusetts. He took to math and science early—he remembers stopping by Penn to pay homage to ENIAC while on a family visit to Philadelphia—but mostly as the path of least resistance, rather than out of a passion for the subjects.

That changed when he encountered the work of charismatic scientist, author, and television personality Carl Sagan, whose PBS program *Cosmos* premiered when he was a high school freshman. “Sagan showed me the magic of scientific inquiry,” he writes, and “made me realize it was possible to spend a lifetime satisfying one’s scientific curiosity by posing and answering fundamental existential questions.” Later in the 1980s, Sagan became an ardent opponent of the Reagan-era Strategic Defense Initiative and was subjected to the kind of personal harassment and professional discrediting that Mann himself would later contend with. In another common thread, Sagan’s controversial nuclear winter simulations “were based on early-generation global climate models.”

By that time, Mann had made his way from Amherst to college at UC-Berkeley, where he double majored in applied math and physics. He then moved on to Yale for master’s degrees in physics and a PhD in geology and geophysics. In his second year in New Haven, he found himself idly thumbing through a course catalog looking for a change of pace. He noticed a class offered by Barry Saltzman, a giant in the field of weather and climate. For a physics and math guy like Mann, though, what was really intriguing was the fact that Saltzman’s work during the early 1960s had become the acknowledged progenitor to chaos theory as developed by fellow meteorologist Edward Lorenz, which seeks to define the patterns underlying seemingly random events. Math and physics and climate—it was the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Mann became interested in studying the natural variability of climate and wound up with Saltzman as his PhD advisor.

An encounter at a wine tasting between Mann’s father and Raymond S. Bradley, head of the department of geosciences at UMass Amherst, proved fateful. When Lawrence Mann told the geography professor of his son’s studies at Yale, Bradley invited the younger Mann to come back home to Amherst for his postdoc. “The funny thing,” recalls Mann, “is that Ray’s son was my 10th grade lab partner in biology!”

Mann was soon ensconced in an upstairs apartment in his parents’ house and ready to work with Bradley and Malcolm K. Hughes, a University of Arizona specialist in interpreting proxy climate indicators (as opposed to actual temperature recordings) like tree rings, ice cores, and coral. Their resulting paper, with Mann as lead author, analyzed climate data back to the year 1400 and was
published in Nature on Earth Day 1998, a year that would turn out to be the warmest one since modern climate records had begun 150 years earlier. The study was picked up by major dailies, newsweeklies, magazines like Rolling Stone, and national broadcasts.

The attention led to another pleasant surprise for Mann—his selection as a lead author for the then-forthcoming IPCC Third Assessment Report (to be published in 2001). In early 1999, Mann and colleagues also released a follow-up to the 1998 paper that incorporated data going back to 1000.

Gavin A. Schmidt, now director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, remembers those days well. “I was at McGill University working in a group that was focused on climate and this was a new thing at the time,” he says. “Climate was studied by atmospheric scientists, oceanographers, paleontologists, and Michael and I came from physics and math, so our trajectories kind of reflected that. We were trying to work out how we could make a mark.”

Mann’s work, beyond its importance to climate science, was “sociologically interesting” because of those silos. While analyses of paleoclimate had been going on since before the ice age cycles were discovered in the 1960s, “the way of working in that field was for many individual people to focus on many individual sites going back in time,” Schmidt says. “There wasn’t a culture of synthesis. Mike is coming from outside of the field, and he’s coming in with this notion of, ‘What can I do, using my math and my stats?’ and then Ray is like, ‘Why don’t we put it all together?’ And that’s the genesis of the hockey stick,” he recalls.

“Initially it was like, this is great … We would hang out and Mike was basking in the attention, being invited to give keynotes—it was a big step up for him professionally,” Schmidt adds. “Then we started to see the bad faith attacks because it became so high profile.” While the specifics varied, they all boiled down to Mann “getting blamed for the fact that it’s obviously warming up over the 20th century, and to a lot of people who would rather that that not be true—including the fossil fuel industry—he became the fall guy.”

Attempts to undermine the hockey stick began in the late 1990s and conservative media outlets and politicians continued raising questions for years. In 2006, the National Academy of Sciences even felt compelled to put out a statement that the conclusion of Mann and his colleagues “has subsequently been supported by an array of evidence that includes both additional large-scale surface temperature reconstructions and pronounced changes in a variety of local proxy indicators, such as melting on ice caps and the retreat of glaciers around the world.”

In 2009, emails written by Mann and other climate scientists were hacked in an effort to discredit them, an occurrence inevitably dubbed Climategate. Later that year, factcheck.org presented an analysis of the claims. “The 1,000-plus e-mails sometimes illustrate the hairier side of scientific research,” it read in part. “Criticisms of climate change are sometimes dismissed as ‘fraud’ or ‘pure crap’ … Other messages, like a 2007 e-mail from Michael Mann of Penn State University, show indignation at being the target of skeptics’ ire … Claims that the e-mails are evidence of fraud or deceit, however, misrepresent what they actually say.”

Nevertheless, Virginia’s Republican attorney general, Ken Cuccinelli II, launched a two-year investigation of Mann, looking for evidence of fraud during his time as a researcher and professor at the University of Virginia. And in 2012, a blog post on the website of the Competitive Enterprise Institute (whose self-described mission is to “reform America’s unaccountable regulatory state”) compared Mann to disgraced Penn State football coach Jerry Sandusky, “except that instead of molesting children, he has molested and tortured data”—a comment that was repeated by outlets including the National Review and Wall Street Journal.

“It really never stopped,” Mann says. “I would have been very happy staying in the background doing the science that I love doing,” he adds. “But they engaged me, to attack and vilify and intimidate me in a cynical effort to discredit my work. I’ve personally seen the enemy close up for decades—I see how they operate and the tactics they use. It took a toll, for sure.”

The resulting atmosphere of controversy, Mann believes, made funding agencies shy away from supporting him. “Personally, I received the nastiest emails you can imagine; there were death threats aimed at me and my family. I received an envelope containing white powder.”

Eventually Mann and his peers learned how to fight back.

“We ended up going to workshops on journalism and media,” Schmidt says. “We learned how to tell a story, how to get down to what’s important for people to understand, how to combat bad information. How to get the scientist back into the discussions.”

One of the people Mann turned to was Susan Joy Hassol, a science writer and consultant who directs Climate Communication, a nonprofit that helps climate scientists learn how to get their message across to the general public simply and without jargon. Mann is listed as a science advisor to the organization.

“Mike has learned how to get his wonderful sense of humor through in his
writing and to use metaphor and turns of phrase like the ‘urgency and agency,’ which came naturally out of his brain and is just perfect,’ Hassol says. Some 20 years after they first met, the two still regularly team up to write op-eds around teachable moments like extreme weather events—see, for example, “The Heat Dome? Yeah, It’s Climate Change,” in the New York Times in June 2021, and “Enjoy the Weather. Worry About the Climate” in the Hill, last February.

Along with Bradley, Schmidt, and a few others, Mann also launched reallclimate.org in 2004, when the notion of direct peer-to-peer communication via blogging was new. “The trigger was the movie The Day After Tomorrow,” Schmidt says with a laugh. Premised on a sudden climate shift that triggers a new ice age, the film had, he quips, the “distinction of being the best movie that has a paleoclimatologist as a hero and the worst movie that has a paleoclimatologist as a hero.” Still, with headlines like “Some new CMIP6 MSU comparisons,” the site is a pretty wonky and insidery effort.

“We in the scientific community produce things like giant IPCC assessments,” says Shindell, who has also contributed to the blog. “But basically the story remains the same—you have to stop using fossil fuels or you’re going to wreck the planet—which is what it was decades ago.

“Communicating the societal impacts of climate change and of different mitigation options, I think, makes the discussion more palatable,” he adds. “If you can say, these many fewer people will die from heat waves, the number of children’s asthma hospitalizations will decrease by this much, this many more people will be employed in new energy industries…”

When it comes to putting the crisis into a relatable context, Mann for one “leaves no stone unturned,” Hassol says.

Each of Mann’s books have tackled the warming problem in a different way. Published in 2008, Dire Predictions: Understanding Climate Change, written with Penn State Professor of Geosciences Lee R. Kump, is a graphics-intense layperson’s introduction to the nearly two decades worth of lengthy IPCC reports. Four years later, Mann’s second book, the memoirish The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars, delved into the science behind that graph, the resulting controversy, and Climategate. Four years after that, Madhouse Effect, created with coauthor, Tom Toles, a Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist for the Washington Post, offered a one-two punch of clever language and witty drawings to debunk climate deniers.

Mann contributed scientific background and explanatory text suitable for young children for The Tantrum That Saved the World, by writer and illustrator Megan Herbert, in which the teen-aged Sophia one day finds a parade of displaced animal, insect, and then human refugees arriving at her doorstep and vows to help them by marching, with protest sign aloft, to City Hall, where she is joined by her young friends. The book ends with Sophia standing on the steps of the White House. Originally self-published by Herbert in 2017, Tantrum came out a year before the then-15-year-old Thunberg began organizing her “Fridays for Future” campaign, leading thousands of students to skip school each week to protest for more action against climate change.

Following last year’s New Climate War will be Our Fragile Moment: How Lessons from Earth’s Past Can Help Us Survive the Climate Crisis, scheduled for publication this fall. “Climate variability has at times created new niches that humans or their ancestors could potentially exploit, and challenges that at times have spurred innovation,” reads the book’s advance notice.

In considering the opportunities and challenges of climate swerves—and the potential disaster when things get too far off course—it’s impossible not to think of COVID-19 and the crisis the world has recently endured. “The novel pandemic, in terms of forcing animals out of their natural habitats and into contact with human populations was, like climate change, a consequence of our destruction of our earth,” Mann observes. “It also drove home that anti-science is deadly: the defiance of public health messaging, refusal to get vaccinated and to wear masks, that became part of a tribal identity. It was right out of a dystopian nightmare.

“My childhood hero, Carl Sagan, basically presages all of this,” he continues. “I quote a passage from him in The New Climate War, and I tweet it often. It’s from The Demon-Haunted World.” The segment reads:

I have a foreboding of an America in my children’s or grandchildren’s time—when the United States is a service and information economy; when nearly all the manufacturing industries have slipped away to other countries; when awesome technological powers are in the hands of a very few, and no one representing the public interest can even grasp the issues; when … we slide, almost without noticing, back into superstition and darkness … . The dumbing down of America is most evident in the slow decay of substantive content in the enormously influential media … lowest common denominator programming, credulous presentations on pseudoscience and superstition, but especially a kind of celebration of ignorance.

And yet Mann remains optimistic. “It’s never been in my constitution to throw in the towel,” he says. “My battles now are not so much about defending my science, or even climate science, but battling the forces of inaction. Fortunately, it’s a battle in which there are many allies—a massive movement that I wouldn’t have envisioned years ago.”

JoAnn Greco writes frequently for the Gazette.
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Sample Rate Chart for $20,000* Charitable Gift Annuity on a Single Life

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To mark the Netter Center’s 30th anniversary, founding director Ira Harkavy trumpets the past and the future of Penn’s strategies to revitalize West Philadelphia—and alumni return to campus to tout Harkavy as an inspiration in the field of university-community engagement.

By Dave Zeitlin

Fifty-four years after his impassioned speech during a College Hall sit-in altered the trajectory of the University’s relationship with its West Philadelphia neighbors, Ira Harkavy C’70 Gr’79 stood in front of a smaller group, in a smaller space on campus, bearing a humbler message. “I am moved beyond measure,” Harkavy said. “I’m not usually at a loss for words. I think this may be one of the first times that I am.”

Inside the same Irvine Auditorium room sat a dozen Penn alumni whose lives had been shaped by the Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships, the University’s primary vehicle for advocating civic and community engagement of which Harkavy is the founding director. The Netter Center marked its 30th anniversary with a full calendar of events throughout the 2022–23 academic year, including a mid-April Alumni Community Engaged Scholarship Symposium featuring those 12 speakers who credited Harkavy with inspiring them to pursue their own careers in community-engaged research, teaching, and learning.

About three weeks later, during Alumni Weekend, other alumni spoke about their Netter Center memories following a question-and-answer session with Harkavy and new Penn Provost John L. Jackson Jr. at an event called “Changing Universities to Change the World.”

Below is the conversation between Harkavy and Jackson, edited for space and clarity, followed by highlights of the April alumni symposium. Jackson opened the discussion by asking Harkavy to trace his trajectory from the 1969 College Hall protest he led—during which he said, per reporting in the Gazette’s March 1969 issue, “It’s true this University is committed to social change, but social change for whom and to what?”—to the 1992 establishment of the Center for Community Partnerships (to which the name Netter was added in 2007 following a gift from Edward Netter C’53 and his wife Barbara).

“CHANGING UNIVERSITIES TO CHANGE THE WORLD”

IRA HARKAVY: 1969 was a year of tremendous protest, focusing on issues related to civil rights, anti-racism, the anti-war movement. I led a large protest in College Hall, focusing in part on the war but largely on Penn’s treatment toward the West Philadelphia community. It was a peaceful protest, it was a successful protest, and it set a stage for conversations.
There was a recognition that Penn and this community needed to work together. The early ’70s was a period of significant protests, but in terms of the University of Pennsylvania there became a decrease in the focus on West Philadelphia. That was partly because Penn was facing tremendous economic difficulties. I used to teach with former President Martin Meyerson [Hon’70], and he said to me that he went to the faculty to push some of these issues about West Philadelphia because he was an urbanist. But there was not the ability to carry that idea forward.

In the 1980s Sheldon Hackney became president, and issues of civil rights and racism were central to his writing, his experience. Sheldon helped Penn turn to an orientation that said, in an institutional report, that Penn and West Philadelphia’s futures are intertwined. That was his signal statement: as Penn went, so would the community. And he began to turn the institution forward.

In the late ’80s and early ’90s there had been increasing recognition of the environmental crisis, and deterioration in the community that was becoming sharper. There was a sense—and I wrote this at the time—that universities cannot afford to be islands of affluence in seas of poverty. That began to be felt and began to be experienced by the institution.

It was in that context that the Netter Center was born. It had three propositions as founding principles. The first was exactly what Sheldon had said: universities and their communities, Penn and West Philadelphia, are intertwined.

Secondly, Penn could do a great deal to improve the quality of life in the community, as the largest employer, largest purchaser of goods and services, and largest landholder. But most importantly, we had students—idealistic, creative, caring students—and faculty and staff who are crucial to improving the quality of life in the city. The third proposition is what made Netter unique: that this work wasn’t just for the community, but it was mutually beneficial. It was the idea that Penn would be a greater research university, that Penn would make greater contributions to knowledge, that Penn would be better able to educate students for creative, caring citizenship, and that Penn would be more effective in developing not just better citizens but in fact lifelong contributors to a democratic society.

So the idea of a mutual benefit to Penn [engaging with] the community—this was an institutional advancement strategy in effect. And finally, if you’re going to do this, you can’t bring change just in Philadelphia, West Philadelphia, and Penn; you need to in fact, share those ideas and spread them to the rest of the country and around the world.

JACKSON: So much change, right? You’ve marked some of the regime change in the university. Throughout all this time, the Netter Center’s mission has been clear. And you have to make sure the mission continues to move forward. Can you tell us about the core strategies you’ve used over the years to make sure the mission both continues to resonate and moves forward?

HARKAVY: I appreciate that question because the issue isn’t the vision; the key question is how do you do it? That’s the hard real world and intellectual question. That’s how you make greater contributions to knowledge. We’ve had a few principles.

The first principle is the idea of having credit-bearing academic courses in which students and faculty work with the community to improve the quality of life and focus on what might be termed universal problems, such as poverty, social justice, poor schooling, inequality in healthcare. Currently, I think we have upwards of 70 academically based community service [ABCS] courses—from physics, to philosophy, to math, to music ... that are simultaneously making a difference on campus and in the world.

The second strategy is university-assisted community schools. The idea is that the school is a hub of a neighborhood and also a place in which young people learn through engagement and solving the problems of their environment, those universal problems as they manifest in their community. In a university-assisted community school, the university is a leading partner.
The last point is you can’t bring about change unless you aggregate multiple activities and efforts. Having separate programs doesn’t do much when they’re all isolated, siloed. When Penn aggregates those ABCS courses—which 70 courses with about 1,800 students, plus 1,200 volunteers, work-study students—and brings its resources to university-assisted community schools, it can have an actual impact.

**JACKSON:** I will say as someone who has participated in ABCS courses, it also clearly demands a mutuality between the community and the university, between the academics and the students.

**HARKAVY:** That’s exactly right. The idea is that it’s not done in the community—it’s done with, and it’s done for. You’re learning with them. They’re your neighbors. It’s not done for the research project, [though] that can be part of it. The bottom line, as you said, is they are our partners.

**JACKSON:** Along with the ABCS courses, also at the Netter Center there’s been the organizing principle for thinking about “community-engaged scholarship” writ large. You convened a group of senior scholars from all around campus to think deeply about that question. **What does it entail? How do we make sure it counts? How does it transform intellectual knowledge production?** I was fortunate enough to be a part of the conversation led by [Professor of Education] Matt Hartley and GSE. Can you give us a sense of what examples of community-engaged scholarship look like?

**HARKAVY:** Community-engaged scholarship is growing at Penn and around the country. It’s this idea of working with the community in partnership and working deeply locally. ABCS courses capture that idea. They represent, in a certain sense, the quintessential form of community-engaged scholarship. I’ll give an example: a colleague of ours, Herman Beavers [Penn’s Julie Beren Platt and Marc E. Platt President’s Distinguished Professor of English and Africana Studies], developed a course ten and a half years ago, working with the Paul Robeson House & Museum, which is a great cultural institution in West Philadelphia, engaging with the work of August Wilson, a great playwright who focused on Pittsburgh. This is West Philadelphia. How does that relate to us? Working with adults, students write their own plays. They design their own approaches to how to think about August Wilson. They take their experience and become the characters in the play. And then those plays are performed to the community. I’ve had the good fortune of watching and learning and seeing the powerful impacts.

Lori Flanagan-Cato, [an associate professor in Penn's psychology department], teaches a course called The ABCs of Neuroscience, which teaches students at Paul Robeson High School neuroscience by having the Penn students teach them what they’re learning in class. The best way to learn is to teach. These students in fact teach students in West Philadelphia who would have never had the opportunity to learn neuroscience. Lori’s class this year received an extraordinary accolade. The principal of the school looked at the data, which is reported citywide, [and found] that the school had the greatest single increase of any school in Philadelphia in three straight Keystone tests. And the principal indicated the most important contributor to that change was Lori Flanagan-Cato’s course. That’s community-engaged scholarship, powerfully seen.

**JACKSON:** We’ve talked a lot about the relationship between Netter, Penn, and the local community. But I also know that Netter has a national and global impact. Tell us about the reach of Netter.

**HARKAVY:** When we were founded, the idea was that you can’t bring change just here. How do you have this work spread so that it influences you at home and influences others? We’ve seen the reach very recently. One of our 30th anniversary events was a symposium with 12 graduates of the University of Pennsylvania, who did this work largely as undergraduates, who now are distinguished academics—from epidemiology, to business, to a Pulitzer Prize winner—who testified how this was transformative in their work. That is the reach of reaches: where others spread the word and teach others. And it was profound. [See part two of this story.]

In terms of organizational activities, the first thing is spreading university-assisted community schools. Every third year, we fund a regional training center that develops and spreads university-assisted community schools. Most recently it was UCLA, which did the training for the entire state of California on community school development. Now it’s the University of Binghamton [providing technical assistance across New York and New Jersey].

I also founded an organization called the Anchor Institutions Task Force: a network of 1,000 individuals across the world, focusing on universities as anchors in their neighborhood—not just being there but the principles that they stand for, [including] democratic practice, social justice and equity, mutual transformation, and play space.

The third network is one that goes back the longest, the Philadelphia Higher Education Network, the neighborhood development I founded in 1987. It has 25 local institutions doing the work.

And finally, we’ve been working with [several international organizations] to spread the kind of work that Netter does here in West Philadelphia to institutions and groups all over the world. The notion is that every university, not just in the United States, should work with its local
community to improve democracy and the quality of life in its environment and the quality of research, teaching, and learning.

JACKSON: Where do you see Penn, West Philadelphia, over the next 5, 10, 30 years?

HARKAVY: The very simple answer is more, deeper, better. We have 70 ABCS courses; we should be up to 100. We have 16 proposals coming up this year from 13 standing faculty. And so, we want more, we want it better, we want greater impact on the students in the community. The same for university-assisted community schools. We work with eight schools in West Philadelphia; we want to expand that significantly and we want to do it better. We want to integrate the services better. We want to bring more health resources with Children's Hospital and with the Perelman Center. We want to build that and make it stronger. The same with the law school.

I’m also looking at getting alums more engaged. Alums have been crucial. In the more difficult days, when this was not necessarily heralded by every leader of the institution … it was alums who kept this moving, along with students meeting with faculty, saying this is good and important work.

And if we do this, I am convinced it will have profound impacts on Penn’s leadership as really the great research university in the world. This kind of focus will, in fact, increase Penn’s impact on its students, on its contributions to knowledge. It will enable us to better advance knowledge to the continuous improvement of human life. It will enable us to simultaneously educate students to be more effective, empathetic, engaged citizens of democracy. And it will make a greater contribution to creating a true beloved community with Penn in West Philadelphia.

“WALKING IN IRA’S FOOTSTEPS”

“What would my life have been like if I hadn’t discovered what is now the Netter Center?”

Salamishah Tillet C’96 G’04 posed the counterfactual during the Netter Center’s 30th Anniversary Alumni Symposium on Community-Engaged Scholarship at Irvine Auditorium on April 20.

“Thinking about the University as a place of social justice in terms of student protest [is an idea] I think we’re all familiar with, whether it’s the 1960s, the 1970s, and most recently with the Black Lives Matter and Me Too movements of today,” continued Tillet, now a professor at Rutgers University-Newark and a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer for her New York Times essays on race in popular culture. “What I didn’t know, though, was that the University itself could be [not just a site of] activism but could actually be a good neighbor and could be a source of social change in the neighborhood in which it lives.”

Tillet, like other alumni who returned to campus to take part in panel discussions, said her initial foray into community engagement mostly came from joining the Netter Center as an undergraduate, which involved taking Academically Based Community Service (ABCS) courses and volunteering at nearby Philadelphia public schools. Tillet recalled waking up early on Saturday morning, and taking the trolley to the old Turner Middle School at 59th and Baltimore to teach African American history. “Because I continued to be a teacher, I think it’s really important to know that the first time I felt like I could share my knowledge with another group of people younger than me was because of this opportunity,” said Tillet, who previously served on the Penn faculty as an English professor and is the cofounder of A Long Walk Home, an arts organization that seeks to empower young people to end violence against girls and women (“Salamishah Tillet’s Journey,” Sep|Oct 2014).

Taking trolleys and teaching at Turner is a bond shared by several of the Netter Center alumni who spoke at the event—and an experience that was equal parts eye-opening and joyful. Kim Van Naarden Braun C’95 said she helped develop a nutrition chemistry curriculum for the Turner students, recalling with a smile the “backpack full of Bunsen burners on SEPTA” that in hindsight perhaps “wasn’t the best choice.” But it did prove instrumental in crafting her senior thesis on adolescent obesity, in which she compared the nutrition of Turner students to students at a more well-to-do suburban middle school—and launched her toward a career as a senior scientific director at Bristol Myers Squibb. One of the only non-academics on the panels, Van Naarden Braun noted that Harkavy’s “influences have stayed with me over the past 30 years as a scientist and as a citizen.”

For Jeff Camarillo C’01, teaching world history and Spanish at Turner as part of a Netter Center summer internship program could be...
was “transformative” because it had been drilled into him during his pre-freshman orientation that “West Philly was dangerous and off-limits to Penn undergraduates.” But as a 19-year-old in the summer before his sophomore year, he quickly found that to be a “distorted depiction,” enjoying the “cultural vibrancy” west of 41st Street. “There was so much more for me to learn at 59th and Baltimore about democracy, community, society, justice, and equity than there ever was at 34th and Walnut,” Camarillo said. “Teaching and learning from and with vibrant young people was and still is the most gratifying, joyful, and transformational part of my life.”

Twenty-five years later, Camarillo works as an assistant director of the Stanford Teacher Education Program, where he prepares future educators to teach about racial justice in historically marginalized communities of color. “The seeds that were planted in me at the age of 19 as a rising Penn sophomore have now bloomed into a flourishing forest of critical hope and community-centered educational dreams,” he said. “There’s rarely a day that passes where the learning and values instilled in me through my work as an undergraduate at the Netter Center do not make their way into my educational practice and leadership.”

Margo Shea C’95 fondly recalled taking Turner middle schoolers ice skating as part of their PE class. But the true “game changer” of her undergraduate experience came when her friend and freshman dormmate Tyrone “Bear” Robertson was murdered while back home in Chester, Pennsylvania, during winter break. Spurred by the tragedy, and a dawning awareness of urban inequality, she became an urban studies major and registered for one of Harkavy’s year-long courses. “He invited us to be curious, to make connections, to be critical but to always be constructive, to always orient toward possibility.”

Shea has kept those lessons in mind through her own career in academia, most recently as a history professor at Salem State University, where she said she also runs an internship program that’s placed 150 students in non-profit organizations. “I’m at the most diverse institution in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,” she said. “My students are first-generation, my students are veterans, my students have very complicated lives. ... I help my students learn to tell their stories. Even in ways that are small, I am walking in Ira’s footsteps and I am carrying everything I learned at this institution with me.”

Bernice Garnett C’05 has been trying to recreate her own version of the Netter Center at Vermont’s College of Education and Social Services, where she is a professor and public health prevention scientist. Garnett connects her collegiate students with underprivileged counterparts in the Burlington School District. “Because I work in a very rural, white state that has pockets of deep internalized racism ... I fundamentally believe in the importance of institutions of higher education no longer engaging in symbolic community-engaged scholarship but really transformative [scholarship],” she said. “I’m grateful to have had an opportunity to learn at this institution, but more importantly for the Netter Center to bake academically based community service courses into the undergraduate experience.”

When former Penn professor Richard Pepino asked a question about how to measure tangible progress in local communities involved in university ABCS courses (which he used to teach at Penn—“the greatest thing I’ve ever done”), Garnett had a thoughtful response. “ABCs courses have the potential to damage communities, actually, if we don’t have sustained commitment to social transformation,” she said. “But we are in year seven of our community partnership, so we are partners that are there and that keep showing up. They are my number one priority, at the expense of my academic productivity—and it has to be clear that this has to be at the expense of our own ego in the academic institution.”

Tamara Dubowitz C’96 G’00, a senior policy researcher at the RAND Corporation, was even warier in response to Pepino’s query. “I’m not sure that ABCS classes can really change communities,” Dubowitz said, joking that Harkavy might want to yell at her for that. “But I think that they can change an individual’s approach to how social change can happen,” adding that “ABCs classes changed my life for sure as an undergraduate.”

Dubowitz did make a lasting contribution to the Netter Center, writing the grant to start what is now the Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative, a program created more than 30 years ago to help build and sustain healthy communities by promoting nutrition education, food access and sovereignty, and physical fitness in West Philadelphia. Andrew Zitcer C’00 GCP’04 CGS’07 WEv’07 WEv’08, a professor and director of the urban strategy graduate program at Drexel University, made an enduring contribution to the Netter Center, too. He brought with him an old T-shirt for the Foundation Community Arts Initiative, which was formed in a building near 40th and Walnut Streets that the University had purchased after Harkavy and the late Lee Benson hatched a revitalization plan for it during a 1998 urban studies seminar that Zitcer took “[Gazetteer,” Nov/Dec 2005]. It was initially envisioned as a jazz club, but under Zitcer’s leadership the Foundation began programming varied music and cultural offerings to unite diverse groups of people. “And I’m proud to say that 25 years later, the Foundation Community Arts Initiative, now known as the Rotunda, is still in operation and presents dozens, if not hundreds, of cultural events across a calendar of incredible diversity—free and open to the public,” he said.

“It was a true watershed in my life in terms of thinking about art and community,” Zitcer continued. “It really instilled in me that arts and culture is a critical ingredient in every community transformation.”
Birthday Blooms

A springtime celebration of the 90th year—and recent name tweak—of Penn’s Morris Arboretum and Gardens.

Photography by Candace diCarlo, text by Nicole Perry
June 4, 1933, after functioning as a private estate for siblings John and Lydia Morris, the great iron gates of Morris Arboretum opened to the public. As they swing open 90 years later, the institution unveils a more descriptive name, new features, and additional events and programs.

The name change—now it’s Morris Arboretum and Gardens—harkens back to the Morrises’ shared vision of a public garden where conifers, hollies, magnolias, and other trees live in harmony with an artist’s palette of colorful flower gardens, according to Bill Cullina, F. Otto Haas Executive Director.

“The new name is really a reflection of what was already here—we have always been more than just an arboretum,” Cullina said in an email provided from the arboretum. “When John and Lydia Morris first created this place, they crafted beautiful gardens, like the Rose Garden and Flower Walk, to add color, beauty, and interest in addition to building a diverse collection of trees.”

The pair was also keen on transforming their estate, which they called Compton, into an institution for horticultural research. After Lydia’s death in 1932 (John had died 17 years earlier), the land was bequeathed to the University, which would serve as a steward for the siblings’ shared dream [see “Old Penn,” this issue, for more on Morris’s history].

Arboretum officials point to an increased focus on molecular science, an emphasis on color and beauty, more accessible pathways, and a celebration of pure joy as fresh features of the newly rebranded Morris Arboretum and Gardens.

The Garden Railway, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, is one example of the institution’s commitment to delighting visitors. It received a new, 300-foot track extension, making it one of the largest garden railways in the country, at one-third of a mile. This is the largest one-time expansion since the railway’s installation in 1998.

The exhibit’s theme this year is “Public Gardens” and features miniature models of real-life structures and elements from gardens across America, like a cactus gallery from the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix and Queen Anne’s Cottage from the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden. Through loops, tunnels, and bridges, the train also passes scaled-down versions of local landmarks, like Philadelphia’s city hall and art museum. Created by Kentucky-based botanical artists Applied Imagination, the replicas are constructed with natural materials like bark, moss, flowers, and shells. Independence Hall, for
people with mobility issues, Cullina said. Bluestone pavers have been installed on the two central axis walkways, making it easier for visitors of all ages and abilities to get close enough to experience the flowers.

One of the oldest features of the Morris estate, the Rose Garden dates back to 1888 when it was originally comprised of just a few roses mixed in with fruits, vegetables, flowers, and a specimen chestnut tree, according to archival history on the Morris’s website. Lydia Morris transformed it into a monoculture rose garden in 1924. Today, it blooms with perennials, annuals, and woody plants, along with roses and ornamental elements that harken back to the Victorian era.

Another new project that Cullina is excited about includes progress on a molecular lab that he says will be transformational for the research staff. The enhanced Garden Railway is open through October 10, at which point it will close to prepare for the popular Holiday Garden Railway exhibit, opening November 24.

A brand-new exhibition, *Exuberant Blooms: A Pop-Up Garden*, is open through October 1. Paying homage to the grandeur of the Victorian floral carpet, it’s a vibrant display of more than 10,000 plants of varying color, form, height, and shape. Plants range from as small as eight inches to as tall as eight feet.

Seven large paisley-shaped “plant islands” are spread over more than a quarter acre. Each bed contains a wide variety of annual and tropical plants known for their bold, saturated colors and their appeal to pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Plants like dahlias, cannas, zinnias, euphorbia, salvia, and colocasia impress with deep purples, bright pinks, and cool blues. Arboretum officials share that some specific varieties include Calibrachoa Cabaret ‘Midnight Kiss,’ Angelonia Alonia ‘Pink Flirt,’ Canna ‘White Tiger,’ Colocasia ‘Black Magic,’ and Cleome Senorita ‘Rosalita.’

The Rose Garden has also received a facelift and become more accessible for example, is crafted with pinecone seeds for shingles and twigs as downspouts.

*Exuberant Blooms is a vibrant display of more than 10,000 plants of varying color, form, height, and shape.*

The Rose Garden today blooms with ornamental elements, like baby’s breath, that harken back to the Victorian era. Opposite: The Garden Railway celebrates 25 years this year.
Installed in 1905, Swan Pond is the year-round home of the Morris’s swan sisters, Flora and Fauna. Opposite: The fully accessible tree canopy walk includes a giant bird’s nest with robin egg seats.
Another important ecological endeavor is the Mid-Atlantic Megalopolis Project, which is seeking to understand “what thrives, survives, or perishes in cities, now and in the past,” according to Morris’s website. The Mid-Atlantic Megalopolis, stretching from New York to DC, is the oldest urban corridor on the continent and presents a unique opportunity for studying the urbanization of flora. Researchers at Morris and its partner organizations are digitizing roughly 700,000 herbarium specimens from 11 institutions in this urban corridor.

“As we stand on the cusp of our second century, I am aware that our role as a research institution and a place for joy and healing has never been more critical,” Culina said. “I believe that regular contact with the natural world is an essential part of our humanity. These 165 acres of meadows, trees and gardens in such a heavily urbanized region are a true gift of health, peace, and well-being to our community.”

“The Morris also plays an important ecological role in the sustainability of our planet, Culina said.

“We speak for the trees, and our trees are in trouble: climate change, introduced insects and diseases, invasive species are destroying our forests.”

research center currently studies the evolution, phylogenetics, systematics/taxonomy, anatomy, and morphology of plants. Floristics, or the study of what plants grow in a certain place in a particular timeframe, is also a major focus, especially the flora of Pennsylvania. According to its website, the Morris is fundraising for a suite of molecular biology and anatomy/histology tools and equipment that will allow the staff to grow the research program even further.

“Lydia gifted the Morris to the University of Pennsylvania so it could become a place for botanical research, horticultural education, and public engagement,” Culina said. “With the expansion of our research program, educational opportunities for children, students and adults, and a focus on responsive and engaging visitor experience, I believe we are celebrating Lydia’s gift in all we do.”

The Morris also plays an important ecological role in the sustainability of our planet, Culina said.

“We speak for the trees, and our trees are in trouble: climate change, introduced insects and diseases, invasive species are destroying our forests,” he said. “We are focusing on the taxonomy and conservation of rare species and restoration of imperiled trees such as American ash, Canada hemlock, and American beech.”
As the official arboretum of Pennsylvania, Morris has a diverse collection of trees from all over the world, such as this Blue Atlas cedar, native to North Africa (top), a giant sequoia from California, a 120-year-old Katsura tree native to Japan and China (below), and a Cilician fir from the mountains of Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon.
Alumni Weekend 2023

Penn 68 Not Done Yet!

40th Reunion

1990s

1993

Penn Alumni Events
DOMESTIC

ALABAMA
Marta Self, WG’03
marta.self@gmail.com

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president@penncilubaz.org

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San Francisco
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president@penncilubsf.com
San Diego
Lourdes Martinez, GR’11
penncilubsd@gmail.com
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svpenncilub@gmail.com
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arthurrossgallery.org
open Tues.–Sun.
Songs for Ritual and Remembrance
Jun. 17–Sep. 17

ICA
icaphila.org
Carolyn Lazard: Long Take
Terence Nance: Swarm
Both through Jul. 9

Morris Arboretum and Gardens
morrisarboretum.org
open daily
Garden Railway
Through October 10
Exuberant Blooms: A Pop-Up Garden
Now open

Penn Libraries
library.upenn.edu
Beautiful Blackbird: The Creative Spirit of Ashley Bryan
Through July 21

Penn Museum
penn.museum
Garden Jams Wednesday
Evening Happy Hours
Jul. 5 West Philly Orchestra
Jul. 12 Hennessey Bonfire

World Café Live
worldcafelive.com
Jul. 6 Eilen Jewell
Jul. 14 The Magnetic Fields
Jul. 20 Lori McKenna
Jul. 28 On & On:
José James Sings Badu
Aug. 4 David Cook
Aug. 9 Fantastic Negrito
Aug. 12 Deb Talan
Aug. 16 The Steel Woods
Aug. 17 Bebel Gilberto
Aug. 18 Dave Alvin and Jimmie Dale Gilmore
Aug. 22 The Baseball Project
Aug. 26 Everybody’s VIP

Above: Ashley Bryan, “It takes a village,” linocut and linoleum printing block, 1960s.
Ashley Bryan Papers, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts; Penn Libraries.
The Greatest Philadelphian
Who Never Lived

A podcast from the Monument Lab’s Paul Farber explores the wide appeal of a bronzed fictional boxer.

Like many Philadelphians, Paul Farber C’05 didn’t understand the allure of Philadelphia’s Rocky statue. He was perplexed by tourists who waited in long lines to snap a photo with a monument to a movie character—which stands near the steps leading to more critically revered artwork inside the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

It was his mother who made him rethink his attitude.

“I was teaching a Penn Urban Studies course a few years ago called Mapping Philadelphia and she asked me if I was covering the Rocky statue,” Farber recalls. “I scoffed, and she gave me this look that made me pause and think twice.” So Farber—head of the Monument Lab, a nonprofit public art and history studio that critically explores the past, present, and future of monuments—added Rocky to the curriculum and was “blown away by the way my students pulled out their reflections about the way the movie and the story merged with the actual city.”

Realizing that for too long he had “overlooked the Rocky statue” as a monument that all kinds of people invested with meaning, Farber began to scope out the line of visitors to the eight-and-a-half-foot tall statue of Rocky Balboa, the underdog Philly-bred boxer played by Sylvester Stallone in the Rocky film series. Farber initially thought he might write a book about how tourists and Philadelphians alike interact with the statue, but after a suggestion from his friend and writer Salamishah Tillet C’96 G’04, he decided it would work better as a podcast.

That’s how The Statue, a six-episode series produced by WHYY and hosted by Farber, was born. Released earlier this year, The Statue had “one of the biggest premieres for a podcast at the station,” says Farber, adding that it’s garnered close to 200,000 downloads “from around the country and around the world.”

In the first episode, Farber explored the international appeal while contending that the statue is far more than “a tourist trap.” He found and interviewed people from different countries who’ve made the pilgrimage to see the Rocky statue and run the “Rocky Steps,” where the boxer completed a training run through the streets of Philadelphia in the original 1976 film’s iconic montage. One of the most prominent voices in the episode belongs to Haseeb Payab, an Af-
As soon as you start talking to people, you realize it’s bigger than the statue, it’s bigger than the star.”

The Rocky statue puzzled Paul Farber before it seduced him.
The Corrupt, the Brave, and the Foolish

In his latest detective novel, Martin Cruz Smith probes Putinism, Ukraine, and Parkinson’s Disease.

By Julia M. Klein

Martin Cruz Smith’s cynical Moscow police detective, Arkady Renko, is back, battling his latest romantic heartbreak, career troubles, and now a Parkinson’s diagnosis. Amidst the repression and corruption of Vladimir Putin’s increasingly totalitarian Russia, he remains the savviest guy in the room. The tenth entry in Smith’s Arkady Renko series, launched in 1981 with the bestselling Gorky Park, Independence Square is genre fiction anchored in autobiography and political intrigue. The novel nods to Smith’s own three-decade-long struggle with Parkinson’s disease. It also offers a sardonic look at Russia and Ukraine on the brink of Russia’s February 2022 invasion. As Renko sees it, Putin’s playbook is simple but lethal: “Distort, deceive, divide, defeat.”

In Independence Square, Renko zigzags from Moscow to Kyiv and Crimea, trying to find a friend’s missing daughter, and then, as the bodies pile up, solve a series of murders. While grieving a breakup with his reporter girlfriend, Tatiana, and being sidelined at his job, he confronts treacherous political crosscurrents, the ominous Werewolves motorcycle gang, and some particularly combative dolphins.

The action begins in June 2021, seven years after Russia’s 2014 annexation of Crimea and amidst continuing fighting in eastern Ukraine. Renko’s adventures lay bare his fortitude and his foibles, including a distracting soft-heartedness. But he’s now facing extra impediments: the hallucinations and mobility and balance issues associated with Parkinson’s. “Everything starts going with age,” Renko philosophically tells a friend.

Smith writes in spare, plainspoken prose that keeps the narrative propulsive. Independence Square spotlights both the perils of internal Russian political dissent and the grievances of Crimea’s persecuted Tatar population. Details may be invented, but the atmosphere rings true: as in the old Soviet Union, seemingly everyone is under surveillance, no one is trustworthy, alliances turn on a dime, and opposition to the regime can carry a death sentence. “Politics in Russia was for the corrupt, the brave, and the foolish,” Smith writes. He mines the settings and situations for dark humor, writes. He mines the settings and situations for dark humor, but his narrative also pulses with threat, foreshadowing worse to come.

Smith’s multiple honors include the Hammett Prize (twice), the Mystery Writers of America’s Grand Master Award, Britain’s Gold Dagger Award, and the Premio Piemonte Giallo Internazionale. The Gazette asked him about his protagonist, his own accommodations to Parkinson’s, and why he decided to name this novel for a location in Kyiv.

How has Arkady Renko evolved over the years?

He’s become older and grayer but no wiser. He’s always been a fool for love, and he still has not learned that bucking the system will only get him in trouble.

Changes that I see in him have been brought about by his personal relationships. He has become more human and vulnerable because of his love for Irina and later Tatiana. But it’s his relationship with his adopted son, Zhenya, that may have changed him the most. Zhenya had been an introverted and angry child in the early books. Unlike his own father, Arkady has tried to see things from Zhenya’s point of view and has gradually learned to understand him.

What have been some of his most memorable adventures?

Arkady has survived a wide variety of adventures (including freeing the sables in Gorky Park, being chased over the ice by a mad man with an ax in Polar Star, and traipsing through the ruins of Chernobyl in Wolves Eat Dogs. In The Siberian Dilemma, he survives a fight with a giant brown bear. It seems that Arkady, though not a superman, remains alive by outsmarting his opponents.

How has Parkinson’s affected your ability to research and write?

I had always enjoyed going to the places I was writing about and spending time with the people there. It grounded me, so that when I came back, I could write with a sense of the people and place. Now, with Parkinson’s, I can no longer travel, so I read everything I can lay my hands on, and I am belatedly discovering what an incredible source of information my computer is. Still, it’s not the same as being there, and it’s not as much fun. My wife, Em, fills in the gaps and types as I dictate. We talk a lot, so the writing takes longer. But there are times when a second opinion lends a certain authenticity.

I know you’ve traveled to Moscow for previous books in the Arkady Renko series. Have you ever visited Kyiv or Crimea, the other principal locales in this book?

I first went to Kyiv in 1972 on an organized tour because, in those days, that was the only way an American was al-
I allowed to visit the Soviet Union. I thought it was a beautiful city. Then, in 2001, I stayed in Kyiv while I researched Chernobyl for Wolves Eat Dogs. Once again, I was swept away by its beauty. Unfortunately, I’ve never been to Crimea.

I traveled to Russia seven times, spending at least two weeks each visit: first, in 1973, for Gorky Park; the last time in 2011, when I traveled to Siberia for The Siberian Dilemma. I wasn’t allowed into Russia for years after Gorky Park, so I found a little bit of Russia up in the Bering Sea, where Russia and the United States cooperated with each other in a fishing venture. KGB had me kicked off the Russian factory ship, but by the time they discovered I was on board, I had gleaned enough information to write Polar Star.

**How has Parkinson’s affected your subject matter?**

I haven’t wanted to dwell too much on the Parkinson’s because that then becomes the story. I spent one chapter on Dr. Pavlova’s diagnosis and Arkady’s reaction to the news. But after that, I injected it into the book only for dramatic effect, or when I thought it might heighten the tension of a scene. I’ve never written about it before Independence Square.

**What were the specific inspirations for the novel’s plot and settings?**

Like everyone else, I was horrified that Russia intended to annex Ukraine in the same way it had annexed Crimea in 2014. I wanted to write about the history of Crimea and Ukraine’s relationship with Russia because I wanted to understand why Putin would do this. For that reason, the book takes place during the period when Russia was building up its forces on Ukraine’s borders. The book begins in Moscow. Then Arkady travels through Ukraine and Crimea to give the reader a sense of these countries—their people, their diversity, and their independent spirit. In Crimea, I was fascinated to learn what a significant role the Tatar population played in Crimea’s history and chose to make a point of that in the book, too.

**Why the title?**

Independence Square lies in the center of Kyiv, and in the middle of the square is Independence Monument, a victory column that commemorates the independence Ukraine proclaimed for itself in August 1991. In December of that year, Boris Yeltsin recognized its independence. After Yeltsin, Vladimir Putin gained significant control over the country’s governing body.

In 2013, protesters gathered in the square to protest President Viktor Yanukovych’s decision to cut European Union trade relations. Putin had obviously influenced this decision. Peaceful protests turned into battles with state police forces who tried to disperse them. This resulted in what was called the “Revolution of Dignity.” Protesters were killed, Yanukovych resigned, and parliament changed the constitution back to include the reforms of 2004. This drove Russia and pro-Russian separatists to seize Donetsk and Luhansk in the eastern region of Ukraine, and Crimea in the south. Since the 2014 Revolution, Ukrainians have looked more and more towards the West, and Putin is attempting to regain control. You could say that Independence Square was where it all began.

The book must have been conceived and mostly completed before the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. How did the invasion affect the novel?

I began Independence Square in 2021 after Putin threatened to invade. Still, we all held out hope that he would back down. After the invasion, I didn’t regret just writing about the gathering of Russian troops on the border because I was interested in understanding the possible reasons and background of the war, and that would have been difficult if I had written about the invasion, too. The interest in the invasion itself would have overshadowed all that had gone on before.
Ice Man

Why the country’s foremost refrigeration expert believes that “ice defines Americans.”
Historian Jonathan Rees C’88 is chill. As one of the world’s leading experts on the history of refrigeration, he knows the cold, hard facts about today’s ice age.

Starting in the early 1800s, American inventors and companies set out to control coldness, a technological and commercial process that has since revolutionized life around the world. “Ice came to define what it means to be an American,” writes Rees, the author of three books on the subject—Refrigeration Nation: A History of Ice, Appliances, and Enterprise in America (2013); Refrigerator (2015); and Before the Refrigerator: How We Used to Get Ice (2018).

A professor at Colorado State University Pueblo, Rees has become the go-to source for his cool knowledge, from New York Times reporters to random curiosity seekers. “They go to Google and find me pretty quickly,” says Rees. The most common question he gets is “How did early refrigerators differ from ones today?” They are much the same, according to him, because they use identical technology—a refrigerant changes from a gas to a liquid, drawing heat from the surrounding area. “All the real improvements have to do with energy efficiency, mass production, and reliability,” he says. Since the 1970s, refrigerators’ energy use has fallen by two-thirds.

The world’s ice addiction began in 1806 when Boston merchant Frederic Tudor, later dubbed the “Ice King,” sent 80 tons of ice packed in sawdust to the tropical island Martinique. “Slippery speculation,” sniffed the Boston Gazette. Later he routinely shipped his exotic product to far-flung Calcutta and Australia, accepting as a cost of doing business that 30 percent or more would melt en route.

Soon gangs of ice cutters roamed northern states. They worked for regional companies that vertically integrated the industry from harvest and storage to distribution. They even intruded on solitude-seeking Henry David Thoreau, who wrote in the 1840s that 100 ice harvesters descended on Walden Pond from sunup to sundown for 16 straight days. Ice from his deep pond was famed for its purity. By the 1850s as many as 25,000 men harvested ice from the Hudson River alone.

Southerners and northerners alike craved iced drinks. “I think there is but a single specialty with us,” wrote Mark Twain. “One thing ... can be called by the wide name ‘American.’ That is the national devotion to ice-water.” The brewing and meatpacking industries became early adopters. Ice prevented spoilage, and it was a must for lager makers, boosting beer’s popularity and forever changing Americans’ drinking habits. Businesses ranging from florists to mortuaries followed suit. By 1900 express trains sped refrigerated strawberries north, and 4,000 ice cream peddlers strolled New York City’s streets.

Other nations, largely due to cultural differences, lagged. Italians feared that “ice injures rather than soothes the palate and the stomach,” according to Rees. “Whoever heard of an American without his icebox? It is his country’s emblem. It asserts his nationality as conclusively as the Stars and Stripes,” wrote a British travel writer in 1914. Fewer than 10 percent of British homes in 1957 had refrigerators compared to 90 percent in the US, reported the Times of London. Americans have always had the world’s largest refrigerators—an average of 17.5 cubic feet compared to eight in Russia (as of 1998).

What explains America’s frosty leadership? “Our nation is a place of enormous abundance,” says Rees. “We’ve always had an enormous amount of food. To say that ice defines Americans has a lot to do with the fact that we have all this food and then can preserve it to make it even more cheap and plentiful.”

After the Civil War, American inventors perfected warehouse-sized ice machines that produced tons of ice a day. Between 1870 and 1920 Americans had more ice than anyone, according to Rees. “Those years were a transition point,” he says. “People went from only having access to perishable foods briefly to having them all the time. It felt like we were the richest country on Earth. Ice ended seasons. Suddenly you could eat anything you wanted anytime you wanted to.” Machine-made and natural ice companies battled for market supremacy. A turning point came in 1927 when GE unveiled the first safe, reliable household refrigerator. Now anyone could make ice cubes from pure tap water. Housewives ditched unhygienic, inefficient iceboxes. Soon “the ice man” was extinct. During the Great Depression, refrigerator prices plunged. By 1944, 85 percent of homes had a fridge, an adoption curve faster than the rate at which Americans bought color TVs and washing machines.

To spark sales, manufacturers added frills like vegetable crispers, ice-cube trays, and butter compartments. The only major fridge technology breakthrough in the past century, according to Rees, came with the launch of frost-free freezers in 1957. “Before then, periodically shutting down the refrigerator to get rid of all the frost on the back was just one more thing for Mom to do,” he says.

A history and political science major at Penn, Rees came to the subject by chance. While working on his PhD thesis on the steel industry at the University of Wisconsin, he routinely studied in its engineering library. Every day when the elevator doors opened on his favored floor, the first thing he saw in the stacks were hundred-year-old bound copies of the trade journal Ice and Refrigeration.

“I cracked one open and saw that lots of refrigeration plants burned down. That seemed a
The Girl with a Broken Neck

How a birth complication and a roving childhood shaped the career of a pioneering business titan in India.

When she was 25, Radhika Gupta EAS’05 W’05 left a comfortable job in finance in the US to move to India to open the country’s first hedge fund. It was a decision most people thought was crazy. “I don’t blame them,” she says with a laugh.

It was the summer of 2009, and at such a young age, she had navigated the financial crisis and was already managing $20 billion in investments at AQR Capital Management, an investment management firm based in Greenwich, Connecticut. Plus, she was the daughter of Indian parents who thought “making it” in America was the pinnacle of success. “After you survived everything in the United States, got this great education, not many parents wanted their kids to move home,” she says.

But Gupta had an entrepreneurial itch and saw India as a place where she could really make a dent in the financial sector. “India was blossoming, the economy was rolling out, markets were doing well, jobs had opened up,” she says. “Asset management was super new there, so we wanted to be part of it.” And so, Gupta and her husband Nalin Moniz EAS’05 W’05, whom she met at Penn, poured their life savings into starting Forefront Capital Management out of Mumbai, India.

At 34, she had become not only one of the youngest CEOs of a financial services company anywhere in the world but also made the niche her own. He has recently shifted subjects. His new book The Fulton Fish Market: A History explores the 201-year-old lore of this New York City icon. “Its magic was that it was a major blue-collar industrial distribution hub stuck in the middle of a white-collar borough,” says Rees. Having recently moved to the Bronx from lower Manhattan, the Fish Market has become a less colorful place. “Sanitation destroyed its romance,” he sighs.

Now Rees has a new hot topic—a history of the chile pepper in America. “Its global voyage from its origin in southern Central America is well known, but its American adoption less so,” he says. The subject is close to his heart—and palate. His adopted hometown of Pueblo, Colorado, grows what he regards the world’s best pepper—the Pueblo chile. Its unparalleled blend of heat and flavor, he notes, comes from this southern Colorado town’s special blend of sun, soil, and water.

“I like that feeling of learning a lot about something that’s completely new,” Rees says. “And in history, I’ll never run out of that.”

—George Spencer
Alumni speak English and then moving to Nigeria where all the kids were much wealthier than me.

“I didn’t appreciate it then, but the moving around to so many different countries every three years—drastically different countries—really shaped who I am. There is all this talk of agility and being able to deal with change in the start-up world, and I really had it.”

She was living in Rome when she applied to Penn, deciding she wanted to go there after receiving a copy of the University publication Practical Penn. Her guidance counselor made it clear it was a shot in the dark, but Gupta not only got accepted to the University but also to the exclusive Jerome Fisher Program in Management & Technology (M&T).

Gupta started her entrepreneurial journey during her sophomore year when she sold Indian food out of her High Rise East dorm room. “I would go to Fresh Grocer and buy random ingredients and cook from 8 to 10 p.m., sell from 10 to midnight, clean up, and then go to my computer science classes the next day smelling of spices,” she says, adding that she sold about 50 or 60 plates a day to a clientele comprised mostly of Indian students. “The only late-night competition at that time was pizza.”

The same year Gupta also founded the club Women in Computer Sciences (WICS), because, she says, “back then women in computer science got a lot of comments like, you are a girl, so you don’t know how to code.” Fifty women turned up to the first meeting at the Bubble Tea Room, and the club quickly secured sponsorship from companies including Google. Gupta then created formal mentorship programs and planned outings to tech campuses like Microsoft and Google.

“Moving around to so many different countries really shaped who I am. There is all this talk of agility and being able to deal with change in the start-up world, and I really had it.”

When Gupta returned to campus in March to accept the inaugural Jerome Fisher Program in Management & Technology Distinguished Alumni Award [“Notes,” May|Jun 2023], she was thrilled to see that WICS still exists today, with sponsors that include Bloomberg.

Once she left Penn, Gupta had to find creative paths to accomplish what she wanted. Before graduating, she says she was turned down by seven consulting firms before winning over a McKinsey representative by bonding over playing bridge. (Her parents couldn’t afford other hobbies like horseback riding or tennis when she was growing up, so they gave her a deck of cards.)

When Gupta started Forefront Capital Management, she struggled to win over clients. “We were all 24 or 25, and asset management is an industry where gray hairs are a premium,” she says. “We were all investment guys and gals who had no experience with raising money and finding clients. We had to do all that from scratch.”

Also, with no budget for advertisements, she started cozying up to journalists, convincing them to let her write blog posts on investing and appear on public television where she gave stock tips. “I was on TV almost four days a week at one stage,” she says. “People liked me on TV.”

She also got an edge from listening to customers and getting to know what they wanted and needed, recalling one day when she ran around Mumbai trying to find a notary for one client. It’s a method she still employs. “If anyone writes a customer complaint, I am still the one to handle it,” she says. “We have a million customers, and I still do that. I want to keep in touch.”

Even with all her success, Gupta sometimes still can’t believe she took such a big risk in her mid-20s—and how far she’s come since. “I did it by not giving up,” she says.

—Alyson Krueger C’07
Foundation we can build on? Is there a story we can tell?”

Each founder contributes a unique skill set and has some background in sports. De Meo, Pallacanestro Trieste’s chairman, was a commodities trader in Italy who used his contacts to vet the purchase. Jeff eries is the team cardiologist for the NBA’s Memphis Grizzlies. Barwin played basketball at the University of Cincinnati, before playing 10 years in the NFL as a linebacker, including four with the Philadelphia Eagles (where he currently works in the organization’s front office). Johnson played tennis professionally after winning a national team tennis championship at Pepperdine; Reid played soccer in college; and Sekhon was a member of the national karate team in his native Canada.

They plan to grow the team’s capacities this off season via a fresh business and marketing plan, expanded sports medicine resources, and more scouting and analytics. They hope that will transform Trieste from a team perennially fighting for survival in the top division into a championship contender capable of qualifying for prestigious continental competitions like the EuroLeague and Europe Cup.

Trieste provided a unique opportunity to put their theories into practice. Basketball has a long history in Italy, but it’s dwarfed in popularity as a spectator sport by soccer. While foreign dollars have flooded into soccer teams—most recently by

The Italian Job
Why six Wharton classmates launched a sports ownership group and purchased a professional basketball team in Italy.

Fitzann Reid WG’23 could feel the nerves in the Allianz Dome fraying. The passion of Pallacanestro Trieste 2004’s supporters had been such a selling point when she and five fellow Wharton Executive MBA (WEMBA) students purchased the team in January. But it now meant the new vice chair of the Italian basketball club’s board of directors had joined them on an emotional rollercoaster of a surprise relegation battle. The threat of demotion from the top division of Italian basketball—Lega Basket Serie A—enveloped Trieste’s penultimate game of the 2022–23 season, and Reid was along for the harrowing ride.

A win that day only forestalled relegation, to which the team ultimately fell a week later, on the final day of the season. But Reid and her co-owners spun the disappointment as an opportunity for a new foreign ownership group to redouble its commitment to grow what it hopes will be the first of many sports acquisitions around the world. “This is an opportunity to hit the refresh button in so many different ways,” Reid says, “and build something that will be long lasting for the future in terms of always being in the top-tier division.”

Reid never expected to be thinking about the promotion/relegation hopes of an Italian basketball team when she started at the San Francisco campus of Wharton’s Executive MBA program and met classmates Prab Sekhon WG’23, John Jefferies WG’23, Richard Johnson WG’23, Richard de Meo WG’23, and Connor Barwin WG’23. Most of them took a sports management course together, where their professor, Robert DiGisi WG’93, told them about a professional Italian basketball club that might be open to buyers. Soon enough, the six of them had formed Cotogna Sports Group (CSG) and raised enough capital to secure a 90 percent stake of Pallacanestro Trieste, valued at $5 million.

“We all, in our own rights, are very successful, but we all came to business school because we wanted to enhance that in some way,” Reid, a lawyer, says. “It wasn’t necessarily in our plans—I don’t think in anybody’s plans—to own a sports team when we came to Wharton. But it kind of fell in our laps.”

Their objective now is to find other sports franchises with strong fundamentals—across various sports and countries, and in men’s or women’s leagues—and see if they can use their professional experiences and business school backgrounds to open new revenue streams and make it a good long-term investment. “Are we able to improve the team in some respect?” Reid says. “Can we add value to the team? … Is there a
actors Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney’s purchase of the Welsh club Wrexham AFC, whose recent promotion captivated American audiences—basketball in Italy has a scant history of foreign ownership. That made Pallacanestro Trieste considerably more affordable as a first foray into ownership.

But basketball is more popular in Trieste than in many other Italian cities, with a long history of hardwood success that stretches to a string of championships before World War II. The cosmopolitan city, which Jefferies calls “a melting pot,” hugs the Adriatic coast a short distance from basketball-mad Slovenia and Croatia. The club’s connection to the city was tested when a previous iteration was dissolved and reformed after bankruptcy in 2004, again rising to the league’s top flight.

“We all appreciated the inherent love of the team in this region,” Jefferies says. “I think that was part of the motivation for us, making sure we were coming into a group and a city that was behind the team. And that very much exists in Trieste.”

“Anybody that knows anything about European basketball immediately confirmed that this was a basketball city, and that was really important to me,” Barwin says. “It sounds obvious, but having people that really care about basketball, that’s the kind of business you want to get behind.”

After CSG finalized the purchase in January, the new owners were greeted by a four-game winning streak that lifted the team near the .500 mark. The subsequent fall to relegation was something of a surprise, as the team lost 10 of 12 games to end the season, but it was among the risks they knew they’d be assuming in a European promotion-relegation system (which doesn’t exist in the US). Being in the second division will constrain revenues from the league, and thus salaries for players, but it could provide cover to implement some of the off-court strategies to shore up the business side while the team battles for promotion.

Jefferies sees their “baptism by fire” as galvanizing the ownership group, a chance to reinforce to fans that they’re in it for the long haul. “We recognize it’s not all going to be smooth,” he says. “There are going to be bumps along the way. That’s part of the deal.”

“Change takes time,” Reid says. “You want to change things smartly, slowly. Spending time with the fans really makes a difference, and having a clear direction makes a difference. Fans want to know where they’re headed and what they can expect from you.”

“There’s just such a passion, there’s a history, there’s a magic there that is unlike other places,” Reid adds of Trieste. “And that intrigued us quite a bit.”

—Matthew De George
“Please drop me a line next time you are in Paris; it’s always a pleasure to share my favorite spots with Penn friends.”

—Jon Passaro C’06

1948
Hon. Harold Berger EE’48 L’51 presented the School of Engineering and Applied Science’s Harold Berger Distinguished Lecture and Award to Dr. Drew Weissman and Katalin Karikó for their “landmark research that set a foundation for the mRNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccines.” Dr. Weissman is the Roberts Family Professor in Vaccine Research in Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine. Karikó, adjunct professor in the Perelman School of Medicine, is the senior vice president of biotech company BioNTech, which is based in Germany (“The Vaccine Trenches,” May|Jun 2021). Harold is a World War II US Army veteran and serves Penn in multiple capacities, including on the board of advisors of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, as chair of the Friends of Biddle Law Library, and as a member of the executive board of Penn Carey Law’s Center of Ethics and the Rule of Law. In addition, he was the recipient of the inaugural Lifetime Commitment Award of Penn Law. A cofounder and managing shareholder emeritus of Berger Montague, Harold is a recipient of a National Achievement Award from Marquis Who’s Who in America and Marquis Who’s Who in American Law.

1952
D. Jay Hyman W’52 see John Majane WG’58.

1957
Barry Gordon WG’57 see John Majane WG’58.

1958
John Majane WG’58 writes, “Penn Wharton alumni in the Washington, DC, area gathered for lunch on March 23 at Hunter’s Bar & Grill in Potomac, Maryland. Joining me were Barry Gordon WG’57, D. Jay Hyman W’52, J. Mills Williams WG’71, Kersey Dastur WG’71, and Jesse Cantrill W’63 WG’73. The conversation was extensive and interesting and covered the problems with forgetfulness at our advanced ages, travel with using a passport—make sure you get your application early, maybe six months early—and of course the Silicon Valley Bank failure. Lunch went on into the late afternoon, a testament to our desire to talk. Our next gathering is June 22 at the same venue. Any Penn Wharton alumni who are interested in joining should contact me at jamajane@verizon.net.”

1959
Sandra Every Dean W’59 GrEd’06 has published a new book, Beyond Civics: The Education Democracy Needs. She writes, “Failure to teach civics is often blamed for the problems facing democracy. But civics alone is not enough to prepare young people for the hard work of sustaining a democratic society. It is not enough to learn how a bill becomes law. Rather a school should itself be a democratic ecosystem where young people have the opportunity to observe and practice those skills and dispositions required to be an engaged and informed citizen. In Beyond Civics, I share my experience of 23 years as a leader of such a school.” Sandra was head of The Philadelphia School at 25th and Lombard Streets from 1983 to 2006.

1962
James E. Jones GFA’62, a retired professor of fine arts at Morgan State University, writes, “After more than 60 years, I continue to make art. So far this year, my partner Elva E. Tillman and I have participated in the following shows at Charlestown Retirement Village. For Black History Month in February, I was the designated Artist of the Month. I exhibited eight works reflective of several aspects of the complex existence of Black people in the United States, recognizing the all-important African connection. On March 21, I participated in a pop-up sale of a wide variety of prints and books that were self-published. The proceeds of the sales were donated to the Charlestown Benevolent Fund.”

1963
Bill Boggs C’63 ASC’64 has a new volume in his comic novel series about a talking English bull terrier named Spike, Spike Unleashed: The Wonder Dog Returns. From the book’s press materials: “Spike’s is a fresh comedic voice outside the human world offering pithy commentary on our
own absurdity." A portion of book sales will be donated to animal rescue organizations. Bill was profiled in our Jul|Aug 2007 issue for his book Got What It Takes? Successful People Reveal How They Made It to the Top, and he served as assistant dean of students at Penn in the late 1960s.

**1967**

Evelynn “Lynn” Caterson CW’67 has been named the 2023 Woman of Distinction by the American Association of University Women’s Atlantic County Chapter, and she also was reelected chair of the Atlantic County Board of Elections for the ninth time. Her article on how to make houses of worship safe for all worshipers was recently printed in a book called Safer Sanctuaries.

**1968**

James Carnahan C’68 writes, “In the last year I’ve completed and self-published two more books. Midlife Vagabond 3: Sweethearts on the Road, 1991 & 1994 is the third in my series of travel photo/journals—this one portraying, through journal text and hundreds of colorful photographs and drawings, extended romantic excursions in Portugal, Spain, France, and Italy. The second is David Kelly Carnahan, Artist: A Biographical Catalog—the life story of a gay artist told through correspondence, diary entries, and reviews, and lavishly illustrated with hundreds of his paintings and drawings from the 1950s and ‘60s, unique work sometimes (inadequately) referred to as ‘Midcentury Modern.’ (Coincidentally, he was the man who married my widowed mother in 1958 and subsequently adopted my brother and me.) Both books are available on Amazon. Meanwhile, I’m still (occasionally) doing architectural design and making custom furniture—and keeping up a thriving vegetable garden!”

**1965**

Bob Rosenbaum W'65 writes, “In 2021, I retired from the law firm Arnold & Porter in Washington, DC. I retired as a senior partner in 2009 and devoted the next 12 years doing only pro bono work through the firm protecting our national parks. One project was fighting against a development at Valley Forge, which resulted in what is now the Museum of the American Revolution in Center City Philadelphia. I am continuing to work for national parks on the board of trustees of the National Parks Conservation Association. I recently reengaged with the Penn Museum, which I often visited as an undergraduate.”

Joan Segal Trachtenberg Nu’65 GNu’81 writes, “Recently, my dear classmate Jill Sheridan Slattery Nu’65 and I got together to celebrate our longtime ‘Penn pal’ friendship and her 80th birthday.” A photo of the two sporting their matching Penn Alumni watches can be seen on the Gazette’s social media pages.

**1966**

Dr. Richard M. Spiegel C’66 was awarded the Gold Medal for Meritorious Service to Columbia University’s Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons at its annual Alumni Gala in New York. Richard, a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, recently retired from his practice of child and adolescent psychiatry in Scottsdale, Arizona.

**1971**

Dayton Duncan C’71 has won the 2023 Writers Guild of America Award for best documentary script for writing Benjamin Franklin, a four-hour film biography directed by Ken Burns and broadcast on PBS. In October, PBS will broadcast Burns’s The American Buffalo, which Duncan wrote, and Knopf will be publishing Duncan’s 14th book, Blood Memory: The Tragic Decline and Improbable Resurrection of the American Buffalo. He was featured in our Sep|Oct 2009 issue.

Kersey Dastur WG’71 and J. Mills Williams WG’71 see John Majane WG’58.

Drew Gilpin Faust G’71 Gr’75 Hon’08 has published a new book, Necessary Trouble: Growing Up at Midcentury. From the book’s press materials: “To be a privileged white girl in conservative, segregated Virginia was to be expected to adopt a willful blindness to the inequities of race and the constraints of gender. For young Drew Gilpin Faust, the acceptance of both female subordination and racial privilege proved intolerable and galvanizing. ... During the 1960s, through her love of learning and her active engagement in the civil rights, student, and antiwar movements, Faust forged a path of her own—one that would eventually lead her to become a historian of the very conflicts that were instrumental in shaping the world she grew up in.” Drew is president emerita of Harvard University and a former history professor at Penn. Robert J. Hallock W’71 has been elected president of Chizuk Amuno Congregation and Schools, a Jewish house of worship in Maryland. He writes, “After retiring from careers in law and business, I have found this position to be one of the most rewarding in my life. Although I am not particularly ‘observant,’ it has been an honor and fulfilling to work with our dedicated clergy, staff, and congregants. As an added bonus, and perhaps a throwback to my time as president of the Penn Glee Club, I have continued to be involved in music, but this time in being a part of the musical services at Chizuk Amuno in the Shir Shabbat band. How fun and how wonderful that music can
be so meaningful to people in a sacred community!” Bob also serves on the board of the Institute for Islamic Jewish and Christian Studies. He invites alumni contact at rjhallock@gmail.com.

Art Silbergeld GCP’71 has rejoined Thompson Coburn LLP in the Labor and Employment Practice as a partner in the law firm’s Los Angeles office. Prior to rejoining, Art was a shareholder with Straddling Yocca Carlson & Rauth.

1972
Nick Spitzer C’72, a professor of anthropology at Tulane University and host and executive producer of the public radio show American Routes, is the 2023 recipient of the Bess Lomax Hawes National Heritage Fellowship, presented by the National Endowment for the Arts in recognition of his contributions to the preservation and awareness of cultural heritage. From the press release: “Spitzer’s whole life has been spent documenting, broadcasting, and writing about the vitality and innovation of American culture—the local, the non-official, the folkloric, and the vernacular.” He has been the subject of a feature-length profile (“Digging Routes,” Mar/Apr 2009) and several subsequent stories in the Gazette.

1973
Dr. Jack Elias C’73 M’76 GM’79 GM’80 writes, “I spent 23 years at Yale Medical School as chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and then the chair of Internal Medicine. For the last 10 years I have been the dean of Medicine and Biomedical senior vice president of Health Affairs at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.” In May, Jack was presented with the Keen Award from Brown University, given by the Brown Medical Alumni Association to recognize “a member of the Brown medical community who has made outstanding contributions to medicine, encompassing research, education, leadership, and patient care.”

Janet Millenson CW’73 has been appointed by Maryland Governor Wes Moore to the State Board of Elections.

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 17–19, 2024!

1974
Nancy Lanard CW’74 GEd’75, senior partner at Luther Lanard PC, was presented the Distinguished Member Service Award from Women Owned Law (WOL), a nonprofit advocacy and networking group that aims to empower women lawyers in the business of law. Nancy was recognized for her years of service to WOL, mentoring members, creating its virtual program series, and serving on its executive committee.

Jerry Shih C’74 has received the Bess Lomax Hawes National Heritage Fellowship in Minnesota Psychology from the Minnesota Psychological Association. The award honors “elders who have made significant contributions to mental health in Minnesota through their roles as scholars, teachers, mentors, practitioners, and/or advocates for rights and just causes.”

1976
James A. Backstrom L’76, an antitrust lawyer in Philadelphia, was honored by the Global Competition Review (GCR) for his role in the “Behavioural Matter of the Year—Americas” for 2022. James secured the dismissal of price-fixing and bid-rigging charges brought by the US Department of Justice against his client, an executive in the chicken supply industry. GCR recognizes the biggest antitrust cases each year and honors the world’s leading lawyers, enforcers, economists, and academics.

Jun. Henry Kantor C’76, senior judge for the State of Oregon, has been recognized as the 2023 Legal Citizen of the Year by the Classroom Law Project, which honors leaders who advance the ideals of civic education and inspire future generations.

Brian K. Ziegler W’77, a partner at the law firm Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, was named one of the “Top Lawyers of Long Island” by RichnerLIVE and Herald Community Newspapers. Brian is cochair of the Corporate/Securities Law Practice Group at Certilman Balin, and also a member of its executive committee.

1977
Roger Kahn W’77, a member of the swim team while at Penn, was part of a world record-setting men’s 200-meter medley relay at the 2022 US Masters Swimming Summer National Championships. He swam the butterfly leg for the Sarasota (FL) Sharks Masters Team.

Kathleen Bell Lee C’77 has been elected to the board of directors for Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity, a nonprofit legal aid organization. Kathy is a retired history and English teacher for the School District of Philadelphia.

Billy Shore C’77 has been appointed by President Biden to the President’s Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition. Billy is the founder and executive chair of Share Our Strength, which through campaigns like No Kid Hungry and Cooking Matters, has reduced childhood hunger across the US. He was featured in our May/June 2005 issue.

1978
Jeremy Steinberg W’78 writes, “I merged my public accounting firm, Steinberg Shebairo LLP, into a larger firm, Schuman Lobel LLP, to take advantage of the synergies and expanded resources a larger firm offers. My practice specializes in serving the arts and entertainment industries, private wealth, and closely held businesses.”

1980
Len Kruger C’80 EAS’80 has a new novel coming out in October, which won the 2023 Fiction Award from the Washington Writers’ Publishing House. Len writes, “Humorous and heartbreaking, Bad Questions is a coming-of-age journey toward redemption and self-awareness, skirting the lines between spirituality, skepticism, and faith—and asking the big questions. Shining the light of a memorial candle back to the year 1971 in suburban Washington, DC, Bad Questions tells the story of Billy Blumberg, who carries guilt over the recent death of his father, a Hebrew school principal. After Billy and his mother move to a nearby town, he encounters Ms. Marvin, a former teacher notorious for her macabre eccentricity. A séance in her
apartment veers out of control, leading to a deadly ‘hex list’ and Billy’s discovery of his father’s fatal secret.”

1981

Mike Bellissimo C’81 writes, “The Bellissimo family has lots of news. Elisabeth Bellissimo Nu’15 GNu’19, a nurse practitioner at Columbia University Irving Medical Center’s Department of Pediatric Rehabilitation and Regenerative Medicine, married Josh Bates last September in Edgartown, Massachusetts. Barbara Bellissimo W’82 recently launched Bellissimo Consulting, which helps nonprofits in seasonal communities build and sustain fundraising capacity, and Bellissimo Creative, which offers modern custom calligraphy and stationery design. I graduated from Case Western Reserve University in May with a PhD in Management: Designing Sustainable Systems. My dissertation is titled ‘Reliability and Resilience at US Hospitals During the Global COVID-19 Pandemic: A Mixed Methods Case Study on the Effect of Leader and Team Behavior on Crisis Response.’ I’m looking forward to my ‘third act’ career in academia in the fall as a research fellow at Case. I can be reached at mxb857@case.edu.”

Dr. Ben Kruskal C’81 writes, “I recently moved from Tufts Medicine to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, where I am medical director for clinical integration. I have five kids, ages ranging from 33 to 20. The 20-year-olds are twins, one at the University of Michigan and the other at the University of Maryland. My 27-year-old is just getting her MFA in screenwriting from Emerson College, and the oldest two both work in education in the Boston area, where we live.”

1982

Barbara Bellissimo W’82 see Mike Bellissimo C’81.

David N. Feldman W’82 L’85 writes, “I’ve had a blessed career in law and business consulting. After seven years in large law firms, I led my own firms, including one that grew to 40 people, focused on corporate and securities law, and ranked the number one firm in financings for public companies (PIPEs) for seven years. I’ve also written four books on finance and entrepreneurship. For the last 10 years, I’ve focused on the cannabis and psychedelics industries as counsel and advisor through my consulting firm Skip Intro Advisors and its affiliated boutique law firm, Feldman Legal Advisors. I’ve been happily engaged to the love of my life for the last three years and have two grown children from my first (sadly deceased) wife. While in law school, Howard Griboff C’82 and I bought a radio station in Florida after having led Penn’s WQHS while undergrads. Feel free to reach out at dfeldman@skipintroadvisors.com.”

1983

Howard Shalowitz C’83 writes, “Roger Harte EE’83, Daniel Sternlicht C’83, John Vogel C’83, and I were roommates at Penn in 1982–83. Roger and I were members of the Penn Glee Club under the baton of Bruce Montgomery. All four of us were in the Penn Singers, also under the direction of Bruce Montgomery. We have all remained very close friends for 40 years. In 2008, Roger and I traveled throughout New Zealand, and as recently as February, we traveled in western Germany. In 2013, all four of us went to Panama City, Florida, where Daniel works for the US Naval Support and was the president of Temple B’nai Israel—the only synagogue in Panama City. As a cantor, I was asked to lead services and lecture on Jewish music. In January, Temple B’nai Israel asked me to return to for another weekend to lead services and teach. All four roommates gathered for that weekend as well. In May, we attended our 40th Reunion together. I also continue to serve as the chair of the Penn Secondary School Committee for southern Illinois and eastern Missouri. I have been doing this for over 30 years.”

Zoe Weil C’83 G’83 is a humane educator and author of six books. Her tween fiction book Claude & Medea: The Hellburn Dogs has been rereleased by Lantern Publishing with a new edition. From the book’s press materials: “The story follows a group of 12-year-olds who, inspired by their eccentric substitute teacher to think differently about the world, embark on a heroic adventure to unravel the mystery of why dogs are being stolen in their neighborhood.” Zoe cofounded the Institute for Humane Education in 1996, which helps educators teach about human rights, environmental preservation, and animal protection. More information can be found at humaneeducation.org.

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1984

Brian Rubin W’84, a partner in the Washington, DC, office of Eversheds Sutherland, won the Law360 Distinguished Legal Writing Award for coauthoring “A Tale of Two Enforcement Actions Against Compliance Officers: An analysis applying the NSCP Firm and CCO Liability Framework.” Selected from nominations submitted by the nation’s 1,000 largest law firms, Brian previously won this award once in the 2000s and once in the 2010s. “Boy, we’re getting old,” he writes.

1986

Vanessa Feld W’86 writes, “I recently wrote a book, Long Way Off. In it I detail the harrowing journey of going from being a Penn graduate to a homeless alcoholic and drug addict. I am ruthlessly honest about my eating disorders and obsessive-compulsive disorder. I had demoralizing experiences that I would have never imagined, but I’m back.”

Bruce John Riddell GLA’86, a landscape architect, has published a new book, LandART: From Acadia to Zen. He writes, “This 272-page hardcover anthology of gardens features plans, beautiful color photographs, and thoughtful musings about my personal inspiration and creative process. The book provides a unique glimpse into many of the private and public gardens that I’ve designed and constructed throughout Maine. LandART provides readers with inspiration and insightful techniques for creating their own version of paradise by combining art, nature, and imagination.”
**1987**

Tobey M. Daluz C’87 coleader of the Bankruptcy and Restructuring Practice Group at the law firm Ballard Spahr, has been inducted into the American College of Bankruptcy as a fellow. Fellowes of the college are recognized for “their contributions to the administration of justice, their public service, and their integrity.” Tobey is the founding partner and former office managing partner of the firm’s office in Wilmington, Delaware.

**1988**

Terry Spahr C’88 G’95 writes, “I moved from Philadelphia to Hanover, New Hampshire, in May 2022 to be closer to nature and farther from the gadgets and systems that pervade our lives. Bought a house and some land with bears, moose, coyotes, porcupines, bobcats, birds, bees, and a brook running through it next to the Appalachian Trail. Missed this year’s 35th Reunion due to a priority of clearing lots of trees and creating and establishing a diverse and organic garden of fruits and vegetables. On the professional side, I left 20 years in the real estate field, produced a feature-length, award-winning human health and environmental documentary on the impact of unsustainable population growth. The world release was scheduled for Earth Day 2020. COVID derailed that and we launched a year later. The documentary just debuted on television in conjunction with the film, we founded and are growing a nonprofit called Earth Overshoot (earthovershoot.org), which furthers education and action ensuring that real sustainability is central to all personal and public decision-making.” Terry was profiled in our Jan|Feb 2020 issue.

**1989**

Monica Taylor C’89 writes, “I have been a professor at Montclair State University for 22 years and am currently the director of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies. My latest book, Our Bodies Tell the Story: Using Feminist Research and Friendship to Reimagine Education and Our Lives, asks (and answers) a number of critical questions that are key to improving our educational system. For example: How can we use our embodied stories to navigate and disrupt how schools and society reproduce the patriarchy and heteronormativity within our institutions of learning? How do we transgress oppressive boundaries that permit our dehumanization and exclusion? How do we navigate our students’ trauma when we are navigating the reignition of our own? This book sets out to tell the story of how we have tried to answer these questions in our lives and work. Each chapter examines a different stage of life from childhood, adolescence, first years of teaching, to adulthood.”

Laura Von Rosk GFA’89 has received a $10,000 Individual Artist Grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, as well as residency fellowships from Virginia Center for the Arts (VA) and Jentel Arts (WY). She writes, “Since retiring this past May from my position as gallery director at the Lake George Arts Project in New York after 23 years, I plan to have more studio time.” Laura’s paintings can be viewed at lauravonrosk.com, and she invites alumni contact at laura@lauravonrosk.com.

**1990**

David Glass C’90 was the featured cover story in Divorcing Well magazine’s April 2023 edition. He writes, “The article focused on my dual background in clinical psychology and law, and how I help clients to move on after divorce so they can maximize their second chance at happiness.” The article can be read at https://tinyurl.com/GlassCoverStory.

Jeffrey Modell EAS’90 W’90 writes, “My wife Melissa and I returned to the US after eight years living and working in Vienna, Austria. I took a new job as the chief information officer of Creative Testing Solutions (mycts.org), the world’s largest nonprofit blood and plasma donor testing laboratory. My job is remote, and we decided to settle in Chicago. We recently became empty-nesters and are enjoying the conveniences, fun, and sunset views of River North skyscraper living. #givebloodsavelives”

Dr. Julie C. Yi-Wilson C’90 writes, “My oldest daughter graduated summa cum laude from Penn this year and is applying to medical schools. My younger daughter will be starting at Wharton this fall. She has been designated a Coolidge Senator, Coca-Cola Scholar, National Merit Winner, and Presidential Scholar Semifinalist so far.”

**1992**

Linda Stolte Steinkrauss Nu’92 GNu’97 is a pediatric nurse practitioner in endocrinology at Nemours Children’s Hospital in Delaware. She is also the president of the Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society.
and volunteers at Innocence Project Delaware. She is married to Philip Steinkrauss II W’93, and her children are Philip Steinkrauss III C’23 and Angela Steinkrauss Nu’26. Linda invites alumni contact at ljsteinkrauss@hotmail.com.

1993
Joshua Himes C’93 has been nominated to the rank of rear admiral in the US Navy. Following graduation and commissioning from Penn, Josh has served as a naval intelligence officer for nearly 30 years. His first flag officer assignment is as the vice director for intelligence on the Joint Staff at the Pentagon.

Philip Steinkrauss II W’93 see Linda Stolte Steinkekrass Nu’92 GNu’97.

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 17–19, 2024!

1994
Jennifer A. Brandt L’94, chair of Cozen O’Connor’s Family Law Group, has been elected secretary of the American Bar Association Family Law Section. Jennifer lectures regularly and plans courses for attorneys and other professionals on the topic of family law for organizations such as the American Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, and others. She also teaches a course on divorce for Main Line School Night in Lower Merion, Pennsylvania.

Judy Friedman C’94 and Fred Gluckman W’94 write, “We participated in an event marking the five-year anniversary of the inaugural advisory board for Penn’s Center for High Impact Philanthropy (CHIP) at the School of Social Policy and Practice (impact.upenn.edu). Among the attendees who came to campus to celebrate were Patty Braun Silvers CW’72, Barry Porter W’79, Julie Hinds Franklin C’87, Monica Peisach Sason C’91, Tim Fazio C’96 W’96, Gary Kiang EAS’98 W’98 WG’07, and Danisha Singh Patel C’99. We are so proud of the amazing work CHIP is doing to support impactful philanthropy and grateful to founding executive director Katherine ‘Kat’ Mylene Rosqueta WG’01 and Dean Sara ‘Sally’ Bachman for their leadership.”

1995
Durreen Shahnaz WG’95, founder and CEO of Impact Investment Exchange, has published a new book, The Defiant Optimist: Daring to Fight Global Inequality, Reimvent Finance, and Invest in Women. From the book’s press materials: “From growing up with constrained life chances and working as the first Bangladeshi woman on Wall Street, to becoming a global leader in impact investing, Durreen takes us on a mesmerizing trek of innovation, compassion, and enterprise. ... [Her book] offers strategies for placing women, the underserved, and the planet at the heart of systems.”

1996
Matt Goldberg W’96 writes, “I never got around to sending an update when I got married in April 2013, so why not now at our 10-year anniversary! My 2013 wedding to Genea Sobel took place in Carmel, California, with many Penn friends in attendance, including David Kerstein C’96 L’99, Mike Henry C’96, Steve Leitzell C’96 L’99, Lainie Leitzell C’97, Steve Lin W’96 EAS’96, and Lauren Lazare C’96. Genea and I met through Aaron Zagha W’96, who also attended and gave a great speech about ’happy accidents’ in history since it wasn’t a ’planned’ fix-up. Thank you, Aaron! Fast-forward 10 years and we are living in Lafayette/Walnut Creek, California, with our two dogs and our soon-to-be eight-year-old Ahva. I have been working as general counsel for technology start-ups and I help Genea run her staffing and recruiting company, Upshot Talent. I continue to make and sell paintings as a hobby (I took my first painting class senior year at Penn) and also write and produce music in my garage studio (a hobby I never expected to have but enjoy very much). Hope all is well with everyone.”

Matt Wasowski C’96 and Chris Balakrishnan C’97 write, “We are excited to announce that after 20 years of leading Nerd Nite, the world’s second-largest presentation series in the world full of silliness and beer, we have our first book coming out on February 20, 2024, via St. Martin’s Press, an imprint of Macmillan. How to Win Friends and Influence Fungi: Collected Quirks of Science, Tech, Math, and Engineering from Nerd Nite is a collection of 70 of our favorite STEM-centric, fun-yet-informative presentations from around the world, such as ‘The Science of the Hangover,’ ‘What Birds Can Teach Us About the Impending Zombie Apocalypse,’ and ‘Lessons from the Oregon Trail.’ We unveiled the book cover in May and preorders are available now. Woohoo!” Nerd Nite was featured in “The Geeks Shall Inherit the Bars” in the Jan|Feb 2012 Gazette.

1997
Chris Balakrishnan C’97 see Matt Wasowski C’96.

1998
George J. Dickson Jr. G’98 has been promoted to chief investment officer for New York Private Bank & Trust (NYPBT&T) and to cohead of Emigrant Capital Markets. He manages the investment portfolio for Emigrant Bank and advises NYPB&T client portfolios, focusing on nonprofits, endowments, and ultra-high net worth individuals. He also serves on the boards of Sarasota Private Trust and Cleveland Private Trust.

Sarah Federman C’98, associate professor of conflict resolution at the University of San Diego, has published a new book, Transformative Negotiation: Strategies for Everyday Change and Equitable Futures. From the book’s press materials: “Transformative Negotiation advances an understanding of power and oppression as core to negotiation, arguing that negotiation is central to social mobility and social change. Bringing theory into action, the book explores the real-world examples that Sarah Federman’s own students bring to class, such as negotiating with courts to get their kids back or with the IRS to reduce late fees. Federman explains how heritage, ethnicity, wealth, gender, age, education, and other factors influence what we ask for and how people respond to our requests, as well as what is at stake when we negotiate.”

Leela Prasad Gr’98 has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2023 in the
field of South Asian studies. Leela is a professor of religious studies, and gender, sexuality, and feminist studies at Duke University. Her latest book is The Audacious Raconteur: Sovereignty and Storytelling in Colonial India.

Joshua Schuster C’98 Gr’07, an English professor at Western University in Canada and director of its Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, has published two new books. What Is Extinction? A Natural and Cultural History of Last Animals (Fordham University Press, 2023) discusses different definitions of extinction over the past few centuries; Calamity Theory: Three Critiques of Existential Risk, cowritten with Derek Woods (University of Minnesota Press, 2021), examines the rise of the field of “existential risk” and methods to comprehend global extinction events.

2000

Meryl Koenig Sole C’00, a researcher and adjunct professor of music education at New York University and Teachers College, Columbia University, writes, “I’m thrilled to share the publication of my first book, Knowing the Children We Teach: Essays on Music Learning, which I coauthored with my friend and mentor Danette Littleton. The book, published by Rowman & Littlefield, offers insight into the innate traits of children such as goodness, kindness, needs, spirituality, playfulness, and wonder. Each essay is supported through research and features data from music teacher–participants.”

2001

Richard P. Phelps GrW’01 has published a new book, The Malfunction of US Education Policy: Elite Misinformation, Disinformation, and Selfishness. From the book’s press materials: “‘Policy formation’ should be an objective process. However, US education policy is formed by opportunistic ‘strategic scholars’ promoting only their own work. Wealthy foundations, political parties, and celebrity-obsessed journalists sustain this information degradation. The Malfunction of US Education Policy examines how education suffers for it.”

2003

Hon. Eric Johnson L’03 won reelection as mayor of Dallas for a second term. He ran unopposed after serving as Dallas’s mayor since 2019 and previously as a Democratic member of the Texas House of Representatives.

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 17–19, 2024!

2004

Zuri Rice C’04 is one of eight emerging television writers selected as a fellow for the 2023 pilot accelerator created by Women’s Weekend Film Challenge, an organization that works toward gender parity in film and TV. The fellows, each of whom has a complete script for the first (pilot) episode of an original TV series, participate in a three-week training, then pitch their TV shows to HBO, Netflix, Hulu, Showtime, Warner Bros. Discovery, Blumhouse Television, and other studios and production companies.

Kate Lehman Trumbull C’04 has been promoted to chief brand officer of Domino’s Pizza. She oversees advertising, media, product innovation, and national sales.

2005

Lauren Sankovitch C’05 is the 2023 recipient of a Harriet Evelyn Wallace Scholarship for Women Geoscience Graduate Students, presented by the American Geosciences Institute. Lauren is a second-year graduate student in the department of geological sciences and engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno. Her research focuses on developing a more precise dating method for silica-rich sinter deposits, which form around high-temperature hydrothermal systems such as geysers.

2006

David Baron C’06 has joined Seward & Kissel in New York as a partner in the law firm’s Employment Law Group.

Jon Passaro C’06 writes, “The ’06ers have been far too absent from the Gazette in recent issues, so I figured I would chip in with my news. So much has happened in the past several years, but there are two clear highlights: In 2019 I married my Australian husband in what turned out to be one of the last pre-pandemic weddings (too many Quakers were in attendance to list here; thank you to all who made the trip to Paris). Two months later, I resigned my post as a legal adviser at the OECD—one of those ultra-secure jobs no one is ever supposed to give up (COVID-19 was still nowhere on anyone’s radar)—to launch an executive and team coaching business. Both decisions ended up being among the best of my life. I coach mainly lawyers in large international firms (with a particular focus on recently minted partners). Helping lawyers to better manage their workloads, stress, and teams is not only extremely rewarding but also a great way to stay connected to former colleagues around the globe. I am also active as a speaker and facilitator for l’Autre Cercle, a French nonprofit that advocates for LGBT+ inclusion in the workplace. In my spare time, I have been ski touring in the French Alps, hiking the hills of Tasmania, and exploring all that my adopted hometown has to offer. Please drop me a line next time you are in Paris; it’s always a pleasure to share my favorite spots with Penn friends.” Jon can be contacted at jpassaro@gmail.com.

Celebrate Your Reunion, May 17–19, 2024!

2009

Kevin Davenport C’09 has joined Swire Properties as senior vice president of development, where he oversees both commercial and residential development. Prior to his move to Miami, Kevin worked on some of New York’s most prominent projects, such as Manhattan West at Hudson Yards.

Chris Haaf L’09 has joined Waldrep Wall Babcock & Bailey, a law firm in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as partner.

2011

Alexandra J. Gold C’11 G’12, head preceptor in the Harvard College Writing Program, has published a new book. From the press materials, “The Collaborative Artist’s Book: Evolving Ideas in Contemporary Poetry and Art offers a rare glimpse into collaborations between poets and painters..."
from 1945 to the present and highlights how the artist’s book became a critical form for experimental American artists in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.”

Dr. Mfon Effiong Umoh EAS’11 writes, “William James Kane and I were married on July 2 at the Pen Ryn Estate in Pennsylvania. The wedding party included bridesmaids Sascha Murillo C’12, Angela Ddamba Kasowitz C’11 Gr’17, and Christina Brose Nu’11 GNu’14. Alumni relatives included my sisters, Dr. Uduak Umoh Andy EAS’04 GM’14 and Nse Umoh Esema C’09 GCP’10 and my brother-in-law Moses Esema W’09. Several Penn friends shared in this special day, far too many to list, so the Red & Blue were very well represented. Bill and I met in Baltimore while I was completing my internal medicine residency at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. We look forward to post-married life and plan to stay in Baltimore for the immediate future.”

2012
Kendra Hypolite C’12 SPP’16 and Fitzann Reid WG’23 write, “We got married in 2022 at San Francisco City Hall. Fitz is part of the ownership group Cotogna Sports Group, which purchased an Italian professional basketball team earlier this year [“Alumni Profiles”, this issue]. Kendra is the inaugural CARE advocate for racial justice at the University of California, San Francisco.”

2013
Christopher R. Rogers GEd’13 Gr’23 received the Young Friends of the Preservation Alliance Award from the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. He was honored for his work to preserve the Henry Ossawa Tanner House (a National Historic Landmark). Tanner has been called “the most distinguished African American Artist of the 19th century” by the Smithsonian Institution.

2015
Elisabeth Bellissimo Nu’15 GNu’19 see Mike Bellissimo C’81.
Jessica Schneider Rollén C’15 and Sebastian Rollén C’16 W’16 welcomed their first child, Evelyn “Evie” Frances Rollén, on April 15.

2016
Sebastian Rollén C’16 W’16 see Jessica Schneider Rollén C’15.

2017
Rachel Ellis Gr’17 is the author of a new book, In This Place Called Prison: Women’s Religious Life in the Shadow of Punishment. Rachel writes, “Based on a yearlong ethnographic study conducted for my PhD dissertation at Penn, this book offers a vivid account of religious life inside a US state women’s prison. It shines a light on the stories of incarcerated women and shows how women draw on religion to navigate lived experiences of carceral control.” Rachel is assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice at the University of Maryland.

2022
Dr. Tiffany Yeh M’22 is founder of the healthcare materials startup Eztia, which has graduated from the 2023 Embark accelerator program, hosted by REI Path Ahead Ventures. Eztia engineers cold therapy wearables that deliver on-the-go icing so that athletes can perform better in heat and recover faster from muscle strain.

2023
Fitz Reid WG’23 see Kendra Hypolite C’12 SPP’16.
Philip Steinkrauss III C’23 see Linda Stolte Steinkrauss Nu’92 GNu’97.
1940
Eleanore Gross Schmid DH’40, Philadelphia, a retired dental hygienist; April 4, at 101.

1943
Dr. Henry Litvin C’43 M’48 GM’53, Jenkintown, PA, a family physician and psychiatrist; Feb. 20, at 99. He served in the US Marine Corps during the Korean War, as well as the US Navy Reserve. His children are Lisa A. Litvin Chaiken C’77 WG’81, who is married to Joseph Chaiken C’75; and Joel M. Litvin W’81, who is married to Lisa Eggert Litvin.

1944
Johanna Weiss Lever CW’44, Lancaster, PA, a retired teacher of reading and English as a Second Language; March 1.

1945
Betty Johnson HUP’45, Jamestown, NY, a retired nurse; July 1, 2021.

1947
Theresa Von Carlowitz Hunt CW’47 WG’48, Cary, NC, March 21. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.
Keshub Mahindra W’47, Mumbai, chairman of a multinational automotive manufacturing company in India; April 12, at 99. Forbes named him India’s “oldest billionaire.” At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity and the squash and tennis teams. One daughter is Leena Mahindra Labroo C’84, who is married to Sanjay Labroo W’84, and two granddaughters are Nisheeta Bakht W’10 and Aneesha Labroo C’13.
Dr. Clifton F. West Jr. M’47 GM’54, Chestertown, MD, a retired surgeon; Feb. 28, at 99. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

1948
Dr. Julius H. Jacobson II G’48, New York, a retired vascular surgeon; Dec. 4. He served in the US Navy.

Paul C. Kitchen Jr. C’48, Gwynedd, PA, retired general sales manager for a manufacturer of corrugated boxes; Jan. 28, at 99. At Penn, he was a member of Psi Upsilon fraternity and the sprint football team. One sister is Jean Kitchen Grey Smith CW’50.

1949
Dr. Joseph F. DeMichele C’49 D’54, Gladwyne, PA, a retired general surgeon; April 23. His children include Joseph F. DeMichele C’83 and Annette R. DeMichele C’85.
Homer G. Gere W’49, North Syracuse, NY, a retired insurance agent and community activist; March 1, at 100. He is also the father of actor Richard Gere. He served in the US Navy during World War II.
Dr. John J. Mendillo GM’49, Branford, CT, a retired general and thoracic surgeon; April 2, at 103. He served in the US Army Air Corps and the US Coast Guard. His son is Dr. James H. Mendillo C’71 D’75, and one grandchild is Hillary A. Mendillo W’21.

Dr. John J. Mendillo GM’49, Branford, CT, a retired general and thoracic surgeon; April 2, at 103. He served in the US Army Air Corps and the US Coast Guard. His son is Dr. James H. Mendillo C’71 D’75, and one grandchild is Hillary A. Mendillo W’21.

Air Corps and the US Coast Guard. His son is Dr. James H. Mendillo C’71 D’75, and one grandchild is Hillary A. Mendillo W’21.

Dr. John J. Mendillo GM’49, Branford, CT, a retired general and thoracic surgeon; April 2, at 103. He served in the US Army Air Corps and the US Coast Guard. His son is Dr. James H. Mendillo C’71 D’75, and one grandchild is Hillary A. Mendillo W’21.
1951

Joyce Sloan Anderson Ed’51 GEd’52, Linwood, NJ, a professor of sociology at Atlantic Community College and author of five books; April 4. Her sister is Shirley Sloan Fader Ed’48 GEd’49.

Anna L. Ehrich Batson CW’51, Sunnyvale, CA, a retired office manager and partner in her husband’s ophthalmology practice; Oct. 24.

Joseph N. Cotter Ed’51, Oxford, PA, a retired high school principal and chess tournament player; May 23, 2021. He served in the US National Guard. At Penn, he was a member of the chess team that won an Ivy League championship.

Gerald R. Curtis WG’51, Milton, MA, a retired investment banker; March 9. He served in the US Air Force.

Neil M. DeVries L’51, Fairport, NY, an executive at a life insurance company; Dec. 29.

Allan J. Ford C’51, Wynnewood, PA, a retired advertising executive; April 14. He served in the US Navy during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Patricia McDivitt Frey FA’51, St. Petersburg, FL, a schoolteacher; April 6.

Jean Thompson Kane Ed’51, Fernandina Beach, FL, a former kindergarten and first-grade teacher; March 5. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

William E. Purnell PT’51, Omaha, NE, a retired physical therapist; March 17. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

Joan Todd Robinette CW’51, Bryn Mawr, PA, a retired social worker; March 29. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and the Penn Players.

Dr. William Kriehl Jr. C’52, East Norriton, PA, a senior research chemist at DuPont; April 16. He served in the US Navy and the ROTC. His son is David W. Kriehl G’86 Gr’00.

Gilbert P. Lappen C’52, Bethlehem, PA, a former car salesman; March 6. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity.

Ellen Magill Rose Ed’52, Wayne, PA, a retired children’s reading specialist; April 1.

Dr. Richard R. Ryan C’52 V’56, Deland, FL, a retired veterinarian; March 1.

Richard C. “Sandy” Sanders C’52, Winston Salem, NC, March 8, 2022. He retired from Western Electric. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

Doris Boardman Schick HUP’52, Louisville, CO, a former nursing arts instructor at Fairview Park Hospital School of Medicine; May 16, 2022. She served in the US Army Nurse Corps.

Walter J. Till CE’52, Pittsburgh, retired manager at a steel company; March 27. He served in the US Army.

1952

Allan Brooks C’52, Elkins Park, PA, a psychoanalyst and child psychiatrist; March 25.

Maynard E. Burstein W’52, San Antonio, former owner of a ComputerLand franchise; April 8. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity.

Dr. James E. Jones W’52 M’59, Mechanicsburg, PA, a retired pediatrician; Feb. 26. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and the Sphinx Senior Society.

Dr. William Kamerling C’52 GM’58, Cherry Hill, NJ, a retired ophthalmologist; Feb. 28. His children include Dr. Joseph M. Kamerling C’84, who is married to Susan Nudelman Kamerling Nu’84 GNu’88; and Debra Kamerling Stern W’87 WG’92, who is married to Dr. Robert M. Stern D’87. His grandchildren include Samuel T. Stern EAS’14, Dana R. Kamerling C’15, Justin E. Kamerling W’17, and Allison L. Stern C’20.

James M. Kriehl Jr. C’52, East Norriton, PA, a retired senior research chemist at a chemical company; June 27, 2020. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War and in the US Navy Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and the ROTC. His son is David W. Kriehl G’86 Gr’00.

Paul T. Nettler W’53 WG’54, Floral Park, NY, a former sales executive; Feb. 25. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity, WXPN, the Daily Pennsylvanian, and Friars Senior Society.

1953

Joyce Sloan Anderson Ed’51 GEd’52, Linwood, NJ, a professor of sociology at Atlantic Community College and author of five books; April 4. Her sister is Shirley Sloan Fader Ed’48 GEd’49.

Anna L. Ehrich Batson CW’51, Sunnyvale, CA, a retired office manager and partner in her husband’s ophthalmology practice; Oct. 24.

Joseph N. Cotter Ed’51, Oxford, PA, a retired high school principal and chess tournament player; May 23, 2021. He served in the US National Guard. At Penn, he was a member of the chess team that won an Ivy League championship.

Gerald R. Curtis WG’51, Milton, MA, a retired investment banker; March 9. He served in the US Air Force.

Neil M. DeVries L’51, Fairport, NY, an executive at a life insurance company; Dec. 29.

Allan J. Ford C’51, Wynnewood, PA, a retired advertising executive; April 14. He served in the US Navy during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Patricia McDivitt Frey FA’51, St. Petersburg, FL, a schoolteacher; April 6.

Jean Thompson Kane Ed’51, Fernandina Beach, FL, a former kindergarten and first-grade teacher; March 5. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

William E. Purnell PT’51, Omaha, NE, a retired physical therapist; March 17. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

Joan Todd Robinette CW’51, Bryn Mawr, PA, a retired social worker; March 29. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and the Penn Players.

Dr. William N. Roddy GM’51, Houston, a retired physician; June 29, 2021.

Dr. James E. Jones W’52 M’59, Mechanicsburg, PA, a retired pediatrician; Feb. 26. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and the Sphinx Senior Society.

Dr. William Kamerling C’52 GM’58, Cherry Hill, NJ, a retired ophthalmologist; Feb. 28. His children include Dr. Joseph M. Kamerling C’84, who is married to Susan Nudelman Kamerling Nu’84 GNu’88; and Debra Kamerling Stern W’87 WG’92, who is married to Dr. Robert M. Stern D’87. His grandchildren include Samuel T. Stern EAS’14, Dana R. Kamerling C’15, Justin E. Kamerling W’17, and Allison L. Stern C’20.

James M. Kriehl Jr. C’52, East Norriton, PA, a retired senior research chemist at a chemical company; June 27, 2020. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War and in the US Navy Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and the ROTC. His son is David W. Kriehl G’86 Gr’00.

Gilbert P. Lappen C’52, Bethlehem, PA, a former car salesman; March 6. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity. His son is Louis D. Lappen C’85.

Ellen Magill Rose Ed’52, Wayne, PA, a retired children’s reading specialist; April 1.

Dr. Richard R. Ryan C’52 V’56, Deland, FL, a retired veterinarian; March 1.

Richard C. “Sandy” Sanders C’52, Winston Salem, NC, March 8, 2022. He retired from Western Electric. He served in the US Marine Corps during the Korean War.

Doris Boardman Schick HUP’52, Louisville, CO, a former nursing arts instructor at Fairview Park Hospital School of Medicine; May 16, 2022. She served in the US Army Nurse Corps.

Walter J. Till CE’52, Pittsburgh, retired manager at a steel company; March 27. He served in the US Army.

1953

Barbara Martin Beale DH’53, Newtown Square, PA, a dental hygienist; April 7.

Alan D. Bleznak W’53, Palm Beach, FL, a real estate developer and philanthropist; March 2. With his wife Kathleen Harrison Bleznak, he established Penn Medicine’s Patient Facilitated Services Program. As a student at Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. One daughter is Patricia Bleznak Silverstein C’81, who is married to Howard A. Silverstein W’69.

Bernard Goldstein W’53, Rye, NY, a retired manager of a mergers and acquisitions firm in the software industry; March 13. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity, the Daily Pennsylvanian, and Friars Senior Society. One son is Mark H. Goldstein C’83.

Dr. Alan M. Gordon D’53, New Haven, CT, a retired dentist; Feb. 25. He served in the US Army during World War II.

Dr. Robert S. Herman C’53, Columbia, MD, a retired physician; Nov. 2. He served in the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity.

Paul T. Nettler W’53 WG’54, Floral Park, NY, a former sales executive; Feb. 25. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity, WXPN, the Daily Pennsylvanian, and the rowing team. One grandson is Maxwell D. Nettler C’19.


Dr. Lawrence Tama M’53, Towanda, PA, a retired surgeon; July 7, 2022. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

Edith Boone Hill Toussaint GEd’53, Nashville, NC, a retired nurse; Oct. 12, at 101.

1954

Dr. Richard C. Baumbach D’54 GD’57, Harleysville, PA, an oral surgeon; April 17. He served in the US Navy Dental Corps. His brother is Clifford W. Baumbach Jr. C’47.

Harry B. Bernhard W’54, Palm Beach Gardens, FL, a retired director of retail and management development at IBM; March 31. He also worked in executive education at several colleges and consulted for the US nuclear industry on safety training. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity and the ROTC. His children include Michael H. Bernhard C’79 and Nancy E. Bernhard
25, at 101.

Noel Davidson W’54, Avon, CT, CEO of the retail chain Casual Corner; March 28. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Nu fraternity.

Dr. Donald N. Dubrow C’54, Dallas, a retired physician; June 21, 2022. He served in the US Air Force.

Edith Greeby Elinsky Ed’54, Jackson, WY, a sixth-grade teacher; Sept. 20, 2021.

Dr. Howard Gooen C’54, Fredon Township, NJ, a retired physician; Aug. 22, 2022. At Penn, he was a member of the swimming team.

G. Peter Jennewein Ar’54 GA’54, New Canaan, CT, an architect; Dec. 21. One grandson is Christopher P. Koch EAS’20.

1955

Dr. Martin J. Bukowski M’55 GM’59, Lorain, OH, a retired pediatrician; April 15, 2021. He served in the US Navy.

Valerie van Es Davidson DH’55, Powell, OH, a former dental hygienist; Feb. 24.


Suzanne Nasfay Heiny CW’55 G’56, Midland, MI, a retired chemist for Dow Chemical; Jan. 19. Originally from Hungary, she and her family lived in a Bavarian refugee camp for four years during World War II.

Dr. William P. Hipple C’55 D’57 GD’62, Robbinsville, NJ, a retired dentist; Oct. 22. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Paul Miller Gr’55, Allentown, PA, a retired physicist for Bell Laboratories; Feb. 25, at 101.

Barbara Fischer Shupp Ed’55 GD’58, Fort Washington, PA, a reading specialist; July 8, 2022.

Mark H. Solove W’55, Highland Beach, FL, a partner at a mortgage brokerage; March 20.

Dorothy Earhart Swope Nu’55, Lancaster, PA, a retired school nurse and nursing instructor; Feb. 5.

1956

Dr. Donald L. Bogdon M’56, Glendale, CA, a retired physician and clinical professor at the University of Southern California; Feb. 23.

Dr. Harold B. Ginsberg D’56, Beacon, NY, a retired dentist; April 8. He served in the US Air Force. His son is Dr. Stuart M. Ginsberg D’81.

Sydney Greenwood C’56, Caroga Lake, NY, a retired sales representative for a chemical company; March 19. He served in the US Marine Corps during the Korean War, earning a Purple Heart. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

William “Jim” Harman C’56, Austin, TX, retired executive vice president of New College Foundation, which funds the New College of Florida; March 25. Earlier in his career, he also served as assistant dean at the Wharton School. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Richard F. Kline Jr. W’56, Thurmont, MD, vice president of a highway construction company; Feb. 9.

Dr. G. Robert Lange D’56, Bethesda, MD, a retired dentist; Aug. 9, 2021. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

Joseph P. Laver Jr. C’56, Williamsport, PA, a former fundraiser for several colleges; April 12. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Epsilon fraternity and the rowing team. One son is Joseph P. Laver III L’90, and one grandchild is Abigail B. Laver C’21.

John B. Mowell W’56, Tallahassee, FL, founder of an investment firm; June 23, 2021. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity.


Thomas I. Unterberg WG’56, Rumson, NJ, retired head of an investment firm; Jan. 10.

1957

Edwin B. Carpenter L’57, Waynesboro, PA, a retired human resources executive; March 8. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War and also in the US Navy Reserve.

D. Edward Curran W’57, Bryn Mawr, PA, an executive at an advertising agency; March 23. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Phi fraternity.

Dr. Leonard J. Garrett WG’57 Gr’61, Dresher, PA, a professor of computer science at Temple University; Feb. 25. Earlier in his career, he taught at Penn in the department of management. He served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II. His daughter is Dr. Susan Garrett Trevisan C’84.

Elaine Kemmerer HUP’57, Williamsport, MD, a nurse; March 15.

Lowell H. Lamb W’57, Middleton, NH, a retired executive and actuary at Metropolitan Life Insurance; Feb. 25. He served in the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity and manager of the wrestling team.

Jean Cecilia Monka HUP’57, Dallas, PA, an infectious disease nurse; Feb. 26.

Joan Holzwarth Steinke CW’57, Boulder City, NV, a librarian; Nov. 2. At Penn, she was a member of Penn Players.

1958

Paul F. Derridinger C’58, Louisville, KY, April 4. He retired from General Electric. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and the track team.

Mary “Ginny” Lanahan Durnan DH’58, Wilmington, DE, a retired dental hygienist; July 8, 2021.

Lucy Barr Fowler OT’58, Omaha, an occupational therapist; March 24.


William V. Kriebel Ar’58, Burlington, MA, a retired architect; April 10, 2022. He maintained a practice in Philadelphia with his wife, Marjorie Oleviler Kriebel Ar’58, and taught in Drexel University’s interior design program. He served in the US Navy and the US Navy Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. His children include Michelle Kriebel C’88 and William Scott Kriebel EAS’90.
Ramsay A. Moran WG’58, Annapolis, MD, a retired finance executive; March 26.
Paul G. O’Leary WG’58, Wyckoff NJ, a retired investment manager for Prudential Insurance; Feb. 15. Earlier in his career, he worked in development for Penn. He served in the Pennsylvania National Guard. One son is William G. O’Leary C’86.
Charles Ranlett WG’58, Orland Park, IL, a municipal government employee; March 24. He served in the US Army Transportation Corps.
John W. Roberts L’58, Greenwich, CT, an attorney; March 3.
Dr. R. Nevin Rupp M’58, Santa Cruz, CA, a retired otolaryngologist; Jan. 23. He served in the US Army and the US Army Reserve.
James M. Sawyers PT’58, Lakeland, FL, a physical therapist; April 11, 2021.
Dr. Lincoln B. Scott M’58, Waxah, NC, a retired physician for the University of North Carolina’s student health services; Dec. 30, 2021.
Beatrice M. States G’58, Hatfield, PA, a retired biochemical medicine researcher at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Feb. 25.
Rudolph W. Stroh Jr. WEv’58, Waraminster, PA, a retired marketing manager for AT&T; March 23. He served in the US Army.
George A. Swartz Gr’58, Hallandale Beach, FL, a retired physicist for RCA Corporation; Oct 27.
Dr. James Francis Toole GM’58, Winston Salem, NC, a professor of neurology at Wake Forest University; Sept. 12, 2021. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War.
1959
Dr. Chris T. Armen D’59, Lebanon, NH, a retired dentist; March 19. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.
Dr. A. Cleveland Brown V’59, Burtons ville, MD, a retired veterinarian; Feb. 9. His wife is Jane Law Brown DH’58.
Timothy J. Connolly W’59, Atlanta, founder of a commercial real estate agency; March 18. His children include Timothy J. Connolly II CE’85 and Carolyn Connolly Schaffer W’87. One grandchild is Meghan C. Connolly W’15.
B. Mason Flemming Jr. C’59, Ross, CA, a former investment banker; Sept. 1. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the ice hockey and rowing teams.
Dr. Leigh W. Kendall C’59, Lancaster, PA, a retired physician; Feb. 11. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and the rowing team, and he was also a Franklin Scholar.
Joseph E. Klimek ME’59, Langhorne, PA, a retired manager at several companies; Jan. 26. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.
Rev. Howard F. Wood C’59, Perris, CA, a retired rector of an Episcopal church; March 8. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity and Penn Players.
2016
Dr. James R. Buell V’60, Reno, NV, a veterinarian and horse breeder; 2023. He served in the US Air Force.
Eugene J. Ferry WEv’60, Philadelphia, March 8. He worked for Cigna, a health insurance company.
Gail Whitehead Kagler PT’60, Loveland, OH, a former physical therapist; Jan. 24. At Penn, she was a member of the swimming team.
Dr. Bernard G. Park D’61, Colchester, CT, a retired dentist; March 22. He served in the US Army.
**1962**

**Robert Eager Chinchar Nu’62**, Orwigsburg, PA, a retired nurse; March 6.

**Cynthia “Cynda” Johnson Hubbard DH’62**, Cambridge, MD, a retired dental hygienist; March 5.

**Dr. Edward W. Lieberman M’62**, Hampton Falls, NH, a retired radiologist; Jan. 31. He served in the US Navy. One son is Dr. James A. Lieberman M’94.

**Dr. Gordon E. Shipman D’62**, Selinsgrove, PA, a retired dentist; March 28. He served in the US Army.

**Dr. Michael D. Strong III C’62**, Cherry Hill, NJ, a retired cardiothoracic surgeon and professor of surgery at Hahnemann University Hospital; Dec. 6. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity and WXPN.

**Dr. Harold S. R. Byrdy GM’65**, Cambridge, MA, a retired physician; March 21. He served in the US Army. His wife is Irene Byrdy, NY, a retired developmental pediatrician; April 10. He served in the US Army and the New York Army National Guard. At Penn, he was a member of Psi Upsilon fraternity.

**Dr. Kenneth J. Simpson GM’63**, Denver, a retired anesthesiologist; Feb. 12. He served in the US Army.


**1963**

**Philip S. Auchincloss W’63**, Winston-Salem, NC, a retired market research director; Aug. 22. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Psi Upsilon fraternity, WXPN, the ROTC, and the rowing team. One son is William A. Auchincloss W’98.

**Marjorie G. Carlson CW’63**, Kissimmee, FL, a retired editor at the Christian publishing firm Loizeaux Brothers; March 4. She later worked in a high school office.

**Nancy Stutzman Esterly DH’63**, New Oxford, PA, a retired dental hygienist; April 1.

**Leo H. Hendler D’63**, Boynton Beach, FL, a retired dentist; March 6. His children include David A. Hendler W’83, Dr. Karen L. Hendler-Goldberg W’84, and Jeffrey A. Hendler W’88.

**Dr. Daniel Nussbaum II C’63**, Rochester, NY, a retired developmental pediatrician; March 1. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Rho fraternity. His wife is Alice Rosenthal Nussbaum CW’63.

**Richard V. Rudolph Jr. C’63 GEE’68**, Coatesville, PA, a retired engineer and professor of computer programming at Drexel University and Delaware County Community College; April 7. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity. One sister is Dr. Rosemary Rudolph Shy CW’68, who is married to Michael E. Shy C’69.

**Dr. John D. Bentley M’64**, Springfield, MO, a retired physician; March 10. He served in the US Navy.


**G. Richard Kline C’64**, Lancaster, PA, CEO and co-owner of a tire company; March 8, 2022.

**Erik B. Nagel GEE’64**, Greenville, SC, retired president of a textile machinery business; Feb. 23.

**DeWitt L. Sage Jr. C’64**, Westport, CT, an Academy Award–winning documentary filmmaker; April 7. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity.

**Gail O’Brien Zapp HUP’64**, Stewartsville, NJ, a former pediatric nurse and realtor; April 1.

**1964**

**Janie Laub Babitt CW’65**, Pikesville, MD, Nov. 8. At Penn, she was a member of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority. Her daughters include Dr. Karen L. Babitt C’92 W’92 and Jodie L. Babitt C’95.

**Christopher Battista W’65**, Rye, NY, a retired computer contracts manager for Hewlett Packard; Dec. 26, 2021. He served in the US Coast Guard Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

**Dr. Harold S. R. Byrdy GM’65**, Pittsfield, MA, a retired psychiatrist; March 21. He served in the US Army Medical Corps.

**1965**

**Anthony J. Brancato GEd’66**, Cedar Rapids, IA, April 6. He retired from the Camden (NJ) Board of Education.

**Robert J. Farley GEd’66 G’70 Gr’73**, King of Prussia, PA, a retired college and high school science teacher; Sept. 28, 2021. He served in the US Army. His wife is Irene Halasz Farley GEd’66.
Robert J. Feldman W'66, Boca Raton, FL, founder of a chemical products business; April 16. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Phi fraternity and the rowing team.

Ralph W. Grambo Jr. WG'66 Gr'73, Poyntelle, PA, a retired finance professor at the University of Scranton; March 24. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

Rene L. Guerster GME'66, Winter Park, FL, a retired pharmaceutical company executive, engineer, and inventor; March 9.

Hon. Jay Paul James L'66, Wilmington, DE, a judge; March 24.


Dr. John M. McClure III C'66 M'70 GM'77, Clearwater Beach, FL, an orthopedic surgeon; March 4. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

J. Thomas O'Connor W'66, Scottsdale, AZ, president and CEO of Phoenix Digital Corporation; March 29. At Penn, he was a member of Friars Senior Society and the football team.

Marshall Winokur G'66 Gr'73, Grantham, NH, a retired professor of Russian and German at the University of Alabama; Sept. 2. He served in the US Army. His wife is Janice Richardson Winokur CW'67.

Dorothy Wexler Wolfe Gr'66, Haverford, PA, a retired mathematics professor at Widener University; April 5, at 102.

1968

Iris Braunstein SW'68, Wynnewood, PA, a retired social worker; March 15.

Peter H. Dodson L'68, Wellesley, MA, a retired attorney; March 18.

G. Marc Hamburger WG'68, Atlanta, a retired marketing executive at Coca-Cola; March 7.

Jean Kochan Kelly Nu'68, Easton, CT, a retired nurse; Feb. 22. She served in the US Air Force.

Jan L. Kreader G'68, Los Angeles, retired codirector of childcare and early education research connections at the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University; Feb. 26.

Dr. Ronald R. Kresge D'68, Naples, FL, a retired dentist; March 17. He served in the US Army. His sister is Pamela Kresge Kassner DH'72.


Roger A. Morrison Gr'68, Newtown, PA, a research chemist for ExxonMobil; March 14. He served in the US Army.

Garry A. Preble C'68 GCE'76, Delray Beach, FL, Oct. 25.

1969

Syed A. Ali GCE'69 Gr'73, Gaithersburg, MD, retired research specialist at the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission and assistant professor of civil engineering at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; April 9.

Graham W. Bauerle C'69 WG'79, Cambridge, VT, a retired financial analyst and accounting instructor at the Community College of Vermont; April 14. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, the ROTC, and the rowing team.

George W. Davies L'69, Mirror Lake, NH, a retired attorney; Feb. 9. Later, he coached middle school and high school wrestling and lacrosse. He served in the US Navy. One daughter is Carol Davies Whitaker L'88.

Laura Stretch Griffin Nu'69, Pennsville, NJ, a retired assistant professor of nursing at the University of Delaware; March 29.

Richard W. Hines W'69, Saint Augustine, FL, librarian emeritus at the University of Portland; May 11, 2021.

Laurence J. Ruggiero C'69 G'72 Gr'75, Winter Park, FL, former director of the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art; March 23. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. His wife is Virginia F. Ruggiero CW'69.

Richard A. Ruwell EE'69, Colorado Springs, CO, a former executive recruiter; Jan. 15. He served in the US Marine Corps. One sister is Mary E. Ruwell G'76 Gr'89.

Dr. Roger D. Soloway GM'69, Norristown, PA, a former professor in the department of internal medicine in Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine; Jan. 29. He served in the US Army. He came to Penn in 1971 as an assistant professor of medicine, eventually becoming full professor in 1982. His research on gallstones, hepatitis, and the liver was published in prestigious American and international journals and has long been cited by colleagues. He left Penn in 1987 to join the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston as a professor and chair of gastroenterology and hepatology, as well as acting chair of medicine for two years.

1970

James F. Babcock WG'70, Blacksburg, VA, a retired bank executive; Sept. 2. He served in the US Navy.

Dr. Craig W. Fischer D'70, Naples, FL, a retired orthodontist; Nov. 29, 2021.

1971

George E. Carvell PT'71, Pittsburgh, professor emeritus of neuroscience at the University of Pittsburgh; March 5.
Dennis J. Gray GEE’71, Marriottsville, MD, a retired property manager; Sept. 24.
Anne Henderson GR’71, Needham, MA, professor emeritus of occupational therapy at Boston University; April 19.
Gregg T. Kail C’71, Newport Beach, CA, Oct. 31, 2021. At Penn, he was a member of the tennis team.

1972
Gerald E. Bisbee Jr. WG’72, New Canaan, CT, founder of ThinkMedium, a content creator for the healthcare industry; March 10.
Paul Goldenberg SW’72, Philadelphia, a retired social worker; April 8.
William J. McKinnon Jr. WG’72, Virginia Beach, VA, an investment banker; March 9.

1973
Naomi Levin Breman WG’73, Philadelphia, a former bank manager and horticultural volunteer; Feb. 9.
Dr. Robert Louis Cerciello GM’73, West Hartford, CT, a pediatric neurologist; April 3.
Kenneth C. D’Apice C’73, Winter Park, FL, a retired scout executive for Boy Scouts of America and former real estate lawyer; July 25, 2022. At Penn, he was a member of Psi Upsilon fraternity.
Bruce L. Fields C’73, Aurora, CO, a theologian and faculty member at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; April 2023.
Dr. John T. Sack GM’73, Seattle, a hand surgeon; Feb. 3. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War, earning a Purple Heart. At Penn, he was a member of the rowing team.
Nancy S. Sparks CW’73, Falls Church, VA, managing director of regulatory affairs for FedEx; Feb. 24. At Penn, she was a member of the Daily Pennsylvanian.
Daniel W. Wheeler Jr. W’73, Birmingham, AL, co-owner of a Baskin-Robbins ice cream franchise; Feb. 15.

1974
Glen A. Payne GL’74, Henderson, NV, retired counsel for a law firm; Jan. 3.
Ruth Alber Stuenckel CGS’74, Savannah, GA, a retired social worker; March 21. Her husband is Elton E. Stuenckel CGS’70, and one son is Dr. Gregory W. Chapman C’71.
Carl J. Weber CGS’74 WG’80, Warmminster, PA, a real estate agent; Feb. 27.

1975
Ora Mae Hester Avellino-Carroll CGS’75, Ocean City, NJ, a former communications specialist for the Philadelphia Housing Authority; March 29.

1976
David L. DeGiorgi W’76, Hingham, MA, president of a software and hardware manufacturer; March 25. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity, the ROTC, and the rowing team. One sister is Deborah Degiorgi Sala C’78.
Margaret L. Finn C’76, Ambler, PA, an adjunct professor at Temple University; July 1, 2022.
Thomas J. Schlageter L’76, Breezy Point, NY, an attorney; March 5, 2022.

1977
Dr. Randall D. Cebul GM’77 GM’79, Chagrin Falls, OH, a professor of medicine at Case Western Reserve University; March 16.
Elisabeth Petry Riley L’77, Middletown, CT, an attorney, author, and newspaper reporter; Feb. 22.
Dr. Eric R. Wolf M’77, Alpharetta, GA, a retired dermatologist; Feb. 19. His former wife is Dr. Linda Denese Wolf M’79.

1979
Donald C. Baur L’79, Alexandria, VA, an environmental lawyer; Dec. 15.
Joel T. Fry C’79 G’84, Philadelphia, a curator and historian at Bartram’s Garden; March 21. One brother is David A. Fry W’77.
John F. Hall III G’79 Gr’84, Provo, UT, a professor of classics and ancient history at Brigham Young University; March 14.

1980
Anne Noble Bradley G’80, Rose Valley, PA, an archaeologist and realtor; March 16.
Eugene A. Dimariano Jr. C’80, Palm Harbor, FL, an attorney; March 23. At Penn, he was a member of the track and cross country teams.
Carol Benenson Perloff C’80 GFA’84, Philadelphia, a writer and historian; October 2022. She is the author of To Spread the Light of Knowledge: 250 Years of the Nation’s First Medical School, about Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine ["The Link," Jul/Aug 2015].

1981
Lorraine M. Gardner C’81, Philadelphia, a former editor at Temple University and a massage therapist; March 13.
Beverly A. Giardinelli OT’81, South Abington, PA, a retired occupational therapist; March 31.
William J. Letzkus GEE’81, Kennett Square, PA, a former computer engineer and philosophy teacher; April 27, 2022. He served in the US Marine Corps.
Irene L. Sokolsky G’81, Chevy Chase, MD, an engineer at NASA; March 31.

1982
Dr. Peter H. Arger GM’82, Haverford, PA, professor emeritus of radiology in Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine; Dec. 28. He joined the School of Medicine faculty in 1972 as an assistant professor of medicine, eventually becoming full professor. He retired in 2000 but remained active in the School of Medicine’s Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty, chairing its committee on data collection in 2004.
Mary T. Folkers GNu’82, New Madison, OH, a former nursing professor at Indiana University East; March 22.

1983
Anna Maria F. Adamo L’83, Okatie, SC, May 18, 2021. She worked in the US foreign service.
Dr. Russell Windsor GM’83, New York, a retired orthopedic surgeon and professor at Weill Cornell Medicine; July 3, 2022. At Penn, he was a member of the rowing team.
team. His children are Gillian L. Windsor C'09, Russell J. Windsor W'11, and Eric N. Windsor C'13.

1984

David B. Ingerman C'84, Summit, NJ, a former marketing executive for MapQuest; March 19. His children are Alexander C. Ingerman EAS'19 and Dylan Ingerman W'22.

Lawrence M. Kranseler L'84 WG'84, Sharon, MA, an outside general counsel; Oct. 13, 2021. His brother is Kenneth B. Kranseler W'84, who is married to Lisa Coopersmith Kranseler W'84.

Joanne Giavin McClatchy WG'84, Sebastian, FL, a retired bank executive and cofounder of a private middle school; March 5.

1985

Christopher M. Cieri C'85 G'85 Gr'05, Springfield, PA, executive director of the Linguistic Data Consortium at Penn; March 25.

Dr. Robert L. Kass C'85, Boston, a former manager of critical content at Zynx Health, a healthcare company; March 17. At Penn, he was a member of the sprint football team.

Richard M. Moskowitz C'85, Narberth, PA, April 12. At Penn, he was a member of Mask & Wig. His sister is Lisa Moskowitz Sloan W'82, who is married to Randy M. Sloan W'78.

Joel D. Reigart CGS'85, Pittsgrove, NJ, a retired construction superintendent for an equipment manufacturer for the energy industry; Jan. 6, 2022. He served in the US Air Force during the Vietnam War.

1988

Neil C. Bernstein C'88, Rockville, MD, a television and radio producer; Feb. 1. At Penn, he was a member of the Daily Pennsylvanian, WXPN, and the basketball team.

Dennis J. Farrell GNu'88, Telford, PA, a retired US Army nurse; March 22. He also served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War.

William P. O’Brien GAR'88 GCP'88, Fort Worth, TX, retired director of construction for the City of San Francisco; March 26.

1989

Ann Lauenstein Dore McLaughlin Korologos WG'89, Washington, DC, former US secretary of labor from 1987 to 1989; Jan. 30. After leaving the Labor Department, she chaired several companies, including RAND Corporation, and later managed an art gallery.

Pilar C. Lim G'89 GrW'90, Doylestown, PA, a senior biostatistician at the pharmaceutical company Janssen; Jan. 11.

Richard C. “Chris” Sur C'89, Saint Paul, MN, an attorney; Feb. 25.

1990

David B. Dohner C'90 L'93, Hollywood, FL, an attorney; Feb. 6. At Penn, he was a member of the sprint football team.

Danielle Ivone Prieto W'90, Clearwater Beach, FL, a former managing director at an investment firm; Jan. 8. At Penn, she was a member of the gymnastics team.

1991

Taeyeon Kim Song C'91, Bel Air, MD, May 13, 2022.

Dr. Mark K. Wynn V'91, Pine Beach, NJ, a veterinarian and instructor at the College of New Jersey and Rowan College at Burlington County (NJ); March 22. He served in the US Army Reserve.

1992

Philip J. Colicchio C'92 G'93, Exton, PA, a digital strategist and marketer; April 6.

1993

Kristi N. Gamble C'93, Brooklyn, NY, assistant general counsel at New York Federal Reserve Bank; March 9. At Penn, she was a member of Penn Dance Group and the gymnastics team.

1995

Daniel P. Cummings WG'95, Franklin Lakes, NJ, a bank executive; Feb. 23.

Jennifer Patton Debellis WEv'95, Daniel Island, SC, retired director of financial reporting and operations for patient accounting at the University of Pennsylvania Health System; March 13.

1996

Kelly A. Brogan GNu'96, East Alstead, NH, a nurse and midwife; Feb. 4.

Dr. Margaret M. Mullin V'96, Clinton, NJ, a sports medicine veterinarian; March 10.

1997

Andrew S. Feuerstein W'97, Scarsdale, NY, an accounts executive at a winery; Sept. 25.

Laura Balles Witt WG'97, Park City, UT, an investment banker; Jan. 30.

1999


Marc S. Fried G'99, Norfolk, VA, a former general manager at Ryder; April 17.

2005

Donna M. Ayres G'05, Barrington, NJ, director of applications and reporting at AtlantiCare health system; Jan. 25.

Benjamin S. Vancik CGS'05, Delmar, NY, a document preservationist; March 5.

2006

Barbara Smith Grandstaff Gr'06, Oreland, PA, a former lecturer at Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine; Feb. 6. She joined the Penn Vet faculty in 1987 and served for over 25 years. She also mentored students in the department of Earth and environmental science in the School of Arts and Sciences. In 2018, she won Penn Vet’s V’21 Laboratory Teaching Award.

2007

Kimberly A. Daniels Nu'07 GNu'12, Villanova, PA, a clinical nurse specialist and clinical data analyst at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center; Jan. 27.

2013

Bryce L. “Trey” Holland III WG'13, Bainbridge Island, WA, senior manager for
mobile products at Amazon; Feb. 28. His father is Bryce L. Holland Jr. WG’78 L’79.

2019
John U. Karlawish C’19, Raleigh, NC, a tennis coach at a country club; March 28. At Penn, he was a member of the tennis team. His sister is Lela Anne Karlawish GNu’23, one uncle is Dr. Jason H. Karlawish GM’99 (“The Humanist Is In,” Mar|Apr 2021), and one grandfather is John W. Karlawish W’58 WG’61.

2023
Hannah R. “Lilith” Rowland LPS’23, TX, a pre-law student and officer at an immigration detention facility in Texas; Feb. 7.

2027
Yalong “Allen” Chen Gr’27, Zhongshan, Guangdong, China, a PhD candidate in Penn’s department of anthropology; May 30, 2022.

Faculty & Staff
Dr. Peter H. Arger. See Class of 1982.
Harold Bershady, Philadelphia, professor emeritus of sociology in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences; Feb. 18. He joined Penn's faculty as an assistant professor of sociology in 1968 and was promoted to full professor in 1991. A beloved educator, he taught courses in sociological theory, urban studies, and the dynamics of organization and won a Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1993. He retired in 2002 but continued to teach graduate-level courses at Penn and engage with the sociology department until 2005. His son is Matthew A. Bershady C’85.

Christopher D. “Casey” Brown, Haverford, PA, an associate professor of genetics in the Perelman School of Medicine; March 18. He was recruited to Penn in 2013, becoming an associate professor of medicine in the division of genetics. His work centered on approaches to understanding how human genetic variation controls gene expression. He developed and integrated cutting-edge informatic approaches and benchtop experimental designs to identify and characterize DNA sequence polymorphisms, epigenetic elements, and regions of accessible chromatin that determined variability in transcription expression and underlay consequent phenotypic alterations. While he initially focused on expression in the liver, these studies quickly expanded to a wide array of cell types and tissues.

Leonard S. Charlap, Princeton, NJ, a former associate professor of mathematics in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences; Feb. 5. He taught in Penn's mathematics department from 1964 to 1969, before becoming a full professor at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he received a National Science Foundation Award. He retired in 2000.

Christopher M. Cieri. See Class of 1985.
Joan Wedleigh Curran, Gladwyne, PA, a former senior lecturer of painting and drawing in the Weitzman School of Design; March 29. She was a senior lecturer in Penn's School of Design, now the Weitzman School, from 2001 to 2016. She also taught at Moore College of Art and Design, Swarthmore College, Drexel University, Temple University's Tyler School of Art, and other colleges in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New Hampshire, and Georgia. She worked in charcoal, paint, and other media for more than 50 years, and her pieces have been displayed in hundreds of exhibitions, galleries, and private collections around the world. Kimberly A. Daniels. See Class of 2007.

Dr. Leonard J. Garrett. See Class of 1957.
Robert Geddes, Princeton, NJ, a noted Philadelphia architect and former faculty member at Penn's Graduate School of Fine Arts; Feb. 13, at 99. He was recruited to the Graduate School of Fine Arts (the precursor to today's Weitzman School) as an assistant professor of architecture in 1951. In 1964, he designed the Roundhouse at 7th and Race Streets in Philadelphia, which up until recently served as the Philadelphia Police headquarters. He left Penn in 1965 to become dean of Princeton University's School of Architecture while continuing to design distinctive buildings around the region, such as the Northeast Regional Library in Northeast Philadelphia. He served in the US Air Force during World War II. His son is David S. Geddes Gr’80.

Barbara Smith Grandstaff. See Class of 2006.
Charles H. Kahn, Penn Valley, PA, professor emeritus of philosophy in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences; March 5. He came to Penn in 1965 as an associate professor of philosophy. He was a leading scholar in ancient Greek philosophy, particularly on the pre-Socratics (in the early decades of his career) and on Plato (in later decades). He retired in 2012.

Dr. Richard L. Nemiroff, Moorestown, NJ, a clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology in Penn's Perelman School of Medicine; Jan. 29. He joined the faculty at Penn's School of Medicine and Pennsylvania Hospital in 1970. He served a long and fruitful tenure at Penn, garnering a reputation for kindness and a gift for mentoring.

Robert G. Ousterhout, Philadelphia, professor emeritus in the history of art in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences; April 23. He taught at Penn from 2006 to 2017. A recognized specialist in Byzantine architecture, he researched the documentation and interpretation of the architectural heritage of the eastern Mediterranean, particularly the Byzantine architecture, monumental art, and urbanism in Constantinople and Cappadocia. His husband is C. Brian Rose, Penn professor of archaeology and curator-in-charge of the Penn Museum's Mediterranean Section.

Dr. Roger D. Soloway. See Class of 1969.

Dr. James L. Stinnett. See Class of 1965.
Donald Voet, Kennett Square, PA, associate professor emeritus of chemistry in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences; April 11. He joined Penn's chemistry department in 1969 as an assistant professor. While at Penn, he and his laboratory researched crystallography, using X-rays to understand structure-function relationships in proteins, and received multiple rounds of funding from the University Research Foundation (URF) to support this work. He retired in 2009. His children are Wendy Helaine Voet C’91 and Douglas F. Voet C’96 EAS’96.

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OLD PENN

“On This Hilltop”

Celebrating 90 years open to the public, Morris Arboretum and Gardens’ original roots go back to 1887 (“Birthday Blooms,” this issue). In that year, siblings John and Lydia Morris, children of a wealthy Philadelphia family, purchased a plot of barren farmland in Chestnut Hill and began cultivating the soil to prepare for their summer home, called Compton. They filled the grounds with collections of exotic and native trees and shrubs from their travels around the globe. By 1914, they had bought enough adjacent parcels to amass more than 166 acres.

“The Thorn apples are bewildering in their variety and striking in their beauty,” Gazette editors wrote in the May 15, 1933, issue, “while the Japanese cherry trees, the magnolias, the golden oak, the turkey oak, the huge old ash near the greenhouse, the magnificent weeping beech which stands near the residence, the sour gums, Chinese elms, yews, and the rare Davidia from Western China, are among a host of trees which excite admiration.”

John added several architectural elements to the estate, including what is now the last remaining freestanding Victorian fernery in North America. When he died in 1915, he left the estate in trust to his sister Lydia, with the understanding that the land would eventually become a public garden and school for horticulturists.

In 1931, University President Thomas S. Gates W1893 L1896 Hon’31 called upon Lydia to discuss the possibility of using their land for field study for Penn’s botanical department. (Penn was one of the first schools in the nation to appoint a professor of botany—Adam Kuhn in 1768.) Lydia went beyond simply granting permission for students to use the facilities. When she died the following year, she bequeathed her estate to Penn for botanical research and public use.

At the dedication ceremony in 1933, Rodney True, chairman of the University’s botany department and first director of Morris Arboretum, declared, “As we stand here today on this hilltop among the trees and shrubs that other hands have assembled here, we see present beauty. We see a home of beauty-loving people. As we look into the future, we see no less beauty—rather more of it—but we see here a place where Science is striving for a fuller vision of the truth.” —NP
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