

THE PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

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2024

Zeke Hernandez and the Business Case for Immigration

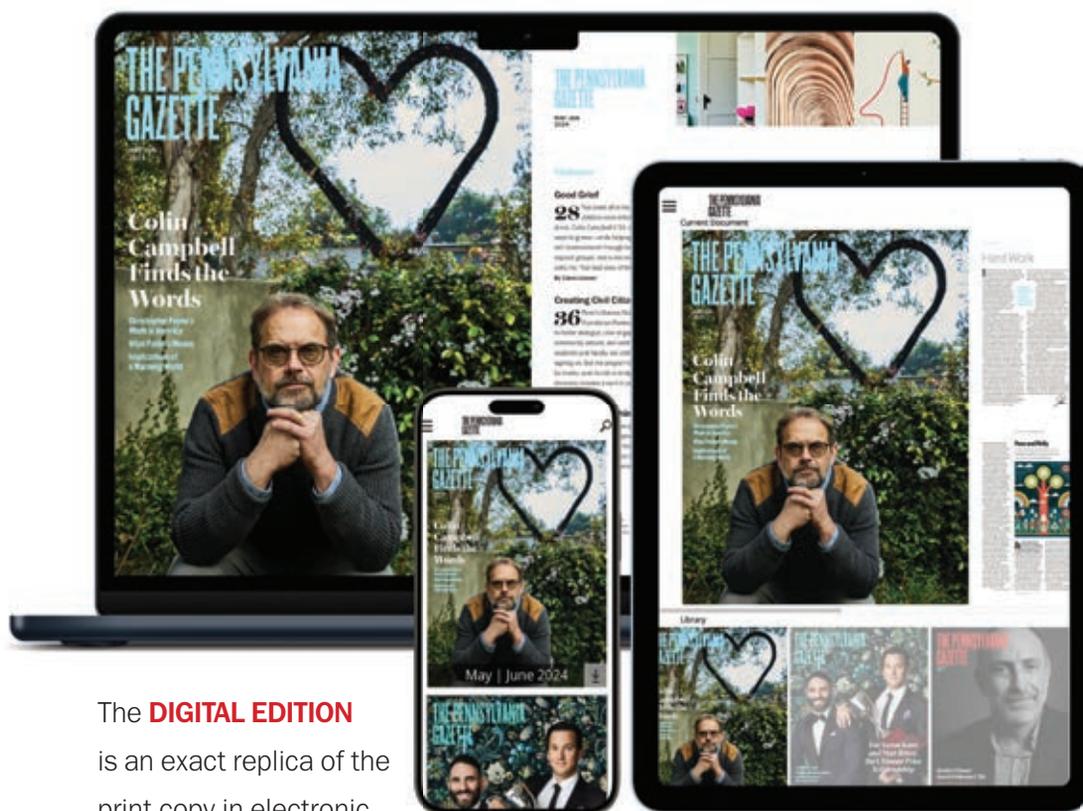
**The Penn Center for
Innovation Looks Ahead**

**Healthcare Policy
Veteran Ruth Katz**

**Alumni Weekend
and Commencement**



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(Re)Thinking

When I walk along Kelly Drive I almost always pause at the series of terraces that make up the Ellen Phillips Samuel Memorial of American History—which some readers may recognize as the setting for the photos on the cover and in “The Newcomer Dividend,” senior editor Trey Popp’s feature profile of Wharton professor Zeke Hernandez, author of a new book that makes a business- and investment-oriented case for the value of immigration.

The memorial includes a variety of tableaux and sculptures of representative figures and their roles, including a somewhat dejected depiction of *The Immigrant* (“They came seeking freedom”). But more germane to Hernandez’s thesis in *The Truth About Immigration* may be the title of the monumental Jacques Lipchitz sculpture on which Hernandez can be seen sitting on page 27: *Spirit of Enterprise*.

Born in Uruguay, Hernandez also lived in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Argentina before making a fraught decision to come to the US when he was offered a college scholarship and ultimately making a life here. His interest in immigration came about more or less as a byproduct of research he was doing on cross-border investments and corporate expansion, in which he discovered a strong correlation between the presence of immigrants in a place and foreign investment there. Immigrants are “magnets of investment from their home country,” he told Trey, and also “disproportionately start businesses.”

Hernandez hopes that research like his can encourage rethinking the terms of debate over immigration in the US, which gets stuck on arguing whether immigrants are job stealers or victims and is “obsessed with how immigrants enter our country” but has little to say about “what immigrants *do* for the rest of us once they’re here.”

Penn has been home to two major breakthroughs in medical science in Carl June’s

CAR T cell therapy for cancer and the mRNA vaccine research of Nobelists Drew Weissman and Katalin Kariko. In addition to their manifold benefits to society, these discoveries have generated significant revenues, with the assistance of the Penn Center for Innovation (PCI), the University office charged with managing technology transfer and related activities. In “Making Things Happen,” JoAnn Greco traces PCI’s origins and how it has developed

Immigrants are “magnets of investment from their home country.”

And Kathryn Levy Feldman LPS’09 offers a portrait of healthcare policy expert Ruth Katz CW’74 in “Our Policies, Our Health.” Currently affiliated with the Aspen Institute, in a pioneering 40-year career Katz has been a witness to and participant in history through her work as a Congressional staffer during the failed healthcare battle in the 1990s and the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2009.

This is also the issue in which we cover Alumni Weekend and Commencement, both of which went forward much as they normally do, though with some security and logistical adjustments arising from College Green being closed off following the disbanding of an encampment set up there by pro-Palestinian protesters and lingering concerns about further disruptions.

At Commencement, Interim President Jameson alluded to the “hard year for the world and for Penn,” and University Chaplain Chaz Howard C’00 spoke of fears that Commencement might be cancelled, as had happened elsewhere. “I’m glad we got to celebrate you all and have our ceremony today,” he said.

since being established in 2014, highlighting some less headline-grabbing products it has helped shepherd to market and talking with PCI’s leaders about its history and plans for the future.

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Praise for SNF Paideia's Howard

I am writing to say amidst today's turbulent and dispiriting news it made me hit an upper and feel so darned proud of Penn to read about Lia Howard, the student advising and wellness director of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Paideia Program ["Creating Civil Citizens," May|Jun 2024]. The program is bringing all disciplines, students, and faculty, at Penn into dialogue, civic engagement, and wellness to foster a community of civil conversation, and civic engagement which is eased with understanding. All so important, I write to say, in these sadly divisive and exclusionary and fake-truth times. It takes sparkplugs such as Lia to fire up and focus the good energy. Good for her and good for Penn.

Singular times require special people.

Stan Heuisler W'67, Baltimore



"It takes sparkplugs such as Lia to fire up and focus the good energy."

Stunned, But Not by the Heat

In the article "Slow Burn" ["Gazetteer," May|Jun 2024] R. Jisung Park noted that he and his fellow researchers have "found that student performance on tests suffers when exams are held on a 90-degree day in a building without air conditioning."

I was stunned when I read this.

My thoughts were swept back to my own childhood in Lincoln, Nebraska, where our only air conditioning was in department stores and movie theaters, and where final exams at the ends of school years were taken in hot buildings without air conditioning. And then I continued back in time to stories told by my parents of their learning in one-room schoolhouses in which they froze during winter months and par-boiled as the school years ended.

How did I survive? How did they survive? How did American civilization grow and prosper and survive?

Stuart J. Mahlin WG'65, Cincinnati

Failed on All Counts

Regarding the article, "On Jews and the University" ["Gazetteer," May|Jun 2024] reporting on "three takeaways from the Katz Center's virtual series on 'Antisemitism, Admissions, Academic Freedom,'" I believe you have miserably failed in the three subjects.

Antisemitism—the article starts by saying "In the wake of last fall's controversies over allegations of antisemitism and campus protests over the Israel–Hamas war at Penn and other universities ..."

Allegations? It is a fact, very evident, whose only purpose is to denigrate the State of Israel and create anti-Jewish sentiment.

Admissions—You stated that antisemitic quotas on student admissions were embraced by "Harvard, Yale, and Princeton (but not Penn, let it be noted)."

With that, the implication is that Penn is "off the hook" on its terrible mismanagement of the recent protests on campus.

Academic freedom—There is no mention that Penn could not decide on the difference between free speech and hateful inflammatory speech!

Putting all that as the only article in your magazine about what Jewish students are facing today in the universities? I believe that your editorial staff is hiding in shame behind a few of the quotes of Pamela S. Nadell.

Sevi Avigdor, parent, Rumson, NJ

Unpredictable Challenge

I am a graduate of the Veterinary School, and I enjoy reading the *Pennsylvania Gazette*.

In "The Future Is Unpredictable," Penn Interim President J. Larry Jameson writes about the future and having a plan to deal with the unpredictable challenges that might arise ["From College Hall," May|Jun 2024].

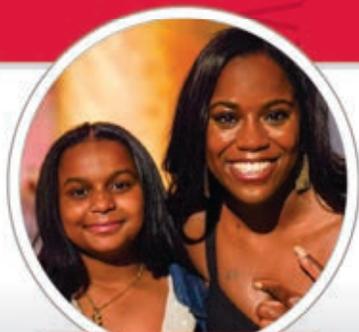
To me the single most crucial and unpredictable challenge is whether humans will learn to curb our appetites for Earth's finite resources voluntarily, or if we will continue our collective irresponsible consumption past the tipping point and destroy ourselves at the same time that we destroy the environment that we depend on.



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I try to imagine a world in which a majority of people want to do what's best for the planet rather than what's best for themselves as individuals or even as (human) families. After all, no human family can survive without an intact environment.

Just a thought for what it's worth.

Barbara Corson V'89, Dauphin, PA

Be Careful What You Wish For

In "Affirmative Action for Conservatives Needed," Vincent DeLorenzo longs for the days when conservative opinion was a valued part of campus discourse ["Letters," May|Jun 2024]. This feeling was the driving force when a donor at the University of Colorado established the Visiting Scholars in Conservative Thought and Policy endowment 10 years ago. The visiting scholar for academic year 2020–2021 was law professor John Eastman. I rest my case.

Robert Pane, parent, Boulder, CO

Pendulum Swing Back to Center

Kudos to Mr. DeLorenzo for his letter. I could not have said it better. The faculty statistics he mentions are absolutely shocking. It's time for the pendulum to swing back to center not only at Penn but at all American universities.

Richard T. Harvey WEv'80, Fort Myers, FL

Excellent Letters

I read the excellent letters to the editor in the May|Jun 2024 issue. Please accept our profound gratitude for publishing letters that may be controversial but accurately reflect the opinions of countless alumni regarding Penn's focus on DEI and political correctness in lieu of academic accomplishment. Thank you for giving your fellow alumni hope!

Elizabeth Wilkins WG'86, David Wilkins V'86,

John Wilkins W'23, Wilmington, DE

Questioning Interviews

For over a decade I have looked forward to doing alumni interviews. I have enjoyed meeting and interacting with 17-year-olds, an age group I rarely encounter. This year, the report on pro-

spective applicants interviewed dropped the Overall Assessment question. I contacted the admissions office and was told that the new purpose for alumni contacting students is not to interview, but to just represent Penn to applicants.

Frankly the applicants know more about Penn than I do. They know which groups they want to join, sometimes even which professors they hope to study with. It is all online. I feel it is hard for me to be an "Ambassador" for Penn, but I can have a nice chat and learn about the applicant's personality and accomplishments and convey that to admissions.

Reading your interview with Admissions Dean Whitney Soule ["Admissions in Transition," Mar|Apr 2024], I did not get any indication of the benefit to alumni "interviews." If the purpose is to simply involve alumni with the University, I can think of better ways to do that and better ways for us to spend our volunteer time.

Harlan Levinson W'80, Los Angeles

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My Life as a Ghost

On haunting other people's stories. ▶

Nick Lyons

For several years, nearly four decades ago, I wrote books for others. Each had a story to tell but no way to bring it to print. The first came to me by chance. A neighbor, who wrote professionally and knew I was an editor, confided that she had blocked stone cold on a lucrative book assignment. She was two years overdue on her contract and had submitted 30 pages of her book to Arthur, her editor and publisher, each page repeating the same first page.

Arthur was not pleased. I had known him well when we worked together at Crown Publishers. He was a king-maker. He'd found and edited four bestsellers. My neighbor showed me a blistering letter from him, severe and formal, indicating that if her manuscript did not arrive within five weeks, he would apply all manner of sanctions and thumb-screws, short of water-boarding, to get his advanced monies back. The writer of course froze several degrees more.

I held hurried negotiations with her agent, and full of trepidation I signed on for the job, to receive the remainder of the large advance, half of all royalties, and no credit for my work.

I had never played ghost, but with four young children and my wife a committed painter who did not yet sell her work, I was desperate. I'd begged an extra week or two to pay the rent. At a recent family dinner our waiter had firmly informed me that American Express demanded he destroy my credit card. He did so loudly.

I wrote the book, about the mother of a famous politician, in a few days more than five weeks, and it managed to squeeze onto the bestseller list.

Arthur found the other three. He had liked their stories and when each would-be author pleaded inability to write a book, called in his speedy ghost. Late one night, after locking up the text for the first of these, he told me that if I could write them so quickly and well, he could make me a millionaire in two years. I told

him that was not my intention and he told me it was every man's intention.

I wrote the others in five weeks each. I worked until long after midnight, over weekends, during lunch hours, while teaching weekday evenings at Hunter College, where I became full professor, and working full-time at Crown.

In one of the books I became an adopted woman searching for 20 years for her biological parents. In another, a veterinarian who used EST to explain how dogs conned their owners into thinking they were sick. And in the third I became a woman who left her husband and 12-year-old daughter to claim a free new life.

It was not such unpleasant work. Using a tape recorder, I asked leading questions whose responses might become paragraphs or whole sections of the story. I learned to break a life into chapters early, and to build a narrative that had enough suspense to keep a reader reading. And especially I learned to mimic another's voice, keeping phrases, idiosyncrasies, diction, and syntax that were as inimitable as a thumbprint's whorls. I preferred to keep "a tiny little small house" in a Texas woman's description of where she and her family lived, rather than change her words to the common "small." I told an author who spoke of her forceful and "authoritative" military father to find an incident to help a reader distinguish him from all the other military men in their minds. The author shyly admitted that he had once punched a horse and knocked it out cold. Often, after midnight, when my loud and frantic life was silent except for the talking machine, I'd replay a passage four or five times to catch its inner heart. The story was not mine but another's—someone who had lived it, in whom it lived—it just needed the right words to emerge. I cut dead sentences and kept pressing the narrative until I could see and feel and make palpable, say, a horrendous Thanksgiving dinner in all its ferocious detail.

The great event started at 6:30 in the morning, just before daylight, with the arrival of all the wives and sisters and cousins and a grandmother or two. Two turkeys were basting nicely by 11 and the sweet potatoes with apricot jam and marshmallows were readied for their turn. The dishes were set, the platters laid out, and the hum of all those women indentured to the kitchen rose to compete with the raucous shouts from the men in another room mad for Southeastern Conference football games, one after the other, that went on without stop from morning until dark, the tension building through the day until finally a reader might have a hint as to why a young and sensitive wife might bolt from her husband and child.

And in another book, an adopted woman, who after decades of frustrating search finally arranged to meet her biological mother face to face only to be told: "I'm not your mother"—though she was.

I started to love the work. I learned structure and pacing and the precise sounds of individual diction. I needed solvency, not millions, but I learned more about the delicious subtleties of writing, and somehow much about my own search in those days for a voice that was distinctively my own.

Balzac, I sometimes remind myself, had done such work for 10 years, and then wrote *Lost Illusions*, *Cousin Bette*, *A Harlot High and Low*, and 60 or 70 others in his next decade—but I was too stressed and exhausted and exhilarated in those years to be embarrassed about writing books for others.

And now I've written hundreds of essays and several dozen books in a hard-won voice I own—most of what I wanted to write. Now I'm hugely grateful for those few years—intense, wild, vivid, unique, when I became for a while a person not me—and often smile when I think of what crazy energy I had then, how much I learned, in my life as a ghost.

Nick Lyons W'53 is a longtime *Gazette* contributor.

The End of an Estrangement

A prayer for regret.

By Margit Novack



When my mother-in-law died, I said to my husband, “Bubbie was such a big part of your life. I’m surprised you don’t talk about her more.”

“Bubbie was my best friend,” Bill replied, “but nothing was left unsaid or undone.”

How lucky he was. When it comes to people we love, how many of us have no regrets?

My mom died when I was 27. She’d been sick for a long time, and we knew the end was near. On what turned out to be the last full day of her life, my brothers and I spent the evening with her and then went home. Around midnight, I got

a call from her doctor telling me she would likely die in the next few hours. For reasons that seemed clear to me then, but which seem unconscionable now, I did not call my brothers. I wanted to be alone with my mom when she died. And I wanted her all to myself.

When I arrived at the hospital, she was unresponsive. For the next two hours I sat next to her in silence, and when I saw her chest stop moving I called in the nurses and doctors, and they pronounced her dead. I went home and called my brothers.

My brother Michael asked, “Did you speak to mom while you sat there next to her?”

“No,” I said. “She was unconscious.”

“You should have talked to her,” he said. “People who appear unresponsive can often still hear and understand what is said to them.”

I felt awful. My mom didn’t die hearing me say that I loved her. At an intellectual level, I know she would have said, “Honey, don’t worry, it’s fine.” But that didn’t matter. For decades, I kept that feeling of regret and disappointment.

Forty years later, my son-in-law Matt was in a hospice center dying of stomach cancer, at age 41. His family had spent the day with him and gone home for the night. My daughter Arwyn and I remained in his room. Although Matt was no longer conscious, we continued talking to him and as he took his last breaths, he heard that we loved him.

I’m not a spiritual person, but that night I felt that God had given me a second chance, a chance to get it right, to do for Matt what I had not done for my mom. After Matt’s death, I let go of my regret and stopped ruminating about my mom’s death.

For 40 years, I was estranged from my brother Michael. Like most instances of family estrangement, the ostensible cause (who got which furniture after my mom died) wasn’t the real cause. We’d had a bad relationship for years, so it’s not surprising that when mom died, we argued over what would happen to her things. There were things I wanted—all of which I got—and things I didn’t care about. Yet I still cared about what he got. I was convinced he would not take care of my mom’s things. We had words, and then we had more words. Then X happened at my wedding, and Y happened two years later, and soon, we had no relationship. Occasional, rare phone calls reinforced my position that there was no bond I felt or wanted.

Several years ago, a friend told me the story of two former prisoners. Both had suffered horribly in confinement. One

prisoner told the other that he had forgiven his jailors. The other said he would never do that. “Then you are still a prisoner,” the first prisoner replied. Just like that, I decided to end the estrangement. It wasn’t a question of forgiveness. I had spent 40 years of my life angry at Michael. It was time to move on.

So I visited him. During that visit I learned many things. I learned that the blue sofa I’d been sure he wouldn’t take care of was still in his living room, impeccably cared for and covered by one of my mom’s crocheted Afghans. I wouldn’t have kept that nine-foot-long, 50-year-old blue velvet French provincial sofa. I would have gotten rid of it. But it seemed that Michael and I have both been good stewards of our mother’s treasures.

Although Michael and I are now reconciled, we don’t have a close relationship—we are very different people and there is a lot of water under the bridge. Yet I no longer feel anger. In its place I feel sadness, humility, and—surprisingly—gratitude. Contacting Michael was awkward. I could have continued the estrangement, but I’m glad I didn’t.

In his 2022 book *The Power of Regret*, Daniel Pink describes two types of connection regrets: closed-door regrets and open-door regrets. Closed-door regrets are ones we cannot fix, because the person is no longer alive. Open-door regrets are ones we can fix, but often choose not to because it’s too uncomfortable, too awkward. Each type of regret, says Pink, offers us lessons. The lesson of closed-door regrets is to do better next time. Because of the closed-door regret about my mom, I did better for Matt. The lesson of open-door regrets is to do something now. If a relationship you care about has come undone, place the call, make the visit, push past awkwardness and reach out. I reached out to Michael, and I’m so glad I did.

My prayer? May we all transform regret into reaching out and doing better.

Margit Novack CW’71 GCP’75 is the author of *Squint: Re-visioning the Second Half of Life*.



Your Hiss Is What I Miss

On the unlikely revival of cassette tapes.

By Rob Drew

In the late 2000s, a spate of stories appeared in major news outlets offering tips for music collectors who couldn’t bear the thought of their old cassettes being dumped in landfills or incinerated into toxic smoke. Cassettes presented a challenge for recyclers due to their varied and intricately connected parts. Public recycling centers lacked the infrastructure to process them, so readers would either have to pay specialist firms to take them apart or do so themselves. Their polystyrene shells might be ground down to plastic mulch or remolded into coat hangers. J-cards could be pulped along with other paper waste, and screws and springs reused for scrap metal. The polyester tape itself was nonrecyclable and all too plentiful; at the format’s height the music industry produced cassettes

housing 150 million kilometers of tape each year, enough to stretch from the earth to the sun, much of which was now decomposing in attics and basements across the land. Readers were advised to be creative: tape could be used as twine to bundle newspapers or ribbon to wrap gifts. Gardeners could stretch it between posts over their vegetable plots, as the whistling wind and reflecting sunlight would scare away birds. If all else failed, parents could abandon their old cassettes to their toddlers, who, with proper oversight, might finally be permitted to indulge their instinct for extracting the insides from their elders’ favorite mix tapes.

The tutorials on repurposing old cassettes fairly captured the format’s status in 2009, with US cassette sales dwindling to a paltry 34,000 units. Yet in the following years, the feelings that music fans still attached to the cassette began coalescing into dreams of a revival. Efforts to recuperate the cassette were spearheaded by noise musicians, who never lost faith in it as an appropriately hissy, insistently physical medium to house their occult sounds. Soon new cassette labels were emerging from coastal cities and college towns, while established music labels began tentatively restoring tapes to their repertoires. Music news sites tracked the

upward slope of cassette revenues with breathless headlines: “Cassette Sales Grew by 74% in 2016,” “Cassette Sales Rose 35% in 2017,” “U.S. Cassette Album Sales Grew 23% in 2018,” and finally, from the *New Musical Express*, “Who the Hell Is Buying Cassettes in 2020?”

Having bottomed out at such a miniscule base, percentage increases in sales overstate the cassette’s comeback, which still only accounts for a sliver of official music sales. Yet such figures overlook the countless labels that operate outside traditional distribution channels. Most labels are one- or two-person operations that design and dub tapes at home or through local shops, promote them through obsessive bloggers and podcasters, and sell them at merch counters and online marketplaces. One website for cassette fans keeps a running list of tape labels with over 500 entries, yet labels are constantly going in and out of business, and this is to say nothing of the many musicians who self-release cassettes and forgo labels altogether.

When promoters and fans are called upon to explain their continued attachment to the clunky cassette, their first response is usually that it’s cheaper than vinyl. Most vinyl record plants have a minimum order of 500 units and charge at least five dollars per unit for pressing and packaging; cassette duplicators will accept orders as small as 50 tapes, each of which can be dubbed, carded, boxed, and shrink-wrapped for under three dollars. Yet financial stakes fail to explain the emotional investment that the cassette garners among its devotees, who embrace the format as a symbol of creative plenitude that endows music exchange with a renewed sense of trustworthiness and selflessness. Most label owners claim a simple motivation: bringing artists to light whom they relate to as friends and genuine fans. The cassette release is understood less as a bundle of rights than a mutual gift that musicians and label owners feel privileged to collaborate on. Cassettes thus offer bands a relatively unmediated and minimally commercial way to connect with

fans, one that harkens back to that vibrant, mail-based economy of cassette music that existed prior to the internet.

That faith in the cassette’s capacity to summon organic interactions around music extends to the listener, as the format is said to foster a more mindful and humane mode of listening, offering a refuge from the glut of online music. Even so, some find it hard to shake the suspicion that the cassette functions as little more than a fancy container for the download coupons many of them now contain—an agreeably chunky memento that will fit in fans’ pockets while only setting them back a few dollars. A 2014 UK market research survey found that about a quarter of cassette purchasers had no intention of listening to them. Even when only purchased as a souvenir, though, the cassette’s popularity heartens musicians and labels starved for paying customers—especially among the young, who not long ago had a reputation for declining to pay for music in any form.

Those proponents of cassettes who actually listen to them increasingly do so, not despite their much-maligned sound, but because of it. No longer dismissed as a muddy, mid-frequency alternative to vinyl, the cassette is hailed as an instrument whose audible quirks call for their own ways of listening. For some fans, the cassette’s intrinsic distortions (muffling of worn or dirty tape heads, wobbly textures of nth-generation copies, harmonic inconsistencies caused by speed fluctuations of cheap players) work as serendipitous embellishments to certain drony or psychedelic subgenres. For others, the cassette’s aberrations function as a kind of scrim to evoke the haziness and fragility of memory. In contrast to the bloodless persistence of digital formats, the sound of tape degrades with each successive duplication and even with each replaying; treble frequencies roll off, alien sounds print through from one layer to the next, clouds of muffle and hiss accumulate, and sounds fall away entirely where the tape has stretched, creased, or cracked. Among

its proponents, though, the cassette’s frailty only amplifies its humanness.

The growing allure of cassette acoustics coupled with the format’s meager distribution have fueled a market run on tapes from certain formative artists and labels. Once a symbol of promiscuous distribution, the cassette has become a product of limited editions and collectibles. Some older, access-driven punks dismiss the current vogue for cassettes as a precious and overhyped postscript for a technology that long ago forfeited its status as the democratic format *par excellence*. Cynics have suggested that limited-edition cassettes have become one of those things, along with crypto art and meme stocks, that mischief-makers invest in to test the limits of where value can be created.

Still, the cassette’s resurgence endures like a Walkman on auto-reverse. It remains the format of choice for leftfield experimentalists, who seem to hatch new tape labels daily, each more surreal than the last down to their very monikers. (The noise-centric *Tabs Out Cassette Podcast* once ran an online quiz entitled “Tape Label or Weed Strain,” as the names of so many of the former could be mistaken for the latter: Orange Milk, Magical Garage Taste, Dream Fader, Cloud Valley, Peasant Magik, etc.) Major indies like Sub Pop, Drag City, and Polyvinyl now routinely release many of their new albums on cassette, as do all the major labels, decking them out with all the limited-edition flair that fans have come to expect. The cassette now has its niche and will likely go on lending the gravitas of its boxy tangibility to artists ranging from visionaries who sell a few dozen tapes to pop stars who move tapes, if not in the millions, at least well into five figures. The best-selling cassette of 2021, at 20,000 copies, was *Sour* by Olivia Rodrigo, whose breakup songs with echoes of 1990s-era emo sounded as much at home on tape as anything.

Rob Drew Gr’94 is the author of *Unspooled: How the Cassette Made Music Shareable* (copyright Duke University Press, 2024), from which this essay is adapted with permission.



Overcoming Fear, Finding Love

A turbulent year at Penn ends with a peaceful and joyous graduation ceremony for the Class of 2024. ▶

It wasn't until near the end of the University's 268th Commencement at Franklin Field that the elephant in the stadium was addressed head on.

"I was asked several times over the last weeks if Penn was going to cancel commencement," said Charles "Chaz" Howard C'00, the University's chaplain and vice president for social equity and community, in his benediction. "These seniors, they said, did not have a high school graduation and I'm afraid they will miss their college ceremonies as well."

That fear was not without merit. Due to nationwide campus protests and encampments over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, Columbia and USC canceled their main commencement ceremonies. At Penn on Monday, May 20, the trepidation was palpable and some changes perceptible. The traditional graduate procession down Locust Walk was scrapped, with much of the

area fenced off after the University had dismantled the Penn encampment on College Green 10 days prior; instead graduates commenced at Penn Park, marching between Shoemaker Green and the north side of Franklin Field before entering the stadium. There was a heavy police presence along 33rd and 34th Streets, and an airport-style security check led to a snarled line for parents and guests that stretched along Spruce Street and up 33rd all the way to Walnut. And an announcement from the Franklin Field loudspeaker before the ceremony began warned that anyone causing a continued disruption would be escorted out.



"Don't let fear keep you from celebrating the special moments in life."

Yet, in the end, the ceremony went off without a hitch—or, as one guest remarked, "That was uneventful." And before the Glee Club ended the formalities with a performance of "The Red and Blue" and the graduates in attendance made their way out of the stadium, tracked down

their families, and hunted for interesting locations to take photos in their caps and gowns (with typical spots like the Ben Franklin statue and College Hall steps inaccessible), Howard acknowledged the anxiety in the air and tried to offer a respite.

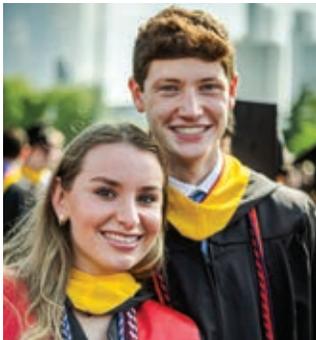
"There's a lot of fear in the world right now, not unjustifiably so," he concluded, pointing to war, climate change, the pandemic, and the challenge of "adulthood" in life after college. "But living in fear, that's no way to live. Graduates, *do not be afraid*. That



doesn't mean take unhealthy risks, nor does it mean we don't act to bring about change. Indeed, we are counting on you to repair the world. But what it does mean is: Don't let fear keep you from being your best selves. Don't let fear capture your attention so much that you miss the signs of hope. Don't let fear keep you from chasing

the dream or risking it all. And don't let fear keep you from celebrating the special moments in life. I'm glad we got to celebrate you all and have our ceremony today."

Earlier in what turned out to be a beautiful spring morning, Penn Interim President J. Larry Jameson briefly acknowledged the campus tumult too by calling it "a hard year for the world and for Penn." But he praised the resolve of students who "arrived on campus in the thick of the pandemic" and remarked that the more than 6,500 graduates in the Class of 2024 have been "forged in the crucible of change" as they are launched into a "rapidly changing world."



Honorary Degrees

Ingrid Daubechies

Honorary Doctor of Sciences

Karl Deisseroth

Honorary Doctor of Sciences

Kenneth Gamble

Honorary Doctor of Music

Leon Alexander Huff

Honorary Doctor of Music

Maya Lin

Honorary Doctor of Arts

Siddhartha Mukherjee

Honorary Doctor of Sciences

Bios of honorands are at commencement.upenn.edu

"Challenges will definitely come—but, as a group, you've already faced more than most," Jameson said. "You've learned that navigating challenges successfully also creates opportunity for you to shape the future.

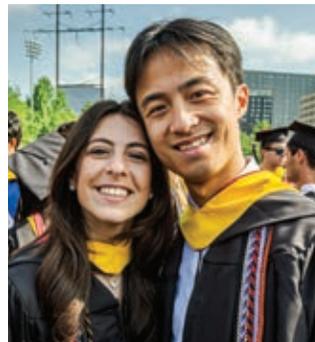
"More than ever," he continued, "we need people who can steer through uncertainty and create opportunity from it. People who strike

while the iron's hot and heat the iron by striking it. The world needs you."

Following the announcement of academic honors by Provost John L. Jackson Jr., and remarks by Faculty Senate chair Eric A. Feldman—and before the conferral of degrees presented by the University's 12 school deans—oncologist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Siddhartha Mukherjee emphasized the importance of love and forgiveness in his commencement address. He gave time for graduates and guests to "turn to someone that matters in your life" and say: "I want to tell you that I love you. I want to tell you that I forgive you. Would you tell me that you love me? Would you give me your forgiveness?"

Asking graduates to take his message seriously, he later told them that "you are entering a world where 'love' and 'forgiveness' have become meaningless, outdated platitudes, like old textbooks. They are words people have learned to laugh at. Perhaps you are laughing at them, too.

"But I dare you to use these words meaningfully again," Mukherjee said. "Use them—but not as empty cliches. Imbue them with real meaning. Do it your way, but with the real conviction that you are returning love and forgiveness. At this moment of transition, and of rebirth—and of horrifying, numbing despair around you—dare to return love and forgiveness to an unforgiving and unforgiven world." —DZ Hannah Chang C'27 contributed to this report.



Renaissance Man Recaptured

The composer of the iconic “The Red and Blue” was commemorated during Alumni Weekend.

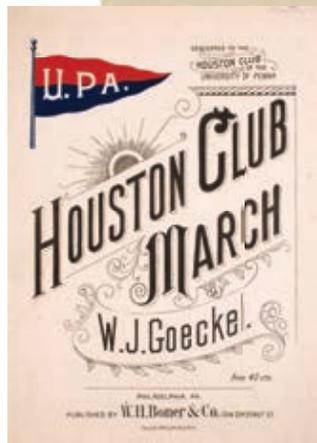
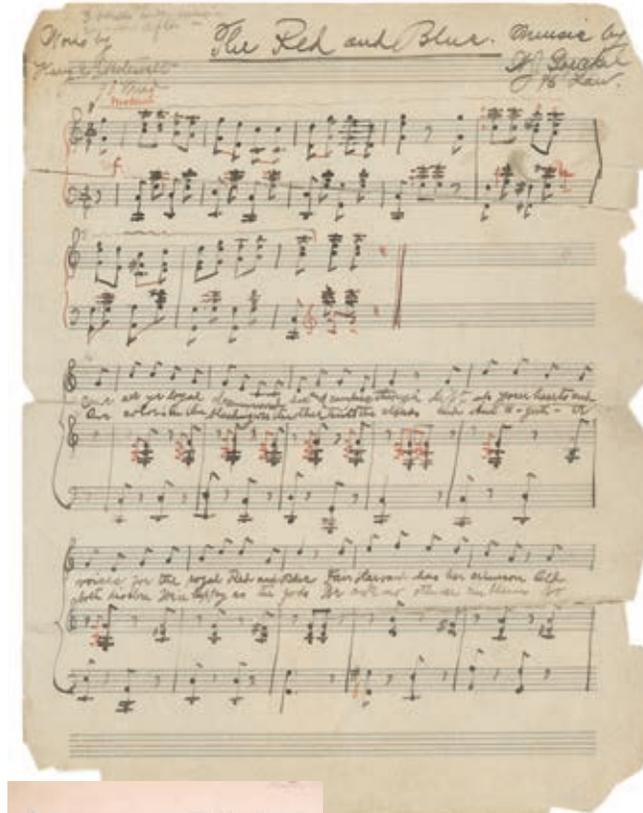
Shortly before the Alumni Weekend Parade of Classes began, the Penn Band gathered by the LOVE sculpture to play University staples like “Drink a Highball” and “The Red and Blue.”

They also played another song that the alumni mingling on Locust Walk wouldn’t have recognized; according to assistant band director Kushol Gupta C’97 Gr’03, it likely hadn’t been played in roughly a century.



The song that had been lost to time, “Houston Club March,” was recently rediscovered by the great-granddaughter of William J. Goeckel C1895 L1896, a founding member of the Penn Band who composed that march and, more famously, “The Red and Blue.”

In what Gupta called “an extraordinary stroke of dumb luck,” Goeckel’s great-granddaughter, an orchestra director named Laura Mulligan Thomas,



found Goeckel’s original sheet music while cleaning out her parents’ apartment. She was subsequently put in touch with Gupta by her Charlottesville, Virginia, neighbors and Penn Band alums Lori Wecker Balaban

now the Penn Band more than 125 years ago [“And the Band Played On,” Jan|Feb 2023], Goeckel helped form the cheerleading team and was a leader in the Penn Glee Club (for whom he wrote the popular song “Memories”). He was also a standout first baseman on the Penn baseball team who went on to play professionally for the Philadelphia Phillies in 1899. He then practiced law in his native Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, until dying of pneumonia in 1922 at the age of 51.

“He had remarkable depth,” Gupta said. “He was a real leader in the student body, a real cornerstone. In that regard, he shared a lot of the same ethos in what you see in the student body now. It’s cool to see that connection.”

Gupta said he was impressed by the complexity of “Houston Club March,” even if it was somewhat difficult for the students to learn. As for “The Red and Blue,” whose

C’86 and David Balaban C’86. Since then, Thomas has worked with Penn to donate the family’s collection—including photos, songbooks, and a copy of the original handwritten “The Red and Blue”—which was put on display at Sweeten Alumni House.

“He was a bit of a renaissance man,” said Mulligan Thomas, one of about a dozen of Goeckel’s descendants (many of them musicians) who came to Penn during Alumni Weekend to enjoy the display and the Penn Band’s performance.

In addition to joining other students to establish what is

music Goeckel composed in 1896 (Harry Westervelt M1898 penned the lyrics a year later), Gupta noted that “it actually wasn’t the University’s alma mater for the longest time” but became the school’s unofficial anthem and an iconic part of Penn lore when “folks at a packed Franklin Field took their hats off and waved them left and right.” The arm waving has continued at games and other campus events to this day, ensuring Goeckel’s legacy at his alma mater.

“That’s a special part of Penn,” Gupta said, “that we have all this history.” —DZ

The outlines of tents pitched on College Green for the Gaza Solidarity Encampment a few days after Penn police dismantled the camp early on the morning of May 10.



Encampment on College Green

This spring saw pro-Palestinian encampments appear on college campuses across the country. The one at Penn lasted 16 days before being cleared.

On the afternoon of April 25, Penn Interim President J. Larry Jameson and Provost John Jackson Jr. had scheduled a community listening session at Perry World House, inviting “students, faculty, and staff to share their thoughts on the impacts of the conflict in the Middle East on our campus,” in light of what Jameson called “the turbulence and strife taking place on several university campuses across the country.”

But that attempt at dialogue was overshadowed by the simultaneous formation of Penn’s Gaza Solidarity Encampment by marchers heading west from an earlier protest at City Hall and students and faculty who were staging a walkout at the Split Button. Beginning with about 10 tents, the encampment gradually swelled to 40 or so pitched on the green fronting the west side of College Hall. Protesters’ demands included that Penn

disclose all investments “in the spirit of transparency and shared governance”; divest from companies “that profit from Israel’s war on Gaza and occupation in Palestine” and cut academic ties with Israel; and offer amnesty to all involved in pro-Palestinian protests.

After writing that Penn was “closely monitoring the encampment,” Jameson, Jackson, and Senior Executive Vice President Craig Carnaroli W’85 followed up on April 26 with a statement charging that the encampment itself violated Penn’s facilities policies and that the “harassing and intimidating comments and actions” of some protesters had violated the University’s open expression guidelines as well as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. They called for the protesters to disband the encampment immediately or face “sanctions consistent with our due process and procedures as they apply to students, faculty, and staff.”

In addition to Penn students, the encampment attracted students from Temple, Drexel, and other local colleges, as well as Philadelphia community members. There were Jewish students among the protesters, and the encampment also was met with pro-Israel counter-protests. A variety of petitions were circulated supporting the encampment and calling for its disbandment.

Over its 16 days of existence (based on reports in the *Daily Pennsylvanian* and local media, along with a few *Gazette*

staff visits to the site) the atmosphere at the encampment varied; the mood was at times peaceful and at others loud and confrontational. The number of protesters at times swelled into the hundreds, on several occasions prompting alerts from Penn’s Department of Public Safety, and chants included use of contested phrases such as “from the river to the sea” and references to “Zionist pigs.”

The Ben Franklin statue on College Green was a frequent centerpiece for protest activity, repeatedly draped in Palestinian flags and keffiyehs while protesters perched on the statue’s pediment waving flags. It was on several occasions graffitied with slogans and symbols, including the image of an inverted red triangle, sometimes seen as a general symbol of Palestinian resistance but also associated with the Hamas military.

As the University held off on acting, initial hopes for a resolution were replaced by accusations of bad faith on both sides. In a May 6 statement, Jameson said the protesters’ responses in two meetings “reflect an unwillingness to negotiate on reasonable terms to a conclusion” and expressed concern that some in the encampment were looking for a confrontation, citing “reports of circulating documents with instructions for escalating a protest, including through building occupations and violence.” During one of the larger protest rallies on May 8, the encampment expanded to the east side of College Green.

Open or Closed Expression

A roundtable discussion probed the thorny issue roiling higher education.

Early in the morning of May 10, Penn Police, with Philadelphia Police also on the scene, moved to disband the camp, arresting 33 people (including nine students), who were charged and released. Tents, signage, and other gear were destroyed, and the area around College Green was fenced off.

In a statement, the administration called its decision “an unfortunate but necessary step to prevent violence, restore operations, and return our campus to our community.” Protesters, despite being informed that they were violating University policies, “refused repeatedly to disband the encampment, to produce identification, to stop threatening, loud, and discriminatory speech and behavior, and to comply with instructions from Penn administrators and Public Safety.”

The statement added that the administration had made it clear that it would not meet the protesters’ demands for amnesty outside normal disciplinary procedures and that “Penn remains unequivocally opposed to divestment,” which in any case is “unlawful for institutions receiving funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.” It also emphasized that the decision was “viewpoint neutral and affirmed by our policies,” the result of “balancing free speech with our responsibility to safety, security, and continuing the operations of the University.”

A handful of faculty supporters tried to nonviolently

block a police van taking students away for processing the morning of the encampment’s disbandment, and the chair of the Faculty Senate, political science professor Tulia Falletti, resigned her Faculty Senate position, writing that she was “no longer confident of my ability to work collaboratively with our administration that has sent in the police to arrest its own students, staff, and faculty.” The Penn chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) issued a statement condemning the administration’s actions as “a cowardly, shameful attempt to silence and punish speech that administrators simply do not want to hear.”

The encampment caused the relocation of end-of-year events including Hey Day, which was moved to Annenberg Plaza, and more recently developed rituals involving the sophomore class (U-Night) and seniors (Final Toast), held on Hill Field and Shoemaker Green, respectively.

College Green remained fenced off through Alumni Weekend and Commencement. Those events went forward largely without disruption, though an attempt, quickly thwarted, was made on May 17 to occupy Fisher-Bennett Hall, in which 19 people were arrested, including seven Penn students. Several students undergoing disciplinary proceedings were barred from graduation exercises, and the University later banned 24 people not affiliated with Penn who were involved in protests from campus. —JP

Are academic freedom and open expression under siege at American colleges and universities?

That question loomed over the 2023–24 academic year and served as the title of a Penn Faculty Senate Roundtable held at Penn Carey Law School on April 18. Subtitled “Campus Unrest and the Future of the University,” the panel began just three hours after NYPD officers in riot gear arrested more than 100 protesters who had set up an encampment on Columbia University’s campus the day before—and one week before the encampment on College Green began. Those were among more than 60 protests on college campuses resulting in more than 2,900 arrests and detainments this spring, according to the *New York Times*. But the discussion offered a wider perspective on the intertwined issues of academic freedom and open expression on American campuses.

“I think we are in extraordinarily treacherous times as to what the future of universities are,” said Keith Whittington, a professor of politics at Princeton University. “I wish I could say that this was primarily a post-October 7 phenomenon, but it’s not. This is in fact a challenge that has been going on for several years.”

Whittington, a self-described “right of center” academic, lamented a censorious spirit that he perceives on both ends of the political spectrum. From the left, “student activists, campus administrators, and often university faculty,” he charged, “use tools available to them to suppress and punish” conservative speech, and even moderate and liberal views. Meanwhile, activists on the right have organized to publicize “the most controversial examples of things that are occurring on college campuses” and to mobilize public opinion, donors, and government officials to put pressure on universities.

These campaigns have included state laws curtailing what sorts of scholarship can be presented in classrooms and requiring the inclusion of certain material in service of promoting “intellectual diversity.”

What makes the present situation so alarming, Whittington said, is that the “threats to campus are so wide-ranging” that it has become “particularly hard both to build coalitions in support of universities, and to sustain them against those kinds of pressures.” He expressed trepidation about the future. “I’m not confident how we’re going to come out of it.”

Geoffrey Stone, a law professor at the University of Chicago, offered a thought-provoking account of how open inquiry and academic freedom became established on American campuses to begin with. “If you go back to the 19th century, universities were basically seen as institutions that were there to teach—and to reaffirm—accepted viewpoints. And *not* to encourage debate, disagreement, or even what we would call scholarship. They were there essentially to educate people in what was the established and accepted wisdom.”

Even in the late 19th century, Stone emphasized, “donors played a very large role in determining what universities would or would not do, what they would teach, what scholarship was permissible. They basically condemned any scholarship or teaching that raised questions about the legitimacy of the power of commercial millionaires. And universities, to a great extent, caved to that.”

Support for unfettered scholarly inquiry was catalyzed by the 1915 formation of the American Association of University Professors, said Risa Lieberwitz, a professor of labor and employment law at Cornell. The AAUP “made demands collectively for academic freedom” at a time when “corporations were becoming very large donors—from the thousands to the millions of dollars,” she noted, “and considering that universities should serve their corporate interests.”

Stone put forward his home institution’s role in galvanizing a broader shift toward open scholarly inquiry and free expression in American higher education. “The University of Chicago was created in 1892,” he said, “with a very different vision to most of the then-preexisting institutions. It was not designed to teach college students. It was about teaching future professors and scholars. And that was at the absolute core” of an enduring institutional identity that he characterized as “exemplary in its commitment to freedom of speech and academic freedom.”

“I wish I could say that this was primarily a post-October 7 phenomenon, but it’s not.”

—KEITH WHITTINGTON

“We were not about teaching people what was already established knowledge, [but rather] about exploring open questions and being critical—critical of one another, critical of past knowledge, and so on,” said Stone, who chaired a 2014 committee on free expression at the University of Chicago whose articulation of “the University’s overarching commitment to free, robust, and uninhibited debate” has since been officially adopted by more than 100 peer institutions. (Penn is not among them.)

Living up to such a commitment is challenging, Stone acknowledged. “But if you make it the core of your identity, and you define yourself that way—and you inform your faculty and students that that’s who we are, and that’s who we want to be—then it is possible to live in that world.”

That may, however, depend on persuading today’s students to embrace, or at least accept, the discomforts that come with it. “I think it’s essential for colleges and universities to be very explicit about their commitment to those values—and I think that it’s also essential to educate students and prospective students about these values,” Stone concluded. “Students in higher education today do not have the same willingness to be open-minded as they have in much of the past. They’ve been brought up differently, and they’re more willing to say, *You’ve hurt my feelings*, and *I can’t listen to this*, and *I’ve got to shut it down*. And that’s a real challenge. I think part of what we need to do as a nation is to recognize that in the educational process—not just in universities, but well before that—it’s essential to educate students to understand the importance of having an open mind and listening to views you disagree with and thinking about things.”

Stone further argued that institutional neutrality serves as a central pillar of academic freedom and open expression. He touted the

“Its appeal is very apparent [but] neutrality is simply impossible in some cases.”

—RISA LIEBERWITZ

University of Chicago’s 1967 Kalven Report, which has inspired much discussion in academia of late, as a blueprint with enduring relevance. Issued amid widespread calls for American universities to condemn the US war on Vietnam, the Kalven Report “essentially said the university does not take positions on issues of policy that are not directly related to the functioning of the institution itself,” Stone summarized. “The core principle was that we [as a university] do not take positions—our *faculty* take positions, our *students* take positions.”

“That is, I think, another fundamental value that universities need to embrace,” Stone said. “They have to understand that it is not their role to take public positions on matters that are controversial. However confident the board of trustees may be, or the president may be, or even the majority of the faculty may be that a particular position is right or wrong, the fact remains that we have learned over time that positions that we believe to be crazy, or wrongheaded, may well turn out to be right. Think of an issue like gay rights, for example. It would have been unimaginable for faculty to take positions in favor of gay

rights 75 years ago. But because we were open to that—because we didn't silence that—we were able to hear those arguments, listen to them, and build upon it.”

“That’s why we exist: to enable faculty and students to explore ideas, to challenge one another, to learn from one another,” Stone said, “and not to have the institution interfere with that at all.”

Yet institutional neutrality may be easier proclaimed than carried out.

“Positions that we believe to be crazy, or wrongheaded, may well turn out to be right.”

—GEOFFREY STONE

“Its appeal is very apparent,” Lieberwitz said. “It’s connected to the academic mission of creating a wide space for ideas. And it seems to have a very practical effect, too, in that it lifts a certain amount of pressure off administrations and departments that don’t have to comment on everything that happens all the time and open themselves up to all the political winds.”

But “neutrality is simply impossible in some cases,” she added. “For instance, if there’s pressure to divest from fossil fuels”—as has happened at Penn and elsewhere—“either a university does it or doesn’t do it. Either way, it’s a political position.” The demands for divestment from Israel or

from arms manufacturers common among pro-Palestinian encampments would seem to present similar challenges to the concept.

No panelist brought a silver bullet to the discussion. But each, in their own way, extolled the virtues of consistency. Though it was not quite the final word, Whittington offered a parting thought that would prove resonant in the month ahead.

“Part of what we want to try to protect is freedom of speech quite broadly in the public sphere—including things students want to engage in and including faculty who are not an expert on a particular topic but who have personal opinions they want to express publicly,” he said. “On that, I am a bit of an extremist and really think there’s really nothing that can’t be said and thought about within that realm and context.”

Whittington noted that he sits on the board of directors of the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, which focuses primarily on protecting student speech rights. “It’s been a challenging area for a long time, in some cases because policies that universities have are not very good,” he remarked. “But in many, many, many cases, it’s because university administrators don’t live up to the policies they actually have in place. They violate those policies a lot. They very frequently enforce them in unequal ways. And we’re seeing a version of that right now.

“From an advocacy perspective,” he continued, “part of my concern is to insist that

HONORS

President’s Prizes Announced

Seven graduating seniors were awarded the 2024 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

Educate to Empower | Simran Rajpal C’24 and Gauthami Moorkanat C’24 will work to identify and dismantle barriers to breast cancer screenings in marginalized communities through education and resources at community centers in Philadelphia. Mentor: Leisha Elmore, assistant professor of surgery at the Perelman School of Medicine and chief of breast surgery at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center.

Presby Addiction Care Program | Anooshey Ikhlas C’24, Brianna Aguilar C’24, and Catherine Hood C’24 plan to implement a volunteer program at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center aimed at addressing challenges encountered by individuals with substance use disorders during hospitalization. Mentor: Jeanmarie Perrone, professor of emergency medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine and founding director of the Penn Medicine Center for Addiction Medicine and Policy.

PRESIDENT’S INNOVATION PRIZE

Jochi | Yash Dhir EAS’24 and Rahul Nambiar EAS’24 will grow an online ed-tech management platform that improves the educational experience of students with ADHD, dyslexia, and other learning differences—and helps teachers and administrators support these students. Mentor: Amanda Antico, a teacher in the Education Entrepreneurship program in the Graduate School of Education.

universities have policies that are as good as possible from a protecting-free-speech perspective, and that are compatible with the operation of the university—and that they enforce them in an evenhanded and politically neutral fashion across the range of disputes that occur.

“Where I think some of this actually is a little less clear-cut,” he added, relates to “disciplining students, for example, for nonviolent demonstrations in protest. And here, I would just emphasize that I think the key distinction is not violent-versus-

nonviolent, but does it violate neutral ‘time, place and manner’ regulations? We see lots of instances of protest activity on campuses that are in fact nonviolent but nonetheless in violation of university policy. And what we want is universities to be *neutrally enforcing the policies*. Sometimes then students just have to take their lumps if they’re engaged in that—but they ought to be aware that they’re engaged in a form of civil disobedience, and that there are consequences to engaging in civil disobedience.” —TP

Supporting Supportive Housing

A writer and a researcher on homelessness, housing policy, and storytelling.

Although she might be best known as a novelist, Jennifer Egan C’85 has also worked as a journalist whose pieces on social issues often landed on the cover of the *New York Times Magazine*.

While writing one of those stories in the early 2000s—about unhoused children in New York—she interviewed Dennis Culhane, now the Dana and Andrew Stone Chair in Social Policy at Penn’s School of Social Policy & Practice.

Twenty years later, the two convened at the Kelly Writers House for a freewheeling conversation about the continuing scourge of homelessness. Egan—who won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and a National Book Critics Circle Award for her 2010 novel *A Visit from the Goon Squad* [“Surprises Are Always the Best,” Jul|Aug 2011]—began by pointing out that she again turned to Culhane’s research for an article about a huge new supportive housing facility in Brooklyn that ran in the *New Yorker* last fall.

When asked by Culhane, who Egan referred to as the “reigning expert” on the subject, about what she’d concluded from her reporting, Egan replied that supportive housing—which combines subsidized housing with coordinated services for people



with mental illness or substance-abuse disorders—“really works.” Her article cited a recent study that showed that about 90 percent of homeless people who enter supportive housing remain housed after two years. Culhane—who has researched homelessness and assisted housing policy for decades [“Three Degrees of Separation,” Feb 1997]—pointed out that “about 80 percent of the population that experiences homelessness does so for a relatively brief period. They have some kind of crisis or triggering event, a family conflict, an illness or disability.” Thanks to rapid rehousing programs, such as that offered by the Department of Veteran Affairs, about a third of them are rehoused within a week,

and half are out of homelessness by two months.

By the time you get to nine months, that number is down to a relatively small group of people whose situations are more complex, Culhane continued. “They’re not able to solve their problems, they don’t

Opiate addiction is “not the dominant part of the story. It has become the dominant part of the narrative, though.”

have relationships to go back to, they’re not necessarily employable.” Most of these men and women are suffering from addiction and about 20 percent have some form of mental illness. In these cases supportive housing—such as the Brooklyn facility Egan wrote about—has proven to be successful. But there are only enough units for about 10 percent of this population, Culhane said, and even basic shelter beds are in short supply.

When Egan raised the “horrific crisis” of opioid addiction, Culhane remarked that the

“treatment capacity just isn’t there.” Still, he added, while opiate addiction has doubled to 15 percent of chronically homeless population, “it’s not the dominant part of the story. It *has* become the dominant part of the narrative, though, especially here locally.”

When an audience member asked about the significance of narratives, Culhane said that “they definitely have an impact, because they shape not just how we think about the problem but how we respond to it. There are so many misperceptions about the nature of homelessness and what we’re doing [to solve it].” Stories about the “heroes” and successful programs may be inspiring, he continued, but “when you step back and look at how little we’re actually doing, it’s disturbing that *that* narrative isn’t out there. So from a research perspective, we’re always trying to point the conversation in a direction that will [result in policies that] do the most for the most people. I’m always spending a lot of time with people to understand the complexity and nuance because this is not a simple problem.”

Egan said she didn’t want to follow the familiar templates that often shape stories about homelessness. She spoke with several experts, did a lot of street outreach, and spent time with case managers, but still “didn’t feel like anything was coalescing. And then I realized: OK, *that’s* the story I’m telling. I’m talking about some people over time who have experienced homelessness and now are housed—

that's it. And I'm bringing data and the things I've learned, and the reader can decide for themselves what narrative they want to draw from that."

Culhane praised Egan's commitment to reporting over a long period of time and talking with many people holding different perspectives, likening it to the approach taken by social science researchers. Egan added that while her fiction writing skills—including the ability to fill in a scene, include sensory details, and use dialogue—came into play, her "endless appetite for people's stories" was key. "The life stories that I had the privilege of listening to were just so remarkable," she said.

As for whether her work can affect policy, "I don't know the answer," Egan said. "I think supportive housing groups were happy to have it, although I didn't present a rosy picture of success. But *you*," she said turning to Culhane, "have actually impacted policy."

Culhane responded by emphasizing that "journalism is a hugely important part of this. For example, the aging of the homeless population is a crisis being covered all over the country by local papers, so [that's] sustaining attention on the story."

"I think the elderly and disabled homeless angle is the place we should be focusing on," he continued. "We actually have federal programs that are supposed to be preventing destitution among [those populations] and [they] are not working. We need all the storytelling. It's really crucial." —*JoAnn Greco*

Guidance and Goals

The findings of the campus groups studying how to combat antisemitism and to counter hate and build community have been released.

Work on clarifying and communicating Penn's core values, new funding for research centers and programs facilitating dialogue on difficult issues, and a review of Penn's Guidelines on Open Expression were among recommendations submitted to Penn Interim President J. Larry Jameson in May by the University Task Force on Antisemitism and the Presidential Commission on Countering Hate and Building Community.

Comprising faculty, students, staff, and volunteer leaders, the two groups consulted experts, conducted surveys, and engaged in "listening sessions" to collect information and reach their conclusions. They were set up last fall in response to the controversies roiling the Penn community over the Palestine Writes Literature Festival, the University's response to the Hamas attack on October 7 and the subsequent war in Gaza, and congressional hearings on campus antisemitism, leading to the resignation of former Penn President Liz Magill and Jameson's interim appointment in December. They concluded their work in the wake of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment on College Green set up by pro-Palestinian

protesters, disbanded by Penn Police after 16 days [see story on page 14], which further challenged consensus on the boundaries between legitimate protest and harassing language and actions.

Jameson acknowledged that history in a May 30 message in which he thanked the task force and commission members for their work and provided links to the reports. "Throughout the process, I know that there were many strongly held beliefs expressed and passionate exchanges, and that these reports are the product of the rigorous, civil, and intellectual debate at the heart of Penn's excellence," he wrote.

"Our goal is clear and firm," the preamble of the antisemitism task force report states. "We seek to restore a sense of safety and belonging at Penn to our Jewish community by cultivating a culture that welcomes, supports, retains, and engages Jewish students, faculty, staff, and alumni and helps them thrive."

In listening sessions and an online survey, along with "a modest number of serious antisemitic incidents," participants mostly cited the "fear, anxiety, distress, and discomfort" caused by "the protests, chants, posters, and graffiti."

They called for clearly defining antisemitism and distinguishing it from permissible speech and expression, for prompt enforcement of policies against hate speech, and stressed the need for peaceful conversations encompassing differing views to ease campus tensions.

The task force examined several definitions of antisemitism in circulation, settling on "the expression or manifestation of hatred, violence, hostility, or discrimination against Jews because they are Jews" as best suited for their purposes. There were extensive discussions over whether "common rallying cries" heard at campus protests qualify, but agreement that "[w]hile opposition to Zionism, or any other political idea or entity, is within the bounds of acceptable discourse, it is hateful to target Jews or Zionists, individually or as a group."

Among the specific recommendations included in the report, the task force called on Penn to create a "concise values statement explicitly articulating the tenets that guide our University," including that "any antisemitic acts and speech are antithetical to Penn's values." They advised that this statement be circulated widely and regularly, incorporated into all existing codes of conduct, and featured on campus signage and Penn's website and social media.

The report also said the University should commit to "leading in Jewish Studies and education" by adding new fac-

ulty and staff in areas of need and providing enhanced programming, including grants for new courses that “focus on wrestling with difficult problems and/or address the intersection of ethnic, religious, racial, gender and minoritized group experiences.”

The group also “strongly” recommended “incorporat[ing] antisemitism into a broader primer on inclusion and unconscious bias” at orientation or sometime in the first year for undergraduate and graduate students, including an assignment “related to civil dialogue and debate, with a focus on constructive conversations around difficult issues.”

In addition, they urged Penn to commit to supporting Hillel and other Jewish institutions; strengthen outreach and recruiting for Jewish students, faculty, and staff; enhance ongoing support for the religious needs of Penn’s Jewish population; and increase security at all religious spaces on campus, especially those that have experienced antisemitism.

To “encourage and embrace global collaboration,” a fund should be created to bring together “scholars, policy makers, and other thought leaders from different regions of the world.” And the report called on Penn to “re-issue a clear statement on its opposition to divestment, sanctions, or boycotts against Israel,” in more formal terms than in comments concerning the recent encampment. Efforts should also be made to “amplify research collaboration and resources in social media

literacy” to combat the “proliferation of online misinformation and hate speech.”

The report calls for a review of Penn’s Guidelines on Open Expression (as has since been announced) with the goal of ensuring that policies are “consistent, clear, transparent, reflective of Penn’s values, and equitably applied—especially in incidents of antisemitism.” It acknowledges a split among members’ views about how far a review should go regarding time, place, and manner restrictions governing protests—including whether it should apply to virtual spaces, rules on face coverings and identification, and the prohibition of encampments, among other issues—and on whether such recommendations were within the scope of their charge at all.

To “heighten awareness and identification of antisemitism as an issue on equal footing with other forms of discrimination and bias,” the report “strongly recommends integrating cross-cultural awareness training into required inclusive training programs.” And it suggested two ways to enhance incident reporting and transparency: by refining reporting mechanisms to be clearer and easier; and creating a “responsive dashboard” to show the nature of reports, findings of responsibility, and sanctions imposed. In existing campus surveys, specific questions on the experiences of the Jewish community should be included, to assess the current campus climate and gather feedback and trends over time.

Though its origins lay in recent events, “which [have] caused immense pain and anguish to members of the Palestinian, Israeli, Jewish, and Muslim communities,” the presidential commission report noted the group’s charge was “more expansive than the current conflict, encompassing the ways in which hate has impacted members of the Penn community over the years and ways we can build a better future for Penn.” To do that, the commission set out “first to identify and define what we as a community value, and then develop curricular and extracurricular mechanisms through which to teach, share, and reinforce these values.”

The report acknowledged “the deep fissures at Penn that have resulted from substantial differences of opinion on topics related to the ongoing war in the Middle East and the University’s response.” It also noted fissures within the group over questions about open expression, including “where the line may be drawn and who draws the line between open expression and hate speech, appropriate responses to actions and speech that may be viewed as crossing that line, and the resulting perceptions of safety for various groups and individual members of the Penn community.”

Responses to listening sessions and a survey revealed a view of Penn as a “thriving and vibrant intellectual and social community,” but one hampered by a decentralized

structure, a hierarchy of “have” and “have nots” among schools, and a “culture of intense competition” that can impede community building. Participants also shared fears of “bullying, doxing, and potential job loss due to expressing their beliefs and opinions,” and the influence of “external voices” on open expression and academic freedom. At the same time, there was a consistently expressed “strong belief” that Penn could “not only overcome current challenges, but also lead the way forward” in higher education.

The report proposed creating a “values statement” to express Penn’s core values. As envisioned by the commission, the process would involve work by a team of external experts and University leaders, followed by community input, to create a statement that “is clear, concise, and widely shareable.” This would be followed by plans to distribute and implement the statement throughout the Penn community, and the development of initiatives to “protect and nourish shared values.”

The commission report recommended new orientation programs emphasizing those shared values, the meaning and importance of Penn’s open expression policies, and building skills for “engaging in productive dialogue across differences,” as well as “navigating digital media.” This would be supplemented by new seminar courses, required or elective, focusing on discussion of challenging topics, and a

larger course, titled Historical Legacies and Current Controversies, combining lectures and small group discussions, which could also be shared online. New training in “talking and leading across differences, recognizing and addressing bias, Penn values, etc.” for instructors at all levels, and for student, faculty, and staff leaders, was also proposed.

To strengthen research capabilities, the report recommended establishing a new multidisciplinary Center for the Study of Hate and Intolerance, housed in the Office of the Provost, and building up regional resource centers. In addition, Penn should provide more physical spaces to encourage open discussion by evaluating existing spaces in intercultural centers and the possible need for new ones for Middle Eastern and North African cultures.

To build a shared sense of community and values among students, faculty, and staff, the report proposed a series of Penn Spirit Days, which could include scavenger hunts mixing students from different schools, service activities, and common viewing or reading assignments.

The report called on Penn to publicly reaffirm and re-emphasize its commitment to its Guidelines on Open Expression, to circulate an “accessible version” of the guidelines to explain how they relate to Penn policies and underscore their significance for orientation and education, and to clarify the procedural roles of the vari-

ous entities involved in administering them.

Noting that many participants in its listening sessions felt it was the “first University-level effort to reach out to the community at large,” the report recommended that Penn “continuously engage to increase trust and build mutual understanding” between leadership and the Penn community and otherwise work to increase transparency and communication. Suggestions for accomplishing this included a public website cataloging communications on key issues, actions taken, and status of any activities related to Penn’s values; and increasing awareness of educational and other resources and services available to students, faculty, and staff.

To address challenges of “siloes and hierarchies” resulting from the University’s decentralized system, which emerged as a theme in the commission’s information gathering, they recommended providing more equitable support for students, staff, postdoctoral scholars, and faculty regardless of the relative size and wealth of their academic homes at Penn as a “top priority,” and also called for improving coordination across schools.

In his message sharing the final reports, Jameson noted that they contain both “shared themes” and “distinct ideas.” In sum, they “offer concrete guidance for actions Penn can and will take now, as well as aspira-

CAMPUS

New Rules for Events and Demonstrations, Pending Open Expression Review

In June, the University’s leadership announced that a faculty-led panel would be reviewing Penn’s Guidelines on Open Expression in the 2024–25 academic year, and in the meantime released a set of Temporary Standards and Procedures for Campus Events and Demonstrations, to go into effect immediately.

The new rules prohibit encampments and overnight demonstrations anywhere on campus. They also forbid the building of structures, walls, or barriers on University property without permission; demonstrations in private residences and offices, and several other types of facilities, including “College Hall and its exterior steps and entranceways”; and climbing on or covering University sculptures and statues, “to preserve these structures and to reduce the risk of injury.”

Other requirements include:

- Requests for use of University space must be made to the designated offices at least 48 hours in advance, and at least two weeks in advance for non-academic events in spaces including the Perelman Quad, Blanche Levy Park and “The Button” sculpture, and Locust Walk.
- Penn community members or departments are not permitted to serve as proxies for non-affiliates seeking access to University spaces, and all contracts for events sponsored by student groups must be signed by a representative of the Office of University Life.
- Amplified sound from bullhorns, musical instruments, or speakers is allowed on College Green or Penn Commons only from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., and not at all during scheduled University events, final exams, and reading days.
- All demonstrators, whether Penn affiliates or not, “are expected to be respectful to University employees” involved in safety and compliance, including by providing identification when requested, for the “sole purpose” of determining their status. (“Events are presumed to be private ... unless specifically stated otherwise.”)
- Demonstrations violate the guidelines “if they threaten or advocate violence, create violence, or harass or intimidate any affiliated individuals or groups on the basis of race, religion, national origin or ancestry, identity, sexual orientation, disability, or any other protected class.”
- Protests against campus events and speakers also cannot employ a “heckler’s veto” by interfering with others’ free speech rights, and the online harassing or doxing of students, faculty, or staff is not permitted. If such activity can be shown to be the work of Penn affiliates, “the University may take action as appropriate.”

The faculty-led task force—chaired by Lisa Bellini, senior vice dean for academic affairs at the Perelman School of Medicine and chair of the Committee on Open Expression, and Sigal Ben-Porath, MRMJ Presidential Professor of Education and faculty director of the SNF Paideia Program [“Creating Civil Citizens,” May/June 2024]—will start work this summer, and its charge will include reviewing the temporary standards and procedures.

tional goals that will inform our institutional priorities for the future,” he added. “I look forward to working with our Penn community to

continue bringing these recommendations to life. We own the implementation process, and the culture it will create, together.” —JP

Among several records, Wyatt Henseler established a new Ivy League home run mark with 54 career homers.



Wyatt's World

The Ivy League's all-time home run king powered Penn back to the NCAA baseball tournament.

For a moment, it seemed, almost everyone in the stadium thought the baseball had been caught.

Columbia left fielder Cole Fellows had tracked back to the fence, timed his jump perfectly, and appeared to come down with a ball inside his glove—so much so that his Columbia teammates raced out of the dugout to celebrate and the ESPN+ announcer hollered, “He made the catch!”

But it was an optical illusion. Seconds later, Fellows looked at his glove and then at the ground in disbelief, with his hands over his head—a feeling of frustration

that haunted so many opponents of Penn third baseman Wyatt Henseler C’24 over the last four years. And like so many other baseballs hit by Henseler, the Ivy League’s all-time home run king, this one too landed over the fence.

That home run was one of 54 that Henseler hit in a Penn uniform—a staggering 20 more than the previous Ivy League record holder—and helped propel the Quakers to an upset victory over top-seeded host Columbia in their opening game of this year’s Ivy League Tournament. Henseler would hit two more homers in the tourney, including one in the title game

against Cornell, to power Penn to its second straight championship and a return trip to the NCAA Regionals.

“This year it took a lot more to get there than it did last year,” said Henseler of a team that sputtered early and ended up hovering around the .500 mark, barely sneaking into the Ivy tourney as the fourth seed. “But I always thought that we had it in us. It was just a matter of when it was going to click.”

Unlike last season, when the Quakers dominated the Ivies and followed their conference title with a couple of big postseason wins on the national stage [“Sports,” Jul|Aug 2023], Penn couldn’t rekindle any NCAA regional magic, falling to host Virginia and then St. John’s, in extra innings, to end their 2024 campaign. But just being there for a second straight season—after a

28-year NCAA tourney absence—was “special” for Henseler and the rest of the team’s graduating seniors. “No one on our team was hanging their heads,” said Henseler, who continued to make history in his final game, tying the program’s single-season hits record with his 72nd of the year.

The unanimous choice for Ivy League Player of the Year as well as the Ivy League Tournament’s Most Outstanding Player, Henseler graduated from Penn with his name all over the program and conference record books. In addition to obliterating the all-time Ivy League home run mark, he also broke conference records for career RBIs (189) and total bases (452) as well as program records for hits (232), runs (64), and doubles (50). The 14 homers he belted as a sophomore in 2022 was a single-season program record ... which he proceeded to smash last season with 18 homers ... which he again shattered this year with 22, establishing another Ivy record in the process.

“You never want to say records will never be broken, but there’s a good chance some of these are going to stand for a long time,” Penn head coach John Yurkow said, pointing out that Henseler’s career marks are even more impressive considering he only played an abbreviated freshman season in 2021 because of pandemic restrictions. And on top of his hitting prowess, Yurkow added, Henseler is “an incredible human being”

who took a big role in the program's community outreach efforts and was a leader in the clubhouse helping younger hitters.

The coach also praised Henseler's humility. The third baseman downplayed all of his personal accolades, saying "the one stat I care about is that my class will go down as the winningest class in the program's history." But Henseler certainly valued all of his homers, particularly the ones in the Ivy League Tournament because of the jolt they gave his teammates. Two of his favorites, he said, were

"You never want to say records will never be broken, but there's a good chance some of these are going to stand for a long time."

the one that fooled everyone against Columbia—because it provided a "huge momentum shift"—and his last one, a two-run blast in the first inning that set the tone in the title game against Cornell. "I wanted to do everything I could," he said, "to prioritize that at bat more than any other one I've ever had."

Henseler wasn't always a power hitter. As a freshman at Emmaus (PA) High School, he made the varsity team as a pitcher. But in his first at bat, he launched one over the fence—one of his "coolest baseball memories." He went on to become a

great offensive player in high school—so much so that Yurkow recalled Penn assistant Mike Santello predicting he'd be a "special hitter" while recruiting him—but Henseler "was always prioritizing average" and driving the ball into the gaps. Breaking out as a sophomore at Penn with 14 home runs "just kind of happened," he said. "It was never something I really pushed for or anticipated."

One of Henseler's most memorable college home runs was actually his first one, early in his sophomore season. It was initially ruled a foul ball, but after a review, umpires determined that it grazed the foul pole. Interestingly enough, he hit that long ball at Texas A&M, the school he'll play for next season as a graduate transfer (since he has an extra-year of non-Ivy NCAA eligibility due to COVID). "My first real college baseball experience was there and it's pretty crazy that it'll end up being a full-circle moment with my last college baseball experience there," he said.

Henseler has professional baseball aspirations and Yurkow believes the third baseman can not only get drafted but make it to all the way to the majors. In the meantime, however, Henseler's ready to keep making a mark on the college game, add to his home run total, and perhaps return to the NCAA tournament with another team.

"I'm excited about the year," he said, "but it'll never overshadow my four years at Penn."

—DZ

SPORTS

A Blazing Career on the Track



"Grab a razorback by the tail and just hold on."

That was the advice Penn sprinter Isabella Whittaker C'24 got from her uncle the night before racing in the 400-meter final at the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field in June.

And that was what she did, finishing just behind four members of the Arkansas Razorbacks women's track team with a program and Ivy League record time of 50.17 seconds—more than six-tenths of a

second faster than her previous personal best.

Finishing in fifth place, "I was almost a little disappointed at first," said Whittaker, who earned first-team All-American honors for the performance. "But then I saw my time and was like, *Dang, that's fast.*"

The race marked the first time in NCAA Championships history that runners from the same school claimed the top four spots. If the Razorbacks want to duplicate the feat in a future race, they can look to Whittaker, who will take her graduate transfer year at the University of Arkansas before turning pro. "I was honored to be on the podium with them," she said. "And I'll be honored to be able to join them next year as well."

Mostly, though, Whittaker embraced being at the national championships with her current teammates as 11 athletes from Penn's men's and women's teams competed across eight events. That's a far cry from her freshman season when Whittaker was the only athlete from Penn who qualified.

At that 2021 meet, Whittaker ran "super passive" and finished in last place out of 24 competitors in the 400. "I really did not act as if I belonged there," she said. Returning to the same track three years later, "I felt like a stronger, wiser, more confident version of myself."

As Whittaker grew—and overcame injuries—during her time at Penn, so did her team. "Something that really motivated us was this year we were trying to put Penn on the map," she said. On top of establishing themselves on the national stage with standout individual performances from, among others, Olivia Morganti W'24 (steeplechase) and Lily Murphy C'26 (10k and 5k), the Quakers also took care of business in the Ivies, winning the league's Indoor Heptagonal Championships in February and following that up with the outdoor conference crown in May—in dramatic fashion.

Needing a win in the final race—the 4x400 relay—Aliya Garozzo C'24 overcame a big deficit in the anchor leg to pass Princeton and give the Quakers a half-point victory over the host Tigers for the meet.

Whittaker certainly did her part with victories in the 400, the 200, and the 4x100 relay, but the star speedster wasn't used for the clinching 4x400 because of all the other races she did. Watching from the sidelines, she admitted, caused her some stress at first. But when Garozzo grabbed the baton for the final trip around Princeton's track, Whittaker hollered at her "super gritty" classmate to make up the gap and then joined all her teammates in mobbing Garozzo at the finish line afterwards.

"That was super emotional," Whittaker said, "because I learned to really trust my squad—and know that they have my back and that I have theirs." —DZ

The Newcomer Dividend

Wharton's Zeke Hernandez hopes to bend the immigration debate toward a question rooted in his own research on capital investment and business formation: What do natives stand to gain?

By Trey Popp

Exequiel Hernandez doesn't literally teach his MBA students how to tie their shoes, but he does like to suggest that they've been doing it all wrong. The Max and Bernice Garchik Family Presidential Associate Professor, who goes by Zeke, has been teaching in Wharton's management department since 2013. He often begins class sessions by offering "nuggets of wisdom for our consideration," as one student put it. These "Zekrets" tend to aim a little broader than Hernandez's course readings in global strategy and managing emerging enterprises—more *Tuesdays with Morrie* than *Harvard Business Review*. And though most are drawn from the 43-year-old professor's varied life

experiences, he also deploys a three-minute TED Talk revealing that the trick to a lasting shoelace knot is looping the bow in the opposite direction from the way virtually everyone has been taught.

Hernandez uses the clip to get at a more important phenomenon. "There's a whole lot of things in life that matter more than tying our shoes—but we approach them the same way we did when we learned to tie our shoes," he says. "We kind of think we have them mastered, and we move on. And so we plateau in our performance." That begs the question he then puts to his class: "Why do some people and some organizations seem to continue toward excellence—and why do others stagnate in mediocrity?"

Students may land on various answers. Hernandez has his own. "I suggest that the root of it is our pride," he says, "which can blind us to the fact that we even *need* to know anything."

"And the conclusion," he adds, "is that humility is the antidote to pride. Because humility grounds us. Humility never leads us to believe we have nothing to learn."

Hernandez allows that this is not the brand of insight that attracts most MBA candidates to Wharton. That's why he starts with it. "The point of talking about that with business students," he says, "is that in the business world we kind of look down on humility as being weak. And I don't like that. I think that's something



that's wrong with the culture of business. And so the idea is to encourage these MBA students to be a little more humble and to go about the world not thinking that they already know it all."

In June, he came out with a new book that he hopes readers will approach in a similar fashion. It's called *The Truth About Immigration: Why Successful Societies Welcome Newcomers* (St. Martin's Press), and it aims to shake up a debate that's been stuck in a rut.

In rich countries, public attitudes about immigration are largely shaped by a simple question: Who does it benefit, and who does it hurt? For a long time, Hernandez essentially shared a view that unites many opponents of immigration in the US and Europe. He believed migration "was probably better for the immigrants than for the native-born."

That was partly on account of his own personal history. Hernandez, who was born in Uruguay, has been an immigrant in four countries. When he was four years old, his family moved to Costa Rica so that his father could work as a bookkeeper for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. When the church moved its Central American headquarters to Guatemala soon thereafter, the family moved again. The wages were modest but came with a major perk: free instruction at an English-language international school. After five years in Guatemala City, Roberto Hernandez was transferred to Buenos Aires—plunging Zeke into a middle school whose pre-teen Argentine alphas doubled as playground xenophobes.

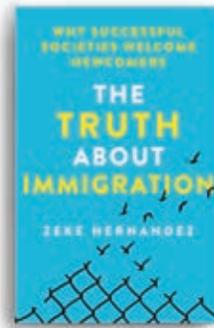
After attending high school back in Uruguay, Hernandez returned to Argentina on his own for a two-year church mission in the Buenos Aires slums. His service coincided with what came to be called the 1998–2002 Argentine Great Depression. "I saw firsthand, on the street, what unemployment really means, what hunger means, what suffering really means," he reflected in a May 2024 episode of *Freak-*

onomics Radio. The experience gave him what felt like a personal stake in a big question: What creates economic prosperity? "I returned home," he writes in *The Truth About Immigration*, "with an intense desire to help improve the economic fortunes of people in my corner of the world."

He came home with something else, too: a full-tuition scholarship offer from Brigham Young University in Utah. For the son a Uruguayan farm girl who'd overcome her own parents' objections to become the first person in her family to complete high school, there was no mistaking the life-changing potential of such an opportunity. Yet the personal was unavoidably—and uncomfortably—political. "My family and friends were certain that studying in America was a no-brainer," Hernandez writes. "But more than anything, the morality of immigration gnawed at me."

As an American friend memorably told him, "You know, Zeke, that you're going to steal a scholarship, a job, and probably a girl from a deserving American, right?" And that only got at half of what was eating Hernandez. He too worried that immigration might be a zero-sum game. And the pull of Uruguay was strong—heightened, perhaps, by the time he'd spent away from it during his expatriate childhood. "Emigrating would likely be good for me," he writes, "but would it hurt others—both from where I'd leave and where I was going?"

After agonizing for several weeks, he justified his decision in terms familiar to countless bright young people who've pursued their ambitions abroad. "I reasoned that I would have a greater impact if I got a top-notch education in America and returned home. I wouldn't be an immigrant after all, just an international student for a few years."



The Truth About Immigration: Why Successful Societies Welcome Newcomers
By Zeke Hernandez
St. Martin's Press,
320 pages, \$30

But that's not how it turned out. Instead, in a twist that no doubt amused his American friend, he met a girl his freshman year, they married while they were still students, and had their first of five children well before Hernandez graduated with dual bachelor's and master's degrees in accountancy in 2006. Meanwhile he applied for and received a Pell grant and a federally subsidized loan to cover non-tuition expenses after his wife's

visit to an out-of-insurance-network ER wiped out their savings—an "only in America" combo if ever there was one—and then enrolled in a PhD program at the University of Minnesota whose financial aid package covered tuition and provided an annual \$25,000 stipend.

And now, roughly two decades later, the naturalized US citizen has "written this book about the remarkably positive benefits of immigration. Not for immigrants like me but for the societies that welcome them." Even if the tenured Wharton prof has by this point paid more in taxes than he drew in government assistance, it's a little on the nose.

Yet a big part of what makes the book interesting is that Hernandez came to the topic almost by mistake. He calls himself an "accidental migration scholar." His doctoral studies at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management focused on strategic management and organization. "I just really wanted to understand, where does economic prosperity come from? And what might the movement of businesses have to do with it?" he explains. "Immigration had nothing to do with it at all."

The book's title telegraphs the conclusions he ended up reaching, but in its introduction he pitches himself as a neutral arbiter. "Any book on immigration invariably raises questions about the agenda of the author," he writes. "So a

Wharton's Zeke Hernandez photographed with Jacques Lipchitz's *Spirit of Enterprise* (1958) in the Ellen Phillips Samuel Memorial Sculpture Garden next to the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia.



little bit about me. I'm a professor at an Ivy League university, which to some may suggest an automatic liberal bent. I'm also a committed Christian who married young and has five children, which may indicate a conservative inclination. I've voted for both Democrats and Republicans, but I'm not a member of either party. My views align with different parties on different issues."

"In short," he adds, "I don't fit a particular mold or stereotype."

AT the University of Minnesota, Hernandez gravitated toward a topic that forms the basis of much of his current teaching at Wharton: cross-border investment flows and corporate strategy around expansion, including into foreign markets. This entailed studying classical economic concepts like David Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage, as well as more narrowly focused analytical frameworks dealing with stuff like acquisitions, alliances, and



"Everything you care about that affects your day-to-day life begins because somebody made an investment that started a business that provided jobs. And it just so happens that immigrants bring a ton of investment."

divestitures. As he went along, he couldn't help but notice that the field had much to say about flows of capital, technical knowledge, intellectual property, and supply chains—but surprisingly little

to say about the movement of human beings. It struck him as a blind spot.

Though he may not have been fully conscious of it at the time, his experience of living in Central America held an example of what the conventional thinking might be missing. It was a fast-food chain called Pollo Campero, whose story Hernandez tells in *The Truth About Immigration*. Having started as a mobile cart selling fried chicken in Guatemala City in 1971, Pollo Campero quickly expanded through Central America in the 1970s. Hernandez loved it as a kid growing up in Guatemala. The firm's growth, however, coincided with a period of disastrous civil strife that drove massive migration to the United States. By the time Guatemala's civil war ended in 1996, some 400,000 refugees had fled the country. Peace did little to stem outflows from the region, as economic woes fueled further migration well into the 21st century.

The influx of Central Americans into

places like Los Angeles (which was a major destination for Guatemalans) created a curious side effect for Pollo Campero. By the turn of the century, the firm's most successful restaurants were located in the airports of Guatemala City and San Salvador, where US-bound passengers would load up on chicken for their nostalgic relatives up north. These "relentless smuggling" runs—one woman crammed 1,600 pieces into her luggage, according to a 2002 *New York Times* article, and covered her airfare by selling them at a profit in the US—eventually spurred the chain to try its luck by opening a store in Los Angeles.

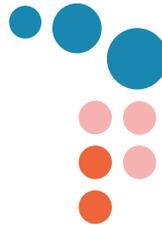
"Campero's leaders thought it would be a worthwhile investment if the LA store sold \$850,000 in its first year," Hernandez recounts. "They were way off. The store reached \$1 million in sales in 47 days—then a record for a fast-food franchise." The next year, a Washington, DC, location hit the million-dollar mark in 36 days.

Following a strategy sometimes called "Sanchez to Sanchez to Smith"—that is, growing the market from immigrants already familiar with the product, to other Latinos predisposed to try it, and finally to the mainstream native population—Pollo Campero spread to 90 locations in 18 states by 2023 ["Alumni Profiles," May/June 2023]. Ownership diversified in a similar pattern. "The company initially franchised to Hispanic immigrants," Hernandez writes, but as the brand "became more established, its business partners became more mainstream." Furthermore, the "few thousand jobs" he estimates it has created (the company doesn't disclose employment figures) came without the kinds of tax subsidies and giveaways that state and local governments often use to lure foreign investment, like Wisconsin's infamous 2017 bid to shell out some \$4 billion to coax the Chinese company Foxconn into building a 13,000-job LCD panel factory that never materialized.

As a PhD student, Hernandez wondered whether these sorts of immigration-based network effects might be an

underappreciated driver of cross-border investment. Serendipitously, the University of Minnesota housed the perfect resource for testing that hypothesis: the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), which contains a vast collection of US and international census data. He pulled geographic data on immigrant settlement patterns and compared it with a separate database that tracked locations where foreign corporations had established US operations.

The US faces a quandary: Even if immigrants end up being net contributors to economic prosperity, the localities where they start their journey frequently lose out on the gains.



"In my experience doing statistical analyses, most things you try to test don't correlate significantly," Hernandez says. But there was no mistaking the signal here. The more immigrants from a given country lived in a particular place, the more likely it was that a firm from that country would set up operations there. "So Hyundai was much more likely to set up a factory where there were more Koreans," he says. "And it wasn't just for Korean firms, or Mexican firms—it was for firms from almost every country. And it also wasn't just one industry. It wasn't just, like, food service, where you might think, *OK, food is ethnic*. It held even for technology firms, which would seem to have no ethnic dimension."

Like any conscientious investigator, he attacked his own finding. "I tried to be as skeptical as I could, and stack the deck against the result by throwing other vari-

ables in and trying different techniques—and I could not kill the result." It did not definitively answer his question. Correlation does not imply causation. New York has a lot of immigrants and a lot of foreign investment, for instance, but maybe that's just because it has the kind of economy that attracts both. "But there was a very strong correlation."

So strong, in fact, that his heart sank when he stopped to think about it. Surely somebody else had already studied this. It was the grad student's curse. There had to be dozens of papers that had beat him to the punch. Yet when he combed through the economics literature—and sociology literature, and business-strategy literature—he came up all but empty. "I found a few papers where somebody had made the connection between immigrants and exports," he recalls. But while it was no surprise that a city with a large Japanese population would import plenty of chopsticks, Hernandez was interested in a higher grade of economic activity, like setting up a factory. Eventually he encountered some country-level findings linking foreign investment to immigrant presence, "but nothing much" that probed the connection at the level of firms making decisions about how and where to invest and expand.

His business professors initially threw cold water on his proposal to investigate it. "We just didn't study immigration in business schools," says Hernandez. That topic was for other disciplines. And when he went looking elsewhere, Hernandez noticed that immigration researchers seemed to fall into two dominant camps. "Labor economists," he found, "are obsessed with one and only one question, which is: Do immigrants steal jobs and lower the wages of natives?"

"Of course, that's a very important question," he hastens to add. But for all the attention it soaked up, you'd think that immigrants never did anything else of economic significance—like consume goods and services that profit native-owned businesses, or create jobs in their

own turn. “And then you had the sociologist types, who were very obsessed with this question of: Do immigrants assimilate and integrate into society?” That matters too, for natives and newcomers alike (and Hernandez devotes several chapters to it). Nevertheless, the scholarly mainstream seemed awfully pinched. “There’s all these other things that immigrants might do or influence,” Hernandez says, “and it was like nobody was studying them.”

His attempt won a pair of awards for management-related dissertations plus another from the journal *Administrative Science Quarterly*, which published his findings in 2014. In a nutshell, the probability of a company locating operations and surviving in a US state increased with the concentration of same-nationality immigrants in that state—but *not* with the presence of immigrants of other nationalities. The relationship was “particularly strong for firms lacking prior experience in the country, for locations in which immigrants can help firms capitalize on industry-specific knowledge spillovers, and for firms with highly knowledge-intensive operations.”

Yet both before and after landing at Wharton, Hernandez mostly published about different topics: corporate alliances and acquisitions, boardroom dynamics, the impact of brokerage triad configurations on innovation, and other aspects of organizational structure and performance.

Only in 2019 did he return to immigration, via a paper coauthored with Yong Li and Sunhwan Gwon, who were both then at SUNY Buffalo. Investigating the expansion of Korean banks into mainland China, they found that the pattern of investment was significantly shaped by a wave of migration that had occurred more than a century before. Beginning in 1876, when Imperial Japan sought to forcibly annex Korea, millions of Koreans fled to China’s northeastern provinces. Many returned after 1945, but those who stayed were soon trapped by movement restrictions imposed in 1949

“I’m convinced that a lot of grievances about immigration aren’t about immigrants. They’re actually about how bad we are at building infrastructure.”



by the Chinese Communist Party, which also outlawed trade with Korea. Over the next four decades, this Chaoxian minority, as it came to be called, gradually dispersed through China from its original stronghold near the Korean peninsula.

“The locations of their enclaves might as well have been random from the perspective of Korean companies wanting to invest in China,” Hernandez writes. “The economic and historical conditions that motivated those companies after 1992 were entirely different from the conditions that determined the settlement patterns of the Chaoxian people.” Nevertheless, “we found that Korean banks were more likely to establish a branch in a province when more Chaoxian people lived in that province. Why? Because the Chaoxian provided a community of trusted customers and employees who served as a gateway to the broader Chinese market.” Finding that the dynamic was even more apparent in provinces with weak enforcement of property rights, Hernandez and his colleagues theorized that Chaoxian borrowers’ “shared norms and implicit threats of social exclusion” were attractive to banks seeking to mitigate repayment risk.

The Truth About Immigration presents other stories in the same vein. In 2023, for instance, a subsidiary of the German

company Merck KGaA announced a \$300 million expansion of a facility to produce microchip-related materials in Hometown, Pennsylvania—a community originally settled by German pioneers in 1811, where German remained the lingua franca for decades. Meanwhile, 10 miles up the road, an “unexpected and unwanted influx of Hispanic immigrants, mainly from Mexico” into Hazleton has reversed the decades-long population decline of that depressed former coal town, where four Mexican-owned food factories now operate nearby.

“I’m not saying that Hazleton has recovered its past glory thanks to immigrants,” Hernandez writes. “It still faces many challenges. But how much worse off would it be without Mexican investment?”

“Investment is the seed of every good economic thing you want,” he elaborates in an interview. “Everything you care about that affects your day-to-day life begins because somebody made an investment that started a business that provided jobs. It allows you to pay for your kids’ school, to pay for your kids’ sports. ... Investment is the beginning of all those things. And it just so happens that immigrants bring a ton of investment. And they do it either because they’re magnets of investment from their home country, or—and this is the other part—because immigrants disproportionately start businesses.”

Elevated entrepreneurship levels among immigrants have been noted by many researchers. *The Truth About Immigration* cites an especially intriguing 2022 study by scholars including Wharton assistant professor of management J. Daniel Kim. It found that not only are immigrants 80 percent more likely to start firms than native-born individuals, but that the pattern holds up for businesses of all sizes, and that immigrant-founded firms create jobs at a higher rate than native-founded ones. That paper suggested that “immigrants act more as ‘job creators’ than ‘job takers’ and play outsized roles in US high-growth entrepreneurship.” A 2019 analy-

sis by the Society for Human Resource Management further dispels the notion that immigrant entrepreneurship is limited to mom-and-pop operations like food trucks and nail salons. It found that 101 of that year's Fortune 500 companies were founded by first-generation immigrants, and another 122 were founded by the children of immigrants.

"So they're putting in their own capital, or they raise capital from others, that then allows these businesses to grow," Hernandez says. "It doesn't mean immigration is the only source of investment, and it doesn't mean it's the main source of investment in every community. But it's a really important one."

Innovation is another focus of *The Truth About Immigration*. Hernandez notes that immigrants are directly involved in producing 23 percent of the patents granted in the United States, and cites research suggesting that their presence significantly amplifies the patent production of native-born inventors as well. Immigrant inventors often draw from knowledge that is "locked within the cultural context of their home region"—ranging from traditional medicinal remedies to familiarity with foreign innovation in cutting-edge disciplines like chemistry and computing. Studies of patent applications, citation patterns, and team collaborations show that by "working alongside immigrants, native inventors get exposed to different technologies, ideas, or ways of thinking about and solving technical problems. They also plug into networks of global innovators they wouldn't otherwise have had access to."

Hernandez contends that similar dynamics are at play across the employment spectrum. In his view, immigrants tend to work in jobs that complement, rather than directly compete with, natives seeking their own place in the labor market. Poultry processing plants are full of Latino immigrants, in other words, because natives are loathe to pluck and bleed chickens. And fifth-

Hernandez thinks immigration opponents and advocates alike get something wrong, albeit for opposite reasons.



generation Philadelphians owe much of the city's 21st-century restaurant renaissance to Mexican line cooks and James Beard-nominated chefs whose stateside culinary achievements are inseparable from their foreign origins. Some evidence suggests that influxes of "unskilled" immigrants even benefit natives with low levels of education, as the former tend to sort into manual labor while the latter move into communication-heavy occupations that pay more.

Hernandez thinks immigration opponents and advocates alike get something wrong, albeit for opposite reasons.

The former argue that "when it comes to economic issues, an immigrant is apparently identical to a native—and therefore they compete head-on with the native" for jobs. But when the subject shifts to social issues, "all of a sudden that very same immigrant who was so identical is now so different that they can't possibly assimilate or interact socially.

"It's like Schrödinger's immigrant," he jokes: at once intolerably similar and frightfully different.

Good intentions lead pro-immigrant pundits to make a "misguided" rhetorical move of their own. "They paper over the differences. They use slogans like 'America is a nation of immigrants,' or 'Deep down, we're all the same.' But that doesn't hold water, because we're not the same, right?" Hernandez says.

"But that's good!" he stresses. "The truth is that immigrants are different in productive ways, and that creates eco-

nomics gains. [And] socially speaking, they will adapt to our values, and they will contribute to our society.

"I think we get it exactly backwards," he concludes. "We emphasize differences when we should be focusing on similarities, and we emphasize similarities when we should be focusing on differences."

Hernandez's immigration-related research continues to focus on investment flows and firm performance, in areas ranging from US-India venture capital funding to the operation of foreign-owned firms and multinational subsidiaries in Russia. But his book casts a wider net.

"I got lucky," he says, "to ride a wave of a paradigm shift in how we think of immigration—where we stopped thinking about it just in terms of jobs and wages and assimilation into society, but also thinking about immigrants as a potentially valuable asset that might affect a whole bunch of other things." Over the past 10 or 15 years, researchers have gained access to ever bigger data sets, enabling them to probe a wider variety of questions. Since Hernandez wrote his dissertation, others have done empirical work that's "even better than what I did—with better data that has validated that indeed there's not just a correlation, but a cause-and-effect relationship between immigrants and investment.

"It's been very gratifying—and also reassuring—to see that it's not just my thing," he adds. "There's now been a wide number of people who have found the same result and then gone deeper into why it happens."

Given all the upsides he emphasizes in his book, it's no surprise that Hernandez laments the current state of discourse about immigration—on both sides of the issue.

From Congress to cable news, "the dominant themes in anti-immigrant speeches focus on terms like 'crime' and 'threat,' while pro-immigrant speeches feature words like 'victims' and 'families,'" he notes. Never mind the volumi-

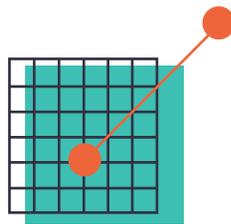
nous criminological evidence that immigrants commit crime at lower rates than natives—or the fact that *victim* is a strange word to describe the many newcomers who come seeking fortune, be it as entrepreneurs or temporary agricultural laborers, and have the wherewithal to find it.

“Most books about immigration perpetuate either the victim argument or the villain argument. They either tell heroic stories about individual immigrants’ success or spin arguments about how that success comes at the expense of the host nation. Both types of books are obsessed with how immigrants enter our country—for economic, family, or humanitarian reasons, legally or illegally. But they’re short on what immigrants *do* for the rest of us once they’re here.”

That said, the manner in which a society welcomes or thwarts newcomers matters, and Hernandez deems the US system “broken.” It provides an avenue for highly skilled workers who would be a boon to any local community’s tax base—only to snarl recruitment with a lottery system so dysfunctional that in 2023 Canada essentially poached 10,000 high-earning H-1B visa holders by offering them work permits and a path to permanent residency to bring their talents northward. Meanwhile country-based green card limits set 34 years ago mean that “an Indian with a graduate degree seeking to qualify for an employment-based visa (EB-2 category) would have to wait 195 years” even as one from, say, Uruguay, could practically waltz right in. Just as nonsensically, an Indian national seeking a family-reunification visa can probably expect to wait eight or 10 years—even as applications filed by Mexican children of US citizens have been collecting dust since 2001.

One upshot of this dysfunction, Hernandez argues, is that some 11 million people now reside in the US without permission. “No good system would result in nearly a quarter of immigrants” lacking authorization to live and work here.

“The most basic problem is that the ‘speed limit’ of America’s immigration flow is set way too low,” he argues, noting that employment-related visa limits have largely been stuck at levels set in 1990—when real GDP was less than half what it is now. “The economy’s need for talent, both low- and high-skill, is far above the numbers allowed by the law. Demand far exceeds supply. ... The respected Penn Wharton Budget Model, for example, estimates that doubling the number of legal immigrants would create more em-



“The worry I have with just going to a points-based immigration system is that it’s essentially Soviet-style planning ... In fact, I think a good immigration system needs to have some randomness, because the future is unpredictable.”

ployment and increase GDP.”

Another symptom can be seen in cities like El Paso, Texas, “which runs on an annual budget of \$1.2 billion” but was recently on pace to “spend \$89 million on asylum seekers per year if the pace of new arrivals continued.”

In the long run, many asylum seekers now burdening points of entry may well contribute more to the US economy than they cost it (especially when the analysis includes their children’s lifetime economic contributions). Businesses all over the country continue to scramble for workers of virtually all skill levels. As the US Chamber of Commerce noted in

a February report, “If every unemployed person in the country found a job, we would still have 2.4 million open jobs.”

“When newcomers permanently settle and are allowed to participate in all facets of the economy, the whole economic pie gets bigger,” Hernandez writes. But there’s a catch: Even if immigrants end up being net contributors to economic prosperity, the localities where they start their journey frequently lose out on the gains. “That’s what happened in my case,” Hernandez notes. “Utah and Minnesota bore the costs of my non-income-generating years. But Pennsylvania gets the income, sales, and real estate taxes I now pay.”

This asymmetry adds up. Hernandez cites a 2017 National Academies estimate that “each immigrant costs their state of residence an average of \$1,600 over a lifetime (in net present value terms). That’s primarily because first-generation immigrants have more children than other generations, so the state spends more on public education for the children of immigrants than for the children of natives. The result is an estimated total annual cost of \$57.4 billion for immigrants at the local level across all fifty states.”

Those expensively educated children end up making “a net *positive* contribution of \$1,700 to the state in which they live over the course of many decades”—and the contributions of *their* children push “the total gain to \$254.3 billion for the fifty states.” That attractive “return on investment” is even better, Hernandez observes, when you “count the much larger fiscal gains at the federal level.”

Yet that points to a structural imbalance in the way immigration’s costs and benefits are distributed. “The federal government,” Hernandez observes, “is guaranteed to collect the income, payroll, and other national-level taxes immigrants and their descendants contribute. And it gets that income without fully reimbursing states for shouldering the costs of the immigrants’ initial assimilation.”

“Perhaps,” he suggests, “states and localities would be more willing to accept

the costs of welcoming immigrants if they had some guarantee that there is a fair process to recover those costs in the long term.” And maybe more immigration skeptics would consider its benefits if American cities and suburbs responded more nimbly to broader challenges like housing affordability. After all, the overwhelming majority of newcomers to most US states come from other US states, according to census data—so rent crunches and school crowding in popular destinations ranging from Nashville, Tennessee, to Boise, Idaho, have causes unlikely to be solved by a border wall. “I’m convinced that a lot of grievances about immigration aren’t about immigrants,” Hernandez writes. “They’re actually about how bad we are at building infrastructure in response to changing demographics.”

But the “stupid reaction,” he elaborates, “is to say, *Well let’s throw away half the people*. You don’t really want that. Communities that lose people are really depressed communities. Every Rust Belt town knows that.”

Exhorting states and cities to build infrastructure better is easier than actually building infrastructure. Similarly, outlining a recipe for reforming the US’s immigration system “would require another book,” Hernandez concedes. But he does end with a chapter recommending “a few basic design principles.”

Among the conceptual shifts that he advocates, two stand out. One is to stop treating immigrants as a threat or problem best managed by the Department of Homeland Security and start framing them as an economic engine better handled by the Commerce, Labor, and Agriculture Departments—or even a new agency empowered to update policy continually in response to economic conditions, rather than once every generation or two (which has been Congress’s record over the past century). Another is to “add a lot more access lanes, especially economic ones”—while avoiding the delusion that we can predict tomorrow’s needs today.

“This is going to sound like heartless business calculus, but if you believe all the evidence about the good that new people do, these are opportunities to get great assets on the cheap.”



“The popular argument,” he says, is that “if we’re an immigration chooser, we might as well skim the cream from the top” via a points-based system that prioritizes highly skilled immigrants. But his reading of the evidence—and his distrust of bureaucratic prognosticating—leads Hernandez in another direction.

“A lot of gains do come from skilled people” who create patents and high-tech innovation, he allows. “But a lot of gains just come from a variety of people, period, from all walks of life,” he stresses. “Variety is a lot of what brings out the strength of what immigrants bring to us—not just economically but also culturally in terms of making our places interesting and vibrant. The worry that I have with just going to a points-based system is that it’s essentially Soviet-style planning. The Soviet Union wasn’t good at that. We’re not good at it. And as much as Canada gets touted, they’re not that good at it. Nobody’s good at that—because we just don’t know what the future holds. We don’t know how to predict what our economy’s going to need.”

So he’d favor a system that has “a default of letting people come—of course with vetting and through legal ways, but to have essentially a wide variety of pathways in: skills-based, family-based, student-based, et cetera. ... In fact, I think a good immigration system needs to have some randomness, because the future is unpredictable.”

He also thinks a good system should be opportunistic. In the global competition for talent, he says, successful countries can take advantage of crises like the ones currently driving productive people out of countries like Venezuela and Syria.

“I know this is going to sound like heartless business calculus, but if you believe all the evidence about the good that new people do, these are opportunities to get great assets on the cheap,” he says. “It’s like when a company fails and you can hire their people.

“I don’t want Venezuela to fail,” he adds. “But given that it has, what an opportunity to get all these really talented people. So why not be more responsive ... and build in possibilities to cherry-pick?”

Considering how much fear has been mobilized against migrants from Venezuela and other failing or floundering nations, this view is out of step with any number of domestic factions, including America’s traditional party of business. And even readers persuaded by the economic evidence Hernandez marshals are liable to regard his policy recommendations as wishful. Nevertheless, there are plenty of reasons to welcome the appearance of a business-oriented case for immigration, not the least of which is that economic scholarship about its impacts has come a long way since 1990—when Congress last tweaked a system that mostly dates to the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965.

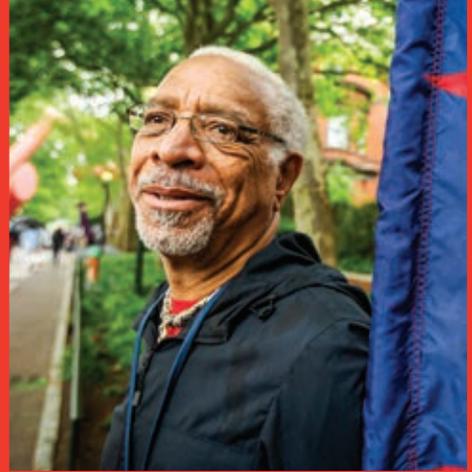
Immigration represents an intellectual challenge as much as a social or economic one. Hernandez describes his book partly as a journey away from some of his own initial misconceptions, which remain widespread.

“The real issue isn’t immigration,” he muses, sounding like the professor who relearned how to tie his shoes in middle age. “The real issue is that we have bad models of how society and our economy work. That’s what we should be worried about.”

Alumni Weekend 2024







**Alumni
Weekend
2024**

Making Things Happen

Over the decade since it was launched as a “one-stop shop” for Penn faculty and programs seeking to translate research into products—and with a big help from two blockbuster discoveries—the Penn Center for Innovation has achieved record revenues and made the University a leader in forging partnerships “to move ideas from the inside to the outside.”

By JoAnn Greco

Masoud Akbarzadeh, an assistant professor of architecture in the Weitzman School of Design, has a great idea. About a decade ago, while pursuing his doctoral studies, he began thinking about how geometric forms, particularly polyhedrons such as prisms and pyramids, might be used in structural design. He has since set out to prove that they can facilitate more sustainable construction by minimizing the mass of materials and thus reducing the amount of carbon emissions and embodied energy in buildings.

Professor of Nursing and van Ameringen Chair in Nursing Excellence Kathryn

H. Bowles Gr'96 already knows her idea has legs. In 2012, she transformed years of research into a new methodology that has become a standard part of the electronic health records used by hospitals. It's helped cut down on readmissions, resulting in cost savings and better outcomes for patients.

When faced with a chronic pain point in his own field—how to better train aspiring educational leaders to deal with tricky interactions with superintendents, parents, and teachers—Michael Johanek, a senior fellow and director of the Mid-Career Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at Penn's Grad-

uate School of Education, codeveloped a product in 2013 that's now used by schools in 40 states.

These three Penn faculty members, along with hundreds of others—including, most notably, Carl June, who pioneered the development of CAR T cell treatment, the first FDA-approved gene therapy for cancer [“The T-Cell Warriors,” Mar|Apr 2015], and the Nobel Prize-winning team of Drew Weissman and Katalin Kariko, whose research led to the mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 [“The Vaccine Trenches,” May|Jun 2021]—have translated their discoveries and inventions into patentable, marketable, and impactful



products by turning to the Penn Center for Innovation (PCI) for help navigating an often decades-long process to bring transformative ideas to fruition.

“As someone trying to run an academic program while doing my own research, the advice that PCI offered was invaluable,” says Johanek. “They provided a reality check on our thinking about the market and the structure of the company, and basically helped boost our confidence in starting the operation.”

Formerly known as the Center for Technology Transfer (CTT), PCI’s roots as the University’s commercialization arm stretch back to the 1980s, when the passage of the 1980 Bayh-Dole Act allowed universities to own the patents and to pursue commercialization opportunities (and receive royalties) for the work coming out of their labs. The previous framework, dating from after World War II, called for universities and other nonprofits to give up the rights to their intellectual property in return for federal funds. But while the government eventually held 28,000 such patents, fewer than five percent of publicly funded university discoveries had been licensed or brought to market.

Bayh-Dole, it was hoped, would invigorate research and boost the odds that it benefit society at large. Eager universities began setting up technology transfer offices, and today membership in the trade association AUTM (which now just goes by its acronym but was formerly the Association of University Technology Managers) includes more than 3,000 professionals from 800-plus academic institutions. They are a busy group. In 2022, members reported spending \$91.8 billion on research, with nearly 1,000 new startups formed and more than 7,700 patents awarded.

In fiscal 2023, for the second year in a row, PCI reported the highest gross licensing revenue among its peers, with its affiliated spin-outs garnering more than \$1 billion in new investment capital.



“Innovation that stays high in the ivory tower and never provides a public benefit isn’t good enough,” Swartley says.

Historically, though, Penn was not a leader in such efforts. (A late 1990s look at the state of the program in the *Gazette* [“Bridging Two Worlds,” March 1998] touted the transformation of “what was once a \$1.2 million deficit to what will be a \$5 million surplus in fiscal 1998.”).

PCI was founded in 2014 as part of a broader effort aimed at increasing entrepreneurship and innovation under the auspices of former President Amy Gutmann Hon’22’s Penn Compact 2020, which also encompassed initiatives such as the \$100,000 President’s Engagement and Innovation Prizes for students (see this issue’s “Gazetteer” for the latest round), and the redevelopment of a 23-acre industrial site at 34th Street and Gray’s Ferry Avenue into the innovation hub Pennovation Works, anchored by the Pennovation Center, which opened in 2016 [“Gazetteer,” Nov|Dec 2016].

PCI was designed to consolidate the operations of the CTT and similar efforts across campus to provide what the new entity’s executive director, John Swartley, at the time called “a one-stop-shop for creating comprehensive and strategic partnerships between faculty and private sector partners.”

“It was a grand experiment,” says Swartley now. After first joining CTT in 2007, he has run PCI since the beginning, and was recently appointed Penn’s first chief innovation officer. In essence, the experiment asked whether the office could go beyond standard operating procedures—securing patents and

selling licenses—to push faculty discoveries and inventions through the so-called “valley of death,” that stagnant stage between patented and useful, and out into the world. “Innovation that stays high in the ivory tower and never provides a public benefit isn’t good enough,” Swartley says.

Although he’s spent the majority of his career advancing others’ ideas in the marketplace, Swartley comes from a background in scientific research. He discovered the world of tech transfers while working in a lab at Emory University, where he earned a PhD in microbial and molecular genetics.

“I was studying infectious diseases,” he says, “and I had to make a decision about joining the faculty or doing something closer to the business side. This was the early ’90s, when leaving academia wasn’t encouraged. But I remember wondering at the time what happened to all of the intellectual property that was being created across the university. Does it just get published and that’s the end of it, or does it become a product?”

His musings took on more urgency once he was involved in an invention himself. “It was a modification to some bacteria that we thought could either be a vaccine

or a diagnostic tool for meningitis,” he explains. “We found out that we needed to go to Emory’s tech transfer office. It was a tiny little thing, with I think two people, and we got to talking to them and realized there’s this whole other side of the world. They’re here to file a patent and find a company that might want to license it.”

It was *that* discovery that helped Swartley make a choice. He decided to pursue an advanced business degree at Emory. (As for the patent, he and his team received one for the diagnostic aspect.) “It was like learning a new language,” he says of his MBA training. “When I finished, I stumbled upon a really interesting program being developed at Yale. It was also a tech transfer group, but with a leader recruited from the pharmaceutical industry who had crazy ideas about how the university should start some kind of relationship with companies to invest in these start-ups. I stalked the guy, flew up to Maine where he was giving a talk, invited him to lunch; we hit it off and he said, ‘Get down to New Haven and interview with my lieutenant and if he likes you, we’ll hire you.’ He did and they created this new position, and that’s how I got out of the lab and into the office.”

He hasn’t looked back since. “I loved the bench research,” he says. “I loved thinking about an experiment, getting the data, analyzing it. I loved all of that. But it was very narrow, and I got the sense that it was going to be very hard to take any discoveries all the way to product status. I thought maybe I could be more useful by helping get other people’s ideas further along.”

Swartley spent six years at Yale’s Office of Cooperative Research, “becoming a fully-fledged licensing person” before following his boss to work for a venture fund that was a for-profit subsidiary of

Baylor College of Medicine. He came to Penn in 2007 as senior director and head of new ventures for the CTT, intrigued by the mandate bestowed upon the center’s then-new executive director, Michael Clear, to reorganize and expand the reach of the office. Swartley would succeed Clear as executive director in 2013.

In 2009, Michael Poisel GEng’92



“I love talking with the faculty and hearing about the things that have worked out—because I know lots of things don’t work,” Dibling says.

WG’97, a mechanical engineer with a background in private equity investing, was brought on to launch UPstart, which aimed to assist entrepreneurial faculty members interested in forming a company out of their research. “Before I came to Penn, almost 100 percent of the time the strategy had been to license inventions out to the large companies because they all had research and devel-

opment teams and could pursue product development in-house,” says Poisel, who is now executive director of PCI Ventures, which incorporated UPstart. “Following the 2008 recession, though, a lot of them jettisoned those departments and no longer had the ability to take on early-stage products.”

Over the years, PCI has increasingly emphasized building relationships. “If your mission is now to move ideas from the inside to the outside, the best way to do that is to find partners,” Swartley says. “Whatever it is that makes the most sense—whether it’s working with a manufacturer or an institutional investor or building a startup—we’ll make it happen.”

“I really think our job is about making connections and building bridges,” says Benjamin Dibling, who has assumed Swartley’s former position as associate vice provost for research and managing director of PCI after having served as deputy managing director. “When we help identify a company interested in sponsoring a faculty member’s research, they have a new funding stream and a presumed marketability available to them,” he continues. “And everyone becomes really passionate about the project.”

Dibling found his passion for the field after relocating from England to the US in 2000 for post-doctoral work on cancer research at the University of Chicago. “I saw firsthand what it takes to become a tenured faculty member at a high caliber research institution,” he says. “While I loved the work, I didn’t love it *that* much. I started exploring alternative career paths and reached out to the tech transfer officer at University of Chicago, and he encouraged me to do a little work with them. I was like, ‘Oh my god, you get paid to do this?’ I jumped ship and I’ve been doing it for 20 years.”

After Chicago, where he started as a marketing intern and eventually became the program manager for oncology, Dib-

ling worked in UCLA's Office of Intellectual Property and Industry Sponsored Research as senior associate director of licensing before joining Penn in 2016, where he initially led PCI's licensing, corporate contracts, and corporate outreach efforts. "I love talking with the faculty and hearing about the things that have worked out—because having been at the bench, I know that *lots* of things don't work," he says. "It's exciting to see these individuals at the leading edge of their fields bring the broad benefit of their discoveries to the public."

The process involved is fairly straightforward. After a faculty member files a disclosure form that lays out the invention—PCI receives about 350 annually—one of the center's licensing officers will be assigned to meet with the faculty member to gather more information on what stage the research is in and how the faculty member would like to proceed. The licensing officer presents those findings to other PCI team members. Maybe someone has a relevant contact at a company or knows an interested venture capitalist; maybe someone else questions whether the idea is marketable at all.

"We evaluate everything that comes to us, and file at least a provisional patent on more than half of them," Swartley says. "That gives us a year before filing for a utility patent to explore how it might be used, who might want it, and to figure out the business relationships: Is it a partnership with a company who can sponsor further research? Is it a startup? Is it a straight license? It's different all the time, and we have to be agnostic about what it is these third parties want. What's important is they want *something*, and we have to figure out how to get it to them." Once the patent is finalized, the University becomes the owner of the intellectual property, but licensing and other revenues are divided among the inventors (including a separate portion for their research activities), their department, their school, the University, and PCI.

According to PCI's commercialization guide, filing a US patent application can cost between \$15,000 and \$30,000. Last year, Penn filed 920 of them (105 of which were issued). The money invested in patent applications is often reimbursed through subsequent licensing fees paid by a commercial partner who will then work to develop the invention further through prototyping, clinical trials, and other steps associated with bringing a product to market.

Right now, most of the 100-plus patents that Penn secures each year come from the Perelman School of Medicine and Penn Engineering—think vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostic tools and devices, often advanced through the interdisciplinary accelerator Penn Health-Tech, the Center for Health, Devices, and Technology.

The medical school, for example, received more than \$1 billion in total sponsored research funding in fiscal year 2023, and according to Jonathan Epstein, interim executive vice president of the University for the health system and Perelman School dean, about 10 percent of its 600 tenure-track faculty members engage regularly with PCI. "There's been an enormous change of culture in the school," he says. "The faculty believes and understands that they now have the mechanism to see their discoveries transformed into medicines and treatments that make a real impact. There's been more than two dozen new FDA-approved therapies since 2017."

Epstein himself, along with a host of Penn luminaries including Carl June and Drew Weissman, is part of a recent Penn spinout launched with the support of PCI, Capstan Therapeutics, that has raised more than \$300 million in funding. "It's a new approach to CAR T therapy that involves using mRNA therapy to direct cells that will make proteins to prevent or fight disease," Epstein explains. "We hope to bring it to clinical trials within a year or two."

But PCI in its second decade is also looking to broaden the range of Penn schools it works with. The ideas high-

lighted at the beginning of this article provide a sample of potential innovations coming from the schools of design, nursing, education, and other relatively untapped corners of the University.

"I'd like to start meeting with people at these schools—or Wharton or the law school, the fields that I'm just not up to speed on—and make sure I'm not missing something," Swartley says. "I want to learn what innovation means for them and how they measure it. I want them to talk to me about anything that they think has promise. Who knows—maybe it will click with something that's going on at another school. It doesn't have to immediately result in a big financial windfall, but is there a concrete way that we can help increase its visibility, so it sets the stage for something to happen downstream?"

With all the ideas flying around in Penn's "amazingly dense, diverse community" of scholars and scientists, "I'm in a good position to do some air traffic control," Swartley adds. "Every single day I hear of something that I never heard of before. It's the nature of the business: it *has* to be new."

Masoud Akbarzadeh, the Weitzman School architect interested in using polyhedral geometries in green building, has actually brought three ideas to PCI. His most recent patent concerns using continuous 3D printing to easily alternate between materials with different properties, such as one that can withstand tension and one that's resilient under compression, for the efficient construction of systems with mixed forces. Another patent involves mimicking the mechanics of a dragonfly to design lighter, more resilient airplane wings. He is also working on designing 3D-printed concrete structures that can absorb carbon.

"Architects and engineers have always innovated by creating new materials and techniques," Akbarzadeh says. "Rafael Guastavino, whose brick vaulting you

see in Grand Central Terminal, received several patents. What's new today is that a lot of attention is on building more efficiently. Steel and concrete are low-tech, but the improvements in processes are high-tech." Working with PCI means he can concentrate on the "fun parts"—the testing, the design, the prototyping—and minimize the attention he has to pay to the business end of things. "PCI has a fantastic foundation and the resources to cover all the legal paperwork related to filing a patent," Akbarzadeh says. "Their involvement makes the patenting process quite efficient."

GSE's Michael Johaneck remembers how helpful PCI was in identifying a target market for the idea of an online simulation program designed to lead aspiring and professional school leaders through the challenges, decisions, and consequences that arise during their workday.

"I'm academically oriented, so I could go off in different directions on it and they'd stop me and say, 'Who would this be targeted to and what need would it serve? What stands out about it, what's different?'" he says. "It helped us realize that what was important was that this is of and by practitioners, and it doesn't skirt difficult topics."

After establishing clarity on those aspects, the team at PCI worked with Johaneck on pricing and other specifics of the product. Today, Johaneck retains an equity stake in and remains on the board of SchoolSims, the company he co-founded with Ken Spero, a computer simulations expert who was a part-time lecturer at GSE and is now president of the company. SchoolSims offers a library of 40 simulations, running an average of 20 minutes each. Some of them have timers and urge the participant forward, but others incorporate interruptions—like someone coming in to report that the basement is flooded, and all of the history books are gone. The simulations can also be modified for workshops or large conferences to incorporate group discussions and polling.

"If we were going to play in the R&D space, we needed to rethink how we were going to position ourselves for those opportunities," Swartley says.

Nursing professor Kathryn Bowles' invention, Discharge Decision Support System (D2S2), came out of time spent sifting through research by her mentor—Mary Naylor Gr'82, the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology—on hospital patients 55 and older who were at high risk for readmission. "We noticed that more than half of this cohort had not received an in-home nurse or gone to rehab after being discharged," Bowles says. "Being a nurse, this intrigued me."

She and her team created patient profiles on some of the people in Naylor's study and solicited expert input from nurses, doctors, social workers, and physical therapists to build a predictive algorithm for who might benefit from referral for further care. Testing confirmed that the algorithm decreased readmission. Shortly after publishing the research in 2009, Bowles met with tech transfer officials, who agreed that the risk-scoring tool had potential. In 2012, Bowles and Eric Heil WG'12 co-founded RightCare Solutions, which was acquired three years later by naviHealth.

Bowles is candid about the experience of letting go of her idea. "It felt terrible, like I lost control of it," she says. "I still feel that way. I wasn't allowed to participate in a lot of the decisions." Nevertheless, she says, she wouldn't discourage anyone from taking this route because "it's the best way to disseminate your discoveries broadly and quickly," and in fact she has another idea that she's disclosed to the University and would like to bring through the PCI process. It's based on a much larger sample—the one for D2S2 profiled less than 300 patients and asked six experts to judge the cases; this second sample featured 1,500 patients and 171

experts—and enables a deeper dive into a suite of new data points. "Rather than starting a company, though, this could be a licensing deal," Bowles says. "I hope they can help me wrap it up in a box and put a bow on it."

Consolidating Penn's technology transfer-related activities back in 2014, and making PCI the one door you could open instead of knocking on five, happened because "it was apparent that if we were going to play in the R&D space, we needed to rethink how we were going to position ourselves for those opportunities," Swartley says.

PCI has continued increasing its accessibility and range, offering more community outreach, programming, and education both internally and externally. These days PCI makes its licensing officers readily available to faculty, provides an online disclosure portal to jump-start the commercialization process, stages weekly drop-ins where faculty can talk about their ideas, presents events with outside speakers, and engages in marketing outreach on behalf of its intellectual property.

As PCI moves into its second decade, its leaders know they face a delicate balance. Predicting the future can be fun, but it can also be dangerous. "We want to be receptive to everything, but we can't rely completely on speculations that seem really cool or on things that immediately scream to be commercialized," says Swartley. "I think a lot about mRNA. We got the disclosure 20 years ago, and we didn't exactly know what its application would be. But we knew it was great science from great scientists and we wanted to protect it. So while we definitely have to pay attention to the big shifts that are getting a lot of buzz, like generative AI, we also have to consider real world problems, like climate science. Remember, necessity is the mother of invention."

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

OUR POLICIES OUR HEALTH

For more than 40 years—
from Bill Clinton’s failed healthcare initiative
to Barack Obama’s successful (if long contested) one
and on into today’s most pressing issues
around equity and best practices—
Ruth Katz has been instrumental in developing
public healthcare policies.

By Kathryn Levy Feldman

In 2000, the chair of the department of medicine at Yale University invited the noted actress, playwright, activist, and teacher Anna Deavere Smith to conduct a series of interviews with patients, doctors, and administrators. Those interviews were the starting point for her acclaimed one-woman show, *Let Me Down Easy*, which had its first full production in early 2008 at New Haven’s Long Wharf Theatre. Smith portrays 20 people who talk about their experiences with the healthcare system. Some are well known, like the cyclist Lance Armstrong, supermodel Lauren Hutton, and former Texas Democratic Governor Ann Richards. Others are ordinary people who speak candidly about life, death, and illness.

Midway through the play, we meet Smith in the persona of “Ruth Katz, patient, Yale–New Haven Hospital.” The stage notes describe Katz as “a woman in her forties, wearing a red blazer style jacket, jeans and a strong Jersey/Atlantic City accent.” Addressing the audience, she describes being admitted to the hospital after spiking a fever during chemotherapy for her breast cancer. An oncology fellow came into her room and apologized that they didn’t seem to be able to find her records. “This is appalling,” says Katz, to which the fellow replies that it happens quite a bit. “I’m appalled for every patient who comes on this unit,” Katz clarifies, and continues her monologue with this aside: “I have never advertised my position here. I just





want to be treated like everyone else.” The doctor goes on to ask Katz whether she works. “I do,” she replies. “Are you working full time?” asks the doctor. “I am,” says Katz. “Where are you working?” the doctor inquires. “I’m associate dean at the medical school,” says Katz. “At this medical school?” he wonders, now looking up from his notes. “At the Yale School of Medicine,” she replies, adding to the audience: “They found my files within a half hour.”

The line draws a laugh, but to Katz CW⁷⁴ it’s nothing to joke about.

Long before becoming a patient herself, she had devoted her career to researching and developing healthcare policies that challenge the inequities of the system. “My client has been the public,” she says.

Currently a vice president and executive director of the Aspen Institute’s Health, Medicine & Society Program, and director of Aspen Ideas: Health, Katz has previously worked on multiple Congressional committees under Democratic US Representative Henry Waxman of California on healthcare initiatives during both the Clinton and Obama administrations. Her resume also includes a stint at the Kaiser Family Foundation; a failed run for Congress vying to represent her hometown of Ventnor City, New Jersey; and serving as dean of the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University as well as associate dean of Yale’s medical school.

“I’ve been involved in health and healthcare in a lot of different ways, always through the lens of policy,” Katz says. “But what’s been extraordinary for me and very exciting has been [being] able to do it from different perspectives, whether at a medical school or a school of public health or on Capitol Hill or at a foundation.”

Katz traces her early interest in health to her relationship with her cousin, Michael Katz, a cardiologist who practiced in both Ventnor and Philadelphia. “I used to go to HUP with him during my

last year at Penn when he was practicing there,” she recalls. Her interest grew during law school at Emory University, from which she graduated in 1977. “During law school, I really came to appreciate the role of the law and people’s access to healthcare, the business of healthcare, and the regulation of healthcare,” she says. “It’s a fundamental part of how our healthcare system works.”

In fact, Katz was so focused on health law that when the professor at Emory who taught those courses went on leave during her third year of law school, she managed to transfer to Penn Law as a special student so she could take those courses. “I didn’t graduate from the law school,” she says with a laugh, “but I spent my last year there.”

Katz went on to a job at the Philadelphia firm then known as Dilworth Paxson Kalish and Levy, where she was assigned to what was at the time the largest lawsuit ever tried in Pennsylvania state court. She spent nine months commuting between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh on the case—more than long enough to conclude that “this kind of law was not for me,” she says.

After finishing the case, she applied and was accepted to the Harvard School of Public Health. Her request for a leave of absence to attend was unusual at a moment when women had just begun entering big law firms and being considered for partnerships. “I know they all thought I was nuts,” Katz says. But they granted her the leave.

Katz graduated from Harvard in 1980 and never returned to the private sector—although the managing partner of the firm offered to hire her to run its burgeoning health law practice in 1994, after Katz lost her staff position on Capitol Hill when Republicans took the House. “Obviously I didn’t go back to practice law, because I’d been involved in policy” during those intervening years, she says. “But I never thought that health law would become its own specialty, and it has.”

Katz’s first job in Washington was a one-year position as counsel for the Select Panel for the Promotion of Child Health, which she took on to test whether “Washington and health policy [was] really the right thing” for her and discovered “it really was.” From there she served as a legislative aide in the House and then as counsel for what was then called the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, one of the subcommittees of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which Waxman chaired. “I was with the subcommittee until we all lost our jobs in 1994 when the Republicans took back the House,” she says, and then went back to work for Waxman in 2009, when he lured her away from her deanship at George Washington University’s School of Public Health. “Henry recruited all the old-timers back to work on what would become Obamacare,” she says. “And virtually all of us [who had worked on the Clinton Health Reform package that failed in 1992] went back.”

Waxman describes Katz as “determined, competent, and so good at communicating.” One of her responsibilities was to count the votes among the Democrats both at the subcommittee and full committee level when legislation was being considered. When amendments were offered, she clarified them for the Democrats. But even some of the Republicans trusted her to give them “an honest lay of the land,” Katz says. “This is an example of the old-school days when so much of Congress ran on trust. It’s not working now because people don’t trust each other.”

During her first stint in the House, Katz spearheaded an effort to make nursing home reform one of Waxman’s major initiatives. In 1986, the National Academy of Medicine had put out a major report on nursing homes detailing what Katz calls “a major breakdown in what was happening with care.” Katz and another staffer spent the better part of a year working on what would become the Nursing Home Reform Act, signed in

1987, which was the last major revision of federal regulations for running and staffing nursing homes and reimbursing care under Medicare and Medicaid.

A strong proponent of women's health, Katz also worked on the National Institutes of Health Reauthorization Act of 1993, which among other things required that women, in appropriate numbers, be included in federally funded clinical trials. It also included a provision for fetal tissue research, an issue that Katz had worked on since Ronald Reagan was president. Reagan banned this research because of the perceived ties to abortion. There were fears that women would get pregnant and abort to potentially save loved ones with genetic illnesses that could be treated with a fetal tissue transplant. Nonetheless, Reagan had set up an executive committee to study the question. "Lo and behold," Katz recounts, "the committee voted in favor of allowing the research to go forward with some ethical guidelines in place." Nevertheless, in 1989, then President George H. W. Bush extended the ban indefinitely. Limited private research continued and many researchers in the field confined their work to animals.

An attempt to overturn the ban in 1990 never made it to the House floor, but the following year they got much closer to passage—thanks in large part to the Reverend Guy Walden, a fervently pro-life evangelical pastor from Houston, Texas, and his wife Terri, who Katz had "found by accident" in the interim. Their testimony before the House and Senate in 1991 "changed the whole debate," Katz says.

At the time, Terri Walden was pregnant with a child who had been diagnosed with Hurler's syndrome, a genetic disease that had already killed two of the couple's children. Despite their religious stance against abortion, the Waldens had decided Terri would undergo an in-utero fetal tissue transplant with their current pregnancy, the results of which seemed promising at the time of their testimony.

"The researchers have shared with us that they believe the same technique could be used to ameliorate between 100 and 150 inborn diseases. Imagine the fetal lives that we could save with this research," Walden testified. "We believe that saving the ones we can is the most pro-life thing we can do. Doctors who have the knowledge and the ability are being held back from fighting disease."

The bill passed in both the House and the Senate but was vetoed by President Bush. An attempt to overturn the veto was successful in the Senate, with 97 yeas, well above the required two-thirds vote, but "we came up short in the House," Katz recalls. Following the election of Democrat Bill Clinton in 1992, a new bill was introduced in January 1993 and passed. "I have the picture on my wall of me with Clinton, Henry, and two other staffers in the Oval Office the day the president signed it into law, less than six months after he took office."

In between her stints on Capitol Hill, Katz first spent a year as director of public health programs at the Kaiser Family Foundation (now KFF). There she "gave out a lot of grants, so I made a lot of people happy," she jokes. "But mostly, I worked on the work I continue to this day—women's health." She left the job in 1996 to run for Congress in New Jersey, where she had remained a resident while working in Washington, ultimately losing to the incumbent, Republican Frank LoBiondo, who would hold the seat until his retirement in 2019.

It was a tough race in which LoBiondo, according to the *Atlantic City Press*, portrayed Katz as a carpetbagger "out of touch with her South Jersey roots." Katz in turn called LoBiondo "a gun-toting, tree-killing, Medicare-slashing, Newt Gingrich puppet, who voted to curb Medicare spending, cap federal student loan spending, and expand the conditions under which corporations can tap employee pension funds."

When former FDA commissioner David Kessler was appointed dean of Yale University's medical school, "the first call I made was to Ruth."

"I thought I could do a better job representing the interests of the people of South Jersey," Katz says, and 1996 seemed like the right time to take her shot, but "running for office was never a life-long dream" for her. "From the beginning, I said that if I didn't win, I had another life. I enjoyed the work that I was doing, and I was fully prepared to go back and do it."

After the election, Katz was contacted by David Kessler, the former commissioner of the FDA who had just been appointed dean of Yale University's medical school. "The first call I made was to Ruth," he recalls. Kessler asked her if she was interested in the position of associate dean for administration. "It was completely out of the blue, and I thought he was kidding," she says.

She decided to take on the job and make her first foray into the academic world because it offered her the opportunity to be involved with healthcare from a completely different perspective and, she reflected, the chance to be the righthand person to the dean of the Yale School of Medicine might never happen again. But she had her doubts—chiefly, that she wasn't "one of them." Lacking an MD or PhD, Katz worried that she wouldn't have credibility.

As it turned out, that "outsider" position was an advantage. "When I made a decision, people might not have agreed with it or they might not have liked it, but I don't think anyone ever thought I made that decision because I was trying to advance myself at Yale. When I came to Yale, I came at the highest level I was

ever going to go,” she says. “I could certainly speak their language, but I was never going to take any of their jobs. It was a really good lesson. Sometimes the thing you think may be your biggest deficit turns out to be your biggest asset.”

According to Kessler, he and Katz “did everything together. There are a thousand behind-the-scenes issues that make a medical school in a university run, and she was involved in all of that,” he says. “She played a major leadership role in every major initiative, recruited dozens of chairs, built hundreds of millions of dollars of buildings, forged the major affiliation agreements between the medical school and the hospital,” he continues. “And whenever there was a problem, the first office I would walk into, which was right next to mine, was Ruth’s.”

Kessler also remarks on Katz’s relationship with the students. “She is a true mentor. There was an emphasis, obviously, on great medicine, but also public service,” he says. “It is no coincidence that Vivek Murthy, our current surgeon general, and Mandy Cohen, current director of the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention], were both students when we were deans there.” Katz notes that, during Murthy’s second year of medical school, he was one of the students who “won” a trip to Washington to meet with Henry Waxman, which she had contributed to their auction.

As a testament to the students’ respect and admiration for Katz, they chose her as graduation speaker in 2001, the year after she was diagnosed with breast cancer. “I remember one night when I was in the hospital, a bunch of third-year students were doing clinical rotations and were assigned to my care,” she recalls. “They were nervous wrecks. And I said, ‘You get in here. This is practice, and someday you’re going to have patients who you know. So practice on me.’ And one kid stayed with me the entire night. It was really amazing.” For Katz, the honor “was one of the greatest I ever had at Yale.”

“I think we still have a long way to go to ensure that everyone in this country has access to good quality healthcare.”

When Katz moved on from Yale to George Washington University in 2003, the School of Public Health, established only in 1997, still “didn’t have our own building,” she says. Initially, Katz focused on finding top talent. “We recruited new deans for faculty affairs and new deans for student affairs and we revised the budget process,” she recounts. “Basically, we took a school that was still in its infancy in many ways, and really laid the groundwork to help build what is considered to be one of the best schools of public health in the country now.”

In 2009, Katz returned to Capitol Hill to work with Waxman on the passage of the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) and stayed on for Obama’s first term. “I made it clear that I would leave once the legislation became law to pursue other opportunities,” Katz says. Exactly four years later, she joined the Aspen Institute as executive director of its Health, Medicine & Society Program, where she remains. For Katz, the opportunity to design a program with a focus on public health policy and educate the public about its importance was appealing. So was the variety of the work, since the position allowed her to focus on several aspects of public health, while remaining in Washington, where so much health policy is developed.

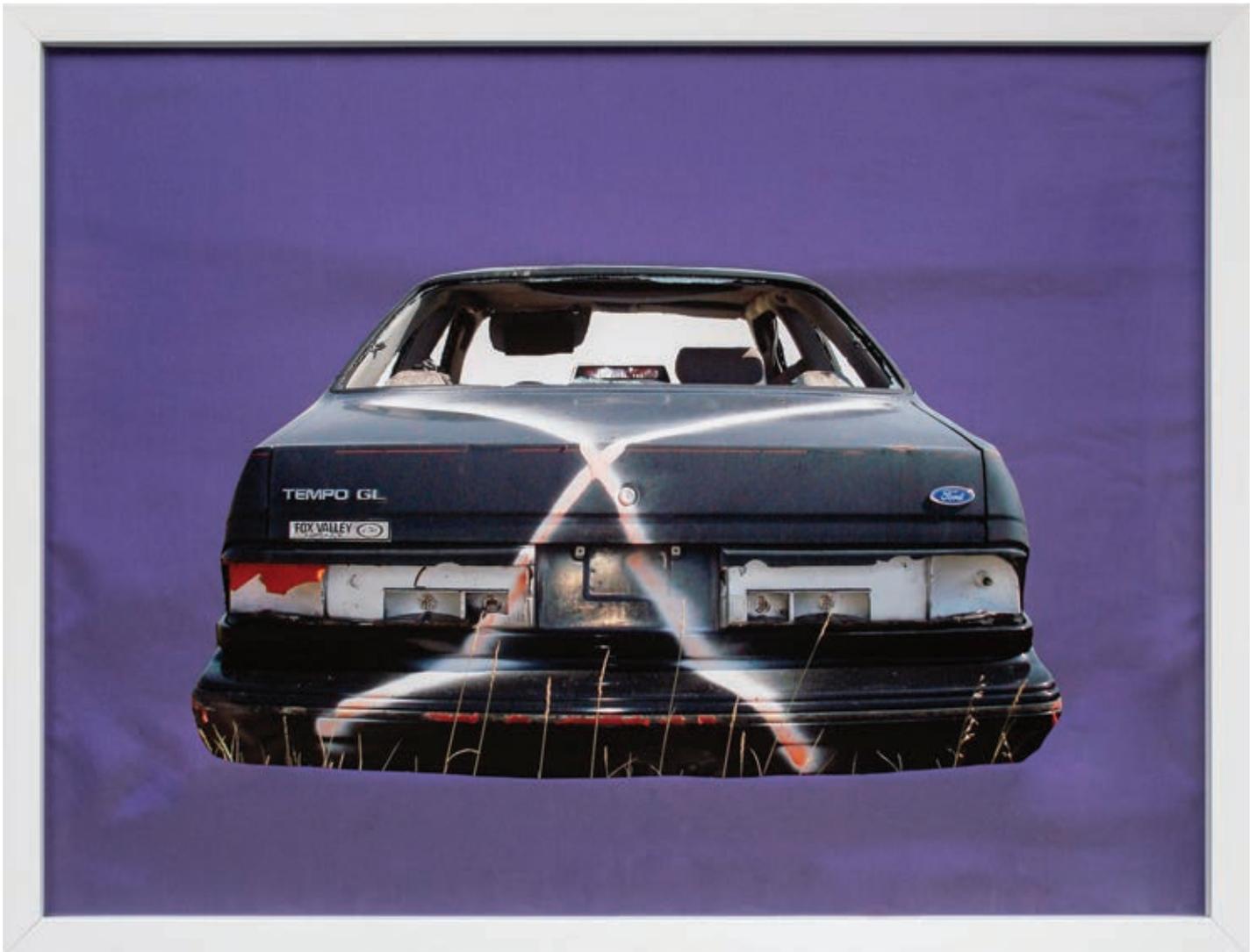
During her 10 years at the Aspen Institute, the Health, Medicine & Society program has done policy work on issues including vaccines, gun violence, maternal mortality, antibiotic resistance, end-of-life care, healthcare costs, and the arts and health. Katz also manages the annual conference Aspen Ideas: Health, a three-day forum, open to the public, that brings together policymakers, health-

care practitioners, community leaders, visionaries, scientists, and activists for stimulating, provocative, and challenging exchanges organized around themes.

Katz also developed and shepherds the Aspen Health Strategy Group, a task force that promotes improvements in health policy and practice whose membership ranges from political heavy hitters like former Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius and onetime Senate majority leader Bill Frist to leading experts like Antonia M. Villarruel G’82, Penn’s Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing. Each year, the group tackles a single health issue; its findings and recommendations are widely anticipated and disseminated by influencers and policymakers. Recent topics have included the opioid crisis; vaccine hesitancy; maternal mortality; health data privacy; gun violence; and (cochaired by the singer and performer Renee Fleming) on neuro-arts, or the positive impact of the arts on health and well-being.

Public health is in the national spotlight more than ever in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Katz says. “I think people came to really understand that public health is about the health of populations; medicine or medical care is about the health of individuals.” At the same time, she adds, the pandemic showed the weaknesses in both systems. “I think we still have a long way to go to ensure that everyone in this country has access to good quality healthcare. We have to restore trust in the healthcare system. It’s not just healthcare—in democracy; in education; in leadership in our country,” she says. “And we still have a long way to go to ensure that we can help prevent the next pandemic—because it is going to happen. Nobody knows when. Nobody knows what it will be. Nobody knows how it will happen, but as we learned in public health school, it will happen. And we need to be prepared.”

Kathryn Levy Feldman LPS’09 is a frequent contributor to the *Gazette*.



Calendar

Arthur Ross Gallery

arthurrossgallery.org

open Tues.–Sun.

David C. Driskell and Friends

Through Sep. 15

ICA

icaphila.org

Where I Learned to Look:

Art from the Yard

Joanna Piotrowska:

unseeing eyes, restless bodies

Both Jul. 13–Dec. 1

Morris Arboretum & Gardens

morrisarboretum.org

open daily, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Penn Libraries

library.upenn.edu

Penn in the Field:

Student Fieldwork Photography

Through Aug. 31

A Selection of Mexican Ex-Votos

Through Oct. 18

Penn Museum

penn.museum

Ancient Food & Flavor:

Special Exhibition

Through Oct. 6

Egyptology at Penn in the 1850s: The

Philomathean Society's Translation

of the Rosetta Stone

Jul. 16–Dec. 12

Garden Jams:

West Philadelphia Orchestra July 10

Zydeco-a-Go-Go July 17

Glenn Bryan and Friends July 24

Guachinangos July 31

World Café Live

worldcafelive.com

The Moth StorySLAM July 9

The Felice Brothers July 12

Norman Connors & The Starship

Orchestra July 13

The Greeting Committee July 16

Roger Clyne and the Peacemakers July 18

Sexy Unique Podcast Live July 20

Jessica Pratt July 26

Omnisoul & Friends Aug. 2

H Sinno Aug. 7

The String Queens Aug. 8

Marcus Miller Aug. 22

The War and Treaty Aug. 23

Dave Albin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore Aug. 28

Cloud Cult Aug. 30

Above: Wendy Red Star's "Rez Pop J." Fabric with photograph. From the ICA exhibition, *Where I Learned to Look: Art from the Yard*. Image Courtesy of the artist and Sargent's Daughters.



Monoliths of Cloth

Suchitra Mattai weaves vintage saris into dazzling soft sculptures.

Suchitra Mattai G'01 Gr'01 GFA'03 learned to crochet, embroider, and sew at her grandmother's side. In Guyana, where she grew up, many women sewed their own clothing. Her family was no exception. Suchitra got her start making clothes for dolls. When she was eight years old and anticipating the birth of a longed-for little sister, her ambitions grew. She crocheted an intricately patterned baby blanket. Textiles remained a touchstone as the Mattai



family moved from one place to another, eventually settling in New Jersey, where colorful saris became a mainstay of ceremonial and special occasions.

The traditional South Asian garment has since become integral to Mattai's artistic oeuvre, which is on dramatic display this summer on the shore of the East River in Queens, New York. "We are nomads, we are dreamers," an installation at Socrates Sculpture Park that runs through August 25, features thousands of saris woven into six massive pod-like forms, with Roosevelt Island and upper Manhattan as a backdrop. These 10-foot-tall cushy and kaleidoscopic monoliths are capped with sloping stainless-steel surfaces whose mirror polish reflects shifting skylines and treetops. More richly upholstered forms hang from high branches, like extravagant fruit.

From a distance, the giant ground-based sculptures read as elegant transitions between vibrant color fields. "But then, as you approach, you see the very small patterns on each strip of woven sari," Mattai explains, "and you realize



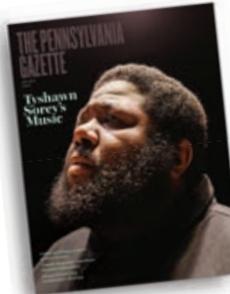
Photo by Anna Maria Zunino Noellert courtesy Socrates Sculpture Park

MUSIC

Tyshawn Sorey Wins Pulitzer Prize

Composer and jazz drummer Tyshawn Sorey, a Presidential Assistant Professor of Music, won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Music for *Adagio (For Wadada Leo Smith)*. Fittingly for a musician who defies categorization and has a penchant for slow pulses ["Time Stretcher," Sep/Oct 2023], the Pulitzer committee celebrated the composition for saxophone and orchestra as "an anti-concerto"—a "quietly intense" work that "treasure[s] intimacy rather than spectacle."

Commissioned by the Lucerne Festival and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the piece had its US premiere in March 2023 at Atlanta Symphony Hall. The 20-minute composition combines a broad textural palette with an expansive dynamic range that goes from *triple piano* to *triple forte*. "Sorey's writing for the solo sax," wrote music journalist Jari Kallio after the world premiere in Lucerne, Switzerland, exemplifies "another brand of virtuosity, one wrought of long lines, where each note



is given its singular identity; a procedure akin to the playing of the concerto's dedicatee as well as the tintinnabulations of Arvo Pärt."

"Concertos are usually showcases for dazzling displays of virtuosic technique," the prize announcement observed. "This work requires a great deal of technique, but of a much more subtle variety. Instead of rapid-fire outbursts of sixteenth or thirty-second notes the soloist and orchestra are asked to play at the glacial tempo of 36 quarter notes per minute."

Sorey, who joined Penn's music faculty in 2020, has garnered a reputation as a hands-on teacher in his work with graduate and undergraduate students. His course offerings have ranged from composition theory seminars to the survey "Thinking About Popular Music." Meanwhile he is an in-demand jazz drummer, composer, and performer/collaborator.

"Tyshawn is a very special musician in terms of how deeply he lives inside music," reflected pianist Sarah Rothenberg, who performed Sorey's *Monochromatic Light (Afterlife)*—a finalist for the 2023 Pulitzer Prize—in Nate Chenin C'97's feature-length 2023 *Gazette* profile of Sorey. "His pieces are a kind of environment that one lives in."

that they're worn fabric. ... Also, you see from afar a very glistening top. But then, as you approach, you see the cloud formations, you see the birds, you see everything that's going on in the park."

The park's location resonates with Mattai. "The East River feeds into the Atlantic Ocean, and I've lived in a number of places along the Atlantic Ocean—from Guyana, to Nova Scotia, to New Jersey and New York," says the artist, who is currently based in Los Angeles. "So I was thinking a lot about migration, and how Queens is a site for many migrations, and many immigrants," she continues. "I wanted to use the saris because when I weave them in the way that I do, in a way it's uniting women of the South Asian diaspora, over time and topography. So one story is my migration story, but it's also intended to connect with others who have migration stories—which is all of us, really." —TP

Persistent Demons

The themes of Erik Larson's new book on the buildup to the Civil War still reverberate today.

Almost two months before the American Civil War began, Samuel Wylie Crawford M1850 could sense better than most the magnitude of what was coming.

A US Army surgeon stationed at Fort Sumter—and one of several richly portrayed characters presented in Erik Larson '76's new book *The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War*—Crawford wrote, in a foreboding letter to his brother, that “the first gun fired at our fort will call the country to arms; the bugle that sounds the attack upon us will echo along the slopes of the Alleghenies, and the granite hills of the North, along the shores of the great lakes, and far away on the rolling prairies of the west and the earth will shake with the tread of armed men.”

For Larson, a master at weaving old diary entries and letters into compelling historical narratives, Crawford, a 31-year-old graduate of Penn's medical school, “understood that he was in the midst of something very, very significant” as Confederate forces surrounded the sea fortress outside Charleston, South Carolina, and was “a very important source for capturing the realities of what was happening at Sumter,” the author says.

He was one of many. “With a lot of these characters,” Larson notes, “it turned out to be really a sort of soap opera leading up to the Civil War.”

The author of six national bestsellers that have collectively sold more than 12 million copies, Larson uses his latest

book to tell the story of the tense and chaotic five months between Abraham Lincoln's November 1860 presidential election win and the Confederates' April 1861 shelling of Sumter, which started the deadliest war in American history.

Although not a Civil War buff, Larson formulated the idea in 2020 when COVID cut short the book tour for his last war thriller, *The Splendid and the Vile*, an account of Winston Churchill and “The Blitz” [“Courage Through History,” Jul/Aug 2020].

“At that time, there was a lot of political discord, especially over the handling of the pandemic,” the author says. “And people were muttering about civil war, these secession fringe groups. And for whatever reason, I just started thinking, *Well, how did the Civil War start?*”

It was a challenging time to begin research on a new book. With physical archives closed, Larson instead “started looking in various online repositories of records” and came across a collection called *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. He ordered a bound volume. Impressed by the documents, letters, and telegrams curated in chronological order, he realized there “really was something in the tick-tock leading up to the Civil War that I could capture.” Although he continued to fight pandemic-imposed logistical challenges accessing archives—not to mention the “additional hurdle” of deciphering the handwriting of that era—Larson raced toward a 2024 finish line, feeling it was important to release the book before this November's election.



The Demon of Unrest:
A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak,
and Heroism at the Dawn
of the Civil War
By Erik Larson '76
Crown, 592 pages, \$35

The reason for that became clear on January 6, 2021, as Larson watched the US Capitol attacked by Trump supporters seeking to prevent the certification of the 2020 election. By then, the author was far enough along in his research to know that an angry mob of Southerners had similarly tried to disrupt the electoral count on February 3, 1861, only to be thwarted by General Winfield Scott and a well-prepared US Army that had fortified Washington, DC. “And I realized this is not a hoary old story from the past,” Larson says. “This is like *today*.”

Larson saw more parallels to the current toxic political climate in how Southerners perceived Lincoln as “the antichrist” even though he vowed during the campaign and in his inaugural address not to disturb slavery in states where it already existed. “Talk about an echo chamber,” Larson says. “They had reached their own conclusion about Abraham Lincoln, and they were not going to be swayed. And that really perplexed Lincoln.”

Like Churchill, Lincoln is one of the most lionized and written-about people in world history. But as he did in *Splendid*, Larson offers a different perspective on the figure you might remember from history class. A good chunk of *Demon* is devoted to Lincoln's train trip from his home in Springfield, Illinois, to Washington, DC, during which he greeted throngs of supporters but was careful in his public comments to not exacerbate the secession crisis that had begun when South Carolina seceded to protect the institution of slavery following the election. “The reality is that in 1861, Lincoln was a little bit at sea,” Larson says. “I mean, the country was going to hell. He had this changeover in administration, he had these patronage seekers who were overwhelming him, and he insisted on handling much of it, at least initially, by himself. And I think he was really kind of in over his head.” Upon meeting him for the first time, one politician called Lincoln a “good-natured and well-intentioned” man “who seems

to think of nothing but jokes and stories.” And Lincoln was skewered by the press for sneaking into the capital city ahead of his March 4 inauguration because of a potential assassination plot against him. “This was his triumphant arrival: an empty railroad station, before dawn, in disguise,” Larson writes.

Meanwhile, Larson does little to counter the predominant view among historians that Lincoln’s predecessor, James Buchanan, was one of the least effective presidents ever. During his lame-duck period, Buchanan “could not wait to leave the White House,” Larson writes. And before Lincoln’s inauguration ceremony began, the outgoing commander-in-chief offered Lincoln little more advice than which side of the White House well produced better water.

Larson also captures some of the tension between Lincoln and his pick for secretary of state, William Seward, who was “convinced that he was the right guy to run the country,” Larson notes, and “had his own narrative that he believed, with no particular evidence to support it,” that seceded states would return to the union of their own accord. (Seward did provide valuable edits to the end of Lincoln’s famous inaugural address, even if the appeals to “the mystic chords of memory” and “better angels of our nature” did little to sway Southerners.)

While Lincoln, Buchanan, and Seward are among the most famous characters portrayed in Larson’s book, the author also gives accounts of lesser-known figures like the ardent secessionist Edmund Ruffin, who fired the first shot that hit Sumter; Mary Boykin Chestnut, who vividly describes upper-class life as a slaveowner in the South, about which she felt conflicted; and British journalist William Howard Russell, whose colorful descriptions of people and events proved to be an invaluable resource.

But “the true hero of the book,” Larson says, is Major Robert Anderson, the commander at Fort Sumter who was “sympathetic to the South but also deeply loyal

not so much to the United States but to the United States *Army*.” Anderson’s secret move with his troops and weapons from the more vulnerable Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter (“a prime example of a sea fortress” with its 50-foot-high walls) after South Carolina’s declaration of secession was a smart military move, Larson says, “and even was applauded by his opponents.” And for the next several months, through mixed signals and miscommunications from Washington, relying on mail service that would eventually be compromised by the Confederates, and trying to determine how long food and supplies could last without reinforcements, Anderson kept hold of federal property that had been built to protect against *foreign* enemies but had become a great symbol to the North. Although Larson writes that Anderson “loathed the abolitionist fanatics of New England,” outsiders “saw only the heroism and gallantry of Anderson and his men, a classic David and Goliath story: the major and his little garrison—it was invariably described in the press as ‘little’—standing up to a far larger force that outnumbered them by at least twenty-five to one.”

In the end, the two-day bombardment of Sumter was almost anticlimactic: Anderson and his men were able to evacuate, with the only casualties coming due to malfunctioning cannon fire during a 100-gun salute—part of a code of honor whose importance to both sides gave the opening skirmish a deceptively tame flavor, as if “this was not war,” Larson writes, “but rather an elaborate if perilous form of sport.”

That, of course, would soon change as the country was pushed past the brink, toward horrors that few saw coming. “Here lay the greatest of ironies: In thirty-four hours of some of the fiercest bombardment the world had ever seen, no one was killed or even seriously injured,” Larson writes, “yet this bloodless attack would trigger a war that killed more Americans than any other conflict in the country’s history.” —DZ

Briefly Noted



GOBSMACKED! The British Invasion of American English

by Ben Yagoda G'91
(Princeton University Press,
2024, \$24.95.) Language
commentator and professor

emeritus of English at the University of Delaware Ben Yagoda G'91 traces scores of Britishisms that have made their way into America’s vocabulary, such as *one-off*, *go missing*, *curate*, *early days*, *kerfuffle*, *easy peasy*, and *cheeky*.



EDISON

by Pallavi Sharma
Dixit C'99 G'99 (Third State
Books, 2024, \$29.95.) This
debut novel is a Bollywood-
style love story brimming
with song and dance, set in
the eponymous New Jersey
township known as “Little India.”



THE GHOSTS OF IRAQ'S MARSHES: A History of Conflict, Tragedy, and Restoration

by Steve
Loneragan Gr'81, Jassim
Al-Asadi, and Keith Holmes
(The American University in

Cairo Press, 2024, \$45.00.) A gripping history of the devastation and resurrection of the Mesopotamian Marshes in southern Iraq, once the largest wetland system on the planet, later drained in the early 1990s by the Saddam Hussein regime, and now protected as a UNESCO World Heritage site.



UNJUST DEBTS: How Our Bankruptcy System Makes America More Unequal

by Melissa Jacoby C'91
L'94 (The New Press, 2024,
\$27.99.) A law professor at

the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill explains how the bankruptcy system fails to help people get back on their feet, and how the rich and powerful manipulate it to their advantage while perpetuating race, gender, and financial inequality in America.

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It's a Bird. It's a Plane. It's Gary Prebula's Prodigious Vault!

Penn Libraries scores a comic book bonanza.



Gary Prebula W'72 has his origin story down pat. It starts with him reading his first comic book—*Superman*—at age three and continues with a pre-teen vow to become a hero in his own right by ensuring the survival of the medium. Now, he says, “I’ve fulfilled my childhood dream” and donated the 75,000 comics he’s amassed over the decades to the Penn Libraries. Valued at \$500,000, they will reside at the Jay I. Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts.

“I’m thrilled that they’re going to a safe place,” Prebula says, “and that they will survive longer than I will.”

Faster than he could say *I’ve got an allowance*, Prebula began collecting. He and his best buddy religiously trolled drugstores and newsstands in their hometown of Butler, Pennsylvania. He started with the DC universe of Batman and Superman. Then he fell hard for Marvel comics, whose settings resembled those inhabited by ordinary Americans.

“They were more relatable,” Prebula says. “At the beginning [of *The Amazing Spiderman*], Peter Parker is just a kid having a hard time in high school, he doesn’t really fit in. The fear of radiation was very prominent in the ’60s ... and then he goes and gets bit by a radioactive spider. Comic books are very cultural,” the 74-year-old adds. “They explain us. It’s a subtle anthropology, but people can decipher it. These stories shaped the way I view society and the way I think.”

After his time at Penn, Prebula and his wife, Dawn, moved to Los Angeles so he could pursue a career in cable television and film production. His collecting accelerated and he started spending hundreds of dollars a week on new releases, while also filling in gaps. Soon, according to Dawn, “Our closets were stuffed with comics, and Gary’s office was filled from floor to ceiling.” In 1994, in the wake of the calamitous Northridge earthquake, the couple was compelled to build a “vault” under their porch to better house and protect their fragile treasures.

When Kislak Center director Sean Quimby traveled to meet the couple, he was amazed at the “breadth and depth of the material. With decades and decades of collecting, there can be almost complete arcs for, say, Superman—and we also get to see the introduction of characters like Black Panther, who first appeared in *Fantastic Four* in 1966.”

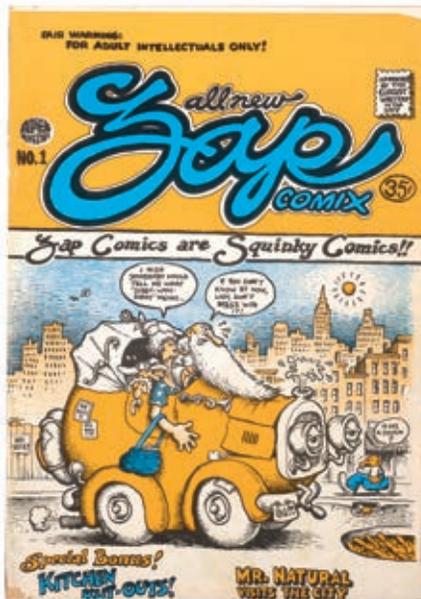
A comic book fan himself, Quimby says that revisiting the hobby of his youth was a case of “fandom colliding with professionalism. I mean, I would have passed out as a kid at the idea of handling the first issue of *The X-Men*.” Prebula’s collection includes two copies of that 1963 Marvel comic. They aren’t especially rare, though, nor are Prebula’s in mint condition. In 2022, a more pristine copy of the issue fetched its highest price yet at auction—\$872,000. Prebula’s pair have been collectively appraised at \$35,000.

Because Prebula was intent on buying up and stowing away for posterity as many comics as he could, he didn’t put a premium on practices like placing the books in protective sleeves or organizing them in any fashion. “He just tossed the newest ones he’d bought on top of a pile, so digging through them is like going through sedimentary layers of time,” says Quimby.

Seeking help to organize the material for preservation, Prebula turned to Golden Age Comics, the legendary Los Angeles purveyor that bills itself as a “Comic Shop to the Stars.” For years, Prebula had been treated like a celebrity there, given pre-opening access to roam the aisles on his own.

Intrigued by the idea of working with Prebula on his donation, Golden Age’s owners established a 501(c)3, Golden Apple Comic & Art Foundation, devoted to pairing donors with libraries and museums. It took responsibility for getting Prebula’s comics wrapped, catalogued, appraised, and boxed into 150 or so containers.

Prebula’s huge collection is a significant contribution to a relatively new area within the Kislak Center, comics and



graphic novels. Kickstarted in 2008 by a donation from Steven Rothman C’75 [“Open Treasure,” Mar[Apr 2009], such works are of interest both contextually and materially, according to Quimby. “The comic industry really changed over time,” he says. “My father grew up in the ’40s and ’50s and thought I should have aged out of them by the time I was 10.” Yet the medium grew up as the 20th century progressed. By the 1980s, comics were metaphorically and directly referencing contemporary issues like apartheid, the AIDS



“Comic book universes have become a mythology—a lingua franca.”

epidemic, power dynamics, race and class, and crime and vigilantism. Moreover, adds Quimby, “visual and material culture is a growing area of interest for Kislak, so we’d be negligent not to include one of the most prolific formats of the 20th century. Comic book universes have become a mythology—a lingua franca.”

Quimby expects Prebula’s comics to be used by students taking one of several courses on the medium taught by Jean-Christophe Cloutier, an associate professor of English and comparative literature and the undergraduate chair of the department, as well as by other researchers. There’s also programming potential—including exhibitions and events—once the material is fully integrated into the holdings.

“Penn made me who I am today,” says Prebula. “All of my success was because of them, so I’m returning a favor. At first, I felt like I was losing part of me, then I realized that I am taking care of part of me.”

—JoAnn Greco



A Brave New Home

Why a longtime banker launched a new career to “serve our veterans.” ▶

Every year on the Sunday before Christmas, Vince Santilli C'84 would arrive at Homes for the Brave with his fellow Knights of Columbus, care packages in tow. He'd been organizing these visits since 2002, toting bags filled with playing cards, back scratchers, toothbrushes, and coffee mugs from room to room.

"We just brought things that were intended to brighten the veterans' days," Santilli says. That's who the Bridgeport, Connecticut, nonprofit institute serves: people who are experiencing homelessness, almost all of them veterans.

When he wasn't acting as "the Knight Before Christmas," as he says people began calling him, Santilli worked a few blocks away as an executive at People's United Bank. Today he can see that bank building from his new office—the one inside Homes for the Brave, where he has served as CEO and executive director since 2016.

"I've only gone a few blocks," he says, "but certainly it's an entirely different world."

Why did a career-long banker ditch the corporate suite to run a niche nonprofit? "Maybe I was meant to be here," he says. Inspired by his dad, who had fought in World War II, he'd planned to enroll at West Point. But his medical exam revealed a hearing issue, so Santilli instead attended Penn, which then led him into banking. "I think Homes for the Brave has become my opportunity to serve our country and our

veterans," he says.

In just seven years, he's more than doubled the organization's budget (from \$1.7 million in 2016 to \$3.6 million in 2023) and added three more housing facilities, for a total of six. Under Santilli's leadership, Homes for the Brave serves dozens of veterans on any given day through four transitional housing facilities, one permanent house, and a drop-in annex space. Most of these veterans are dealing with substance-abuse issues or mental-health struggles, on top of their lack of housing. A significant number have just left prison. Homes for the Brave helps them find permanent homes while also offering mental-health support, addiction services, vocational programs, and job-search assistance.

"The needs are there," Santilli says. "So many of them are struggling. We're happy to be meeting those needs and giving our veterans clean and safe facilities to get them back on their feet."

"And we have some incredible success stories," he adds. Romano Dickey, a former resident of Homes for the Brave who is now its director of maintenance, is one of them. Dickey arrived at Homes for the Brave around the same time Santilli became its leader. It was Dickey's third time there, and he'd come back determined to conquer his addiction, stay out of prison, and change his life for good. "They helped get me a job, they helped get me an apart-

"The needs are there. So many of them are struggling. We're happy to be meeting those needs and giving our veterans clean and safe facilities to get them back on their feet."

ment, and they practically turned my whole life around," Dickey says, "because my life was messed up when I came here."

Santilli watched as Dickey put in the work and became a model resident. When Dickey was preparing to leave, Santilli hired him—first as a house monitor, and now as head of maintenance. "That sends a message to the men and women that are with us now," Santilli says. *"This guy was in jail like I was. He had a substance addiction that he was able to overcome and I can do that, too. He's a role model and he's a beacon of hope."*

While helping those around him change for the better, Santilli says he hasn't changed much himself, from one career to another. "I was somebody who always had a lot of compassion for people," he says. "My college roommates—my Penn pals, as I call them—would probably tell you I'm the exact same person I was when I was 18."

"He's exactly the same person," confirms Richard Bilotti W'84, his friend of 44 years. "Vince always took the optimistic point of view on everything. He still does. He had his own set of nicknames for everybody. He still uses them. And he was very religious then and is still very religious today."

Santilli's parents were Catholic, but he says their attendance at Mass was sporadic. His wasn't. He remembers, at 14 years old, putting on nice clothes and riding his bike to church alone on Sundays. "I can't explain that to you," he says. "It just felt like it was a comfortable place for me."

When he arrived at Penn, he quickly found his way to the Newman Center, where he remained involved and active throughout his years on campus. Bilotti remembers Santilli convincing their friends to join him for Mass and dinner at Roy Rogers on Sunday nights. Bilotti had already pivoted away from Catholicism, "but for those four years, I went to Mass," he says, "because Vince said we should go."

"In an understated way, the man is extremely persuasive," Bilotti adds. "He has a remarkable ability to gain people's loyalty. I can't identify what it specifically is about him that causes people to gravitate towards him, but I do think he's very earnest. What he says is what he means. And he's never half-way on anything."

That includes his fitness. Bilotti recalls Santilli working out in the gym while "I was

generally working off a hang-over,” and these days Dickey notices how “he moves like he’s young,” jogging to his office if he needs to take a call.

“I’ve always had a lot of energy,” admits Santilli, who played briefly on the sprint football team at Penn (and played racquetball right before this interview with the *Gazette*). Maybe that’s why, as so many of his friends have been entering retirement or semi-retirement, Santilli launched a whole new nonprofit career on top of an assistant coaching gig for the University of Bridgeport’s NCAA Division II women’s basketball team. He also coaches soccer in the local Special Olympics and is still active with the Knights of Columbus.

“As long as I have the energy and the vigor to be able to do all these things, I’ll work as hard as I can for as long as I can,” he says, “and serve others to the extent I’m able to.”

When he looks to the future of Homes for the Brave, Santilli hopes to focus more on permanent housing for veterans. He envisions a community of tiny homes, 40 or 50 of them, each about 350 to 400 square feet, arranged in a ring with a community center in the middle for fitness equipment, laundry facilities, a cafeteria, and case-management support.

“It’s so difficult for them to find clean, safe and affordable housing, and I think this really could work,” he says. “So that, God willing, is our next frontier.”

—Molly Petrilla C’06

Going Viral

The head of a clinical biopharmaceutical company may be on the cusp of a bladder cancer treatment breakthrough.



Each year, more than 80,000 people in the US are diagnosed with bladder cancer. About 75 percent of these cases are non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC), which means the cancer is only found in the tissue that lines the inner bladder and has not invaded the surrounding bladder muscle, making it easier to treat. The five-year survival rate for these patients is relatively high if the cancer is detected and treated early.

There’s just one problem. One of the most effective treatments for the most aggressive types of NMIBC is a drug called BCG that has been in an acute shortage for more than a decade. BCG is short for *Bacillus Calmette-Guérin*, a bacterium that was original-

ly used to treat tuberculosis and became the frontline treatment for bladder cancer in the 1970s due to its high response rate and low cost. But BCG is challenging to produce and generates low profits, which has caused several manufacturers to exit the market. Today there is only a single pharmaceutical company in the United States producing this critical drug and each year nearly 10,000 bladder cancer patients in need of BCG are unable to access this life-saving treatment.

The good news is that after more than a decade of effort Arthur Kuan C’12 is closing in on a solution. CG Oncology, the company he runs as CEO, is in the final stages of its third clinical trial for a new approach to treating

NMIBC that could save the lives of thousands of patients each year who either can’t access BCG or don’t respond to the treatment. The solution, like BCG, is based in biology. But instead of using bacteria to kill bladder cancer, Kuan and his team have enlisted the help of genetically modified viruses, an approach known as oncolytic immunotherapy.

“One of the biggest challenges with bladder cancer is that it keeps recurring and any treatment you put inside the bladder will be urinated out within a few hours,” Kuan says. “But with an infectious agent like a virus it naturally wants to infect these tissue cells—so it can stay in there for a long period of time.”

Cancer immunotherapy is an approach to treatment developed in the early 1990s that works by inducing the frontline soldiers in the body’s immune system—a type of white blood cell called T-cells—to selectively attack cancer cells. Over the past three decades, it’s proven to be remarkably effective for treating a broad range of cancers and in 2018 two scientists involved in its discovery received a Nobel prize for their work. But the rise of immunotherapy also revealed a surprising capability in cancer to adapt and evade attacks from the body’s immune system. As the body ramps up its attack on cancer cells, the tumors adapt by changing characteristics of its phenotype that the T-cells use to identify and attack them. It’s as if the cancer de-

velops a cloaking mechanism that makes it invisible to the body's immune system.

Oncolytic immunotherapy is a relatively new approach to cancer treatment that was developed to sidestep cancer's adaptive response. It works by genetically altering adenoviruses—a family of viruses that can cause illnesses such as colds, sore throat, bronchitis, and pneumonia—so that they selectively hijack the cellular machinery of cancer cells and turn them into virus factories. As the viruses rapidly replicate in the cancer cells, they eventually cause the cancer cell to burst open, destroying it and also exposing other nearby cancer cells to the swarm of cancer-killing viruses.

Oncolytic immunotherapy has shown promise in clinical trials for a broad range of cancers. But so far only a single viral immunotherapy for cancer has been approved by the FDA, which underscores how hard it is to bring a new cancer treatment to patients. It can often take up to a decade and cost hundreds of millions of dollars to research and develop new treatments and then shepherd them through three clinical trials. In fact, over 90 percent of new cancer treatments tested in phase I trials never make it to market.

Kuan's entrepreneurial verve and experience in biology are an ideal combination for tackling such a formidable challenge. But if you had told him when he graduated from Penn that within 15 years, he'd be at the helm of the company pioneering one



“When my father passed away from pancreatic cancer, I knew I had to help patients like him who need more options.”

of the biggest breakthroughs in NMIBC treatment in nearly half a century, he wouldn't have believed you.

It wasn't for a lack of entrepreneurialism. As a student at Penn, Kuan cofounded a boba shop called Boba Bros and launched the International Genetically Engineered Machines club, which was dedicated to applying engineering principles to biology to explore synthetic biology applications.

But when he left the University with a degree in molecular biology, he decided to dive into the world of venture capital in the life sciences. Kuan spent his first three years after graduating as an investment analyst living in Asia, where his primary directive was helping identify and evaluate promising new biotech startups. It was during this time that Kuan discovered CG Oncology, which at the time had just completed its Phase I clinical trial for its new approach to treating NMIBC. Kuan was intrigued by what the company was doing, but it was only once

his father passed away from pancreatic cancer that he decided that working on saving the lives of cancer patients was where he should concentrate all of his energy.

“This isn't a path I would've predicted,” Kuan says. “Investing could have taken me to the end of my career and it's extremely, extremely challenging to develop a new drug for cancer patients. But what CG was developing was so compelling that when my father passed from pancreatic cancer after receiving chemotherapy with no immunotherapy options, I knew I had to help patients like him who need more options.”

Kuan joined CG Oncology in 2015 as the company's chief operating officer, a position he held for a year before taking over as CEO. During his time at the helm, Kuan has ushered the company through its Phase II and Phase III clinical trials, which finished enrolling patients in late 2023. Earlier this year, Kuan also took the company public in this year's largest biotech IPO offering with the company raising \$437 million. He expects the money to support the company until it submits its application to bring its treatment to market.

In May, CG Oncology reported initial results from its Phase III trial, which is targeting high-risk NMIBC patients who have received BCG but didn't respond or whose cancer recurred. Out of the 105 patients included in the results, 75 percent of them—79 participants—saw complete tumor response with

minimal adverse side effects from the treatment. “The safety profile is also important for this population, which is generally in the 72- to 75-year-old range, but no one dropped out of this study due to an adverse event,” Kuan says. “Those results are pretty impressive, and we're really encouraged.”

Kuan expects final data from the Phase III trial to be published by the end of this year. At that point, the company will submit its application to the FDA to sell the treatment. If it's approved, it may be available to BCG-unresponsive bladder cancer patients as soon as 2026. In the meantime, Kuan and his team at CG Oncology have also launched a Phase III trial for applying its new treatment to bladder cancer patients who have never been treated with BCG. If it's successful, it could go a long way toward helping the thousands of patients each year who are affected by the ongoing BCG shortage. Kuan is also optimistic that CG Oncology's approach could one day be adapted to other types of cancer. But for now, he says, it's important for the company to remain laser focused on the unmet needs of NMIBC patients.

“There are so many stakeholders you have to think about when developing a new drug for cancer and it's easy to get pulled in so many different directions,” Kuan says. “It's really important in that case to center yourself and refocus on your true north: helping patients.”

—Daniel Oberhaus



A Suite Way to Fly

Reimagining the airport experience for premium travelers.

Imagine boarding a commercial flight without having to set foot in the chaotic airport.

PS, a private airline terminal run by Amina Belouizdad Porter WG'13, makes that possible. Already serving travelers in Los Angeles and Atlanta, with Dallas and Miami coming next year, “the goal is to have a PS at every major airport by 2030,” she says.

Customers can either pay around \$1,000 to access PS once or pay an annual membership of almost \$5,000. For that, they get driven to a secure, industrial location on the perimeter of the airport neighboring maintenance facilities and cargo holds.

When they arrive, they are ushered into a luxurious lounge that includes craft cocktails, facials, and lawn games. A staff member takes their IDs and bags, checks them into their flight, and notifies them when it’s time for takeoff, at which point they are taken through security in a private room and driven, via the tarmac, to a commercial plane, whose cabin they board by a staircase instead of the jetway.

Upon landing, the same process happens in reverse. Guests are taken from the plane to the private terminal via the tarmac where someone collects their bags, stamps their passports, and

arranges transportation for them while they sip champagne and relax.

“Our customers are not in a resort where they have all the time in the world; they are trying to make a plane,” Porter says. “But we make them feel like they are at that resort.”

Porter didn’t invent this model. In 2018 she was tapped to be the CEO of PS by TPG, a private equity firm based in Texas that had invested in a business that provides security guards to the world’s most influential people. “The founder of that company had seen his clients use a similar service to what is now PS in Heathrow, and he pitched the idea of doing

it in the United States,” she explains. “It made sense because in the US, unfortunately, airports have become a security product, not a hospitality product. They are crowded, they are not pleasant experiences.”

With a background in hospitality and real estate—and a hunger to create something new—she felt perfectly placed to lead a new venture. “I am drawn to doing things that have never been done,” she says.

Porter grew up in Algeria but spent most of her formative years in Abu Dhabi. Growing up she always wanted to live and work in the US. “The American dream was real for me,” she says. “I watched *Saved by the Bell* and *Beverly Hills, 90210* and read *OK! Magazine* and consumed all things American. I knew in my bones I was going to move to the United States.” Still, it took a while.

She got close as an undergraduate at McGill University in Montreal, where her aunt lived. There she studied finance, which “felt like a path that secured your future,” she says. After college, she moved to Shanghai, where she worked as a financial analyst for a hotel investment fund before helping to start URBN, an early boutique hotel in the city. “It was fun to create this category from scratch in China,” she says. “I learned the importance of creating a *vibe*, for lack of a better word.”

Realizing she didn’t want to stay in China and looking for her next step, she applied to

The PS private terminals in Atlanta (facing page) and Los Angeles (below) offer luxurious spaces to customers waiting for their commercial flights.

Wharton. “I needed to go somewhere that would polish up my rough edges and give me the language to apply the lessons I already learned,” she says. At Wharton she double majored in real estate and finance, and she served as president of the Wharton

from a wingsuit BASE jumping accident in the French Alps. (Porter is now remarried and has a baby.)

It was during that traumatic time that TGP approached Porter to helm PS. “At that point I needed to throw myself into something new

lease space to her has become easier since they are building a track record in two cities.

“The model has been proven, but also the benefits to the airport have been proven,” she says. “Atlanta is a big fan of ours because it elevates them.” For example, she contends, it helped the city win a bid to host 2026 FIFA World Cup games because they could show they could protect and provide for VIPs, dignitaries, and royals.

their planes.” Only an empty space on the edge of an airfield will do.

PS also has to work with TSA and US Customs and Border Protection to set up private spaces where patrons can be screened for security and go through customs when they land. “We fit out the spaces and buy the necessary equipment, and then we reimburse agents for their time,” Porter says. Being able to set up that system required congressional approval, something they achieved in the early stages of the business.

Another piece of the puzzle is working with airlines to be able to check in guests and their luggage and get them onto the airplane. The company works with nearly all major airlines, who Porter says are “happy to let us take care” of hospitality for them and “view us as a halo now because we cater to a very specific, very niche premium traveler.” She says in recent years airlines have grown even more cooperative since they’ve experienced overcrowding in their own VIP airport lounges.

These intricate dynamics are one of the reasons Porter doesn’t expect any competitors in the private airline terminal business for the foreseeable future. With all the stakeholders involved, “it’s a very complex operation,” she says. “It’s funny because the barriers to entry for this business are also the blessings. It would take another player at least five years to catch up to us.”

—Alyson Krueger C’07

“Our customers are trying to make a plane. But we are making them feel like they are at a resort.”



Real Estate Club. One of her fondest memories was organizing a trip to Dubai. “I reached out cold to all these Penn alums in the city,” she says. “These were big important people doing big important jobs, and they all responded immediately and enthusiastically and were so happy to host us.”

She also met, for the first time in her life, “her people,” including Alex Sonnenberg WG’12, a former Navy SEAL who soon became her husband. “We met at a Wharton event, and he had such a different life experience than me but was cut from the same cloth,” she says. They moved together to Houston after graduating, and both worked at private equity firms, until he died tragically in 2018



and something hard and all-encompassing,” she says. “They asked if I would move to LA, and I was like, ‘I would move anywhere.’”

Porter quickly learned that it’s complicated to set up a private terminal at airports, which are controlled by various public entities. But she says convincing airports to

But even if PS can convince an airport to rent them space for a private terminal, it must be situated perfectly. “The building, by design, has to be consumer facing, because people have to be able to access it from a public road,” she says. “But it also has to back onto a tarmac so we can get people to

“Lloyd Remick W’59 and I ... still have a monthly lunch to catch up and enjoy past memories and hopefully future days. It’s been 65 years since our time at Penn. What’s up with some of our old buddies?”

—Gerald Rosenthal W’59

1958

Michael Lewis C’58 Gr’62 retired on January 1 as University Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry Emeritus at Rutgers University. He had worked at the medical school for 43 years. Among many accolades, Michael was most recently awarded the 2022 Rutgers RBHS Chancellor’s Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Award. He lives in Manhattan, where he continues to lecture worldwide and is working on a new book of essays, *On the Nature of Human Development: An Epigenetic Perspective*.

1959

Gerald Rosenthal W’59 writes, “**Lloyd Remick W’59** and I have been best friends for 80 years. We met at age six in elementary school.” They attended junior high, high school, and Wharton together. “After service in the Army, we have remained friends, shared mutual clients, and both like the great jazz legend Grover Washington Jr. We still have a monthly lunch to catch up and enjoy past memories and hopefully future days. It’s been 65 years since our time at Penn. What’s up with some of our old buddies?”

1960

Roger Colley W’60, a semi-retired business executive and former trustee of the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, has self-published a new novel, *Conflict: In My City of Brotherly Love*. In the story, Joe Robinson, a child in the Philadelphia public school system, overcomes many challenges while growing up in one of the poorest big cities in the nation to ultimately achieve success.

Albert M. Tantala C’60 CE’61 has been named trustee emeritus of the Board of Trustees of Holy Family University, in Philadelphia and Newtown, Pennsylvania. He has been a trustee for 42 years, the longest-serving trustee in the university’s history.

1962

Steve Stovall W’62 ASC’63 ran in the BOLDERBoulder 10k on Memorial Day in Boulder, Colorado. He finished the race in 1:21:02, good for 21,787th place out of more than 40,000 participants and second out of 12 men in the 83-year-old age group. He writes, “Post-race activities included a Marine Corps flyover, parachutists representing all four armed services, and an incredible silent drill presentation by the Marine Corps Drill Team. I wore my Penn shirt as

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

I do in all my races. I’ve made distance running my retirement career. Other retired alums publish books, contribute their expertise to worthy causes, as well as many other praiseworthy pursuits, while I train and compete as a distance runner.”

1963

Martin Fritzhand C’63, an 80-year-old doctor from Cincinnati, shares that in January he completed a grueling 135-mile trail run in Brazil for the fifth time, breaking his own record as the oldest finisher in the ultramarathon. One month later, he finished second in his age group (men over 80) at the 2024 Jackpot Ultra Running Race Festival 100-mile national championship in Henderson, Nevada.

Martin Oppenheimer Gr’63 has published a new book, *The Rise and Fall of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee*, which he describes as “a short history of the most important student civil rights organization of the 1960s from its prehistory to its ending in 1973.”

Mark H. Shapiro G’63 Gr’66 writes, “The rate of global warming, driven largely by positive climate feedback factors along with a contribution from the recent El Niño, appears to be entering a new and dangerous phase. In my YouTube video ‘Global Warming Is Accelerating,’ I provide evidence that global warming has been accelerating recently, and I explain the positive feedback climate factors that are causing this increase in the rate of global warming.” This and other videos can be viewed at youtube.com/@DrMarkHShapiro.

1966

Rhona Gorsky Reiss OT'66 writes, "I continue to be an active and energetic disability advocate with a passion for life and helping others. I retired in 2007 from a 40-plus-year career as an occupational therapist, which included providing direct service to children and young adults with disabilities in clinical settings, public and private schools, and group homes. I also held positions as a university professor and academic administrator and provided consulting services to community healthcare agencies and universities. In 1995 I was selected to serve as the director of education for the American Occupational Therapy Association in Bethesda, Maryland. Since my retirement I continue to advocate for people living with physical and mental challenges." Rhona has served as an outreach volunteer for the National Alliance for Mental Illness, a member of the Montgomery County Food Council's Food Security Community Advisory Board, a community outreach specialist, and a life coach. She received her master's degree from the University of Florida, and her PhD in higher education from the University of North Texas. "I have lived and worked in Philadelphia, Chicago, Dallas, and Washington, DC; was an invited international consultant in Sydney, Australia, in 1984; and taught in a college in Tokyo from 1972 to 1974."

1967

Martin Redish C'67, a professor of law and public policy at Northwestern University, has published a new book, *Due Process as American Democracy*, a part of the Theoretical Perspectives in Law series from Oxford University Press. From the press materials, the book "provides an entirely fresh and provocative view of American political theory, outlines an original linkage of American political thought to constitutional theory, [and] urges dramatic alterations in areas of modern civil procedure and constitutional law."

Eric R. White GEd'67 GrEd'75 coauthored the chapter "Academic Advising" in the recently published *Rentz's Student Affairs*

Practice in Higher Education, Sixth Edition (Charles C. Thomas Publisher, 2024).

1969

Joseph H. Cooper W'69 L'72 reports that his latest picture book, *How'd They Do That? Grandparents Answer Questions about the Wright Brothers and Amelia Earhart*, was called "an informative and engaging survey of aviation pioneers, perfect for kids, adult caregivers, and STEM educators" by *Kirkus Reviews*. *AviationBookReviews.com* said, "The title of this book tells it all. [It is especially recommended] for kids who [want] to learn more about the great adventures of the heroes that conquered the skies in the early years of the last century."

Bob London C'69 GEd'71 has published his fourth book, *Introducing Nonroutine Math Problems to Secondary Learners: 60+ Engaging Examples and Strategies to Improve Higher-Order Problem-Solving Skills* (Routledge, 2024). Bob shares that the book "describes in detail an innovative holistic and process-oriented approach to mathematics education that allows students access to understanding the process skills of a mathematician not only to learn new mathematics, but also to solve meaningful non-routine problems in their day-to-day life."

1972

Donald C. Klawiter C'72 G'72 L'75 was honored on May 3 in Washington, DC, at the George Washington University Law School, as an "institution builder" for his many contributions to competition law. A former official in the Antitrust Division of the US Department of Justice and past chair of the American Bar Association's section of antitrust law, Don represents clients around the world from his office in the Washington area.

1973

Dr. Robert Grossman M'73 received the Distinguished Alumni Award at the Tulane University 2024 Alumni Awards Gala on April 20 in New Orleans. Dr. Grossman is currently the chief executive officer of NYU Langone Health and dean of NYU Grossman School of Medicine. He leads one of

the largest health systems in the Northeast, and since his tenure, the school has become the first nationally ranked program offering full-tuition scholarships and a three-year MD pathway to all students.

1974

Claire Moray Leininger DH'74 see **Eric Leininger C'75**.

Michael T. Shutterly C'74 shares that he was excited to return to Penn for Alumni Weekend to celebrate his 50th Reunion, "which coincides almost exactly with my celebrating my fifth year of remission from a rather unpleasant cancer thingy. During chemotherapy I was told I had only a 30 percent shot at surviving five years, so I am quite pleased to have beaten the odds. (If I had NOT beaten the odds, I wouldn't be able to celebrate my class reunion, which would suck, since I had been really looking forward to it.) I celebrated surviving cancer by getting an earring (the only jewelry I own other than my wedding ring). I haven't figured out quite what to do to celebrate my 50th Reunion: thought about getting a tattoo, but decided that putting a tattoo on my body would be like putting a bumper sticker on a Lamborghini, so that's out. I'll think of something."

1975

Harvey Greene C'75 is the recipient of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Award of Excellence for his work as a public relations director for the Miami Dolphins, where he worked for 33 years. Harvey writes, "In addition to my work with the Dolphins, over the past few years I have served as an advance press lead for the White House, and when they heard about the award, President and Dr. Biden wrote me a letter of congratulations, and much to my surprise, the letter was delivered to me in person by the First Lady herself at an event where I served as her press lead. ... It's an honor I'm very proud of because there are so many outstanding individuals who are deserving of that recognition. To be selected from that talented pool is something I never expected, and I'm honored to be included in such a distinguished group."

Jim Hunt WG'75 has joined the board of St John's hospital in Jackson, Wyoming, as its treasurer. His other board work includes PennyMac Financial Services, Cartiga, Hunt Companies, and Aspida LLC.

Eric Leininger C'75 and **Claire Moray Leininger DH'74** share that they "had a wonderful reunion with High Rise East floor-mate **Bob Halliday W'76 WG'77** after a 45-year hiatus. Great to see you, Bob and Lucy."

1976

Bob Halliday W'76 WG'77 see **Eric Leininger C'75**.

Steve Stecklow C'76, a London-based global investigative reporter with *Reuters*, was part of the team that won a 2024 Pulitzer Prize in National Reporting. The prize was awarded "for an eye-opening series of accountability stories focused on **Elon Musk [C'97 W'97]**'s automobile and aerospace businesses, stories that displayed remarkable breadth and depth and provoked official probes of his companies' practices in Europe and the United States." The series also won the George Polk Award for Business Reporting. Steve previously shared a Pulitzer Prize in International Reporting in 2019 and a Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in 2007 while at the *Wall Street Journal*. He was also a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2020, 2017, and 2003.

1978

Dr. Steven Potashnick GD'78 is a dentist and author of a new book, *The Art and History of the Toothpick: Catalog of the World's Largest Collection*. Referencing over 1,500 toothpicks dating from classical antiquity to the Victorian era, the book is based on the largest collection of toothpicks that presently exists and is illustrated with nearly 2,800 high-quality images.

Paul Root Wolpe C'78 is stepping down as director of the Center for Ethics at Emory University to start another project for the university: the establishment of a center for conflict management, mediation, civic dialogue, and peacebuilding. Having started a sabbatical year on June 1, he is traveling with his wife, **Valerie Root Wolpe C'79 GEd'84**, to centers that do this

work throughout the world—The Hague, Oslo, Geneva, Belfast, Johannesburg, the Middle East, and other areas. He plans to spend three years building the center and then retire. Paul was on the faculty at Penn for 20 years before moving to Emory, in the departments of sociology, medical ethics, and psychiatry (and at the now defunct Center for Bioethics).

1979

Valerie Root Wolpe C'79 GEd'84 see **Paul Root Wolpe C'78**.

1981

Steve Lonergan Gr'81, professor emeritus of geography at the University of Victoria in Canada, has coauthored a new book, *The Ghosts of Iraq's Marshes: A History of Conflict, Tragedy, and Restoration*. According to the press materials, the book is described as a "gripping history of the devastation and resurrection of the Marshes of Iraq, an environmental treasure of the Middle East, now a protected site."

Andrew Sillen Gr'81 has authored a new book, *Kidnapped at Sea: The Civil War Voyage of David Henry White*, which will be released October 8 by Johns Hopkins University Press. According to the publisher's website, the book tells "the true story of David Henry White, a free Black teenage sailor enslaved on the high seas during the Civil War, whose life was falsely and intentionally appropriated to advance the Lost Cause trope of a contented slave, happy and safe in servility." Andrew is a visiting research scholar in anthropology at Rutgers University. He was formerly a professor of paleoanthropology and the founding director of development at the University of Cape Town and the vice president of institutional advancement at Brooklyn College.

Joanne Spigonardo CGS'81 WEv'06, a senior advisor at the Water Center at Penn, writes, "If you are interested in Italian immigration and the resiliency of women you may be interested in reading my book, *White Widow*." From the book's description: "In the early 20th century there was a large migration of southern Italian men to the United

States. ... The husbands were gone for decades or they never returned. The term White Widow can refer to these women as well as others that were not recognized as married by local governments. ... White Widows were independent and, regardless of their circumstances, they overcame obstacles and became true heroines of the era." The book is available on Amazon and Kindle.

1982

Rhonda D. Hibbler C'82 has retired as production director at WPEN 97.5 The Fanatic in Philadelphia. She was recently inducted into the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia Hall of Fame, the first non-air personality to receive this honor ["Alumni Notes," May/June 2024].

Lena Stringari CGS'82 has been appointed chief of conservation by the National Gallery of Art. Lena comes to the National Gallery following a long career at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, where she served most recently as deputy director and Andrew W. Mellon Chief Conservator.

1984

Fraidoon 'Fred' Al-Nakib GFA'84 see **Nancy Bea Miller C'85**.

Brian S. Becker C'84 recently retired from his law practice and published his first book, *Memoir of a Mascot: Life as the Penn Quaker*, in which he shares his memories from his time at Penn as well as life beyond.

Charles A. O'Hay C'84 writes, "Unlike so many of my esteemed classmates, I've spent the past four decades since graduation not building a career but grappling with my personal demons. I have no credentials or awards to show, no achievements to list. I've never been anyone's boss, nor am I likely to be. My experiences, however, have produced three simple ideas I'd like to share: Accept that all is flux. Love and be loved fully. Lengthen your line without shortening that of another."

1985

Nancy Bea Miller C'85 exhibited her recent paintings at F.A.N. Gallery in Philadelphia during the month of June. She writes,

“Interestingly, F.A.N. Gallery is owned and run by another Penn alum, **Fraidoon ‘Fred’ Al-Nakib GFA’84**.” Nancy and Fred’s years at Penn overlapped, but they did not meet until years later. This is Nancy’s third solo show at Fred’s gallery.

Hilarie Lauter Morgan Gr’85, Mitchell L. Morgan, and their family have made a significant contribution to fund the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia’s Morgan Center for Research and Innovation, currently under construction and scheduled to open in 2025. The 17-story, 350,000-square-foot facility will significantly expand CHOP’s laboratory research capacity. The Morgans’ children are **Jonathan R. Morgan C’07**, who is married to Alexandra Morgan; **Brittany A. Morgan C’10**, who is married to Zach Kurz; and **Jason A. Morgan W’13**, who is married to **Jessica Morgan C’14**.

Hon. Bruce A. Roth C’85 writes, “After 24 years on the bench, I retired as a magisterial district judge in the city of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I am a partner in the law firm of May Herr & Grosh, also in Lancaster, where I have a lively personal injury practice. Finally, I continue to run a boutique vintage guitar shop called Vintage Blues Guitars. You can reach me at brabejo@aol.com.”

Felicia Staub C’85 is a mediator, working for the Dispute Resolution Center of Snohomish, Island, & Skagit Counties in Washington, as well for her own mediation practice Empowered Communication and for the Sound Options Group. This year, Felicia was the recipient of the Champion award from the Washington Mediation Association, given to “someone who has made a significant impact and raised awareness in the field.” She is also about to begin a monthly podcast on mediation. Felicia shares that she’s “very dedicated to her field of mediation and loves living in Washington State,” where she’s been since the late 1980s with her husband, son, and two cats.

1988

John P. Halfpenny C’88 practices criminal defense law with the Shreve Law Group in Harrisburg and may be reached at John.P.Halfpenny@gmail.com.

1989

Laura Leahy Nu’89 GNu’91 see **Darlene D. Pedersen GNu’97**.

1990

Kathy Boockvar C’90, former Pennsylvania Secretary of State [“Alumni Profiles,” Sep/Oct 2020], has been honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from American University’s Washington College of Law. The award recognized Kathy for her “exceptional professional and personal achievements, extraordinary distinction in her chosen field, and demonstrated commitment to the betterment of the law school.”

1991

Melissa Jacoby C’91L’94, a law professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has authored a new book, *Unjust Debts: How Our Bankruptcy System Makes America More Unequal*.

Jodi Golant Solovy C’91 writes, “I have written and self-published my debut novel, *Midlife Mischief*. It’s the sweet and spicy tale of a middle-aged woman finding her way back to joy after her kids have grown up and her husband has grown bored. When her old love from 30 years ago suddenly reappears, nothing is as simple as it seems. The main character in the book attended Penn and there are fun anecdotes about being a Penn student in the early ’90s that alumni will certainly remember and appreciate. You can follow my journey to becoming an author on my Substack, ‘Jodi’s Jaunts.’”

Ben Yagoda C’91, professor emeritus of English at the University of Delaware and longtime *Gazette* contributor, has published a new book, *Gobsmacked!: The British Invasion of American English*. Ben has published more than a dozen books, including *Will Rogers: A Biography*; *About Town: “The New Yorker” and the World It Made*; *When You Catch an Adjective, Kill It: The Parts of Speech, for Better and/or Worse*; and *The Sound on the Page: Style and Voice in Writing*. His blog, *Not One-Off Britishisms*, has been visited more than 3 million times.

1992

Paul Kapp GFA’92, an architecture professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, has been awarded a 2024 Guggenheim Fellowship.

1993

Ryan Limaye EAS’93 W’93 WG’93 see **Joey Levin EAS’01 W’01**.

1994

Dr. Christopher Feddock C’94 has been named vice president of competency-based assessment at the National Board of Medical Examiners. He joined the organization in 2020 as the executive director of the clinical skills evaluation collaboration.

Dr. Adam Scioli C’94 has been promoted to chief medical officer at Caron Treatment Centers, a nonprofit behavioral healthcare facility headquartered in Wernersville, Pennsylvania, with campuses in Pennsylvania and Florida.

1995

Brian Staub C’95, who lives on the Upper West Side of Manhattan with his wife and two teenage sons, writes, “After a 20-year career in financial services, I changed careers and attended culinary school, and in December of 2023, I opened my first restaurant. It is called Haven UWS, and is located at 226 West 79th St. We are an upscale casual bar and restaurant serving elevated and unique preparations of familiar dishes and innovative cocktails. We are open for dinner seven days per week and brunch on weekends.”

1997

Darlene D. Pedersen GNu’97, the author of *PsychNotes: Clinical Pocket Guide, Sixth Edition*, shares that she is “pleased that **Laura Leahy Nu’89 GNu’91** has agreed to bring her extensive expertise in psychopharmacology, as a psych DrNP, a clinical expert, author, and senior lecturer at Penn to coauthor and shepherd the seventh edition of *PsychNotes* and any editions that follow.”

Norrin Ripsman Gr’97, a professor of international relations at Lehigh University

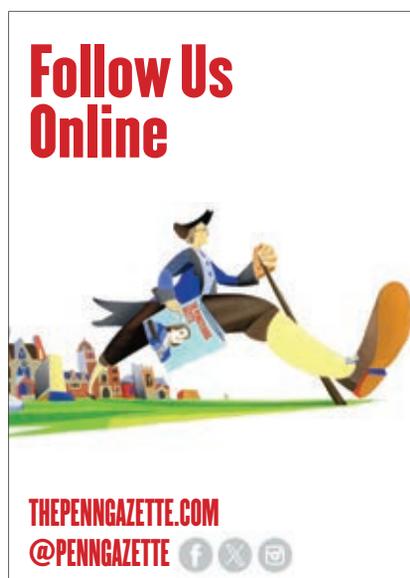
in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, is the author of two new books. *Song Book* is a collection of short stories that “reflect the profound influence of rock music and its lyrics on the author’s life,” according to the book’s description. *The Oracle of Spring Garden Road* is a novel following the life of a homeless man in downtown Halifax, Nova Scotia. When Eddie meets a kind woman who “makes it her mission to uncover the painful secrets of his past,” the description says, “will she heal Eddie or will he save her?”

1998

Daniel Yeh EAS’98 GEng’03 see **Dr. Laura Fung EAS’01 GEng’01**.

1999

Pallavi Sharma Dixit C’99 G’99 is author of a new novel, titled *Edison*. She describes it as “a Bollywood love story in the guise of literary fiction. At the same time, it tells the story of the Indian immigrant community of Edison, New Jersey, that I grew up in. There are also a few mentions of things related to Penn—for instance, the apartment complex in which most of the story takes place is named ‘King’s Court’ after the undergrad dorm; and a *cappella* group Penn Masala also makes an appearance, in addition to several of my Class of ’97, ’98, and ’99 friends!”



2000

Tamara J. Walker C’00, an associate professor of Africana studies at Barnard College, is the author of *Beyond the Shores: A History of African Americans Abroad*, described by the publisher as “part historical exploration, part travel memoir.” The book “reveals poignant histories of a diverse group of African Americans who escaped the racism of the United States to try their hands at life abroad, such as Florence Mills in Paris and Richard Wright in Buenos Aires.”

Lee Ann Sechovitz Coburn C’00 has been named to the 2024 *Forbes* list of Best-in-State Top Women Wealth Advisors. Lee Ann is managing director and wealth management advisor for Merrill Lynch in Walnut Creek, California.

2001

Dr. Laura Fung EAS’01 GEng’01 and **Daniel Yeh EAS’98 GEng’03** were married on January 6 at the historic castle of Casa Loma in Toronto, Canada. They were first introduced to each other by **Lloyd Min W’01** and, by providence, found each other after many years at a Penn Alumni Club event in Toronto hosted by United States Ambassador to Canada and former Penn Trustee Chair **David Cohen L’81 Hon’21**. Laura and Dan are grateful for the many Penn alumni who made the journey north in the winter to celebrate: bridesmaid **Tonna Wu C’01**, **Phillip Sohn C’01**, **Sheena Nahm C’01**, **Hannah Koh C’01**, **Deborah Koo W’01**, **Heejin Woo C’01**, **Karen Kam C’01 WEV’03**, **Chris Rhee EAS’01 WEV’03**, **Wendy Chan EAS’00**, **Warren Wang EAS’00 W’00**, **Luanne Wong C’00**, **Peter Guthrie C’98 CGS’02**, **Vicky Chan W’98**, **Kiren Khan C’98**, **Mario “Rico” Rodriguez W’98**, **Derek Smith C’97** and **Ambreen Hamza WG’10**. Laura is a physician at an Indigenous health center and Dan is leading a personal real estate development practice. He is also currently co-president of the Penn-Wharton Alumni Club of Toronto.

Joey Levin EAS’01 W’01, **Lauren Reeder EAS’16 W’16**, and **Ryan Limaye EAS’93 W’93 WG’93** are the recipients of the 2024

Jerome Fisher M&T Distinguished Alumni Award from the Jerome Fisher Program in Management & Technology (M&T) at Penn. The award honors “exemplary alumni who have achieved professional success while contributing to the program’s continued growth and legacy.” Joey is CEO of IAC and its subsidiary Angi Incorporated (formerly known as Angie’s List). He serves on the boards of Turo and MGM Resorts International, as well as on the Undergraduate Executive Board of Wharton. Lauren is a partner at Sequoia Capital investing in early-stage companies, and focusing on data, infrastructure, and climate technology. Ryan is the head of Global Technology Investment Banking at Goldman Sachs. He serves on the board of advisors for Penn’s School of Engineering & Applied Sciences and is a trustee of the Episcopal Academy in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.

2004

Kimberly N. Dobson C’04 has been selected as cochair of the employment and labor law firm Littler’s Bollo affinity group. From the company’s press release: “Bollo provides support, development and networking opportunities for attorneys who identify as Black, African American, African, and Caribbean, and their allies. The group’s name comes from the Wolof tribe of Senegal, Africa, and means ‘to be together.’”

Carlos Andrés Gómez C’04 is the recipient of the 2024 Yeats International Poetry Prize for his poem “Double Golden Shovel Sonnet Found on the Q Train.” Carlos was in HBO’s *Def Poetry Jam* and the Spike Lee movie *Inside Man* with Denzel Washington. His most recent book of poetry is *Fractures*, which won the UK’s Rubery International Book Award for Poetry. His website is www.CarlosLive.com.

2006

Roy D. Prather III C’06, a principal at Beveridge & Diamond PC in Baltimore, has joined the International Association of Defense Counsel, an organization for attorneys who represent corporate and insurance interests.

2007

Lindsay Larris L'07 has been tapped to serve as the new conservation director for WildEarth Guardians, a conservation nonprofit working in the American West. Since 2019, she has been the director of the wildlife program at WildEarth Guardians.

Jonathan R. Morgan C'07 see **Hilarie Lauter Morgan Gr'85**.

2009

Wyn Furman C'09 and **Ian MacNeill C'09** are delighted to announce the arrival of their child, Rhys Alexander MacNeill, on January 2 in San Diego. Also welcoming Rhys are his aunt **Katia MacNeill Doherty L'10**, and canine siblings Freddie and Fleur.

2010

Thurston J. Hamlette C'10 and his wife, Alexandria Hamlette, joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, Baldwin E. Hamlette, on October 2. The Hamlette family (including a doodle named Stokely) resides in Maplewood, New Jersey.

Brittany A. Morgan C'10 see **Hilarie Lauter Morgan Gr'85**.

Jill Roth C'10, an attorney at the Philadelphia-based personal injury law firm Laffey Bucci D'Andrea Reich & Ryan, has been named a "Rising Star" in the *2024 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers and Rising Stars* guide by Thomson Reuters.

2012

Katie Carlson C'12 V'16 writes, "I am excited and proud to announce that I graduated with my master of public health degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health on April 26. My concentration was in infectious diseases and microbiology, but I also took extensive coursework in epidemiology and completed a practicum project in collaboration with a cancer epidemiologist. We examined disparities and trends in human papillomavirus (HPV) pathologic testing among oropharyngeal cancer patients in the National Cancer Database. I will soon start working as an epidemiologist at

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Pittsburgh, and my work will involve elucidating health disparities for cancer patients."

Jen Liao C'12 is cofounder of a modern Chinese food brand, MiLa, with her husband Caleb Wang. In 2018, the brand started as a brick-and-mortar shop in Bellevue, Washington. After expanding to offering frozen, direct-to-consumer products in 2020, MiLa now offers a range of soup dumplings, noodles, sauces, and ice creams. The brand recently secured over \$30 million in venture capital funding and will be in nearly 1,000 grocery stores by the end of the year, including select Targets, Costcos, and Sprouts. More information can be found at www.eatmila.com.

2013

Jason A. Morgan W'13 see **Hilarie Lauter Morgan Gr'85**.

2014

Jessica Morgan C'14 see **Hilarie Lauter Morgan Gr'85**.

2015

Andres Martinez W'15, a Mask & Wig alum, married Jeremy Taylor on May 18 in Jersey City, New Jersey.

2016

Carolyn Grace C'16 has received a Fulbright US Student Program award to study creative writing in Ireland for the 2024–2025 academic year from the US Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. As a Fulbright Scholar, Carolyn will pursue a Master of Philosophy degree in creative writing at Trinity College Dublin with a focus on nonfiction and personal essays.

Lauren Reeder EAS'16 W'16 see **Joey Levin EAS'01 W'01**.

Jennifer Yu C'16 is author of a new young adult novel, *Grief in the Fourth Dimension*. From the press materials, the book "tackles the afterlife and the unexpected connections that can be made in death." Her website is www.byjenniferyu.com.

Alumni in Business

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

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1944

Dr. Frederick W. Coe M'44, Redding, CA, a retired physician who worked in private practice and at a veterans' home in the San Francisco Bay area; June 20, 2023, at 104. He served in the US Army.

Dr. Thomas W. Jackson M'44 GM'49, Wooster, OH, a retired anesthesiologist; Dec. 9, 2022. He served in the US Army during World War II.

1945

Selma Wilder Bernstein CW'45, Gladwyne, PA, Feb. 14, at 99. Her sons are Robert Wilder Bernstein C'71 and Daniel S. Bernstein C'74.

Dorothy MacFarland Haviland CW'45, Kennett Square, PA, Jan. 15. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Mae German Kurtz CW'45, Blue Bell, PA, an advocate for women's rights who later taught English to immigrants; Jan. 1, at 99.

1946

Stephen E. Davis C'46, Tiverton, RI, retired general counsel for a bank and an adjunct professor of law at Roger Williams University; Feb. 27. One brother is Christopher Davis C'55.

Joseph M. Fox ChE'46 G'49, Westfield, NJ, retired assistant to the chairman and CEO of Merck; Sept. 23, 2022.

Ethel Kurz Murphy Ed'46 GED'47, Sellersville, PA, a retired elementary school teacher; Dec. 11, at 99. She also taught the children of US military members serving in Germany for four years after World War II. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority and the choral society. Her sister is Amy Kurz Bostwick Mathy CW'57.

Elizabeth Hopkins Musser Ed'46 OT'46, Bloomsburg, PA, a retired occupational therapist; Sept. 7.

1947

John R. McGrath W'47, Marietta, GA, a retired mortgage banker; March 18, at 100. He served in the US Navy during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and the track team.

Joan Y. Shand HUP'47, Lancaster, PA, a retired nurse; Feb. 14.

1948

Dr. Merrill Goodman M'48, Central Islip, NY, an ear, nose, and throat doctor; March 7, at 99. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War.

Elvin M. Musselman EE'48, Lititz, PA, a retired electrical engineer for the camera tube manufacturing group of RCA; March 8. He served in the US Navy.

1949

Burton Caine C'49, Bala Cynwyd, PA, professor emeritus of law at Temple University and a longtime litigation and anti-trust lawyer; Dec. 7. He also served as president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Greater Philadelphia in the 1980s and was a social activist who lectured around the world on constitutional law, civil rights, and the First Amendment. He taught trial practice at Penn for a few years before joining Temple, where he taught from 1977 to 2018. He served in the US Air Force. His wife is Shulamith Wechter Caine CW'51 G'54 and his children are Sara Caine Kornfeld C'79 GED'81, Uri P. Caine C'82, and Gidon M. Caine C'83.

David L. Citronberg C'49, Fairfield, CT, a retired attorney; Jan. 28. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Nu fraternity. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. His son is Dr. Robert J. Citronberg C'83.

Rita Goldenberg Ehrenberg CW'49, Norristown, PA, Jan. 26. She worked in the Norristown School District and was active in the local Jewish community. Her husband of almost 75 years is Julian Ehrenberg W'49.

Gloria Levin LeCuyer Ed'49, Margate City, NJ, Dec. 5, 2022. Her son is Adam C. LeCuyer C'84.

Jules Silk W'49 L'52, Philadelphia, a retired attorney; Dec. 28. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity. His wife is Bernice Frank Silk CW'58 and one son is Thomas Steven Silk C'90 WG'00.

John Joseph "Joe" Tuohy W'49, Pompano Beach, FL, a retired CEO of the Citizens & Southern National Bank of Florida;

Notifications

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

EMAIL record@ben.dev.upenn.edu
Newspaper obits are appreciated.

Oct. 15. He served in the US Navy during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the basketball team.

1950

Allene Hollander Golub CW'50, Media, PA, a retired attorney; March 1. Her children include Nina Beryl Pringle C'83 and Daniel H. Golub EE'85.

Dr. George H. Kurz C'50 M'54 GM'55, Newtown, PA, a retired ophthalmologist and a clinical professor of ophthalmology at New York University and Rutgers; Dec. 26. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

1951

Evelyn Punchard Byerly Ed'51, Richmond, VA, a retired elementary school teacher; March 10. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority.

Richard M. "Dick" Dunlap W'51, Medford, NJ, retired manager of engineering and manufacturing units at RCA; March 2. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Dr. Jose J. Figueroa-Colon M'51 GM'55, West Palm Beach, FL, a retired urologist who maintained a practice in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Dec. 28. He served in the US Army.

George H. Pearson GAR'51, Pennington, NJ, an architect; Feb. 18, at 100. He served in the US Army during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Psi fraternity.

Dr. Douglas W. Sanders M'51, Akron, OH, a retired physician; Sept. 24. He served as a battalion surgeon in the US Army in Korea and Japan. His wife of 74 years is Jane Thomas Sanders CCC'48.

Robert B. Shanahan W'51, Williamsville, NY, a retired banking executive; Jan. 24. He served in the US Army.

1952

Clark R. Green W'52, Brooklyn, NY, a retired bank executive; Oct. 4, 2022. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War.

Dr. Irving T. Greenberg C'52, Longmeadow, MA, a retired dentist; March 7. He served in the US Army as a medic during the Korean War.

Norman C. Grosman W'52 WG'53, New York, a retired senior audit partner at Deloitte & Touche; Jan. 26.

Philip P. Kalodner C'52, Gladwyne, PA, Jan. 2.

Dr. Donald W. Maloney M'52, Gwynedd, PA, a retired physician; June 30, 2023. He served in the US Army.

Jerome J. Neff W'52, Bala Cynwyd, PA, a retired furniture entrepreneur and a mentor to future entrepreneurs at Drexel University; Jan. 6. At Penn, he was a member of Beta Sigma Rho fraternity and the ROTC. One grandson is Jason P. Neff W'19.

Margaret Kielar Pelczar CW'52, Shickshinny, PA, a retired microbiologist; March 6. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Dr. Kenneth E. Penny D'52, Delhi, NY, a retired dentist; Sept. 6, at 104. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

Damaso Lainé Santa Maria C'52, Bradenton, FL, a retired professor of kinesiology at the University of Maryland, College Park; Jan. 3, 2023. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity and Friars Senior Society.

Robert C. Stillwagon Ch'52, Wilmington, NC, a salesman for an oil company and cofounder of a volunteer emergency medical services team; Jan. 29. He served in the US Navy during World War II.

1953

Vincent J. Apruzzese L'53, Westwood, MA, an attorney; March 3. He served in the US Navy JAG Corps.

Edna Fine Greenbaum Ed'53, New York, Jan. 24. At Penn, she was a member of Sigma Delta Tau sorority. One son is Daniel A. Greenbaum C'77 G'77.

David S. Liner W'53, Evanston, IL, a retired commodities and futures trader;

Dec. 28. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Nu fraternity.

John V. Marian W'53, Tuscon, AZ, a retired banking executive; Jan. 3. He served in the US Army.

Marianne Gorham McClatchy CW'53, Bryn Mawr, PA, March 6. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, Penn Players, and WXPN. Her daughter is Marianne R. McClatchy OT'77.

Barbara J. Miles SW'53, Mandeville, LA, a former realtor and social worker; Dec. 29.

Dr. Kathleen Scott Pilla M'53, Jenkintown, PA, a physician; May 31, 2023.

Robert W. Poole W'53, Oley, PA, former chief accountant for Reading Area Community College; March 1. At Penn, he was a member of WXPN and the sprint football team.

R. Richard "Dick" Sherbahn W'53, Lancaster, PA, a financial planner; March 6. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and the Sphinx Senior Society. One son is Edward J. Sherbahn C'83.

George C. Singer WG'53, Burlington, VT, a retired stockbroker; March 9.

Dr. Monroe E. Trout C'53 M'57, Appleton, WI, retired CEO of American Health Care Systems, an operator of medical centers nationwide; March 4. He served in the US Navy and the US Marine Corps. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, Mask & Wig, Friars Senior Society, and the rowing team. He also won the Spade Award.

1954

Joan Bisceglia Adams OT'54, Greenville, SC, a retired occupational therapist; Feb. 5. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and the lacrosse and swimming teams.

Dr. Henry J. Greenwood C'54 GM'66, Margate City, NJ, a retired neurosurgeon; Jan. 8. He served in the US Army as a surgeon.

Daniel M. Lerner C'54 ASC'61, Merion Station, PA, a radio broadcasting pioneer and philanthropist; Feb. 21. He popularized the adult contemporary music radio format and made the station Kiss 100 a success in Philadelphia. One brother is Arnold S. Lerner W'51.

Dr. Paton Lewis Jr. D'54 GD'60, Minneapolis, a retired orthodontist; Feb. 26.

Viola G. Little HUP'54, Gainesville, FL, a retired nurse; Dec. 7.

I. Kenneth "Ken" Mahler W'54, Boca Raton, FL, retired owner of a financial services company; Feb. 19. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity.

Dorothy Whitley Miller GEd'54, Plainview, NY, Dec. 20.

Dr. Paul G. Mosch C'54 D'56, Gibsonia, PA, a retired dentist; Feb. 22. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. His wife is Dorothy McMurray Mosch HUP'55 Nu'55.

Arthur S. Robbins W'54, White Plains, NY, a real estate developer; Feb. 20. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity. One daughter is Dr. Carolyn R. Levine C'83, and two grandchildren are Noah M. Levine C'19 and Ari R. Levine C'20.

Lois Gordon Rothstein Schneider CW'54, Haverford, PA, a social worker; Feb. 19. At Penn, she was a member of Penn Players.

Dr. Stephen P. Sedlak GM'54, Raleigh, NC, a retired radiologist; Feb. 16, at 103. He served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II.

Malvina Flomen Silverman Ed'54, Philadelphia, a retired teacher; Dec. 21. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Psi Epsilon sorority.

Dr. Frederick E. Wawrose M'54 GM'58, Pittsburgh, a retired psychiatrist; Oct. 1. He served in the US Army Medical Corps. His wife is Mrs. Dorothy Stewart Wawrose HUP'46 and his daughter is Dr. Dorothy J. Wawrose C'90 M'94.

1955

Phyllis R. Capper Ed'55, West Hills, CA, May 13, 2023. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Phi Epsilon sorority and the Choral Society. Her husband is Dr. Stanley A. Capper C'49 GM'55.

Dr. Charlotte Scott Demetry M'55, Oroville, CA, a retired pediatrician; Sept. 7, 2022.

William F. Denney W'55, Oshkosh, WI, a retired controller, vice president, and treasurer at the Plexus Corporation; Dec.

22. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Phi fraternity. He served in the US Army. His wife is Sheila Kelly Denney CW'61.

Thomas B. Friedman W'55, Malvern, PA, a financial executive; Jan. 17. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity and WXPn. His brother is Stanley M. Friedman Ar'54 GAR'58.

Alan J. Gold W'55, Dallas, founder of Accessory Lady, a national chain of women's fashion accessory stores; March 13. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. His grandchildren include Katherine K. Broder C'14 WG'21 and Brian H. Broder C'17 W'17.

Richard Graupner C'55, Cape May, NJ, a retired sales manager for several companies; Jan. 1. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity and the sprint football team.

John A. Islin C'55, Jupiter, FL, a retired US Army colonel who later became an executive of the Citicorp Diners Club; March 26. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Donald C. Jaeger W'55, Winter Park, FL, retired owner of a sales organization serving vocational schools; Jan. 30. He served in the US Air Force. At Penn he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and Friars Senior Society.

Dr. Dale L. Kemmerer C'55, Colorado Springs, a retired physician; Oct. 16. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, Friars Senior Society, the ROTC, and the soccer team.

George M. Kramer G'55 Gr'57, Somerset, NJ, a retired corporate fellow for Exxon-Mobil Research; Feb. 21. His daughter is Tina Kramer Garyantes EAS'83.

Dr. Paul L. Ravetz C'55 M'59, Feasterville Trevoise, PA, a physician; Oct. 14. He served in the US Army. One son is Dr. Larry A. Ravetz C'82, and one grandchild is Rachel I. Freedman C'11.

Thomas Reilley Ar'55, Ambler, PA, a retired architect; Aug. 23, 2022. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi

fraternity, the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, Mask & Wig, and the fencing team.

William S. "Bill" Russell WEv'55, Wilmington, DE, a retired financial analyst for Chrysler; Dec. 27. He served in the US Army for nearly 40 years, winning many medals for his service.

Dr. Coleman S. Schneider GM'55, Metairie, LA, a retired radiologist and instructor of radiological anatomy at Tulane University; Feb. 1. He served in the US Air Force. His wife is Elsa L. Schneider CW'57.

Dr. James R. Scott-Miller GM'55, Omaha, NE, a retired orthopedic surgeon; Nov. 1.

Dr. Alden L. Snyder D'55, Vineland, NJ, a retired dentist; Dec. 29. He served in the US Navy.

Bert Taffet W'55, Port Washington, NY, a retired Pfizer employee and collage artist; June 9, 2023. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity and the ROTC.

1956

Joan Brown Citron CW'56, Reseda, CA, Jan. 23.

John F. Dugan C'56 L'60, Gambrills, MD, an attorney; Feb. 17. He served in the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, the ROTC, and the Sphinx Senior Society. One daughter is Julie S. Mair L'90.

Rudolf W. Graf ME'56 WG'57, Newcastle, ME, founder of the Science Source, which produces teaching materials for the natural sciences; Feb. 22. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and the sprint football team.

Dr. Frederick L. Jones Jr. M'56, Danville, PA, a retired physician and pulmonary medicine expert; April 23, 2023. He served in the US Air Force as a physician. One son is Dr. Frederick L. Jones III C'79 M'83 WG'00, who is married to Christine Culberson Jones WG'87. His grandchildren include Liliane L. Jones C'17, Frederick M. Jones C'19, and Benjamin J. Jones C'21.

Jerome B. Makowsky W'56, Memphis, co-owner of a real estate development and management company with Neil E. "Nick" Ringel C'59 (see Class of 1959); March 7. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau

fraternity, the soccer team, the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, and Friars Senior Society. One son is Russell E. Makowsky C'78, who is married to Melanie A. Katzman C'80.

Franklin D. Obermeyer ME'56, San Antonio, a retired designer of nuclear power plants; Sept. 28, 2022. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

Dr. Darwin J. Prockop M'56, Philadelphia, a retired molecular biologist and a professor of medicine at Penn from 1961 to 1972; Jan. 22. He focused on the genetics of collagen disorders and the therapeutic potential of adult stem cells. In addition to Penn, he worked at several other universities and was the director of the centers for gene therapy at Hahnemann and Tulane.

Alyn Rovin EE'56, Saint Petersburg, FL, a retired executive at the old defense contractor EG&G and a former electrical engineer for RCA; 2024. He served in the US Navy and taught in the Peace Corps.

Dr. Robert F. Sanner M'56, Union City, TN, a retired surgeon; Dec. 23. He served in the US Air Force.

Sanford "Sandy" Simon W'56, Guttenberg, NJ, a retired founder of an investment bank; Dec. 29. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. As a student at Penn, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity, WXPn, and the swimming team. As an alumnus, he was an active volunteer for his class. His children are Michael R. Simon C'81 and Sharon Simon Katz GNU'87 GNU'11.

Raleigh Wayne Weaver WG'56, Greenville, SC, retired vice president of business affairs at Furman University; March 4. He served in the US Army.

Robert K. Young L'56, Emmaus, PA, a retired Lehigh County judge; Jan. 25.

1957

Edward Benoff W'57, Philadelphia, a retired attorney; Jan. 8.

Dr. Donald T. Burns M'57 GM'61, Wyomissing, PA, a retired ophthalmologist; Oct. 29. He served in the US Army Medical Corps. His wife is Carol Burns HUP'55.

Rev. John N. Crock W'57, Southwest Harbor, ME, a former pastor, English teacher, insurance salesman, founder of a candle factory, and general contractor; Dec. 29. At Penn, he was a member of the heavy-weight rowing team.

Eric F. Fargo PT'57, Satsuma, FL, a retired physical therapist; Feb. 3. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean War.

Harriette Lerche Goldberg CW'57, Lantana, FL, a high school English teacher; March 12. At Penn, she was a member of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority. Her daughter is Cara A. Ahola C'91.

Margaret Lurch Hunn Ed'57, Lansdale, PA, Jan. 23. She enjoyed playing bridge, where she earned the rank of Silver Life Master.

John W. McCarthy W'57, Saint Louis, owner of Media Library; March 8. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and the football team. One brother is Peter R. McCarthy EE'63.

Saul M. Nathan W'57, Waltham, MA, a business owner; Feb. 15. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity and the *Daily Pennsylvanian*.

Edwin S. Tankins GMT'57, Hilton Head Island, SC, a retired research metallurgist for the US Naval Air Warfare Center; Jan. 24. Later, he became an adjunct professor of engineering at Drexel University. He served in the US Army, as well as the US Navy during the Vietnam War.

Dr. Joseph M. Stolman GD'57, Palm Beach Gardens, FL, a periodontist; Feb. 10.

1958

Charles M. Barclay CE'58, Hilltown Township, PA, a retired manager at an insurance company; March 14. He served in the US National Guard. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity and the soccer and tennis teams.

Clarence V. Blake Jr. WG'58, Manhasset, NY, a retired stockbroker; Feb. 17. He served in the US Army.

Charles H. Burnette Ar'58 GAr'63 Gr'69, Philadelphia, an architect, professor emeritus at the University of the Arts, and former dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin; March 4.

He served in the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and Friars Senior Society.

Charles M. Golden W'58, Philadelphia, a bankruptcy lawyer; Feb. 2.

William Donald "Don" Hamilton ME'58, Cary, NC, a retired manager at IBM; Oct. 3. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity.

Dr. Robert E. "Bob" Johnson G'58, Dacula, GA, Dec. 30. He taught at Georgia State University and ran his own stamp dealership. He served in the US Armed Services during the Korean War.

Richard G. Kauffman EE'58, New York, a retired systems engineer at IBM; Jan. 28. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and the ROTC. His wife is Nancy Allen Kauffman OT'58.

Avrum W. W. Marks WG'58, Boynton Beach, FL, a former manager at IBM and the US Environmental Protection Agency; Dec. 20, 2023.

Edwin J. Schmidt WG'58, Chagrin Falls, OH, March 9. He served in the US Army.

Dr. Marvin H. Sitrin D'58, East Windsor, NJ, a dentist; Feb. 20.

Leslie F. Welson W'58 WG'60, Holland, PA, a retired information systems executive; Feb. 10. At Penn, he was a member of Penn Players and WXPN.

1959

Judith Marcell Asselin DH'59, Southbury, CT, a retired dental hygienist; March 2.

Joseph Beller L'59, Bala Cynwyd, PA, a zoning lawyer; Jan. 13. His wife is Barbara Naden Beller DH'58.

Robert J. Butler W'59, Ambler, PA, a retired employee of what is now Crown Holdings, which manufactures metal beverage and food cans; Jan. 16.

Dr. Richard S. Dillon M'59 GM'63, Seattle, a retired endocrinologist; Dec. 30.

Philip Dorian C'59, Montclair, NJ, an actor, producer, theater critic, and cofounder of the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey; March 14. At Penn, he was a member of Penn Players.

Dr. Gerald L. "Jerry" Fine D'59, Setauket, NY, a retired orthodontist; Dec. 15. He

served in the US Army Reserve during the Vietnam War. His wife is Barbara Fine Ed'57 GED'59.

Sandra Lepow Gold Ed'59, Wyncote, PA, May 23, 2023. One son is Lawrence A. Gold C'89.

Deborah Nitzberg Harad W'59, Warminster, PA, an attorney; Dec. 1. At Penn, he was a member of Penn Players.

Heloise Bertman "Ginger" Levit CW'59, Richmond, VA, a former French teacher, local arts and news reporter, and art gallery owner; Jan. 11.

Joan Masteller Ninness CW'59, Audubon, PA, Feb. 5. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Neil E. "Nick" Ringel C'59, Memphis, co-owner of a real estate development and management company with Jerome Makowsky W'56 (see Class of 1956); March 22. He served in the US Army and the US Army Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, ROTC, and the golf team. One son is Jonathan Ringel C'90 W'90.

Norma French Shapiro Nu'59, Chapel Hill, NC, a retired surgical nursing teacher; Dec. 14. Her husband is Dr. Joel H. Shapiro M'58.

Barbara Winne Sieck Ed'59, Virginia Beach, VA, a retired teacher at the Baldwin School and the Haverford School in suburban Philadelphia; Dec. 21. At Penn, she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and the tennis team. Her husband was William Jon Sieck Jr., who died on Nov. 17 (see Class of 1960).

J. Robert "Bob" Suriano Gr'59, Westlake, OH, a longtime professor at many colleges and universities; Feb. 13.

Louis M. Tarasi Jr. L'59, Sewickley, PA, a retired civil trial attorney specializing in the fields of class action, personal injury, medical malpractice, and antitrust law; Dec. 30. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. One son is Brian R. Tarasi C'85.

H. Craig Watkins W'59, Hilton Head Island, SC, an investment manager; Jan. 9.

1960

William W. Caldwell Jr. W'60, Vero Beach, FL, an attorney; Sept. 4. He served in the US Marine Corps. At Penn, he was a member of

Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the soccer and squash teams.

Calvin A. Canney WG'60, Portsmouth, NH, a retired city manager for a number of cities including Portsmouth, NH, Bar Harbor, ME, and Barrington, RI; Feb. 9. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

Morton V. Chwatsky W'60, Water Mill, NY, April 1, 2023. One daughter is Lynn Chwatsky Siegel C'94, and one brother is Howard F. Chwatsky W'58.

Patrick F. Cioci Ed'60, Minneapolis, former owner of an art gallery; March 17.

John N. Gilbert Jr. W'60, Brooklyn, NY, retired president of the reinsurance brokerage Holborn Corporation; Dec. 2. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, the heavyweight rowing team, Mask & Wig, Glee Club, ROTC, and the Friars Senior Society. Two of his children are John N. Gilbert III C'88 and Marcella Ayers Gilbert Boelhouwer C'89.

Dr. G. Gary Hess D'60, York, PA, a retired dentist; Feb. 1. He served in the US Air Force.

Dr. Jack Brown Hobson GM'60, Charlotte, NC, a retired physician; Jan. 3. He served in the US Army.

Dr. J. Myron Lord M'60, San Diego, a retired obstetrician-gynecologist; Aug. 25, 2023. He served in the US Navy.

Ruben I. Meyer C'60, Kirkland, WA, a sales tech support specialist; Aug. 11.

Dr. Paul H. Noble C'60, Phoenixville, PA, a retired cardiovascular surgeon; Feb. 6. He served in the US Army Medical Corps.

Howard L. Pastroff W'60, Lewes, DE, former owner of a wholesale distribution company; March 2. He served in the US Army. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Rho fraternity.

Lorraine Schuster Roberts HUP'60, Rocky Face, GA, a retired nurse; Feb. 4.

Gerald David "Jerry" Robin G'60, Berlin, CT, professor emeritus of criminal justice at the University of New Haven; Jan. 25.

Carolyn Magruder Ruppenthal G'60, Charlotte, NC, a former paralegal and teacher; Jan. 8.

Arthur H. Saxon W'60 G'93, Newtown Square, PA, March 4. He worked for vari-

ous companies, including AT&T, Independence Blue Cross, and Comcast. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, Sphinx Senior Society, the ROTC, and the cross country, soccer, and track teams. In 2000, he was a recipient of the Alumni Award of Merit. His son is Arthur H. Saxon Jr. C'86.

William Jon Sieck Jr. W'60, Virginia Beach, VA, a retired banking and insurance executive; Nov. 17. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and the swimming team. His wife was Barbara Winne Sieck Ed'59, who died on Dec. 21 (see Class of 1959).

Mark I. Solomon W'60, Gladwyne, PA, cofounder of M Financial Group; Sept. 30. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Lambda Pi fraternity.

Stan L. Stevenson Jr. W'60, Lansdale, PA, a retired insurance executive; Feb. 27. At Penn, he was a member of the ROTC and the sprint football team. He served in the US Army Reserve.

Terry R. Ward W'60, Fredericksburg, VA, Nov. 27. He worked for the US Intelligence Community. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the football and lacrosse teams.

Lee H. Weinstein W'60, Denver, former owner of a window cleaning business; Feb. 1, 2023. He served in the US Air Force Reserve. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity and Friars Senior Society.

1961

Sheila McLean Belcher G'61, Shoreline, WA, a former Latin teacher at a high school for girls; Feb. 9. Her husband is Dr. Donald W. Belcher M'62, and one son is Dr. D. Chris Belcher M'89.

Howard "Duke" Charles W'61, Lititz, PA, a retired accountant for Lukens Steel Company and Honeywell; Jan. 6. He served as a pilot in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and the rowing team.

Janice Elizabeth "Beth" Watson Jenkins CW'61, Sherborn, MA, a former software developer for Honeywell and an accomplished equestrian; Feb. 22. Her husband is Frank C. Jenkins WG'66.

Theresa B. Jezewski Nu'61, Nanticoke, PA, a retired nurse and instructor of nursing; Feb. 8.

Dr. Andrew S. Malinowski D'61 GD'78, Vero Beach, FL, a retired periodontist and assistant professor of periodontics for Penn Dental; Jan. 16. He served in the US Air Force.

Dr. Warren F. McPherson C'61, Murfreesboro, TN, a retired neurosurgeon; Jan 1. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, Friars Senior Society, and the football and baseball teams.

William P. Noble Jr. L'61, Island Heights, NJ, a writer and retired creative writing instructor at the Community College of Vermont; Jan. 8. He served in the US Coast Guard.

Marian Bair Rodee CW'61, Albuquerque, NM, a retired curator at the University of New Mexico's Maxwell Museum of Anthropology; Jan. 29. At Penn, she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

Susan Janson Rohrbach CW'61 G'64, Tucson, AZ, former founder of a food co-op, a home-based technology business, and the Bisbee (AZ) Boys & Girls Club; Jan. 23. One brother is Michael Janson C'66.

Stephen H. Serota W'61, Blue Bell, PA, a defense attorney and an assistant district attorney.; Feb. 22. His wife is Michelle Cohn Serota CW'65 GEd'68, and one grandchild is Amanda R. Nerenberg C'22.

Frederick C. Smith GAR'61, Beaverton, OR, a retired architect; Dec. 8. He served in the US Army.

Dr. Robert "Bob" Smith M'61, Portland, OR, a retired physician; Dec. 29. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

Kathryn Iannuzzo Wassermann GEd'61, former social services director and volunteer coordinator at the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children; Feb. 2.

1962

John J. Choby M'62, Indiana, PA, a retired obstetrician-gynecologist; Jan. 12.

Dawn "Debbie" Barnes Costello Nu'62, Schnecksville, PA, former director of public health nursing for the cities of Allentown and Bethlehem (PA); Feb. 26. Her daughter

is Dr. Kelly L. Costello M'94, who is married to Dr. Michael J. Consuelos M'94.

James D. Crawford L'62, Philadelphia, a lawyer active with the Philadelphia ACLU and a supporter of the arts; June 10, 2022. His wife is Judith Norvick Dean CW'59 L'62.

J. Robert Ferrari WG'62 Gr'64, Savannah, GA, a retired executive at Prudential Life Insurance and a former associate professor of insurance at the Wharton School; March 2. He taught at Penn from 1964 to 1970. He served in the US Navy.

Peter W. Gehris W'62, Palm Harbor, FL, a retired insurance executive; Feb. 26. He served in the New Jersey Army National Guard. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Dr. George R. Green M'62 GM'66, Lafayette Hill, PA, a retired physician, specializing in allergy and immunology; Jan. 28. One daughter is Trudi Green Smith C'90.

Harvey A. Harris C'62, Boca Raton, FL, a retired physician; Dec. 14.

Carl O. Helstrom WG'62, Camp Hill, PA, retired human resources director for an orphanage; Nov. 25, 2022. He served in the US Navy.

Charles E. Kaprelian FA'62 GFA'63, Philadelphia, a retired professor at the University of the Arts and Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia; Feb. 18.

John T. Kennedy WG'62, Gwynedd, PA, a retired sales leader with IBM and Memorex; Jan. 6. He served in the US Navy.

Dr. Jay D. Strieb G'62, Ardmore, PA, a retired professor of physics at Villanova University; Jan. 11.

1963

Dr. Robert G. Burney M'63, Washington, DC, retired director of quality management for the US Department of State Bureau of Medical Services; March 7. He served in the US Air Force as a flight surgeon during the Vietnam War.

Joanne Redmond Denworth L'63, Philadelphia, a land use and environmental lawyer; March 1.

Joanna Netzky Gerber CW'63, Seattle, a docent at the Toledo Museum of Art and the Seattle Art Museum; Feb. 29.

Dr. Leonard B. Glick Gr'63, New Salem, MA, a retired anthropologist who taught anthropology and Jewish history at Hampshire College; Jan. 9. He served in the US Air Force.

Norman D. Johnson WG'63, Vancouver, WA, a retired financial manager for the State of Washington; Jan. 2. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

Katherine Doering Lehman Nu'63, Pottstown, PA, a retired school nurse; Nov. 22.

Gerald M. Levin L'63, Long Beach, CA, retired CEO of Time Warner; March 13.

Michael J. Penta Jr. WG'63, Doylestown, PA, founder of a custom cabinetry manufacturing company; March 1. He served in the US Air Force.

Daniel A. Phelps C'63, Wyomissing, PA, a retired executive at truck companies; Dec. 24. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and the rowing team.

Michael J. Rotko L'63, Unionville, PA, an attorney and special counsel to the US Senate, where he helped investigate the causes of Gulf War Syndrome; Sept. 23. He was a member of the board of advisors for Penn Law and a recipient of the Alumni Award of Merit. Two sons are Thomas C. Rotko L'94 and Daniel B. Rotko L'15.

Chandra Sekhar GEE'63, Munster, IN, a former professor of electrical engineering at Purdue University Calumet; Feb. 19. One son is Giridhar C. Sekhar EAS'91 W'91.

Dr. Robert T. P. Wang EE'63, West Covina, CA, May 28, 2022. His wife is Helen Wang CW'63.

Dr. Sidney F. Whaley Jr. M'63, Tacoma, WA, a retired physician; June 12, 2023.

Dr. Earl A. Zimmerman M'63, Albany, NY, retired director of Albany Medical Center's Alzheimer's Center; Dec. 26. At Penn, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

1964

Patricia L. Barry SW'64, Wellfleet, MA, Nov. 18.

Barry W. Benefield W'64, Oklahoma City, an attorney with Oklahoma Indian Legal Services; Dec. 1. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Meredith "Merry" McBride Coolidge CW'64, Naples, FL, a real estate agent; Jan. 22. At Penn, she was a member of the Penningtonettes, a synchronized swimming team.

George T. Denney W'64, Wallingford, PA, a retired accountant for Rohm and Haas in Philadelphia; Jan. 8. He served in the US Navy. At Penn, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and the sprint football team. One daughter is Natalie S. Denney C'99 G'99.

John P. Gillan GEE'64, Worcester Township, PA, a retired engineer; March 12. He worked on the first 11 NASA Apollo missions, and the US DOD Saturn 5 missile defense program.

Alfred G. Gillis W'64, Berwyn, PA, a lawyer and founder of an accident insurance company for students; Feb. 11, 2023. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity. Two sons are Jeffrey L. Gillis C'95 and Dixon F. Gillis C'98 WEV'03.

James W. Granucci WG'64, Columbus, GA, a retired CFO at Baskin-Robbins; Oct. 12.

William G. Kline III C'64, Sarasota, FL, Jan. 13.

Dr. C. Herman Klingensmaier M'64 GM'68, Ridgefield, WA, a physician; Dec. 2. He served in the US Army.

Michael Cover Miller W'64, Uniontown, PA, a finance and business manager at several companies; Jan. 7.

Wayne R. Mucci G'64, Norwalk, CT, retired executive director of Sheltering Arms Children and Family Services; Jan. 7.

Judith White CW'64, New York, a former history teacher; Feb. 28, 2021. At Penn, she was a member of Sigma Delta Tau sorority and Penn Singers.

Dr. Barbara Schepps Wong CW'64, Providence, RI, a retired radiologist and president of a medical imaging facility, and a former clinical professor of diagnostic imaging at Brown University; March 14. Her daughter is Dr. Deborah R. Wong C'91.

1965

Anthony P. Baratta Jr. L'65, Richboro, PA, a former lawyer and partner in a number of different restaurants; Feb. 6. One son is Andrew P. Baratta C'95.

Edward E. Crutchfield WG'65, Vero Beach, FL, a retired banking executive who established several foundations that support college students; Jan. 2. One son is E. Elliott Crutchfield Jr. WG'96.

Charles E. Dagit C'65 Ar'67 GAR'68, Gladwyne, PA, an architect and former lecturer at several universities, including Penn; March 27. His wife is Alice Murdoch Dagit CW'67.

Richard D. Domrzalski ASC'65, Allentown, PA, a marketing manager for the Lehigh Valley Red Cross; Feb. 20.

William A. Farr C'65, Burlington, VT, a business advisor; Dec. 31. He served in the US Marine Corps.

Dr. Jerry L. Jorgensen Gr'65, Draper, UT, a retired professor at the University of Utah's College of Business and later at the University of Calgary; Jan. 15. He served in the US Army during the Korean War.

Barbara E. Mancini SW'65, Springfield, PA, a retired executive in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's Chester County Assistance Office; Jan. 6, 2023.

Chris C. Simonds C'65 WG'68, Florianopolis, Brazil, a retired investment executive; April 14. He later built a private nature preserve in Brazil, open to student groups and researchers. At Penn, he was a member of Delta Psi fraternity and the soccer team. His former wife is Barbara Baberick Simonds CW'68.

Susan Sternblitz Winokur GEd'65, Bryn Mawr, PA, Jan. 4.

1966

Dr. Maurice Bermon C'66, Barrington, RI, a former chief of psychiatry at a hospital; Nov. 12, 2022. His son is David J. Bermon C'97.

Dr. Harris Drucker GEE'66 GrE'67, Tinton Falls, NJ, professor emeritus of software engineering at Monmouth University; Jan. 10.

William F. Gemmill W'66, Wiscasset, ME, a retired financial advisor with a division of American Express, which later became Ameriprise Financial; Jan. 21. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, the swimming team, and ROTC.

Dr. Ronald R. Minor V'66 Gr'71, New York, a retired professor of veterinary medicine at Cornell; April 7. Earlier in his career, he taught at Penn's School of Medicine and School of Veterinary Medicine.

Louis A. Naglak GEE'66, Doylestown, PA, a retired engineer for the US Navy; Feb. 28. He later worked for Pennsylvania State University and Navmar Applied Sciences. One son is Kenneth M. Naglak W'78.

Willard L. Rodgers Gr'66, Eugene, OR, retired senior research scientist at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research; March 16.

Charles S. Sokoloff L'66, Canton, MA, an attorney; March 11. One son is Daniel C. Sokoloff EAS'02.

Nike Freedman Speltz CW'66, Portsmouth, NH, retired program manager at a charitable organization; Feb. 6.

Paul K. Wagner C'66, Malvern, PA, a former mortgage banker and entrepreneur; Feb. 21.

Edward H. Zinn WG'66, Toledo, OH, retired director of global business research at Owens Corning; Jan. 25.

1967

Dr. Nabih I. Abdou GM'67, Overland Park, KS, a retired immunologist and professor of immunology at the University of Kansas; March 5.

Ronald D. Erickson G'67, East Syracuse, NY, a retired vice president of finance administration at a literacy nonprofit; Feb. 14.

Steven P. Floman L'67, Milford, CT, a lawyer; Jan. 7.

Nancy Elizabeth Grimes HUP'67, Glen Mills, PA, retired chief nursing officer for Genesis HealthCare; Jan. 14.

Carol A. Hince PT'67, Sebastopol, CA, a physical therapist and yoga instructor; Jan. 23.

Charles P. Reilly L'67, Beverly Hills, CA, Jan. 13, 2023. One son is Cameron P. Reilly W'97, and one brother is Dr. James J. Reilly Jr. M'72.

Kendrick A. Robertson WEv'67, Ocean Pines, MD, an executive at Townsends, a poultry processing company; Jan. 25. He served in the US Army Reserve.

1968

Rita Albert Carol CW'68, Aberdeen, NJ, a retired software developer; July 17, 2023. Her husband is Barry Carol W'67, and her son is Charles H. Carol C'99, who is married to Amanda Shiffman Carol C'02. Her sister is Linda Albert Broidrick W'68.

Michael J. Chiarolanza C'68, Pensacola, FL, a retired commercial airline pilot; Jan. 11. He served in the US Navy and Naval Reserves for 22 years. At Penn, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Dr. Albert A. Citron D'68, Vienna, VA, an endodontist; Feb. 29. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. One son is Dr. Wesley H. Citron D'12.

Roy S. Coutinho GEE'68, West Shokan, NY, an engineering executive at AT&T; Jan. 29. He served in the US Navy Reserve.

Raymond Grenald WG'68, Abington Township, PA, an architectural lighting designer; March 6. In 1979, he debuted the lighting at Boathouse Row on Philadelphia's Schuylkill River. He served in the US Army Air Corps.

Symington P. Landreth III C'68, Denton, TX, April 10, 2022. His career included banking, being an antiques auctioneer, writing for newspapers, and providing security services. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Psi fraternity.

Dr. Janice Levin Lichtenstein CW'68, Mount Pleasant, SC, a longtime special education teacher; Dec. 30. Her sister is Arlene L. Goldberg CW'64.

Bernard M. "Barney" Mergen Gr'68, Franklin, WV, a history professor at George Washington University who authored a number of books on American history; Feb. 13.

Dr. David L. Moyer V'68, Birdsboro, PA, a veterinarian; Dec. 30.

Michael A. Piccarretta Jr. SW'68, Philadelphia, a retired supervisor of inpatient social work on the psychiatric unit for Pennsylvania Hospital; Aug. 22, 2023.

Dr. John H. Shissler V'68, Newburg, PA, a large animal veterinarian; Jan. 6.

1969

Byron F. Batey W'69, Novato, CA, a venture capitalist; Jan. 26.

Dr. George S. Benson III M'69 GM'73, Andover, KS, retired director of the Division of Urologic and Reproductive Drugs for the US Food and Drug Administration; Feb. 7. He served in the US Navy and the US Marine Corps.

Dr. David I. Berland C'69, Saint Louis, a retired child psychiatrist; Feb. 18.

Robert K. Blom PT'69, Eatontown, NJ, a physical therapist; Dec. 13.

Jared L. Cohon CE'69, Pittsburgh, former president of Carnegie Mellon University and a professor emeritus of engineering; March 16. At Penn, he was a member of the rugby team.

Dr. Dennis A. Hall M'69, North Apollo, PA, a retired nephrologist; June 27, 2022.

Mary Lou Havens Nu'69, Ogdensburg, NY, a nurse with the Inspector General team charged with inspecting US Air Force medical facilities throughout the world; Dec. 2.

John Hurd II Gr'69, Scarborough, ME, a professor of economics at Norwich University; Jan. 20.

Richard M. Lewis W'69 WG'72, Louisville, KY, retired owner of a ceiling fan store and a wholesaler of English wallpaper; March 13. At Penn, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity.

Jane d'Entremont Stokes McMillan CGS'69, Middletown, CT, a retired attorney; Dec. 29.

James P. O'Connell W'69, McKees Rocks, PA, a business and accounting teacher at a high school; Feb. 12. At Penn, he was a member of the football and wrestling teams.

Dr. Jesse Peel GM'69, Atlanta, a psychiatrist and advocate for men living with AIDS; Dec. 28. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War.

John B. Seabrook Jr. C'69, Rockport, MA, a defense attorney; Dec. 31.

Sharon Gallagher Spillane Nu'69, Warrenton, VA, a retired nursing director at several hospitals and rehabilitation facilities; Dec. 21.

Clarence B. Steinberg Gr'69, Silver Spring, MD, a retired public affairs officer at the US Department of Agriculture who was also an English professor at a number of universities; March 12.

1970

Robert Single Hagge Jr. C'70, Hazelhurst, WI, an architect; Jan. 6. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Dr. John A. Kamholz C'70 M'79 GM'84 Gr'84, Howell, MI, a professor of neurology and head of the Huntington Disease Center of Excellence at the University of Iowa; Feb. 2.

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

Carol Patricia "Pat" McCabe PT'70, South Hamilton, MA, a physical therapist; Dec. 22.

Dr. Ernest T. Pascarella GEd'70, Iowa City, IA, professor emeritus of higher education at the University of Iowa who was one of the most cited scholars in higher education research; Jan. 23. He served in the US Marines during the Vietnam War, earning a Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts.

Dexter R. Rowell WG'70 Gr'75, Playa del Coco, Costa Rica, a retired business professor; March 4. He served in the US Marine Corps and the US Navy.

David B. Tilove L'70, Pittsburgh, a retired lawyer and former director of the Bucks County Legal Aid Society, Lehigh Valley Legal Services, and North Penn Legal Services; Jan. 2. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War.

1971

Dr. Joseph C. Darrow Jr. C'71, Kirksville, MO, a retired orthopedic surgeon and military flight surgeon; March 3. He served in the New York Air National Guard and the US Navy during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Donald R. Dinan W'71, Washington, DC, a lawyer and professor of international trade law at Georgetown University; Jan. 29. At Penn, he was a member of Alpha Chi Rho fraternity. One daughter is Emma K. Dinan C'10, and his siblings include James G. Dinan W'81 and Barbara D. Gultinan W'86.

Kathleen "Kathy" Sestak Fey C'71, Glen Mills, PA, a former administrator in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences and several of its departments; Jan. 11. She began her career

at Penn while she was a student, working as a typist in the Student Employment Office and progressing to roles as a secretary and later as an administrator in the department of biology. In 1979, she moved to the department of mathematics, where she served as a business administrator. In 1998, she transitioned to the role of administrator of faculty affairs in SAS. Three of her sisters are Barbara A. Sestak CW'73, Elizabeth M. Sestak W'76, and Margaret M. Sestak W'80 L'83.

Robert M. Hass GEd'71, Albuquerque, NM, a former editor at the University of California at Berkeley and the California Native Plant Society; March 4.

Ronald N. Hughmanick WG'71, Mechanicsburg, PA, a retired highway engineer for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation; Feb. 25. He served in the US Army Reserve.

Mark I. Schlesinger C'71, Fort Lee, NJ, an attorney; Jan. 5. At Penn, he was a member of the *Daily Pennsylvanian* and Friars Senior Society.

Stan J. Trachtenberg W'71, Vienna, VA, a retired senior project engineer for the CIA; March 6. At Penn, he was a member of the *Daily Pennsylvanian*.

Maria Puerto Valembois GEd'71 GEd'01, West Windsor, NJ, a retired schoolteacher who taught English as a second language; Oct. 9. Her husband was Dr. Pierre V. Valembois Gr'71, who died six days after her (see below).

Dr. Pierre Victor Valembois Gr'71, West Windsor, NJ, a metallurgist and material scientist who worked in the consumer electronics and aerospace industries; Oct. 15. Her wife was Maria Puerto Valembois GEd'71 GEd'01, who died six days before him (see above).

1972

David F. Bianco C'72, Pleasant Mount, PA, an attorney; March 17. He served as assistant district attorney for Wayne County, PA, from 1984 to 1988, and was a solicitor for Mount Pleasant Township and Union Dale Borough, both in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Antonio "Tony" Romulo Cafoncelli GM'72, Washington, DC, a former thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon in Charleston, WV; Jan. 26.

Meredith Purdy Clapp CW'72, Boston, MA, a former television advertising producer and substitute teacher; Jan. 2. At Penn, she was a member of Delta Psi women's fraternity, the choral society, and the rowing team. Her husband is Eugene H. Clapp III C'72.

James F. Giblin WG'72, Philadelphia, an investment banker; Feb. 17, 2023. He served in the US Army Corps of Engineers

William B. Gough Jr. Gr'72, Glenside, PA, Jan. 7.

Frank J. Husic G'72, Napa, CA, a retired financial advisor who also owned a vineyard; Jan. 1.

Eugene M. Principato C'72, Collingswood, NJ, a marketing and business development consultant; Feb. 1. His daughter is Gina Principato WG'09.

Charlotte L. Rogenmuser CGS'72, Blue Bell, PA, a retired executive secretary at Glaxo Smith Kline; Jan. 28, 2023.

Dr. Edward F. Schreiber C'72, Blue Bell, PA, a physician who practiced emergency medicine, paramedic training, and occupational medicine; Jan. 21. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity. His wife is Dr. Maureen D. Schreiber CW'74.

Andrew C. Waldrop WG'72, Washington, DC, a financial analyst for the World Bank; March 6. He served in the US Army.

1973

Lynda Bryant Edwards G'73, Manvel, TX, a retired dean of student services and adjunct professor at the North Lake campus of Dallas College; Feb. 20.

Murray Gerstenhaber L'73, Haverford, PA, professor emeritus of mathematics in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences; Feb. 21. He joined the faculty of Penn's School of Arts and Sciences in the department of mathematics in 1953. In 1954, he secured Penn's first National Science Foundation grant in mathematics. After earning a degree from Penn's Law School, he lectured at the law school, constructing a pioneering course there on the defensive application of statistical evidence in criminal trials. As a researcher, he made significant contributions to theoretical physics and discovered

the Gerstenhaber algebra, a novel algebraic structure, while at Penn. He retired in 2011 and became the longest-serving tenured faculty member in Penn's history at that time. He served in the US Army. His wife is Dr. Ruth P. Zager GM'61, and one daughter is Rachel Gerstenhaber Stern L'93, who is married to Alexander Franz Stern GEng'89 WG'94. Two grandchildren are Arielle Anna Stern EAS'20 GEng'21 and Elana Irene Stern C'20 WG'25.

Dennis R. Luttenauer C'73, Marienville, PA, an attorney and former district attorney for Forest County, PA; Jan. 29.

1974

Dr. J. Jeffrey Brown M'74, Tampa, FL, a retired surgeon and professor of surgery at a VA Medical Center; June 8, 2022. His wife is Karen Stafford Brown GCP'75.

Samuel A. Frederick L'74, Trumansburg, NY, a lawyer; Oct. 5, 2022. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War.

Dr. Eveline Faure Goldberg GM'74, Chicago, an obstetric anesthesiologist who held faculty positions at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago; Dec. 31. Her husband is Dr. Allen I. Goldberg GM'75.

Donald W. Miles L'74, Bethlehem, PA, an attorney; Feb. 14.

Robert A. Olkowitz C'74, Howell, NJ, a lawyer specializing in worker's compensation; Feb. 3.

Thomas A. Smart L'74, Santa Fe, NM, a retired trial attorney and competitive equestrian; Nov. 7.

1975

Timothy Duffield GLA'75, West Chester, PA, a public sculptor and landscape architect; Feb. 2. His 25-foot-long "Dream of Sky" sculpture sits at 37th and Market Streets. One son is Timon John Duffield FA'86.

Dr. Robert P. Fink Gr'75, Northumberland, PA, a former medical schoolteacher and business owner; Jan. 6. He served in the US Army.

Joseph J. Hopko Nu'75, Newtown Square, PA, a retired surveyor of healthcare facilities for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; Dec. 30. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

J. Todd Pfeifer MTE'75, Pittsburgh, Dec. 9. He worked for many technology companies. At Penn, he was a member of Theta Xi fraternity.

Linda C. Portwood G'75, Bellingham, WA, a retired social worker; Dec. 6.

Margaret E. Winters Gr'75, Grosse Pointe, MI, professor emerita of French and linguistics and former provost at Wayne State University; Feb. 26.

1976

Frances R. Byers Gr'76, Philadelphia, a retired statistical assistant in Penn's Office of Admissions; Feb. 27.

Gordon B. Hetherston EE'76 GEN'79 WG'79, Landenberg, PA, a retired systems engineer for DuPont; Nov. 24. At Penn, he was a member of the wrestling team, Penn Band, and Penn Players.

Dr. Charles Maltz M'76, New York, a long-time physician and faculty member in the division of gastroenterology and hepatology at Weill-Cornell Medicine; Nov. 3.

Dr. Rosario F. Mayro GD'76, Jenkintown, PA, clinical associate professor in orthodontics at Penn's School of Dental Medicine and at the Temple University School of Dentistry; Feb. 5. Two sons are Gregory Mayro C'93 and Jeffrey S. Mayro C'89.

Stanley A. Murawski Jr. GEE'76, Export, PA, a technology engineer; March 6. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

Reena Levine Seltzer C'76 GED'77, Woodbridge, CT, a clinical psychologist; March 13. Her husband is Dr. Arthur Seltzer C'76 M'80, her daughter is Aura Weiner C'09, and her son is Michael Seltzer EAS'06 W'06.

John G. Stumbles GL'76, Sydney, Australia, an attorney; August 2023.

1977

Kenneth W. Gerver C'77, Brooklyn, NY, an administrative law judge and special education officer for the New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings; Feb. 4. At Penn, he was a member of Penn Singers and the Philomathean Society, and he was a Benjamin Franklin Scholar.

Dr. Phillip W. Hayes M'77, Dickson, TN, an obstetrician-gynecologist; Feb. 20.

Walter G. Jones WG'77, Greensboro, NC, CEO of a textile manufacturer; Sept. 22, 2022.

Gail Rubinstein Lipton C'77 GED'78, Gaithersburg, MD, a former senior policy analyst and director of grants for the US Department of Health and Human Services; Feb. 20. At Penn, she was a member of Penn Singers.

Leslie M. Stone GEE'77, Ocean Pines, MD, a retired software design engineer for L3 Communications; Jan. 31.

1978

Eva Zeleny Abrams-Hymowitz GED'78 Gr'89, Philadelphia, a psychologist; Feb. 17. Her husband is Stephen L. Hymowitz W'61 L'65.

Avarita L. "Rita" Hanson L'78, Atlanta, former executive director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism for the Supreme Court of Georgia; Jan. 22. Her husband is Dr. William A. Alexander M'79, and one son is Justin Alexander WG'10.

Peter K. O'Rourke GRP'78, Newark, DE, a former land developer; Feb. 13.

1979

Donald R. Black WEv'79, Voorhees, NJ, an IT compliance administrator; July 26, 2023.

Ruth M. Carroll GNu'79, Salisbury, MD, an associate professor emeritus of nursing at Salisbury University; Jan. 28. One son is Edward Bell CGS'97.

Amy Schimmel Kramer C'79, Bedford, NY, a retired attorney who served as assistant general counsel at insurance companies Ambac and MBIA; July 5, 2023.

Dr. Terry M. Martinetti D'79, Manchester, MA, a dentist who maintained a solo practice in Gloucester, MA, for 40 years; Jan. 21. He served in the US Navy. His wife is Carin Warner Martinetti ASC'79 C'79.

Stephen L. Matson Gr'79, Harvard, MA, a chemical engineer and cofounder of a pharmaceutical company; Nov. 26.

1980

David Finley WG'80, Baton Rouge, LA, retired executive staff advisor for the Commonwealth of Kentucky; Feb. 12.

Samuel S. Gandy CGS'80, Bryn Mawr, PA, a small business owner who also worked in insurance and math tutoring; Dec. 30.

David J. Mayer W'80, Los Angeles, Oct. 18.

Thomas W. McCahill Gr'80, Philadelphia, cofounder of a software company; Feb. 6. He served in the US Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

Dr. Robert A. Miller D'80, Bayside, NY, a dentist; Feb. 6. His brother is Andy D. Miller C'85.

Susan Sperber Parnes C'80, Maple Glen, PA, an architect; Feb. 17. One daughter is Leah E. Parnes C'09.

Dr. Alan M. Slutsky D'80 WG'81, Escobar, Portugal, a dentist; July 21, 2022.

Paula J. Sunshine WG'80, Merion Station, PA, a retired marketing executive at Independence Blue Cross; Feb. 3. Her husband is Robert P. Kagan WG'80.

1981

Nancy L. Schultz L'81, Anaheim, CA, a professor at Chapman University's Fowler School of Law; Dec. 15.

Susan Q. West G'81, Blue Bell, PA, March 2. One son is Thomas Alexander West WG'92.

1982

Thomas R. Morse WG'82, Chester Springs, PA, a venture capitalist in Philadelphia who founded Liberty Venture Partners; Jan. 13. He served in the US Navy. His daughter is Ellen J. Morse C'12.

1983

Keith J. Alexander C'83, Manahawkin, NJ, a psychologist; Feb. 28. At Penn, he was a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity. His mother is Lois Ford Alexander Ed'55.

Nancy Davis Wagner C'83, Evanston, IL, Sept. 28.

1985

Matthew "Matt" Yee L'85, Pearl City, HI, a former corporate and real estate attorney who went on to become a musician and cruise ship entertainer; Dec. 2.

1986

M. Patricia "Pat" Corcoran Charno CGS'86, Drexel Hill, PA, Jan. 28. She worked for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Constance Flynt Mullinix WG'86 GrNu'90, Greensboro, NC, a faculty member in the department of nursing at a number of colleges, including the University of North Carolina; March 14.

Anita Santos-Singh C'86, Philadelphia, founding executive director of Philadelphia Legal Assistance; Jan. 13.

Gwendolyn Gartland Scalpello WG'86, Bala Cynwyd, PA, Nov. 25, 2022.

1987

Donna S. Beck W'87, Malvern, PA, a former investment banker and finance executive; Dec. 7. At Penn, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority and a Benjamin Franklin Scholar.

Dr. Barry Schonwetter GM'87, Boston, a pediatric neurologist; Jan. 23.

1989

Carolina L. De Varona Brennan C'89, Coral Gables, FL, Feb. 5. At Penn, she was a member of the rowing team.

Dr. John Robert Burns GrD'89, South Dennis, NJ, a teacher and school administrator; Dec. 23. He served in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary for more than 30 years.

J. Wier Harman III C'89, Seattle, a former executive director of Town Hall Seattle, a cultural center and performance hall; Dec. 11. At Penn, he was a member of Glee Club and Mortar Board Senior Society.

1991

John C. Katz-Mariani SW'91, Vernon Hills, IL, a social worker; Feb. 10.

1992

Dorothy R. D. Tyler SW'92, Philadelphia, a social worker for the City of Philadelphia; Jan. 24.

1993

Ivan M. Schaeffer WAM'93, Boynton Beach, FL, a lawyer and CEO of a large travel consortium; Dec. 28.

1994

Dorothy Van Dyke Brookes G'94, Cranberry Township, PA, Feb. 17.

1995

Yvonne Scuggs-Leftwich Gr'95, Pasadena, MD, former professor of city planning at Penn, Philadelphia deputy mayor, civil rights activist, and director of the Black Leadership Forum; Sept. 16, 2022. She taught city planning and related topics at Penn in the 1970s, and served as deputy mayor under Mayor W. Wilson Goode from 1985 to 1987. She was executive director of President Jimmy Carter's urban and regional policy group in the 1970s, deputy assistant secretary for community planning and development at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1979 to 1981, New York state's commissioner in the division of housing and community renewal under Governor Mario Cuomo from 1983 to 1985, and executive director and chief operating officer of the Black Leadership Forum from 1998 to 2008. She also taught at Howard University, George Washington University, and the State University of New York; and she taught at the National Labor College in Maryland until her retirement in 2010.

1996

Parnell "PJ" Clitus C'96, New York, an executive at a capital management firm; Jan. 25. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity and the football team.

1997

Laurie Ann Drummond SW'97, Dorchester, MA, a former social worker in Philadelphia who also once owned an art studio in Manhattan; Dec. 29.

James McAssey WG'97, Exton, PA, an information technology and software executive; Feb. 11.

Wolodymyr P. Tyshchenko C'97, West Berlin, NJ, an attorney; Feb. 20. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity.

1998

Gregory J. Boester WG'98, Rye, NY, a finance executive who was the founder

and CEO of Praesagio Partners; Dec. 29. A competitive skier, he made the 1994 Winter Olympics and went on to become an active board member and trustee for US Ski & Snowboard.

Steven P. Norris L'98, San Luis Obispo, CA, chief compliance officer at an international investment firm and co-owner of a gym; Feb. 20.

1999

Rachael E. Wells C'99, New York, a former assistant professor at Fordham University; June 25, 2022. Her husband is Richard M. Wells W'99, and one sister is Rebecca G. Elwork Hyde C'05.

Sandya T. Magge C'99 CGS'02, Manhattan Beach, CA, a marketing and sales executive for companies such as American Express, Samsung, and Visa; Feb. 24.

2000

Donald Charles Moyer CGS'00, Pottsville, PA, a physician; Feb. 15.

2003

Walter Clayton Jr. GGS'03 GGS'04, Philadelphia, former assistant dean of admissions at Penn and founder of a steel warehousing and distribution company; March 19. He also taught international business at Pennsylvania State University. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. Two sons are Jay Clayton EAS'88 L'93 and Kerwin P. Clayton C'91 W'91.

2006

Brian T. Cirri C'06, Edison, NJ, a law clerk with Levine DeSantis, LLC; Dec. 27. At Penn, he was a captain of the baseball team.

Daniel J. DeWispelare II G'06 Gr'11, Centennial, CO, an associate professor of English at George Washington University; Jan. 26.

2007

Esther "Bunny" Perkin Glick CGS'07, Philadelphia, cofounder of the LiveWell Program, which supports people with depression; Feb. 18.

Marcus G. Pochettino C'07, Lafayette Hill, PA, former clinical research assistant for a medical device company; Feb. 27. At Penn, he was a member of the rowing team. His father is Dr. Alberto Pochettino GM'97.

Hermine M. "Bubbles" Seidenberg CGS'07, Gladwyne, PA, former vice president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia; Feb. 20.

2009

Michael S. Heesters L'09, Hockessin, DE, a corporate counsel in pharmaceuticals and former assistant US district attorney; March 1.

2010

Theodore "Ted" Dayton Clement GCP'10 L'13, New York, a city planner for the New York City Department of City of Planning and a land use and real estate attorney; Jan. 5. His wife is Diane Cornely Clement GCP'10 GFA'10.

Donna L. Shuler LPS'10, Lansdowne, PA, a former administrative coordinator in Penn's School of Arts & Sciences' Dean's Office; Dec. 10. She began working at the SAS Dean's Office in 1987, dealing with international relations as they pertained to undergraduates in the school. She became an administrative coordinator in the office in 2011, then retired from Penn in 2014.

2015

Devon C. M. Madison GED'15, Philadelphia, an assistant principal in the Philadelphia school district and a former special education teacher; March 5.

2016

Blair (born Nicholas Luke) Crits-Cristoph C'16, Dallas, a software developer focusing on programming apps for Apple devices; Jan. 15. Her father is Dr. Paul F. Crits-Cristoph C'76. At Penn, she was a chamber musician and a member of the Underground Shakespeare Company.

David Alfredo Perez C'16, New York, a structured investments sales associate at Morgan Stanley; Nov. 21, 2022. At Penn, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. His mother is Kathleen M. Kopp CW'74.

Faculty & Staff

Frances R. Byers. *See Class of 1976.*

Burton Caine. *See Class of 1949.*

Walter Clayton Jr. *See Class of 2003.*

F. Stewart DeBruicker, Philadelphia, a former adjunct professor of marketing at the Wharton School; Feb. 17. He joined the faculty at Penn in 1976 and served as an adjunct professor of marketing at Wharton until 2004, when he left to found a marketing consultancy.

Dr. Steven D. Douglas, Philadelphia, a professor of pediatrics in Penn's Perelman School of Medicine; March 13. He joined Penn in 1980, serving as a professor of pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He served as the chief of the section of immunology and as the medical director for the Immunogenetics Laboratory. He is widely celebrated for his significant contributions to the Penn Center for AIDS Research, spanning 25 years. He was the first researcher to isolate and culture human monocytes from peripheral blood. This groundbreaking achievement facilitated the discovery and advancement of technology to study monocyte receptors for immunoglobulin and complement, as well as disorders of monocytes in long-term culture. One daughter is Dr. Hope Douglas Wisman C'09 V'13.

J. Robert Ferrari. *See Class of 1962.*

Kathleen "Kathy" Sestak Fey. *See Class of 1971.*

Murray Gerstenhaber. *See Class of 1973.*

Charles D. Graham, Haverford, PA, an emeritus professor in the department of materials science and engineering; March 18. He first came to Penn as a visiting professor in 1969 and then joined the faculty in 1970 as a professor in what is now the department of materials science and engineering in Penn Engineering. He served as chair of the department from 1979 until 1984. His research focused on magnetic materials and measurements, domain structure, amorphous alloys, and permanent magnets. He retired in 1997. Two daughters are Andrea M. Graham C'78 G'80 and Carolyn Graham Hicks ChE'79.

School Abbreviations

Ar	Architecture	GEE	master's, Electrical Engineering	HUP	Nurse training (till 1978)
ASC	Annenberg	GEng	master's, Engineering and Applied Science	L	Law
C	College (bachelor's)	GEx	master's, Engineering Executive	LAR	Landscape Architecture
CCC	College Collateral Courses	GFA	master's, Fine Arts	LPS	Liberal and Professional Studies
CE	Civil Engineering	GGS	master's, College of General Studies	M	Medicine
CGS	College of General Studies (till 2008)	GL	master's, Law	ME	Mechanical Engineering
Ch	Chemistry	GLA	master's, Landscape Architecture	MT	Medical Technology
ChE	Chemical Engineering	GME	master's, Mechanical Engineering	MtE	Metallurgical Engineering
CW	College for Women (till 1975)	GM	Medicine, post-degree	Mu	Music
D	Dental Medicine	GMT	master's, Metallurgical Engineering	NEd	Certificate in Nursing
DH	Dental Hygiene	GNu	master's, Nursing	Nu	Nursing (bachelor's)
EAS	Engineering and Applied Science (bachelor's)	GPU	master's, Governmental Administration	OT	Occupational Therapy
Ed	Education	Gr	doctorate	PSW	Pennsylvania School of Social Work
EE	Electrical Engineering	GrC	doctorate, Civil Engineering	PT	Physical Therapy
FA	Fine Arts	GrE	doctorate, Electrical Engineering	SAMP	School of Allied Medical Professions
G	master's, Arts and Sciences	GrEd	doctorate, Education	SPP	Social Policy and Practice (master's)
GAr	master's, Architecture	GrL	doctorate, Law	SW	Social Work (master's) (till 2005)
GCE	master's, Civil Engineering	GrN	doctorate, Nursing	V	Veterinary Medicine
GCh	master's, Chemical Engineering	GRP	master's, Regional Planning	W	Wharton (bachelor's)
GCP	master's, City Planning	GRS	doctorate, Social Work	WAM	Wharton Advanced Management
GD	Dental, post-degree	GrW	doctorate, Wharton	WEF	Wharton Extension Finance
GE	Education	GrV	Veterinary, post-degree	WEv	Wharton Evening School
		Hon	Honorary	WG	master's, Wharton
				WMP	Wharton Management Program

Dr. Virginia A. LiVolsi, Bryn Mawr, PA, a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine in the Perelman School of Medicine; March 7. She joined the faculty at Penn in 1983 as a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine. In addition to this position, she served as director of surgical pathology. In 2007, she became the chief of anatomical pathology. During her career at Penn, she worked extensively on endocrine and head and neck pathology and her expertise in thyroid pathology has been recognized around the world.

Dr. Andrew S. Malinowski. *See Class of 1961.*

Dr. Rosario F. Mayro. *See Class of 1976.*

Rodney W. Napier, Doylestown, PA, a former professor in the Wharton School and cofounder of its organizational consulting and executive coaching program; April 6. He joined Wharton in 1995 as a lecturer, teaching a course on executive team dynamics and physician leadership. In 2005, he also took a position as a lecturer in the College of Arts & Sciences' master of science in organizational dynamics program. He cofounded Penn's gradu-

ate program in organizational consulting and executive coaching. He retired from teaching at Penn in 2019. He served in the US Marine Corps.

Dr. Darwin J. Prockop. *See Class of 1956.*

Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich. *See Class of 1995.*

Donna L. Shuler. *See Class of 2010.*

Willys K. Silvers, Gladwyne, PA, a former professor of human genetics in the Perelman School of Medicine; Jan. 24. He was recruited to the University of Pennsylvania in 1965 to help develop the department of human genetics, where he served as the chair of the genetics graduate program. His research primarily centered on pigment cell biology and transplantation biology. Among his many awards, he received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching and the Dean's Award in Graduate Teaching. He retired from Penn in 1996 but remained active in research at the Fox Chase Cancer Center, where he focused on the development and treatment of melanomas. His son is W. Kent Silvers Jr. C'88.

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Former Penn track and field standout Alvin Kraenzlein won four gold medals at the 1900 Summer Olympics in Paris and pioneered the straight-leg hurdling technique that's still used today.



Alvin and the Gold Medals

When the 2024 Summer Olympics are held in Paris this July and August, it's unlikely that any athlete will be able to match what a Penn dental student did there more than a century ago.

At the 1900 Summer Olympics in Paris, Alvin Kraenzlein D1900 won a whopping four gold medals—in the 60-meter dash, the 110-meter hurdles, the 200-meter hurdles, and the long jump.

To this day, the four *individual* gold medals in a single Olympics remains a record for track and field. (The legendary Jesse Owens and Carl Lewis each captured four golds in 1936 and 1984, respectively—but, for both, one of the four came from being part of a relay team.)

Born in 1876 to German immigrants, Kraenzlein grew up in Milwaukee and attended the University of Wisconsin,

before arriving at Penn in 1897 to run under famed track coach Mike Murphy. At Penn, he set multiple world records and led the Quakers to intercollegiate championships in 1898, 1899, and 1900. He's also credited for developing, per Penn Archives, “a new form of gliding over the hurdles, clearing the hurdles with the lead leg extended, which became the standard technique for modern hurdlers.”

In 1900, Kraenzlein led a brigade of Penn track and field stars across the ocean to compete in the second modern Olympics. They returned from Paris with 21 total medals, including five apiece won by Walter Tewksbury D1899 and Irwin Knott Baxter L1901, to begin a long stretch of Olympic excellence for Penn students, alumni, coaches, and faculty members [“Penn in the Olympics, Jul|Aug 2012].

Although the Olympics have dramatically grown as a spectacle since the more subdued affair in 1900, which didn't include any opening or closing ceremonies, Kraenzlein's place in University and Olympic lore remains secure—in part because of the drama that came with one of his golds. As legend has it, he was allegedly punched in the face by Syracuse's Myer Prinstein, who led in the high jump after the qualifying round but was prevented by Syracuse officials from competing in the finals because it was held on a Sunday, the day of rest. (Prinstein was Jewish, but Syracuse was then affiliated with the United Methodist Church.)

Kraenzlein went on to become a track coach at Mercersburg Academy and the University of Michigan and had begun a stint coaching the German Olympic team in 1913 but was advised to leave the country shortly before World War I broke out. He died of heart disease in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, at the age of 51. —DZ

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